**WALPOLE HIGHWAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Time & Date of Meeting:** 1930 Tuesday 4 May 2021

**Location of Meeting:** Virtual meeting via Zoom

**Subject:** Annual meeting

**Attendees: Parish** **Councillors –** Andrew Melton (AM), Simon

 Huggins, Elizabeth Jackson (EJ), Gloria Joiner (GJ)

 C**lerk –** Gillian Barnes(GB)

 Borough Councillor Julian Kirk

**Apologies:**  Steve Hearn & Sheila Hillier

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**REF**

**35/21 Apologies** were received and accepted from Councillors Steve Hearn &Sheila Hillier.

**36/21 Declaration of Interest regarding agenda items.** None

**37/21 Election of Officers**

 **Chairman** Andrew Melton (ppd LJ, seconded SH). All agreed. Dec of Office for ensuing year to

 be completed.

 **Vice - Chairman** Sheila Hillier (ppd GJ, seconded AM). All agreed. Declaration of Office for

 ensuing year to be completed

**38/21 Appointment of RFO** – Clerk, Gillian Barnes. Agreed

**39/21 Minutes of the meeting** held 6 April 2021 were approved.

**40/21 Matters arising from the minutes –**

* Clerk confirmed that the notice of a casual vacancy in the office of councillor had been posted on 23 April 2021. If within 14 days 10 government electors had not served a written request to the Electoral Officer, then the parish council can fill the vacancy by co-option
* The family of former councillor Nigel Potter have thanked the Council for their message of condolence. They have requested that any donation in his memory be made to Macmillan Kings Lynn

**41/21 Planning**

i. No applications or notices of decision received since last meeting

 ii. No potential planning infringements / enforcement issues reported

**42/21 Parish matters**

1. LJ reported on litter picking. Clerk reported that it would be possible for the PC to purchase and donate litter picking equipment to an independent group made up of volunteers.
2. A resident of Mill Road attended the meeting to complain about Highways England felling of trees and clearing vegetation along a stretch of the A47 from Walton Highway to Terrington St. John. County Councillor Sandra Squires has already taken up the matter with HE and had been advised that the work had been deemed necessary for the safety of vehicles using A47. Most of the trees were willow and had been coppiced and will regrow.

The resident made the following points

* No notification had been received about the felling & clearance
* It was not only willows coppiced but blackthorn & other low growing shrubs that were not a danger to traffic
* Delay in clearing debris – branches, twigs & litter trapped in vegetation have been blowing across the A47
* Impact on the environment – work has been carried out in March just as birds are starting to pair, roosts & habitat have been disturbed
* Properties adjacent to the A47 are now exposed to traffic noise
* High sided vehicles no longer benefit from the ‘wind break’ of the trees

Resolved to write to Highways England about their poor communication, was such drastic clearance necessary, the impact on wildlife habitat, disturbance to residents. Reassurance sought that in future notice would be given of programmed works.

1. Trod linking Hall Rd footpath to Stockshill Square has been completed. The small section of path in Stockshill Square is overgrown and grass verge fronting the close is no longer cut. Clerk to ascertain who is responsible for the upkeep.
2. Newsletter – publication to recommence with Summer edition. Former printing facility no longer available. GJ to ask school about use of photocopier.

**43/21 Internal Audit.** No issues arising from internal audit

**44/21 Annual Governance statement for year ending 31.03.2021** agreed and signed by Council

**45/21 Annual Accounts and Accounting Statement for year ending 31.03.2021** examined,

 approved and signed by Council

**46/21 Street furniture**

1. Further discussions took place re siting of a bench. LJ though that there was enough space in front of village hall (clerk to check measurements). Location at

 Ratten Row opposite mill deemed unsuitable.

1. Dog waste bin on the realigned junction of Mill Rd leading to March Lane awaiting NCC Highways consent.

**47/21 Donation to Macmillan Kings Lynn.** Agreed to donate£100

**48/21 Accounts passed for payment**

Chq 101204 K7 M Lighting £202.82 (£169.02 / VAT £33.80)

 Chq 101205 CGM Apr, May, algicide £343.02 (£285.85 / VAT £57.17)

Chq 101206 Macmillan £100.00

 Chq 101207 G. Barnes salary qtr 03/21 £ £908.19

Chq 101208 HMRC PAYE £227.00

 Chq 101209 D. Newton audit £55.00

**49/21 Date of next meeting.** Tuesday June 22 in Walpole Highway Village Hall