



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 3 April, 2025.

The meeting commenced at 19:10.

Present Councillor S Harris – Chair

Councillors: C Hewitt (Deputy-Chair), A Williams, V Lacey, H Allison, J Greene, R Hardie, S Saberi, D Hazeldine, J Cooke.

Attending Clerk- Madison Brotherton-Baker; PCSO Jordan Burke.

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:10 and welcomed everyone.

190 Apologies for absence

The Chair advised apologies were received from Cllr. Bennett and Matt Scott (WBC).

191 Declarations of Interest

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

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

[using Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s. 2]

To consider if any items on the agenda should be considered in closed session because of the nature of the information to be disclosed, whether pertaining to an individual, a contract or legal advice.

193 Public Participation

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

193.1 PCSO Report – Verbal Report from PCSO Jordan Burke. There had been three incidents reported- Poaching on Mil Lane, this is an ongoing investigation and further details will be confirmed in due course. A Traffic Accident on Park Lane 20.03.25. The issue has been raised to Highways (further details in item 195). Criminal Damage to a Door on Ellesmere Road. Enquiries are still ongoing and updates will be given in due course. It was also noted that as part of enquires Bridgewater High School will be attended by the local police.

PCSO Jordan Burke advised that the Residents voice questionnaire helps the police priorities their time on local issues. The questionnaire can be found on:

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/police-forces/cheshire-constabulary/areas/cheshire/campaigns/residents-voice/>

WPC to publish the questionnaire link on the parish's website, Clerk to action.

It was also noted that the Local police Facebook pages for Walton, Hatton and Stretton have been merged in to a Facebook page called- Warrington South Police.

It was discussed that Walton Parish doesn't have a main place of contact for Community Police Surgeries like other local areas. Councillors to think of possible locations for Police Surgeries to increase visibility with PCSO's for local residents.

To help keep local PCSO's up to date on WPC matters, the Clerk is to send WPC Monthly Agendas and Meeting Minutes to PCSO Jordan Burke.

193.2 Members of the Public – No public participation in this meeting

193.3 Borough Councillors – No report. Cllr Harris verbally reported that the consultation regarding the local library in Stockton Heath library is ongoing online and due to finish on 9 May, 2025. It was also noted that the Car Parking consultation for the Forge Car Park is also ongoing. Stockton Heath Tip is getting reviewed as part of the Homes England Meeting (item 200), review is still on going and further details are yet to be confirmed.

194 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 February were discussed and the following alterations were made:

Item 180.2 - the wording Restorative Programme was changed to Community Payback Scheme.

Item 183.2.1 - phrasing was altered to the following:

Cllr.Hewitt reported that WBC responded that when the overgrown Tree on Worsely Road impacts overhead cables it is the responsibility of Open Reach. The Tree Policy had been sent to the resident concerned.

Following the above alterations being made, it was **Resolved** that the minutes were to be a true record and signed by the chair.

195 Accident on Park Lane and Warrington Road 20.03.25

The Chair altered the order of the minutes, 195 was discussed following completion of 193 to allow for the attendance of PCSO Jordan Burke. The minutes resumed at 194 and the remaining were completed in order.

Cllr.Harris provided an update on progress on actions following her meeting held on 28.02.25, noting Mark Tune has advised that the order has been submitted for the refreshment of the Road Markings and the new stop signs for the junction. Dates for installation are TBC.

PCSO Jordan Burke reported that there had been another traffic collision at the Junction on the 20.03.25, and that visibility from the police in the area has been increased.

PCSO Jordan Burke left the meeting and the Council thanked him for his attendance.

196 Update on Clerk Working Arrangements

The Clerk advised that her working days and hours would generally be Monday 10am until 3pm and Thursday 11am until 1:30pm. She advised that the WPC Mobile is currently getting reviewed with the intention of getting the mobile in use, but currently the best way to contact her is by the Clerk email - Clerk@waltonparish.gov.uk.

The Clerk also advised that all of the Parish mail is currently getting reviewed and postal addressed updated.

Cllr.Lacey noted that it would be useful to update the Clerk's email signature and mobile voicemail once the mobile is in action to reflect the working days and hours. Clerk to action.

197 Employment Committee

Cllr. Lacey provided an update following the Employment committee meeting 27.03.25, reporting that the Clerk's Salary payment date has been altered, which has led to an interim salary payment this month. Minutes are to be circulated to the group. Clerk to action.

