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| Logo  Description automatically generated with low confidence | **WALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**  **INCLUDING FONTWELL AND BINSTED**  Parish Council Office, The Pavilion, The Street,  Walberton, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 0PJ  Tel: 01243 554528  email: [clerk@walberton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@walberton-pc.gov.uk)  [www.walberton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.walberton-pc.gov.uk) |

**DRAFT – NOT YET CONFIRMED**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE PAVILION AT 7.00pm ON TUESDAY 17 AUGUST 2021.**

**408/21 Record of attendance and apologies**

In attendance: Cllrs Titmus (Chair), Mrs Clark, Ratcliffe, Vawer and Skillicorn.

A Peppler – Clerk

Apologies: None – all present.

**409/21 Declaration of interests in items on the agenda**

Cllr Mrs Clark declared a personal interest in item 19 – Binsted noticeboard.

Cllr Titmus declared a personal interest in item 21 – Fontwell Meadows.

**410/21 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting of 22 June 2021 were confirmed as a true record of the business conducted.

**411/21 Public questions**

Two members of the public were present. No questions were asked.

**412/21 Updates on actions agreed in last report**

The Clerk updated the meeting on the two items agreed at the last meeting as per the agenda.

Additional update – minute 321/21. The Clerk checked on the kissing gate. The gate itself is alright but the metal fencing is in need of repair. He will seek a contact name / number for a local blacksmith or metal worker to affect a repair.

**413/21 Coronavirus update**

Cllr Mrs Clark reported that Arun figures are dropping each week and are now back to levels in March. Friday morning ‘get-togethers’ are still popular and requested some help on three forthcoming mornings. The Clerk reported that Coffee Stop is looking to recommence in a few weeks.

**414/21 Business activity review**

Recent updates to the activity spreadsheet were noted. The meeting agreed to add a review of kissing gates in the parish. The Clerk to enquire with the Task Force if they could do this.

**415/21** **Sub Committee reports**

Cllr Mrs Clark reported no change with regards to Walbinfont. A team will need to get together in the new year to start making arrangements for the Walbinfont weekend on 16 and 17 July 2022.

**416/21 Environment**

1. Green matters.

1.The Clerk reported that he had heard nothing further from the Environmental Consultant. He was asked to circulate the consultant’s environmental assessment for discussion.

2. A suggestion was raised by Cllr Mrs Clark for ‘paddle tennis’ facility on one of the two proposed tennis courts at Avisford Grange and requested that it was put on the agenda for forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Op Watershed.

Cllr Mrs Clark had nothing to report.

**417/21 Walberton Task Force and Rights of Way**

1. Cllr Ratcliffe reported that the Task Force had recently done two maintenance sessions at The Pound. 2. The notification of Rights of Way routine maintenance schedule in August was noted.

3. A letter and updated start notice from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the upgrade of Footpath 342 to a Bridleway was noted. This has been logged as issue no.34608. The local Access Ranger will assess this issue as part of the regular maintenance schedule.

**418/21 Pavilion maintenance**

The Clerk reported that Outside Interests will attend to a problem with the lock of the front door.

**419/21 Playing field / carpark**

1.The Clerk reported that the playing field continues to be well used during the school holidays. There are no issues to address.

2. The commencement of Scott Bentley as replacement groundman was noted.

3. Clearance of fallen branches on northern boundary was noted. Cllr Mrs Clark reported that WSCC will be dealing with the fallen branch near the new bus shelter.

4. Southern Pest Control contacted to deal with moles.

5. Damaged dog poo bin in southwest corner reported to ADC Cleansing.

**420/21 Village Green, Pond and Community Orchard**

1. Green.

Cllr Titmus reported that the area is tidy and that the ditch behind the orchard has been cleared.

2. Pond renovation project.

Cllr Skillicorn reported he had heard nothing further from the Environment Agency and will follow up.

3. Community Orchard.

Cllr Titmus reported that a clear up session had been done a while ago and that another one is due. Tree sponsors are to be requested to pick their fruit.

**421/21 Play area**

1. The Clerk reported that the play area continues to be well used during the school holidays.

2. The RoSPA report (previously circulated) was noted.

**422/21** **CIL funding**

The meeting agreed that repairs to the bench on the village green and kissing gates should be added to the CIL funding list.

**422/21 Dog waste bin, Barnham Lane**

Cllr Titmus reported that it remains to finalise the licencing with WSCC.

**423/21 Communications including Neighbourhood News**

1. Walbinfont emails.

Cllr Vawer reported that the content for September is being prepared.

2. Web site.

Cllr Vawer reported there have been no major changes this month.

3. WalBinFont Facebook and Twitter.

Cllr Vawer had nothing to report.

4. Parish News.

Cllr Vawer reported there is a new editorial team, and he has submitted the council’s latest article. The deadline of the 17th of the month remains unchanged.

5. Neighbourhood News.

Cllr Mrs Clark suggested that volunteers should be sought to form a mini team to work on the content for the Neighbourhood News on the A27 consultation when it starts, as a quick turnaround will be needed.

**424/21 Binsted noticeboard**

The Clerk reported that it is in the final stages of construction and with the engraver.

**425/21 Community Broadband FTTP**

Cllrs Titmus and Radcliffe provided an update on the Fibre Broadband community projects. These have had to be split into separate projects, Eastergate and Yapton, as BT required a point of contact for each project. The Eastergate exchange project is currently with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to approve for the issue of vouchers to fund the project. Once this has been approved, there will be a web portal available to those on the Eastergate exchange where they may ‘pledge’ their voucher. Once BT are satisfied that there are enough pledged to obtain 1.3 times the required cost of the project through vouchers, they will affect the upgrade to fibre. Once this has been completed residents will have a ‘fibre enabled’ connection and can then order their fibre broadband product from a supplier of their choice.

Once the portal is available, the council discussed publicising this to the residents with a small leaflet, encouraging take up off the offer.

The Yapton exchange project is a little further behind. Whilst Openreach were prepared to upgrade the whole of the Eastergate exchange (covering most of Fontwell), given the greater proximity of the properties, the lower density of the properties on the Yapton exchange did not make the project as affordable. It has been announced that Yapton is due to be upgraded as an exchange no later than the end of 2026 which limits the scope of an exchange-wide project. Cllr Ratcliffe is reviewing a more targeted scheme for the Yapton exchange largely within the Built-Up Area Boundary of Walberton.

**426/21 Fontwell Meadows**

Cllr Vawer referred to his recent report to the Planning Committee. There has been no further communication regarding the land transfer, which is being followed up. There has been a recent request from Dandara regarding lighting (cycle path and MUGA). Timer confirmed for MUGA and recessed (no bollard) lighting suggested for cycle path similar to St Mary’s.

**427/21 Graffiti (additional agenda item)**

The Clerk reported that he had met with ADC Cleansing who reported instances of graffiti on the back of the new bus shelter and wall of Walberton House. The graffiti in the Barrack Row bus shelter has been removed. The meeting agreed that, as the graffiti on the bus shelter was not offensive, to remove it will only invite reoccurrence and it will be left but subject to being monitored.

**428/21 Correspondence**

1. Email of thanks from Pru and Paul Madely was noted.

2. Cllr Titmus has received a letter from Andrew Griffith MP regarding fibre broadband funding for rural areas.

3. Arun District Council had notified parishes of the retirement of Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive. Cllr Mrs Clark will write a ‘thank you’ letter to him on behalf of WPC.

**429/21 Quotes and payments**

None.

**430/21 Any other business**

1. Cllr Ratcliffe reported on a car accident at the junction with Tye Lane and The Street.

2. The meeting discussed arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on 13 September 2021.

**431/21 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 5 October 2021.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Signed…………………………………………………………… Date…………………………………………….

Chair