Minutes of the Meeting of Walton Parish Council held on 14th November 2005

Present

Councillors Fothergill, McKay, Atkinson, Harrison, Waring, Lister, Naylor and the Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests to be declared.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on 10th October 2005, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

a). Police Matters

P.C.Booth was unable to attend.

b). Springs Lane - Highways Meeting 11th October 2005 & Meeting at Atkins 12th October 2005. Councillor Fothergill and the Clerk attended the meeting with representatives from the Highways Department, the Highways Agency, North Yorkshire County Council and Councillor Procter on Tuesday 11th October. The matter of improved signage on Springs Lane was discussed at length, and it was finally agreed that North Yorkshire would replace and renew signage at the northern end of Springs Lane, the Highways Department would renew and replace the signage at the south end of Springs Lane and the Highways Agency would improve the signage towards the Trading Estate from the A1.

c). Bus Shelter

The Clerk had received communication form the NEAC Well-being Fund stating that the Wetherby Ward Members were reluctant to fund a bus shelter as they felt that Metro should provide one. They asked that copies of all correspondence with Metro be sent to them so that they may help to persuade Metro to provide a shelter. It was agreed that the Clerk would send these copies as requested.

d). A1 Action - Upgrade Update - Public Inquiry etc.

The new proposals suggested, as alternatives to address the problems on Springs Lane, were discussed again and it was agreed that either of the second two of the suggestions, (1. New road to pass along the rear of the racecourse or 2. By-pass at southern end of Springs Lane), would be acceptable as far as the Council is concerned. It was also agreed that the A1 Action Group should represent Walton Parish Council at the Public Inquiry and that a copy of the Council letter opposing the draft orders should be sent to A1 Action for information purposes.

e). Parish Council Web-site

Councillor Naylor explained the options open to the Council with regard to the hosting of the web-site. It was agreed that the web-site should be developed with 3 e-mail addresses. A decision will now need to be made as to what exactly the Council wishes to put on the site.

f). Finding a Replacement Clerk

The Clerk explained that it was now 6 months since she had asked for a replacement to be found and that there was a limit to the time she would be able to continue due to increased pressure of work. It was agreed to re-advertise the vacancy along with the salary in the hope that someone would come forward. The Clerk has placed the vacancy on the North Yorkshire local council web-site and has spoken to the Clerk at Boston Spa who may be interested in taking on the role.

g). Police Consultation Meeting - 28th September 2005

Councillor McKay had attended this meeting and explained that it had been a very good meeting and that the positive to come out of the meeting was that there would be more police on the beat.

5. Correspondence

a). Response to Letter from Councillor Naylor re Proposed Telephone Installation at British Library

It would appear from this letter that this planning application will now most probably not be made.

b). E-mail from Ian Hall - WARDEN - re Proposed Business Park, Kirk Deighton

The Council is led to believe that, at this stage, this development is just a rumour and a long way even from the planning stage. It was agreed to discuss this again as and when more information was received.

c). Parish Council Forum - 15th November 2005 - Leeds Civic Hall

It was agreed that Councillor McKay would attend.

d). NEAC Parish Council Forum Meeting - 17th November 2005 - St. Mary's Church Hall, Boston Spa It was agreed that Councillor Atkinson would attend this meeting.

6. Planning

a). Letter from Planning Department re Compliance Check - Field House Farm.

The planning department informed the Council that a compliance check would be made regarding the development of the second entrance.

b). Planning Application - HM Prison Wealstun - 5.2M High Perimeter Fence Information Only.

c). Permission Granted - Mr. P. Westmoreland - Change of Use to Mot Testing Station

7. Finance

a). Letter From Bank of Scotland

This was handed to the RFO for investigation.

b). Queries on Annual Audit

These had been dealt with by the RFO.

8. Any Other Business

a). Attendance of Councillors at Parish Council Meetings

Councillor Fothergill (Chair) reiterated the importance of all Councillors attending all Council meetings. The dates were known in advance and every effort should be made to attend. If sufficient notice is given there is a possibility in some circumstances to change the date of meetings but only for valid reasons.

b). Donation to Causeway

This was discussed and it was agreed not to make a contribution, as the Council members understood that the Causeway was set up to be self-funding.

c). Muddy Roads due to Potato Harvest

It was agreed to request the attendance of the road sweeper and ask the farmers to display 'Mud on Road' signs.

d). Pot Holes

There are a substantial number of potholes in and around the village and it was agreed to report these to LCC.

e). Further to the bulb-planting scheme Councillor Fothergill had received a large number of crocus bulbs which, with help, she had planted around the village.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 12th December 2005 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.50 hours.