198 Employment Policies

Cllr.Hazeldine updated the group on progress, and advised that the ratified policies from the previous meeting (Item 171), were now on the website in a common format. Clerk to liaise with Cllr.Hazeldine to review the other policies formatting and produce a single spreadsheet listing policies dates agreed and dates that the policies will next need reviewing. Cllr.Hazeldine and Clerk action.

Next policies to be reviewed: Maternity, Paternity and Loneworking.

198 Creamfields

Cllr.Harris provided an update to the group on progress and the format of the Creamfields Residents Meeting to be held Saturday 5 April; she advised that despite WPC requests Creamfields confirmed that they will not be attending the meeting. The council expressed disappointment in Creamfields lack of attendance. Cllr.Hewitt agreed to take meeting minutes. WPC to send minutes/ actions to Creamfields after the meeting.

Cllr.Harris advised that the maximum attendance for the hall is 49 people, and a sign in sheet has been made for attendees to ensure maximum numbers are not exceeded.

Confirmed attendees are: MP Sarah Hall, David Boyer (WBC Director for Transport and Environment), Chief Inspector Lewis (Cheshire Police), Councillor Neil Connolly (Halton Borough Councillor) and the Regional Manager for Greenking, who runs the Ring O'Bells. Cllr.Williams to contact the Walton Arms regarding attendance to the meeting.

Cllr.Hairrs updated the group on a email she had received from Ian Jones, Transport and Highways for Halton Borough Council regarding the A56 Road works- it has been confirmed that both sides of the A56 Chester Road will be open for the duration of the Creamfields event though the road surface may not be final. After the event traffic restrictions will be back in place to allow for completion of the roads works. HBC are currently awaiting a traffic management provider from Creamfields organisers for the event, once this has been done a specific Creamfields specific traffic management plan will be put together.

199 Emails

Notes were issued to the group prior to the meeting.

Cllr.Hazeldine updated the group that the transition from .Org domain to .Gov was progressing well. Councillors have access to their .Gov emails and the WPC website has been updated to www.waltonparish.gov.uk. Parish website links and notice board website details still require updating, Cllr.Hazeldine and Clerk to action.

Cllr.Hazeldine advised that the council is currently paying for 2 mail boxes- Org and Gov. It was agreed that the .Org domain will remain in place until the end of April.

Then Media Invoice for the domains was received 01.04.25, however the invoice is incorrect. Clerk to action.

200 SEWUE Meeting

Cllr.Harris updated the group on progress following the meeting on 01.04.25. Minutes of the meeting were issued to the group prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Harris noted that there are still outstanding issues regarding transport and infrastructure, and the consult will be ongoing until 06/04/2025 online by the Homes England Website (southeastwarrington-commonplace.is).

201 Finance

Finance report was issued to the group prior to the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that accounts for the Financial Year have been closed as of 31/03/25. The Clerk is to action the Internal Audit with JDH Business services Ltd, with a planned submission for early May.

Proposed payments:

Cllr. Allison Reimbursement for postage for the period of Nov 24- March 25 £9.35

Cllr. Hewitt Reimbursement for Easter Decorations £63.96

CHALC Invoice 201 Clerk Training £50.00

Clerk Salary work up until 20th March £237.44

CHALC Invoice 217 end of Year Accounts Clerk Training £35.00

Clerk Interim Salary work up until 4th April £178.20

Cllr.Saberi proposed to accept the report and to pay proposed payments by cheque, this was seconded by Cllr.Allison. Councillors unanimously voted in favour.

Resolved for the Clerk to write and send cheques for the payments.

202 Strategic Planning

Cllr.Lacey gave a verbal update. Plan is to be updated following the next General Annual Parish Meeting next month. The document is to reflect the upcoming devolution.

203 Reports from Advisory Groups

203.1 Planning

The group had been sent the following planning applications prior to the meeting:

2024/01623/LBC , 2024/01512/FUL- 99 Whitefield Road.

This property is not within Walton Parish. Clerk to report to Planning.

2025/00317/CLKDP- 84 Whitefield Road.

Single storey rear extension and front porch.

No Comment.

2025/00397/TPO- 134 Walton Road.

Felling of one tree.

