



Walton Parish Council – Annual Report

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.

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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 [see article opposite]. 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 Coopted Councillor, please contact Allan Dawes, the Parish Clerk and RFO.

Graham Shaw, Chair.

1st May 2024

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In 2024 the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 1944 with a series of major commemorations and events across the UK and in France. Also known as D-Day, the historic operation saw the Allied Forces mount a large-scale invasion of Nazi-occupied France that ultimately tipped the course of the Second World War in the Allies' favour.

In Walton, we will be flying a special national D-Day flag on 6th June this year.

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Leaps Rigg – Solar Farm

Community Funding Opportunity

The development was given planning approval in 2023 and this will fall wholly within the Parish of Walton. You can find details of the scheme and planning approval here:

https://publicaccess.carlisle.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=_CARLI_DCAPR_84886&activeTab=summary

Key to the development is the state of the national infrastructure i.e. the capacity of the National Grid and the ability of the Leaps Rigg development to connect to it. The Developer is only likely to begin construction once a connection date is established which, as yet, is not clear.

As they have done in other places within the UK, the Developer has indicated that they will provide a Community Fund for Walton. Just how much this Fund will be is still unknown but, from dialogue so far, we know that it may be in excess of £50,000.

The Developer has been clear that conditions will apply:

- Proposals for funding will need to be fully developed as projects.
- The Developer will only accept proposals from Walton Parish Council.
- Funding will be capital only; there is no revenue element.
- Funding will be available and project proposals can be put forward once the Leaps Rigg development is operational and connected to the National Grid.

So, at this point, we cannot know when funding will be available and how much it will be. But we do know that as a community, we need to have proposals ready for that opportunity when it comes.

(continued overleaf)

Walton Parish Council Actions

At the Parish Council meeting of 12th March 2024, Councillors agreed a strategy and timeline to establish a set of project proposals that could be presented to the Developer at the appropriate time:

- 1) To seek short written proposals from the community at large for a range of projects: small (up to £10,000), medium (up to £40,000), large (in excess of £40,000).
- 2) Written proposals should be no more than 50 words.
- 3) There is no limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted to the Parish Council.
- 4) The Parish Council will select the proposals to take forward in each range from all those submitted by 30th June 2024.
- 5) Agreement on the proposal selection will be made by the Parish Council at the meeting on 9th July 2024.
- 6) The long list of proposals submitted will be published on the Parish website and on the Parish Noticeboards on 1st July 2024.
- 7) The list of proposals selected for development will be published on the Parish website and on the Parish noticeboards on 14th July 2024.
- 8) The Parish Council will then focus on the proposals selected and will use its own funds to develop these into project proposals that can then be presented to the Developer at the appropriate time.
- 9) The Parish Council will investigate additional funding opportunities to supplement the final set of project proposals.
- 10) The Parish Council will keep the Developer informed as to this strategy and timeline.

Examples of Potential Proposals

By way of illustration only, Parish Councillors made a simple list of ideas that had been voiced to them informally:

- Join the Village Hall and Reading Room to make one building and refurbish the whole.
- Put a Cattle Grid on the Moss.
- Have a Village Car Park.
- Solar panels on all the public buildings in the Parish.
- Further development of the Play area.
- Tree Plantation scheme for the whole village.
- Mains water, toilet and disabled access for the Church.
- Replace all the wooden seats on the Village Green with plastic ones.

What you can do

The Parish Council is keen to ensure that everyone in the Parish should have their say and make a contribution if they want to.

- The Planning Process in 2022/23 sought comments from Parishioners and these included a range of ideas for future funding which you may want to look at.
- You can put forward proposals as an individual or as a group or on behalf of an active group or body within Walton Parish community.
- You can come to the Parish Council meeting on 9th July to make your views known on all the proposals that have been put forward.
- You can volunteer your time and input to the development of one or more proposals that are selected to be taken forward by the Parish Council on 9th July.

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Walton Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who has supported our recent visits from Kirkup's Fish & Chip van. We're sure you'll agree that they are a delicious treat! The next visit will be Thursday 23rd May. Check the noticeboard in the Bus Shelter, poster in the tearoom or Walton Parish Facebook page for the menu and how to order.

