

**Date / Time:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 8pm

**Location:** Wallington Village Hall

**In Attendance:** Graham Lamb (Chair); Kate Heath (Parish Councillor); Mark Hopley, Michelle Hopley (Clerks); Steve Jarvis (District and County Councillor); 2 residents

Item	Description	Action
1.0	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes of Wallington Parish Assembly 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes of Wallington Parish Assembly 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved.</li> </ul>	
2.0	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve Jarvis to provide an update on the Local Plan in his report.</li> </ul>	
3.0	<p><b>Report from the Parish Councillors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair, Graham Lamb, presented a report detailing the key matters addressed by the Parish Council, 2021-2022, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Parish Council website <a href="http://www.rushdenandwallingtonpc.co.uk">www.rushdenandwallingtonpc.co.uk</a></li> <li>PC Land and Facilities in Wallington Parish</li> <li>Highways and Drainage</li> <li>Defibrillator</li> <li>Neighbourhood Plan</li> <li>Planning</li> </ul> </li> <li>Copy of the Parish Councillors' report is attached.</li> </ul>	
4.0	<p><b>Report from the District and County Councillor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Local Plan:</i> Still awaiting the Inspector's report. It is not a satisfactory situation and is delaying the process. The council is trying to address the matter with the Inspector however there does not seem to be any mechanism to resolve the issue.</li> <li><i>Refuse Collections:</i> Last year there were difficulties with bin collections due to the staff availability. Collection issues have now largely been resolved.</li> <li><i>Tree Planting:</i> 10,000 trees were given away over the last year. It is understood that the County Council will be giving away 100,000 trees this year (10,000 in each district).</li> <li><i>Grants:</i> The District Council has been involved in the process of distributing covid grants and £150 council tax rebates</li> <li><i>Drainage:</i> Ongoing problems with drainage remain an issue and are on the councils' list for action.</li> <li><i>Footpath Diversion:</i> Settle is now in communication with the County Council Rights of Way team regarding the diversion of a footpath on Kits Lane.</li> <li><i>Caring for adults and vulnerable children:</i> The County Council's actions have included managing the increased numbers of adults and children requiring support.</li> <li><i>Herts Lynx on-demand Bus Service:</i> The service has proved to be successful</li> </ul>	

	with increasing popularity. 2 additional buses, one of which is electric, are being added to the service this year.	
5.0	<p><b>Update on Wallington Neighbourhood Plan and its effectiveness in guiding planning proposals through to approval or rejection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wallington Parish Councillors have been working on a Neighbourhood Plan for Wallington with the help of a working group of volunteer residents and a consultant. The Parish Councillors' report details the good progress made to date.</li> </ul>	
6.0	<p><b>Common Spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council has no resource, financial or otherwise, for further land purchase or management activities but are happy to support wider community initiatives.</li> </ul>	
7.0	<p><b>Drainage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Item 4.0, Report from the District and County Councillor.</li> </ul>	
8.0	<p><b>Issues which are raised by Residents attending the Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Safety Concern regarding the loss of copper telephone lines combined with the lack of mobile phone signal:</i> A resident raised safety concerns regarding the fact that BT are continuing to cut off copper lines to many homes. This combined with very poor mobile signal in Wallington results in residents being left unable to communicate with the outside world in times of emergency. Having to rely on Broadband is not an option when there are power cuts. Battery back-ups for vulnerable people may be an option, but the availability is questionable. Steve Jarvis to make enquiries regarding possible solutions for communities like Wallington.</li> <li><i>Dog Litter Bins / Collections:</i> A resident asked whether additional dog litter bins could be installed around the village. Additional locations need to be accessible from the highway for collection. Suggested location for one was at the bottom of the Street on the crossroads of the two bridleways. The Parish Councillors agreed to investigate the matter further.</li> <li><i>Biogen:</i> The Parish Councillors have communicated with Biogen and the local landowner regarding the unpleasant smell due to spreading on recent occasions. Compliance with the agreed notification procedures and monitoring of wind conditions were not deemed to be fully met.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SJ</b></p> <p><b>GL</b></p>
	The meeting closed at 8.55pm.	

Chair's Signature:

Date: