



# Walton Parish Council

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Minutes of The Annual Parish Council Meeting held at St John's Church Community Hall, Old Chester Road, Higher Walton, on Thursday 1 May, 2025.

**Present** Councillor S Harris – Chair

Councillors: C Hewitt (Deputy-Chair), V Lacey, H Allison, J Greene, R Hardie (arrived at 19:01), D Hazeldine, J Cooke, R Bennett (arrived at 19:11).

**Attending** Clerk- Madison Brotherton-Baker.

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:00 and welcomed everyone.

The Chair noted that as part of standard practice, the Clerk records each meeting on her device. Once the meeting minutes for the recording have been agreed, the recording is then deleted.

## 1 Election of Chair

It was **resolved that** Cllr. Harris would serve as Chair of the Council for 2025/26. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read and signed.

## 2 Election of Deputy Chair

It was **resolved that** Cllr. Hewitt would serve as Deputy Chair of the Council for 2025/26. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read and signed.

## 3 Apologies for absence

The Chair advised apologies were received from Cllr. Williams, Cllr. Saberi and Matt Scott (WBC).

## 4 Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr. Harris reminded Councillors that any changes to their Registers of Members Interests need to be updated, and forms were available at the meeting if needed.

## 5 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.

## 6 Public Participation

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

6.1 PCSO Report – No member of the PCSO team was in attendance. A report had been received and shared to the group prior to the meeting. No comments were received.

6.2 Members of the Public – No members of the public were present.

6.3 Borough Councillors – No report received. However it was noted the Councillors next focus would be the upcoming Devolution.

## 7 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 April, 25 were **Resolved** to be a true record and signed by the chair.

Cllr Bennett arrived at 19:11, the chair updated him on progress of the meeting so far.

## 8 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

It was **resolved** that appointments would be as follows:

Footpaths/ Towpaths	Cllr.Hazeldine
Highways, Vegetation & Street Lighting	Cllr.Bennett
Walton Hall Estate	Cllr.Greene

## 9 Appointment of Committees and Advisory Groups

It was **resolved** that appointments would be as follows:

Planning	Cllrs Hardie, Hewitt, Hazeldine and Bennett
Village Betterment	Cllrs Williams, Greene, Cooke, Allison, Hewitt, Hardie and Hazeldine
Donations	Cllrs Hardie, Williams, Lacey, Allison and Hewitt.
Events	Cllrs Williams, Cooke, Allison and Hewitt
Financial Support	Cllrs Hewitt, Cooke and Hardie
Employment Committee	Cllrs Williams, Harris, Hazeldine, Lacey and Hewitt
Strategic Plan	Cllrs Lacey, Hazeldine and Saberi
Walton Playground Trustees	Cllrs Lacey, Bennett and Hazeldine

Cllr. Harris noted that a Chair for the Committees / Groups will need to be appointed and the terms of reference updated at the first meeting of each Committee/Group.

## 10 Accidents on Park Lane and Warrington Road

Cllr. Harris updated the group on progress of alterations to the junction being made following 2 serious traffic accidents. Cllr.Hewitt suggested for signage to be added to the junction regarding the number of traffic accidents, Cllr. Harris to enquire with WBC.

Cllr.Harris to contact WBC Officer Mark Tune to ask for a progress update on the additional signage and raised road markings.

Cllr. Bennett queried how long the temporary traffic light would remain in place, Cllr. Harris to contact WBC and report back.

It was noted that the council is very keen to work on the issue at the junction, due to the severity of the accidents and the increased amount of traffic on Park Lane/ Warrington Road due to local road works.

### **11 Employment Policies**

The Clerk advised that draft policies for Lone working, Maternity and Paternity are currently being reviewed.

### **12 ID Badges for Councillors**

It was noted by Cllr. Hazeldine, who is currently using an ID Badge, that the use throughout the council would be good practice, and provide security for residents and individual councillors. Cllr. Hazeldine to review ID Badges and potential costs.

Cllr. Lacey discussed DBS Checks for councillors and possible requirements. The discussion of DBS checks and their requirements is to be put forward at the next meeting.