We have a couple of events coming up in June – our annual **Music on the Green** with singer Jason Arnup, hot buffet from The Sandwich Bar & bar from the Old Vicarage Brewery. We are also hosting a Community Lunch (Sunday roast & dessert) in the Village Hall; please see the posters in this Parish newsletter (p.16), on the noticeboard in the Bus Stop or on the Walton Parish Facebook page for more details. We hope to see you there!

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Walton WI

Walton WI has already enjoyed some fun and interesting meetings together in 2024, including a singing workshop, a dancing session and a visit from Warwick Bridge Corn Mill (along with tasty treats!). We have also been busy creating a 'Community Table' in the Village Hall which gives details of our next meeting, has homemade greetings cards and jams for sale, and an invitation to help us with our charity knitting – please take a look next time you're in there.

Over the coming months we are having visits from the Friends of Carlisle Victorian & Turkish Baths, a talk on the River Irthing by Eden Rivers Trust and a visit from Oak Tree Animals' Charity. If you would like to join us at any of these meetings, please keep an eye on the community table in the Hall or the noticeboard in the bus shelter each month's speaker. Meetings always take place on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome at a cost of £4 per person, to include refreshments.

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Walton Young Farmers

Walton YFC is a local young farmers group for ages 10-28yrs. We meet alternate Mondays usually at Walton & Lees Hill Primary School or at other activities such as visiting local business tours and informative talks.

Recent meetings we have had are: disco ice skating, carpet bowls, stock-judging practices and a talk from Cumbria Blood Bikes. Our upcoming meetings consist of a lot of preparation for our annual field day competition where we compete against 15 other young farmers clubs in the northern district of Cumbria YFC in May 2024.

If you are interested in joining Walton young farmers or would like any more information please contact Amy Nicholson or Abigail Graham via facebook or email - amynicholson604@googlemail.com or grahamabigail@aol.com.

Young farmers is for everyone, not just farmers! So even if you aren't from farming background please also get in touch.

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Walton Reading Group

Walton Reading Group meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Old Vicarage Brewery at 7pm. We read a wide range of books, which are suggested by the group, as you will see in our reads for the next few months. You're very welcome to join us, either every month or just come along if you've got something to say about that month's book, we're always pleased to see you!

Thursday 9 May	<i>The City of Djinns</i> by William Dalrymple
Thursday 13 June	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> by JD Salinger
Thursday 11 July	<i>The Family Upstairs</i> by Lisa Jewell
August	No Meeting
Thursday 12 September	Mystery Read (you will be given a mystery book at the July meeting to discuss in September)
Thursday 10 October	<i>Demon Copperhead</i> by Barbara Kingsolver



Walton and Lees Hill CE Primary School

The weeks leading up to our Easter holiday were filled with many different exciting activities and learning opportunities.

In February, we celebrated Wellbeing week in school, with a different learning theme each day. Wellbeing Week was kick-started with a 'Febudairy' talk, delivered by Ross from Temon Farm Milk Barn. He explained the milking process to us, how cows are cared for and the importance of feeding them well. We then discussed how important milk is to keep our bodies and bones strong and healthy. Finally, we even had the opportunity to sample some milk from Temon Farm... it was delicious!

On Tuesday of Wellbeing Week, we had the pleasure of welcoming in volunteers from the Blood Bikes. We were all inspired by their dedication and hard work, and of course everyone was very excited when they got the chance to sit on the amazing motorbikes. Pupils chose to support the Blood Bikes on World Book Day, by wearing their own clothes and donating £1 to the charity.

For Wednesday of Wellbeing week, we had a trip out of school. We started the day at H&H auction mart in Carlisle. We watched a presentation about the history of the mart to the present day and learned that it used to be in the middle of Carlisle. We then went to the sale rings. The auctioneer spoke very quickly and we heard him bang his gavel down. Next, we visited Pioneer, where we made our own meatballs! We used a prepared mince mix to shape 12 balls. It was good fun putting gloves and an apron on, before working together to prepare a lovely meal to take home. It was a brilliant day out and a fantastic opportunity for children to be able to make the link between rearing animals and food production.

