WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Ian Blythe. 4 The Dell, Talkin. Brampton CA8 1AQ
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Minutes of the Walton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 7.00pm in Walton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. T. R. Hodgson, B. Hogg, R. Reynolds, W. Weaver

Also present: I. Blythe, Clerk/RFO, Unitary Auth. Cllr. J. Mallinson, 1 Member of the Public (MOP).

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. T. A. Armstrong (Chair) and W. Wilkinson.

1. In the absence of the Chair Cllr. W. Weaver was elected as Chair for the meeting and duly signed the declaration.

51. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS held on 8 July and 29 July2025 - the chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 8 and 29 July 2025.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

1. Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests
2. To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
3. To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

(Councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the meeting for the relevant items)

4. To make any requests for dispensation
    - None received

53. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) To decide whether there are any items of business which require exclusion of the press and public
- None

54. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (20 MINUTES ALLOWED) - the MOP provided further information surrounding Agenda item 62 which councillors noted.

55. CUMBERLAND COUNCILLOR REPORTS– none.

56. POLICE MATTERS – to resolve not to submit any matters to the Local Focus Hub

57. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – none received

58. FINANCE

a) Payments – Payment list for July included in Meeting Pack. - Noted

b) Payments – authorised payments below totalling £1324.07

VN	Inv. Date	Payee	Purpose	Amount £	VAT inc.£	Net Amt. £
40	31-7-25	Ian Blythe	Salary &Exps	223.68	-	223.68

41	31-8-25	Ian Blythe	Salary &Exps	283.59	-	283.59
42	Mth 4	HMRC	PAYE	49.60	-	49.60
43	Mth 5	HMRC	PAYE	58.40	-	58.40
44	7-8-25	Ian Blythe	Title search village green	14.00	-	14.00
45	31-8-25	Unity Bank	Bank charge	6.00	-	6.00
46	15-8-25	Starboard	Scribe Accounts	28.80	4.80	24.00
47	24-8-25	Green Team	Grass cutting	660.00	110.00	550.00

c) noted Unity Trust Bank Charges for 2 months July and August 2025.
d) noted standing order to Scribe Accounts on 15 August of £28.80.
e) noted DM Payroll applied the updated contractual pay rates as well as the amount to HMRC.
f) noted reconciled bank balances for July. August balances reconciled at close of meeting.
g) Website renewal subscription – agreed to the continued payment of annual website domain subscription when it falls due in September.

Council also noted the transfer on 25 August of £2000.00 from Savings a/c to Current a/c.

59. Grant Awarding Policy – Council resolved to adopt the updated Grant Awarding policy and also noted,

1. that there was a grant application pending and this policy would not apply retrospectively.

2. that this policy does not impact the discretionary power under section 137 of LGA 1972 that allows local councils to spend a limited amount of money on activities and projects that benefit the community.

60. IT Policy – resolved to adopt the IT Policy as recommended in the 2025 Practitioners' Guide, issued by the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP).

61. Tree survey – Council agreed to proceed with a professional tree survey at a cost of £450.00.

62. Water run-off/drainage on Village Green – resolved that,

1. the Clerk obtain estimates from drainage specialists to undertake a survey and establish the cause of run-off water from the Village Green between Friars Garth and Holly Garth pooling at the gully/drain further down and not draining away.

2. the Clerk would pursue a response to correspondence already sent to Highways Dept. Cumberland Council seeking their assistance in clarifying responsibility for the drain on the Village Green.

63. Update from representatives on Village Hall Management Committee – verbal update received on progress in seeking a tenant for the Tea Room.

a) Picnic benches outside Reading Room – resolved to grant permission for the incoming tenant of the Tea Room to position picnic tables on the Village Green adjacent to the Reading Room subject to any necessary planning permissions being sought and appropriate insurance cover being put in place.

b) Flagpole - transfer of responsibility to Parish Council – deferred to November; Clerk to check for earlier documentation and insurance position.

64. Defibrillator – resolved to fund new pads and charger of £175.00. These are anticipated to last until early 2027 when replacement of the defibrillator will be necessary. The Clerk to include defibrillator replacement cost in the 2027/28 budget.

65. Councillor Conduct: Respect, Social Media and Refresher Training – the support and refresher training that is available was noted.

66. Clerk and Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

1. Consider membership of The Open Spaces Society.
2. Attracting future councillors – developing a communications strategy

67. Date of next meeting:
The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on:

Tuesday 11 November 2025 in Walton Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk by 12 noon on 3 November 2025.