### **13 Creamfields**

Cllr. Bennett declared his interest in Creamfields due to being the landowner and stayed in the room due to the discussion being about a meeting that had already taken place.

Cllr. Harris updated the group on the Creamfields Residents Meeting which was held 05 April, 25, and noted the meeting was very well attended and was a positive meeting. The meeting minutes were published and available from 10 April, 25. It was confirmed Creamfields have been sent a copy, but that there has been no response as of yet.

The Chair expressed thanks to St John Church Hall for the free of charge Hall Hire to hold the Creamfields residents meeting. The Chair had emailed the Church to thank them.

It was noted that an invite to the Creamfields Meeting hosted by Cream had been received for 19 May, 2025 5:30pm – 7:30pm at the Park Royal Hotel. Councillors were encouraged to attend. It was agreed for the invite to be shared on WPC Social Media and Noticeboards- Clerk to action.

A request had been received from Stretton and Daresbury Parish Council to form a cross-parish liaison group. This was discussed and noted as being beneficial. Council to decide on WPC representatives.

### **14 Emails**

Cllr. Hazeldine updated the group that email migration was working and apart from a few bounce backs, there had been no issues.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hazeldine that WPC .Org email accounts remain active until the end of May, 25, this was seconded by Cllr. Hewitt. Councillors unanimously voted in favour.

**Resolved** for the .Org email domain to remain in use until the end of May, 25.

### **15 SEWUE Meeting / Homes England Press Release**

The Homes England Press release was circulated to the group prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Lacey noted a potential capacity issue with United Utilities to deal with increased sewage from the large amount of new houses, and the potential effects this would have on the pumping station in Walton. Cllr. Lacey to email Cllr. Harris with further details for her to discuss with Homes England.

Cllr.Bennett advised the group of local housing developments upcoming in the Daresbury area. Cllr.Bennett to send further details to Cllr.Harris who will discuss with Stephen Hunter from Halton Borough Council, and report back.

## 16 Higher Walton Triangle Working Party

Cllr.Hewitt proposed to form a working party tasked with deciding on whether to adopt the grassed area and the potential costs benefits. Cllr.Williams, Cllr.Hardie, Cllr.Greene, Cllr.Bennett, Cllr.Hazeldine, Cllr.Hewitt and Cllr.Lacey agreed to join the working party. Name and terms of Reference to be decided and reported to the council during the July, 25 meeting which will tie in with the ongoing progress of the Strategic plan.

This was proposed by Cllr.Hewitt and Seconded by Cllr.Allison. Unanimously agreed by Councillors. **Resolved** that the working Party Shall be formed.

## 17 Finance

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

Clerk confirmed that remittance advice from WBC had been received and the precept for the value of £19,404.00 was paid in to the WPC Bank Account on 28/04/25.

Proposed payments:

ThenMedia Invoice NV06- £349.20

Gardenia Invoice 9302- £954.00

Cllr.Williams Reimbursement VE Day Party items (6 receipts)- £41.82

Cllr.Williams Reimbursement Easter Decorations- £18.99

Clerk Salary- £575.64

HMRC PAYE Period 6 March to 5 April, 25- £237.44

CHALC Membership Invoice Year 25/26- £521.43

CHALC Councillor Training Invoice 017- £25.00

St John Church Hall Hire Invoice 7 Nov to 6 March- £270.00

Clerk Reimbursement Office Expenses (Printer Ink)- £49.99

Cllr.Hewitt Reimbursement VE Day Food- £195.91

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

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

## 18 Reports from Advisory Groups

### 18.1 Planning

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

2025/00484 /TPO – 134 Walton New Road. Application for remedial work to one tree. No comment.

2025/00334 –Walton Arms Pub. The erection of 1no feature canopies to cover rear entrance including new stepped access. 1no new window on rear elevation. Alterations to the car park including re-tarmac, new lighting, and new white lining. Addition of perimeter fencing and a feature entrance wall. It was noted that the council welcomed the improvements, but would recommend as a condition that the exterior railing to be a hedge. Which would be more in keeping with the conservation area.- Cllr Hardie to action response to planning.

