

## ALKBOROUGH AND WALCOT PARISH MEETING

### Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at 19:00 on 15 May 2019

#### Present

Parish Councillors: J White (Chairman), J Ellis, J Gaunt, N Harland,  
D Roberts  
Ward Councillors: Cllr. R Ogg, Cllr. E Marper, Cllr. H Rowson  
Parish Clerk: J Mackey  
Residents' Association: I Cranston  
Members of the Public: One

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Councillor S Fell-Bowers and Councillor S Spencer

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 2 May 2018**

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 2 May 2018 were agreed, and signed, as a true record.

**3. Matters arising**

None.

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

The Parish Council decided to increase the Precept for 2019-20 from £4,229 to £5,227. This was due to increasing costs, arising in part from a reassessment of typical hours worked by the Clerk, the provision for costs pertaining to the 2019 elections, and general inflationary increases.

Value Added tax of £130.62 was reclaimed from payments made in 2017-18. The VAT claim for 2018-19 totals £237.05 and this is due to be submitted during May.

Alkborough Cemetery income for burial/cremation plots and plot reservation renewals rose to £2,930 for 2018-19 (£200 in 2017-18). The cemetery running costs increased from £713.92 (2017-18) to £880.01 for 2018-19, a rise of 23%. This was due to an increase in the charge from NLC for the emptying of the litter bin, and an increase in the payment made for cutting the grass. All receipts and expenditure for the cemetery have been transferred to the Cemetery bank account.

Capital expenditure during the year comprised solely of the purchase of a dog waste bin, situated at the junction of footpaths 3 and 4, close to the cemetery.

**5. Report of the Parish Council**

The Parish Council met on six occasions during the year, with only the July meeting being missed due to the post of Clerk being vacant.

The Parish Council's website has been out of date for a couple of years, due primarily to the holder of the post of Clerk changing three times during that time. The current Clerk has been in post since September 2018 and has ensured that the website has been brought up to date. A few news items are time-expired, and these will soon be removed, however it should be noted that the website now complies with the Transparency Code for the public disclosure of certain information, in particular that relating to minutes of meetings and financial information.

Midway through the year Alan White was engaged to cut the grass at the church, cemetery and Julian's Bower. The quality of the grass cutting has been excellent and the Parish Council extend their thanks for the hard work demonstrated by Alan.

The North Lincolnshire Council Parish paths Partnership has been in operation since 2016, and in view of its success, has been extended by NLC to include the ornamental grass verges throughout the parish. A total of nine cuts throughout the growing season form the basis of the grass verge agreement with NLC, and this work was begun by the contractor in April this year.

The Parish Council have formed a working group to look into the development of the Play Area. The aim is to provide appropriate facilities for all age groups. Negotiations have taken place with the Primary School resulting in the unused land that is owned by the school, adjacent to the Play Area, to be available for extending the Play Area, thereby enabling the provision of areas for differing age groups. A grant application will be submitted to NLC in due course.

The condition of the roads and footpaths in the parish has been an issue during the year. Following representations by the Parish Council to NLC much of this work has been done, with further attention to the footpaths on Back Street, and pot holes on West Halton Lane, scheduled for Spring 2019. The condition of the footpath from Walcot to Alkborough Cemetery has been a concern in recent years; however the low footfall on this path has resulted in repairs to the path being a low priority by NLC.

Councillors are very appreciative of the dedication of a number of residents who ensure that various planters in Alkborough and Walcot are kept stocked with flowers, and maintained throughout the year; and to Mark Johnson for his care of the village clock at St John the Baptist Church.

## **6. Report of the Residents Association**

The report from the Residents' Association was presented by I Cranston.

IC apologised that Mr. S Roebuck, the Chairman of the Residents' Association (RA), was unable to attend the meeting due to holidays.

The RA meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except for August and December, because of the holiday seasons. The RA has maintained several regular activities throughout the year including publication of a Newsletter every two months, monthly quizzes and raffles at the Coronation Club, History Society meetings, Monday evening cycle rides throughout the summer, village walks on Tuesday mornings and regular attendance at Parish Council meetings.

The RA's website has had to be closed down because of increased charges by the Website provider; hard copies of the up-to-date Services Directory may be obtained from the RA Chairman, Sam Roebuck.

The RA participated in the wreath-laying service after the Remembrance Day service, whilst the History Society presented a moving exhibition in the church, to commemorate the end of World War 1.

The RA participated in the national "Great British Spring Clean" campaign, and thanks were expressed to Councillor June Ellis for arranging the provision of additional litter-picking equipment. The annual photographic competition had again been successful with good sales of the calendar featuring photographs from the competition.

The Church Fete and Open Gardens weekend had been very successful with more than £1,800 being raised for church funds. The annual Carol Singing event, accompanied by soup and mulled wine, had been held, and a collection had taken place with monies raised donated to Lindsey Lodge Hospice.

The financial position of the Residents' Association is healthy, with funds held of circa £1,300; income coming primarily from the monthly quiz and raffle.

## **7. Report of the Almshouse and Parish Estate Charity**

There has been no movement in the fund over the last year. The Chairman suggested that he speak to the vicar and discuss the removal of this agenda item for future meetings in view of inactivity in recent years; this was agreed.

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **8.1 Grass Verge on the road from Walcot to Alkborough Cemetery**

Cllr. Ellis noted that the path beside the road running from Walcot to Alkborough Cemetery had recently been relaid, however the grass verge adjacent to the path was overgrown and asked whether the cutting of the verge could be arranged.

Ward Cllr. Ogg explained that this grass verge is cut twice a year as part of NLC's inter-town verge cutting programme.

The Clerk would investigate the possibility of incorporating the cutting of the grass verge from Walcot to Alkborough Cemetery and the section of verge between the

staggered housing along West Halton Lane into the devolved verge cutting contract arranged with North Lincolnshire Council.

**8.2 Paths on Front Street**

IC referred to the recently resurfaced paths on Back Street and Cross lane and said this work was excellent. Ward Cllr. Ogg confirmed that similar resurfacing work would take place on Front Street.

**8.3 Footpath on Back Street**

Cllr. Gaunt referred to the newly resurfaced path on Back Street and commented that whilst the work had been done to an excellent standard, the path was too narrow between the crossroads and Tower House to accommodate a wheelchair or pram. Ward Cllr. Ogg would look into whether the path could be cut back and made wider.

**8.4 Bridlepath at Julian's Bower**

IC referred to the bridlepath close to Julian's Bower and a suggestion, a couple of years ago, that this path would be levelled by cutting it back into the bank. This was investigated by NLC at the time but Natural England and English Heritage were resistant to this work on the bridlepath. Some slippage had occurred to the banking and this was making the path difficult to walk on.

The meeting closed at 19:30.