



Walton Parish Council

Website - www.waltonparish.gov.uk

E - Clerk@waltonparish.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at St John's Church Community Hall, Old Chester Road, Higher Walton, on Thursday 5 February 2026.

Present: C Hewitt – Chair

Councillors: S Harris (Deputy-Chair), A Williams, J Cooke, R Hardie, R Bennett (arrived 19:09) and E Jones. Two Invited Guests from St Johns Church PCC and one Member of the public.

In attendance: The Clerk- Madison Brotherton-Baker.

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:01, welcomed those present.

272 Apologies for absence

The Clerk advised that apologies were received from Cllr Hazeldine, Cllr Lacey, Cllr Saberi, Cllr Allison and Borough Cllr Matt Scott.

On behalf of the Council, the Chair extended sincere condolences and best wishes to Cllr Hazeldine and his family following his recent bereavement.

273 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at this point in the meeting.

274 Matters to be considered with the exclusion of the press and public

[In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, section 2]

At this point no items were considered as necessary to exclude the press and public.

275 Public Participation

In accordance with Standing Orders, Members of the public and any visitors in attendance may address the meeting.

275.1 PCSO Report – No report was received. The Clerk advised that the report would be circulated once received.

275.2 One member of the public addressed the Council regarding the accumulation of mud and muck along Old Chester Road, which is causing difficulties for pedestrians and cyclists.

It was agreed that the Clerk would report the issue to Warrington Borough Council (WBC). Cllr Harris also agreed to raise the issue in her capacity as a Borough Councillor.

275.3 The Council received a presentation from St John's Church regarding a proposal for a possible 20-space car park for use by church attendees, in response to the current parking difficulties during church services.

Three potential car park options were presented to the Council as part of the presentation documentation. Councillors asked questions, and St John's Church

advised that they would be seeking the Parish Council's support for one of the proposed car park locations.

It was agreed that the Betterment Advisory Group would review the proposed car parking options and report back to the Council with its comments on the proposals. This feedback will then be sent to the church.

Cllr Bennett arrived.

275.4 Borough Councillors – In the absence of Borough Cllr Matt Scott, Cllr Harris delivered the Borough Councillors' report.

Cllr Harris advised that a Warrington Parish Boundary Review is to be undertaken. The review will consider parish boundaries in relation to electoral numbers and the number of councillors. No decisions have been made at this stage, as the process is currently at the consultation stage.

Cllr Harris also provided a brief update on Warrington Borough Council's financial position, advising that no figures were available at this time. Further updates will be provided once information is received.

276 Approval of Minutes

The wording of Item 267.1.2 was discussed and amended.

Following this amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 January 2026 were **Resolved** to be a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

277 SEWUE

The Parish Council considered the proposed Walton Parish share of the SEWUE Working Party costs for the period January 2025 to January 2026 in the sum of £25.08. It was **Resolved** that the cost be approved.

278 PCSO redundancies

The Parish Council noted a recent Cheshire Police Alert from Dan Price, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, regarding a survey on proposals relating to PCSO redundancies in Cheshire, which closed on 23 January 2026. It was noted that the Council would monitor the situation.

279 Policies

The Parish Council noted that the updated Council Code of Conduct, adopted in July 2025, is published on the Walton Parish Council website, including the addition of the Civility and Respect commitment. It was further noted that a review is underway to ensure consistency with the behavioural statements contained within the Standing Orders, and that the revised policy will be issued to Councillors for review in due course.

280 Finance

280.1 The Finance Report had been issued to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The Parish Council reviewed the bank reconciliation prepared by the Clerk to the end of January 2026. It was noted that the relevant bank statements had previously been delayed but were now available for review.

The reconciliation showed a balance brought forward of £44,954.17 as per the November 2025 bank statement. After accounting for cheques presented in December 2025 totalling £2,855.72 and cheques presented in January 2026 totalling £2,411.98, the balance as per the end of January 2026 bank statement was £39,686.47.

After deducting unpresented cheques totalling £496.00, the balance in hand was confirmed as £39,190.47.