2025/00388 – Warrington Sports Club. This is a re-application for the Paddle Courts. No objections, though it was noted that WPC would recommend that noise to local neighbors is considered.

## 18.2 Village Betterment Advisory Group

Cllr Bennett agreed to take green waste for WPC.

It was proposed by Cllr.Allision and Seconded by Cllr.Cooke for the following:

Spend of up to £17 for Litter picks and Hoops

Spend of up to £11 for a new aluminum Hedgehog Warning Sign

Spend of up to £500 for a tree survey to look at Tree Safety on the QE2 field.

Concerns over the timing of the Tree Survey were raised by Cllr.Hardie, however it was **resolved** for the Betterment Advisory group to proceed with the above purchases within the agreed budgets.

Cllr.Lacey noted that the results of the tree survey could be used in the Strategic Plan, to forward look the condition of the trees. Clerk to send the report to Cllr.Lacey once received.

## 18.3 Events

Cllr.Hewitt provided the group with an update on the upcoming VE Day Tea Party that is to be held for residents on Thursday 8 May, 25. A positive response for attendance had been received, and 23 tickets had been taken to date on Eventbrite. A maximum capacity of 50 people in St Johns Hall was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr.Cooke that a Costco card was to be purchased for a spend of up to £42, in order to receive larger savings on catering for events.

**Resolved** for a Costco Card to be purchased for a spend of up to £42.

## 18.4 Donations

No Donation applications received.

Cllr.Lacey advised the group Warrington Open Door at Christmas (WODAC) would like to attend the July WPC meeting to provide an update/report on their Christmas Event. Clerk to send invite to WODAC.

## 19 On going reported issues on Holly Hedge Lane

Cllr.Harris updated the group that she has an upcoming meeting with Steven Hunter (WBC) and will discuss the issues on Holly Hedge Lane, updates will be provided once the meeting has taken place.

Cllr.Hazeldine advised that he reported linear potholes on the lane to WBC and has had confirmation that these have been reviewed and will be rectified.

## 20 Reports from Portfolio Holders and Outside Representatives.

### 20.1 Footpaths/Towpaths

Cllr.Hazeldine noted that the Mill Lane to Runcorn Road Path has been ploughed and is no longer usable. Cllr.Hazeldine to report to WBC.

### 20.2 Highways, Vegetation and Street Lighting

Cllr.Bennett noted lots signage along the A56 is not visible due to overgrown trees and/ or being dirty. Cllr.Lacey also noted the start of some large potholes forming along the road. Clerk to report to WBC.

Cllr.Bennett noted the overgrown shrubs and vegetation which need cutting back on Underbridge lane that are blocking the light from the street lights. Clerk to report to WBC.

Cllr Hazeldine noted graffiti to the bridge on Underbridge lane, which has previously been reported, but has not yet been cleared.

#### 20.2.2 Mertoun Road and Worsley Road update.

No updates, item can be removed for upcoming agendas.

#### 20.2.3 Hillcliffe / Walton Road Junction

Cllr.Harris updated the group that a resident had been in touch with her regarding traffic accidents at the junction, she advised that a meeting was being arranged between the resident and a WBC highways officer to see what can be done. Cllr.Harris to update on date and time.

#### 20.3 Walton Hall Estate

Report had been received from Neil Simpson, and circulated to the group prior to the meeting. It was noted that the report received was very thorough, and a thank you should be sent. Clerk to action.

### **21 Report on Actions taken and correspondence received since the previous meeting.**

The Clerk noted that we had received a meeting invitation from Creamfields (item 13), the Homes England Press Release (item 15), a email from Stretton/Daresbury Council regarding a cross parish Creamfields liaison group (item 13) and a Subject Access Request was also received on the 29 April,25.

### **22 Items for inclusion on the next agenda**

Suggestions were made by the group to include DBS/ID Badge Proposals.

### **23 Set date and time of next meeting**

It was discussed and agreed to move the next meeting back a week from Thursday 5 June to Thursday 12 June, 25.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12 June 2025** at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton commencing at 7.00pm.

Due to the change in regular meeting date, the Clerk is to issue a meeting calendar invite to all Councillors.

The Meeting closed at 21:02.