WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Ian Blythe, Email: clerk@waltonparish.co.uk www.waltonparish.co.uk
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Minutes of the Walton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 7.00pm in Walton Village Hall

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

Also present: I. Blythe, Clerk/RFO, Cllr. J. Mallinson, and 2 members of the public (MOP)

28. Apologies for absence – Councillors acknowledged the resignation of Cllr. R. Reynolds and, in accordance with LGA 1972 section 85, resolved that Cllr. W. Wilkinson had ceased to hold office from 12 July 2026. The Chair recorded thanks to both councillors for their contributions.

29. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held on 12 May 2026 – authorised the chair to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2026.
30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – Cllr. Weaver declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 38.
31. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) - none
32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (20 MINUTES ALLOWED) – 2 MOP's expressed concerns relating to Agenda item 38 and these were considered by Councillors.
33. CUMBERLAND COUNCILLOR REPORTS– no formal report.
34. POLICE MATTERS - none
35. PLANNING APPLICATIONS -

a.) National Grid Upgrade projects. - The details contained in the meeting pack were discussed and the Clerk outlined an invitation from Westlinton Parish Council to join a North Cumbria Alliance of Parish Councils to enable councils to advocate as a single bloc with greater strength. The invitation was unanimously accepted and the Clerk was authorised to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the council.

36. FINANCE

a) Payments – authorised schedule of payments totalling £2470.20

VN	Date	Payee	Details	Net £	VAT	Total £
18	15/6	Scribe	Accounts	24.00	4.80	28.80
20	26/6	HMRC	PAYE			51.00
19	26/6	I. Blythe	Salary			230.00
21	30/6	Unity Bank	Charges			7.00
23	15/7	Scribe	Accounts	24.00	4.80	28.80
24	29/7	I. Blythe	Salary			230.00
25	29/7	HMRC	PAYE			51.00
26	31/7	Unity Bank	Charges			7.00
16	31/5	Gary Hayes	J/ Knotweed			350.00

28	14/7	Clerk exp's	Mileage			12.60
17	30/5	Green Team	Grass cutting x 2	610.00	122.00	732.00
22	27/6	Green Team	Grass cutting x 2	610.00	122.00	732.00
27	1/7	Walton VH	Hall hire			10.00

b) Monthly bank reconciliation– noted reconciled bank balances for May and June 2026.
c) Noted the transfer to Savings from Current account of £8000.00
d) Noted Interest received on Savings account of £104.62

37. Village Green Play Area inspection – a maintenance plan to be considered.
38. Viberoptix – the proposed broadband infrastructure involving the Village Green was discussed and the concerns of residents noted. Council instructed the Clerk to write to Viberoptix and request that no work is undertaken and obtain more detailed information.
39. Village Hall Management Committee – representatives provided an update on the recent Community group meeting, the creation of a new social group, the upcoming AGM and progress updating the Governing Document for the Charity.

40. Wetheral Balsham Bashers Volunteer Appeal – the Clerk outlined the appeal for volunteers and the reasons for tackling this aggressive and invasive plant which were fully noted. Whilst acknowledging the threat from this plant a concern was raised regarding the loss of it as a valuable pollinator for bees and other insects and that substitutions for it should be considered alongside its removal

41. Clerk's Appraisal – All councillors present agreed to collectively undertake the Clerk's appraisal at close of business. It was resolved to amend the Clerk's hours (22hrs) and pay scale (SCP 16) and reflect this in the contract of employment.

42. Clerk and Councillors' reports and items for future agenda
- Dog fouling on Village Green and around the village generally.

43. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on:
Tuesday 8 September 2026 in Walton Village Hall at 7.00pm.
Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk by 12 noon on 31 August 2026.