WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk/RFO: Ian Blythe. Tel : 07545086857 Email : clerk@waltonparish.co.uk

Minutes of the Walton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 7.00pm in Walton Village Hall

Present: T. A. Armstrong, B. Hogg, W. Weaver, R. Hodgson.

Also present: I. Blythe, Clerk/RFO,

1. Apologies for absence– Received and accepted apologies for absence from Cllr. R. Reynolds and Unitary Cllr. J. Mallinson
2. Election of Chair – Cllr. T. A. Armstrong was elected Chair for 2026-27
3. Chair's Declaration of acceptance of Office – Cllr. Armstrong signed the Chair's declaration.
4. Election of Vice Chair – Cllr. W. Weaver was elected Vice Chair for 2026-27

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held on 10 March 2026 – the Chair was authorised to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meetings held on 10 March 2026.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION
- None received.

7. Year End Accounts – received and noted the statements of accounts.
8. Internal Audit –
a. received and noted the internal audit report for 2025-26
b. resolved to re-appoint the existing internal auditor (Robert Gordon – Gordon Consultancy Ltd.)
9. Risk assessment and internal audit policy - resolved to adopt the policy.

10. Annual AGAR Return 2025-26
a. resolved to claim exemption from External Audit
b. answered the questions on the Annual Governance Statement and authorised the Chair and Clerk to sign.
c. resolved to authorise the Chair to sign the Accounting Statement.

11. 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.
12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (20 MINUTES ALLOWED) – None present
13. CUMBERLAND COUNCILLOR REPORTS – apologies for absence had been received.
14. POLICE MATTERS – non to report
15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS – None received. It was noted application 26/0011, which had not been referred to the council as a statutory consultee, had been dealt with by Cumberland Council as permitted development.

16. FINANCE
a) **Payments – authorised** schedule of payments totalling £2664.86

VN	Date	Payee	Ref	Purpose	Net £	VAT	Total £
1	15/4	Scribe	SO	Accounts	24.00	4.80	28.80
2	28/4	HMRC	SO	PAYE			51.00
3	28/4	I. Blythe	SO	Salary			230.00

4	30/4	Unity Bank	DD	Charges			7.00
12	12/5	Zurich Ins.	117399745	Renewal			471.00
5	15/5	Scribe	SO	Accounts	24.00	4.80	28.80
6	28/5	I. Blythe	SO	Salary			230.00
7	28/5	HMRC	SO	PAYE			51.00
8	31/5	Unity Bank	DD	Charges			7.00
9	12/5	Gary Hayes		J/ Knotweed			160.00
10	12/5	SLCC		Subscription			84.00
11	12/5	CALC/NALC		Subscription			175.66
13	12/5	Clerk exp's	Agenda/PC	Mileage			12.60
14	12/5	Rbt Gordon Consultancy		Int. Audit	100.00	20.00	120.00
15	12/5	Green Team		Grass cutting x 3	840.00	168.00	1008.00

b) Precept - noted receipt of £12600.00 Precept from Cumberland Council
c) VAT – noted receipt of VAT refund of £646.49
d) Monthly bank reconciliation– noted reconciled bank balances for March and April 2026.

17. Standing Orders – resolved to re-adopt the current model Standing Orders

18. Financial regulations – resolved to re-adopt the current Financial regulations.

19. Insurance – resolved to renew the insurance with the current provider at a cost of £471.00.

20. Tree Survey – resolved to proceed with the Management Plan in respect of Japanese Knotweed and the Clerk would write to initiate action and confirm safeguarding measures that need to be taken.

21. Walton Community meeting 17 June 6:30pm – it was agreed the Clerk would make a presentation on the role of the PC.

22. Bus Shelter book exchange – the overall community benefit of the book exchange was discussed and acknowledged. The Clerk was instructed to respond to the enquiries received and indicate that whilst not wishing to take on the day to day management of the book exchange the Council would be supportive of a Grant Application in relation to replacing the shelving.

23. Village Green Play Area inspection – noted report/ findings and resolved to devise a maintenance plan to address the required work.
24. Village Hall Management Committee – an update was received on the recent VH Management Committee and the continued work on preparing a Governance Document.
- elected Cllrs. W. Weaver and B. Hogg as representatives on the VHMC

25. Future meeting dates – Second Tuesday of alternate months at 7:00pm commencing in July;
2026 - 14 JULY, 8 SEPT, 10 NOV,
2027 - 12 JAN, 9 MAR, 11 MAY.
- Noted and agreed meeting dates.

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

- Use of Village Green by third parties
- Book exchange shelving
- Maintenance plan for Play Area
- Notice Board at Nicki's Hill

227. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on:
Tuesday 14 July 2026 in Walton Village Hall at 7.00pm.
Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk by 12 noon on 4 May 2026.