On Thursday, children were lucky enough to have a visit from Sarah, at Daisy First Aid. With Sarah, we learnt key facts and vital skills that may be needed in an emergency. Children also talked about the importance of keeping safe and how to keep their peers safe too.

Wellbeing week came to an end on Friday, with a beautiful walk through the countryside that surrounds our school. We are so lucky to be situated in such a peaceful area with such extensive open space!

On March 11th, our Science Week began in school. The week allowed us to explore our science curriculum further and take a deep dive into the subject. We welcomed lots of different visitors into school to share their science knowledge with us – including Ivan who taught about flying rockets, Rebecca the Pharmacist and Ned who talked to us about the importance of soil!

To round up the term, we hosted our community Easter lunch. The lunch was well attended, by members of our school family and the wider community. We had a delicious roast dinner, followed by pudding, then tea and coffee. Afterwards we headed along to St. Mary's Church, Walton, where we had our Easter service. Children shared readings, prayers and songs. It was a lovely afternoon, and great way to finish the term.

We all enjoyed a restful Easter break and are delighted to be back to school. The term has started with a Road Safety workshop, swimming lessons and exciting new learning topics. We can't wait to see what other brilliant opportunities we are presented with this term!

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Every flower counts

We share the same planet with bees. There is no planet B. Bees are more than just honey collectors: they make an important contribution to the preservation of our ecosystem/biodiversity.

They are responsible for the growth of many plants, flowers, and trees, some of which serve as food and shelter for other animals. What's more, those plants also make active contributions to help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and prevent soil erosion. Almost 90% of wild plants and 75% of global crops depend on pollination. 30% of food we consume depends on pollinators.

Sadly, over the past 15 years, colonies of bees have been disappearing, and the reason are multifactorial: lack of forage, vast stretches of crops which are not bee friendly, diseases and pests, to name a few.

I am frequently asked, 'Do bees hibernate?' The answer is NO. In winter they are resting in a cluster around the Queen trying to maintain temperature (37°C) for the Queen to survive till spring.

Bees are like your dog and require food 365 days a year. Unlike wasps bees are vegetarian; they are dependent totally on flowers: for energy source from nectar and building blocks from pollen (proteins, vitamins etc). Can you imagine what will happen when there are no flowers in Walton? If only NSPCA knew how we treat our planet Earth mates. Bees have a short tongue so forage on small flowers. Their vision spectrum is 300-650 nm, different to ours. They see UV patterns on flowers and like violet, blue, yellow, orange but not red flowers.

So if you want to help our planet companions please grow:

Good for bees	NOT for bees
Crocuses, snowdrops, hellebores, marsh marigolds, cowslips, dandelions, rosemary, poppies, thyme, phacelia, lavender, borage, white clover, winter heather, rocket, fruit bushes, dog rose, cat mint, salvia, verbena, cosmos.	Daffodils, dahlias, tulips, roses, begonias.

Climate!! Last winter was particularly harsh for bees so many did not make it. We cannot change the weather so let's grow more flowers.

Jola Weaver

Walton Tearoom

Homemade food and cakes
Dine in or takeaway
Open 7 days a week
10am - 5pm

Telephone 07594 704734
Walton Tearoom
Walton
Brampton
CA8 2DJ



If you are a regular visitor enquire about a loyalty card which will entitle you to a free tea or coffee after ten similar purchases.

From 9th May there will be **Charity Bingo** every Thursday at 4pm, all proceeds to **Hospice at Home**. Please note that the tearoom will still remain open at this time.

The tearoom now has a stock of some everyday items for sale. Jola's **Walton Honey** is also on sale in the tearoom.

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Old Vicarage Brewery

Open May – September 2024:
Fridays 6pm – 10pm
Saturdays 4pm – 8pm

Last year, we hosted a Lasgana night to raise funds for the maintenance of the Church and grounds. We hope to repeat this in 2024.

Dog fouling - advice from Cumberland Council

Cumberland Unitary Authority has teams who patrol the streets and parks to educate people about responsible dog ownership and, if required, enforce the law. It is a criminal offence not to clean up after your dog and you can be fined up to £1,000.

The Law says that the person responsible for the dog has a duty to clean up after their dog even if they were not with it or did not see it foul.

