

Agenda Item

1. Members present: Lorraine Strong, Helen Dawson, Roger Parnell, Jerry Cooper, Sheila Cooper, Peter Smith, Jeri Baba, Sylvia Proud, Ken White, Olive White, Steph Stewart, Steve Stewart, Shirley Parnell, Wendy Carr.
2. Apologies received: Kim Wilson-Moore, Rosie Gregory and Nick Strong
3. Previous AGM minutes to be reviewed: Shown on the projector and briefly gone through. All agreed.
4. Matters arising from previous AGM minutes: None

Standing Items

5. Proposal of change to term for Officers: Lorraine ran through the proposal for a vote. To allow officers to be elected for one term of three years, with a maximum of two terms per officer. Agreed by the meeting, so the constitution will be updated.
6. Officer reports 2022-2023

- a. Chair: *We had a very successful but challenging year in the village with wildfires in summer 2022 and the recent increase in antisocial behavior. The association arranged and hosted two important meetings in 2023.*

- *The Walbottle Wildfire de-brief by Ian Stuart on the 2nd of May*
- *Virgin Media update on broadband provision to the village on the 13th of June*

Both meetings had more attendees than usual, so it is good to know that we are helping to make sure we help and support the local community on topics that are important to them.

Whilst Roger will provide a full financial update. We were very lucky to receive £1,000 from the company Alistair Gregory works for as part of the business community funding scheme. Alistair has requested that some of this money is spent on gardening, specifically crocus and tulips to be planted for next spring.

Several joint ventures with the WVI were again well received and attended in the past year.

- *Halloween*
- *Christmas celebrations*
- *The Coronation*
- *Walbottle Wardrobe*
- *Walbottle guided tour*

We continue to struggle with attendance numbers at meetings of committee members, which is a part of our constitution. To try and reduce the burden on committee members and volunteers we have moved to 4 monthly meetings and newsletters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee officers, committee members and volunteers for their efforts in litter picking, gardening, and associated maintenance. All these things help make Walbottle a place to live.

- b. Secretary: Helen thanked Kelly for the quick and easy handover last year and any advice she's given throughout the year.
 - c. Treasurer: Roger ran through his financial statement on the projector. We have spent more than we've had in.
7. Election of Officers
 - a. Chair: Lorraine is happy to stand again for the second year of her three year term, Helen proposed, Shirley seconded
 - b. Secretary: Helen is happy to stand again for the second year of her three year term, Lorraine proposed, Sylvia seconded

- c. Treasurer: Roger is happy to stand again for one year, Lorraine proposed, Peter seconded. Roger agreed to give us plenty of notice if he does wish to step down.
- d. IT Support: Peter Smith, proposed by Wendy Carr and seconded by Shirley Parnell
- e. Communications: Chris Jones, Lorraine will arrange to go along and meet Chris.

8. Neighbourhood Watch: Report from Nick read out by Lorraine:

We are now an official No-Cold-Calling-Zone, recognised by the council. If anyone does cold-call, please do report that to Nick so that it can be reported to Trading Standards. The main message to deliver from the police is to ask everyone to take an extra second to check their house and car doors are locked. These opportunistic thieves go street to street hoping for an easy opportunity – and if they are locked, they simply move on to the next. The police did a fact finding task in Great Park and found in 1 hour of trying doors they found 26 had been left open! So it's easy money for criminals! By making that extra check, you will reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime. He said most of the people trying doors are kids. Recommended Ring Door Bells as they have noticed that if these people spot a ring doorbell they ignore that house and keep going. If you witness in the night, don't be afraid to report to 999. They are building up a pattern of who these people are so if anyone has doorbell / CCTV footage send to the contact details that have been provided to Nick. Shirley asked about the Neighbourhood Watch signs and the dummy cameras, Lorraine said they will be put up asap. Sheila Cooper mentioned fly tipping behind The Engine, and Wendy mentioned some up towards Blucher, Lorraine said she would bring this up. Olive mentioned the problem with speeding in the village, that she has reported this and was told that there hasn't been a fatality for a number of years. Lorraine said she will draft a letter from the community.

9. Upcoming Events

- a. Halloween – Walbotl Coffee Shop would like to be involved. Usual Halloween trail round the village planned. Question over whether to hire the WVI, possible coordination with Sophie for using the hall.
- b. Remembrance – Poppy display as last year
- c. Christmas – Carols round the tree/ Santa visit
- d. D Day Anniversary
- e. Walbottle Wardrobe – Kelly is hoping to do another in September

Any Other Business

10. Questions from the floor

Steve would like to thank Lorraine/the Gardening Group for the flower bed outside the hairdressers. Sheila said the post box on Hawthorn Terrace/Appletree Court is no longer in use. Lorraine said she would investigate.

Lorraine has had an email from a local resident who has started up a village football team and would like to promote it throughout the village, possibly to go in to the next newsletter.

11. Date for next Open/Committee Meeting: 7th November WVI 7pm.