

## ALKBOROUGH AND WALCOT PARISH MEETING

### Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at 19:00 on 24 May 2021

#### Present

Parish Councillors: J White (Chairman), N Brown, J Ellis,  
J Gaunt, N Harland, D Roberts, S Spencer  
Ward Councillors: Cllr. R Ogg, Cllr. H Rowson  
Parish Clerk: J Mackey  
Members of the Public: 4  
North Lincolnshire Council: Paul Nicholson

#### 1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Ward Councillor E Marper.

#### 2. **Minutes of meeting held on 6 August 2020**

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 6 August 2020 were agreed, and signed, as a true record.

#### 3. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising..

#### 4. **Report of the Treasurer of the Parish Council**

The Budget for 2021-22 comprised an increase in expenditure, primarily due to inflation and anticipated increased charges by North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) for services provided. This would have required an increase of the Precept by £200 to a figure of £5,636. The Parish Councillors were conscious that some residents of the parish may have been financially adversely affected by the COVID pandemic and it was decided unanimously that there would be no rise in the precept for 2021-22.

The balance carried forward in the General Account at 31 March 2021 was £20,260.39, compared to a figure of £6,927.55 carried forward at 31 March 2020, representing an increase in reserves of £13,332.84. This substantial increase was due firstly to the receipt of a Government COVID Support Grant of £10,000, and secondly by a surplus of funds received from NLC, amounting to £3,700, in respect of the Parish Paths Partnership, against actual contractor costs.

The Cemetery Account showed an amount of £14,723.71 carried forward at 31 March 2021, a modest increase of £277.32,

The cemetery running costs fell slightly from £951.78 in 2019-20 to £927.37 due to overhead costs related to the cemetery grass cutter not wanting to claim any overheads.

Value Added Tax of £237.05 was reclaimed from payments made in 2019 -20 and the amount to be reclaimed for 2020-21 is £291.68.

The only major additional expense during the year was for the replacement of the laptop computer that had begun to exhibit problems; this was replaced at a cost of £541.66 (pre-VAT).

#### **5. Report of the Parish Council**

The COVID pandemic had a significant impact upon the ability of the Parish Council to meet during the year. The lockdown introduced by the Government in March 2020 resulted in the holding of face-to-face meetings to be unlawful. In the summer the Government eased lockdown restrictions and physical meetings became lawful again. In August 2020 the Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council Meeting and two ordinary Parish Councils were held. Soon afterwards a second lockdown was introduced and face-to-face meetings again became unlawful. During the lockdowns Parish Councils were allowed to hold online meetings via platforms such as Zoom, however, there was a limited capability among the councillors to hold such meetings due to unsuitable electronic equipment. In December 2020 it became possible to hold an online meeting with three councillors present, thereby achieving the minimum for a quorum. At that meeting it was agreed that the decision-making powers of the Council be devolved to the Clerk, subject to the Clerk consulting with the Chairman, for a period of six months or until such time as the Council could lawfully hold meetings, if sooner.

The North Lincs Council Parish Paths Partnership (PPP) for the cutting of public footpaths, bridleways and ornamental grass verges continued with 2020-21 being the first year in a 3-year arrangement. Some local Parish Councils had declined to join the PPP and Alkborough were given the opportunity to undertake this work. Alkborough accepted the PPP work for Whitton Parish Council (footpaths and grass verges), Burton upon Stather Parish Council (footpaths only) and Flixborough Parish Council (footpaths and grass verges).

Plans for redevelopment of the Play Area stalled during the year because of the COVID pandemic; with the easing of lockdown restrictions activity will be resumed.

The condition of the roads and footpaths in the parish are continually being monitored. The footpath on Back Street from the crossroads had been resurfaced a couple of years ago but had not been ritted back to make the path wide enough for wheelchair users and pedestrians with prams or buggies. The Highways Department had advised that this work had been put on hold because of the pandemic but they hoped that work could begin in September 2020. An assurance had been given that when such work could begin again the footpath widening on Back Street would be given priority. This has not happened and the Highways Department have been asked to provide an update.

The condition of the road surface on West Halton Lane has been a concern particularly with regard to potholes and the breaking up of the road edges; NLC have this work planned as part of their programme for 2020-21; the Highways Department have been asked to provide an update.

Councillors are very appreciative of the dedication of a number of residents who ensure that the various planters in the two villages are maintained and stocked with attractive flowers. John White has undertaken the cutting of the grass at the cemetery, church and Julian's Bower. Thanks are extended to Mark Jackson for his dedication in the winding of the village clock at the St. John the Baptist Church. Lorna and Mark Knapton have been planting flowers along the wall at Low Wells and it was decided to offer them the same allowance as other residents who maintain various flower beds for the Council.

**6. Report of the Residents Association**

A report from the Residents' Association was not presented.

**7. Any Other Business**

There were no matters arising.

The meeting closed at 19:15.