Cllr Bennett verified and signed the January bank statement in accordance with the Clerk's bank reconciliation.

It was further noted that the bank correspondence address has now been updated to the Clerk's address, which will help prevent any future delays in the receipt of bank statements.

280.2 The Clerk advised that a cheque issued to The Print Shop (Warrington) had been reported as not received. The Clerk confirmed that the latest bank transaction details, dated 30 January 2026, had been checked and that the cheque had not been presented for payment. As the cheque was issued by post, it is therefore presumed missing.

The Clerk requested authorisation from a signatory to cancel the cheque. Cllr Hardie, an authorised bank signatory, agreed to cancel the cheque. Once the cancellation has been completed, the Clerk will re-issue a replacement cheque to The Print Shop (Warrington).

Proposed payments:

- Clerk Salary January Payment, including additional payments- £687.04
- Clerk Salary February payment- £433.50
- Lions Charity Donation- £50.00
- Cllr Hardie Reimbursement batteries for Christmas Lights- £39.00
- CHALC invoice planning training Cllr Harris- 2025/049 £35.00
- CHALC Invoice 2025/210 AI Training Cllr Williams- £40.00
- Grappenhall Parish Council SEWUE Costing- £25.08

It was **Resolved** to accept the Finance Report and approve the above payments, and for the Clerk to prepare and issue cheques accordingly.

281 Training

281.1 The Parish Council considered attendance by the Clerk and Cllr Harris at the CHALC training course "*Introduction to AI*" at a total cost of £80.00. It was **Resolved** to approve attendance at the training at the stated cost.

281.2 The Parish Council considered attendance by Cllr Jones at two CHALC training courses, "*Introduction for Councillors*" and "*Roles and Responsibilities*", at a total cost of £50.00. It was **Resolved** to approve attendance at the training courses at the stated cost.

282 Walton Roads and Bridges

No further information had been received from Warrington Borough Council. It was noted that a new 7.5-tonne weight limit sign has been installed on Walton Road Bridge.

Cllr Harris updated Members that she had written to Stephen Hunter (Warrington Borough Council) and that a meeting is due to take place. She advised that ongoing issues relating to Walton roads and bridges would be discussed at the meeting. Cllr Harris invited Members to submit any questions for inclusion in the discussion.

Residents' parking permits for Old Chester Road were discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Harris would write to Warrington Borough Council to enquire whether Walton Parish Council could assist with surveying the area in order to help progress the matter.

283 Port Warrington 2025/01650/SCR

It was noted that Cllr Lacey and Cllr Saberi were leading on this item. Apologies having been received from both Councillors, the Chair updated Members.

Concerns were noted regarding the redaction of Walton Parish Council and other consultees' comments on the planning portal in relation to the recent EIA application. It was noted that Cllr Saberi had written to Warrington Borough Council querying the redactions, and that the redacted information was subsequently removed. It was further noted that the redactions were removed after the decision on the application had been made.

Cllr Harris advised that she has written to the Planning Authority seeking clarification regarding the redactions and will provide an update at the next meeting.

The Chair noted that Walton Parish Council has written to Moore Parish Council in relation to the Port Warrington application.

284 Strategic Plan

Updates to follow next meeting.

285 Employment Advisory Committee

The Parish Council noted the meeting of the Employment Advisory Committee held on 27 January 2026. The minutes of the meeting, as included in the agenda pack, were received.

286 Reports from Advisory Groups

286.1 Planning

286.1.1 It was noted that the Planning Group had not yet elected a chair, nor updated its Terms of Reference.

286.1.2 The Planning report was included in the agenda pack, the following applications were discussed:

2025/01670/FULH - Brantingham Chester Road, Warrington, WA4 5LP- Proposed single storey extension with flat roof replacing existing outrigger.

WPC made no comment on this application.

2025/01806/OUT - 100 Whitefield Road, Warrington, WA4 6NE- Proposed erection of a new detached dwelling house within a garden plot and alterations to existing dwelling house elevations to brick up relevant window openings with all matters reserved for subsequent application.

WPC made no comment on this application.