No Comment.

20245/00397/TPO- 13 Lychgate.

4 trees to be trimmed.

No Comment.

2024/00748- The Stag.

An enquiry was made on this application, which should have been determined last year. Planning advised that they have granted approval on the Stags later application 2024/01620/CLDE, so it is likely that this earlier application will be withdrawn.

203.2 Village Betterment Advisory Group

Report/ action notes had been circulated to the group prior to the meeting.

Cllr.Williams advised that Gardenia is no longer undertaking litter picks. The Community Payback Scheme has been approached to undertake litter picking, but has not been forthcoming with dates. The council has been undertaking litter picking as part of the Great British Spring Clean Scheme. Cllrs Hardie, Hazeldine, Harris, Williams and Cooke have all been out litter picking in the local area. It was noted that the biggest problem area for litter was found to be Old Chester Road. Cllr.Williams to look into litter picking equipment and report back. Photos of the litter picking progress were taken and are to be uploaded to the WPC Website, Clerk to action.

Due to the Community Payback Scheme not coming back to the council to get the painting completed on local benches. Cllr.Hewitt has reached out to companies for quotations as an alternate solution.

203.3 Events

Reports had been sent to the group prior to the meeting.

180.3.1 Easter Decorations.

Cllr Hewitt advised Easter Decorations are due to be put up on 9 April 2025. Last years Easter bunting has gone missing, Cllr. Hewitt to look into alternative solutions.

180.3.2 VE Day Tea Party for older Parish Residents.

Cllr.Hewitt updated the group on progress on the VE Day Tea party. 50 Tickets will be available for the party via Eventbrite, and advertised locally on social media.

Cllr.Hewitt proposed that up to an additional £250 to be spent on the VE Tea Party as the originally budget of £250 does not cover expected costs. This was seconded by Cllr.Harris.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour.

Resolved that Cllr.Hewitt will continue to plan for the VE Day Tea party and use the additional budget.

It was agreed that on 23/04/25, Easter decorations are to be taken down and replaced with VE bunting and lamppost plaques.

203.4 Donations

Notes from the Donations meeting held on 28.03.25 were sent to the group prior to the meeting.

Following a formal application from Mersey Weaver Scouts, Cllr.Harris proposed a donation of £170. This was seconded by Cllr.Williams.

Councillors unanimously voted in favour.

Resolved WPC to donate to Mersey Weaver Scouts, Clerk to action.

The donations group would like to invite the young person to come to a council meeting or write to the parish council after the event to tell the council about the benefits and their experience of the trip, Clerk to action.

204 On going reported issues on Holly Hedge Lane

Cllr.Harris updated the group that she has sent further emails and reports to WBC and resent to Ian Brackenbury regarding the on going issues, but has had no response. Cllr.Harris and Hazeldine to continue to chase. Cllr.Hazeldine noted Cllr.Bennet has collated the fly tipping waste in to a pile.

205 Reports from Portfolio Holders and Outside Representatives.

205.1 Footpaths/Towpaths

No update.

205.2 Highways, Vegetation and Street Lighting

Cllr.Hazeldine advised that the overgrown vegetation on Underbridge Lane has been reported again. It was noted that a potential invasive non-native plant species may be growing, Cllr.Hazeldine to investigate and report back.

205.2.1 Mertoun Road and Worsley Road update.

Cllr.Hewitt advised the previously discussed overgrown tree on Worsley Road had been sorted (item 183.2.1).

205.3 Walton Hall Estate

The Clerk advised that she has emailed Neil Simpson for a report/update and was awaiting a response. Clerk to follow up.

Cllr.Harris reported that it has been confirmed that the Food Festival previously held at Walton Gardens was being moved to Arley Hall.

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

Clerk to action.

207 Items for inclusion on the next agenda

Suggestions were made by the group to include the following; Park Lane/ Warrington Road, Flooding on Old Chester Road, Lone Working Policy, ID Badges for Councillors, proposals for St.Johns Hall hire (Creamfields meeting), Gardenia clearing of Underbridge Lane and proposals for bedding plants from the Betterment Committee.

208 Set date and time of next meeting

The next Walton Parish Council Annual General meeting will be held on Thursday 1 May 2025 at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton commencing at 7.00pm. Followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7:15pm.

The Meeting closed at 8:45pm.