Where dogs foul on someone else's garden, they are usually not with the owner. If you see a dog without its owner, please notify the dog warden. If the dog is with the owner but not on lead, please notify the Neighbourhood Enforcement team.

Dog Control Orders allow our enforcement officers to make sure dogs are kept under proper supervision.

Fixed penalties can be issued to dog owners who don't obey the law. It is an offence to

- allow dog fouling or fail to remove dog faeces;
- allow stray/roaming dogs or have a dog off the lead within the Carlisle district (except in parks and open spaces);
- not put and keep a dog on a lead when directed to by an enforcement officer.

We cannot take any action against owners of cats that foul your garden.

Responsible Dog owners should:

- Carry items to remove dog faeces (Poop scoop, plastic shovel, bags).
- Always place removed dog faeces in the bins provided (or take it home if the bin is full or not present). It is an offence to leave bagged waste on the ground or in the hedge.
- Keep their dogs under supervision at all times when in public spaces.

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Parish Accounts 2023/2024

RECEIPTS

Precept	£9,100
Other	£1,509
Village Hall Contra	£3,787
Vat received	<u>£1,443</u>
Total Income	<u>£15,839</u>

PAYMENTS

Staff	£3,391
Grass cutting	£3,620
Insurance	£1,850
Village Hall Contra	£3,787
Admin	£826
Subscriptions	£224
Audit fees	£50
Vat	£940
Play area	£2,085
Misc repairs	£451
Coronation coins	£60
Assets	£371
Newsletter	£35
Training	£30
Data Commissioner	£35
Website	<u>£72</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>£17,827</u>

Net surplus **-£1,988**

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Walton PC clerk is Alan Dawes, email: clerk@waltonparish.co.uk

Councillors are:

Graham Shaw (Chairman), email: graham@waltonparish.co.uk

Alan Armstrong, Rodney Hodgson, Brian Hogg, Steve Matthews, William Weaver and William Wilkinson.

Further information about Walton Parish Council can be found on the website: www.waltonparish.co.uk/

REMINDER

The Annual Parish Meeting is in the Village Hall at 7pm on Tue 14 May.

St. Mary's Church

Our Church is situated in the heart of the village. Services are held twice a month, usually the first Sunday and third Sunday at 11am. We have a Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of each month. Dates of services are posted on the noticeboard outside the Church.

Upcoming services include;

19 May – Holy Communion to celebrate Pentecost.

2 June – Holy Communion

16 June – Morning Worship

We host special services for key festivals and events during the year, such as Easter Sunday, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Day. Our annual carol service last year was attended by over 100 people, all enjoying our favourite carols.

We also organise several fundraising events during the year and are planning another popular quiz with pie and pea supper. More details to follow.

We have a small, friendly congregation and always welcome visitors to our Church, whether to look around or join us for worship. If the building is locked, then please see Charlotte Shaw at the Old Vicarage for the key.

The Church is available for baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Work has been carried out in the churchyard to provide a 'wild' area where birds and insects are able to nest and flourish. You may see that certain parts of the churchyard are therefore left to grow, although we do cut the new churchyard regularly, thanks to a few volunteers led by Paul and Pam Cronin. A special thanks also to the Nightingale family who have completed a variety of tasks from mending a gate to cataloguing headstones in the old graveyard.

We always welcome more volunteers and suggestions on how to improve our churchyard.

For more information about the Church please contact either of the churchwardens;

Charlotte Shaw (01697 543002) Or Phil Knowles.

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JOIN US FOR:

Sunday Roast & Dessert



WHEN & WHERE:

Sunday 9 June 2024

Walton Village Hall

£12 per adult, £6 per child



RSVP:

Helen Armstrong or Emma Brocklebank



eden
project





Music on the Green

fun & dancing for all the family!



Live music from *Jason Arnup*

with disco and a hot buffet
plus bar by the Old Vicarage
Brewery

Saturday 22 June from 6.30pm

in the marquee on Walton Village Green

Tickets to be bought in advance

from Walton Tearoom or scan the QR
code



£15 adults, £7 children including hot buffet

Entrance only (no food included)

£5 adults, £2.50 children

All money raised to go to Walton Village Hall Reg Charity Number 1132531