286.2 Betterment Advisory Group

286.2.1 Cllr Williams updated Members on the proposed residents' questionnaire/consultation. It was noted that the draft survey had been circulated to the Betterment Group. The Clerk was requested to circulate the survey to all Councillors for review.

Distribution and collection of the survey were discussed. The Clerk was asked to research the costs of a Freepost return option and to explore the possibility of the survey being collected from Stockton Heath Library.

286.2.2 Bronze Plaque – War Memorial. The Parish Council reviewed three options and associated quotations for the refurbishment of the bronze plaque on the War Memorial, as included in the agenda pack.

It was Resolved to approve expenditure of £2,500 plus VAT (total £3,000) to commission Farmers of Stockport to undertake the refurbishment works.

286.3 Events Advisory Group

Cllr Cooke provided Members with an update on the War Memorial refurbished plaque unveiling event, scheduled to take place on 10 April 2026 at 11.00am.

It was noted that costs for refreshments following the event were being considered, and Cllr Cooke advised that a further update would be provided in due course.

It was agreed that the Events Group would make enquiries to local families to establish whether any names may be missing from the bronze plaque. To support this, it was agreed that the Group would contact local history groups via social media and publicise the enquiry via Walton Parish Council social media, the Warrington Guardian, and Warrington Worldwide.

It was noted that research into the history of the War Memorial had been undertaken by Cllrs Allison and Lacey at Warrington Museum and Runcorn District Archives.

286.4 Donations

286.4.1 Cllr Harris advised that the next meeting of the Donations Advisory Group to review the Terms of Reference, policies, and Chair appointment would take place on 10 February 2026 at 4:30pm. Cllr Jones expressed an interest in joining the Donations Advisory Group.

286.4.2 The Clerk provided a verbal clarification in response to queries raised regarding the use of gifted or donated funds.

It was noted that, although the Donations Policy refers to a £200 limit in relation to precept-funded donations, the Council does not account for income sources separately and all funds are held and governed under the same financial, audit, and policy framework.

The Clerk confirmed that this position had been explained previously and remains unchanged.

It was agreed that any further discussion regarding future policies or frameworks would be considered at the next meeting of the Donations Advisory Group. The clarification was noted and no further action was agreed at this meeting.

287 Reports from Portfolio Holders and Outside Representatives.

287.1 Footpaths/Towpaths

The Councillors' Contact Tracker was noted. It was noted that the replacement bin on Hough Lane had now been installed.

287.2 Highways, Vegetation and Street Lighting

A verbal report was received from Cllr Bennett.

Following the report, it was agreed that the Clerk would log the following issues via the Councillor Contact System:

- Runcorn Road – Overgrown vegetation on the public footpath. Clerk to log and chase with WBC
- A56 drains – It was noted that Warrington Borough Council has recently commissioned works on the drains; however, further works are still required. Cllr Bennett to forward photographs to the Clerk for inclusion in a report to WBC.
- Park Lane / A56 junction – Absence of white road markings.
- Lady Daresbury Lane – It was noted that a fallen tree has been partially cut; however, further works are still required. Clerk to also contact the Crematorium regarding the damaged tree.

It was requested that councillors, when reporting issues via the Councillor Contact System, provide photographs and, where possible, include a What3Words reference to assist with accurate reporting

287.3 Walton Hall Estate

No report.

288 Report on Actions taken and correspondence received since the previous meeting.

The Clerk provided a verbal update on correspondence received since the previous meeting. The following items were noted:

Warrington Borough Council (WBC) Accountancy / Corporate Services confirmed receipt of the precept information and advised that Walton Parish Council's email address had been updated to the correct contact details.

SEWUE costing information was noted and discussed under Item 277.

Nantwich Town Council circulated information and requested support in relation to proposed legislative changes concerning the sale and use of fireworks.

No comments were made.

289 Items for inclusion on the next agenda

Items to include Events Group proposals and Residents Questionnaire. The Chair noted any further suggested agenda items should be sent to the Clerk.

290 Set date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be rescheduled and held on **Thursday 5 March 2026** at St John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton, commencing at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 20:46.