

Walton Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Tuesday 14th May 2024 7.00pm

Chair: Mr G SHAW

Minutes

1. The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 16th May 2023 were agreed and accepted.
2. Chairman's report for 2024/2025

A big focus for the Parish Council continues to be the Village Green – its maintenance and protection. The experience with a new contractor in 2023 has been a good one and the changes we made to the number of cuts and area to be cut has helped us to keep costs down. With this experience, and following another competitive tender, the grass cutting contract will remain with the existing contractor for a further three years.

In the latter part of 2023, the Council acted to improve road safety alongside the Play Area. We won't see the full effect of the new signage and planters until the summer of 2024 and while most people have understood why this measure has been taken, there are still concerns about where people can park and the impact of vehicles on the Village Green next to the Reading Room. Some people say that we need a real car park; some people say we don't. I guess at this stage, there is a debate and its likely to run for some time!

A significant event this year has been the progress of the Solar Farm development at Leaps Rigg. This has now moved through the planning process and permission has been given for more or less the full request made by the Developer. The construction has yet to start but our understanding is that the construction traffic will have little impact on Walton as the construction route is through the adjoining Parish of Hethersgill. The Parish Council has an open dialogue with the Developer and we know that whilst there will be some community funding available to the Parish, this will not happen until the Solar Farm is operational and connected into the National Grid. Over the course of 2024, the Parish Council is committed to establishing projects of benefit to the Parish that could access funding from the Developer. The local County Councillor is aware and has promised to support us. We currently have one vacancy on the Parish Council and given the interesting year ahead, we would really like to have a full complement. If you are interested in being a Co-opted Councillor, please contact Allan Dawes, the Parish Clerk and RFO. - Graham Shaw, Chair.

3. There were no members of the public present so no items were brought for discussion.

Meeting Closed @ 7.20 p.m.