Walton Parish Council
Financial Report
For year ending 31st March 2024

Balance brought forward:	*65,731.77*
Plus	
Annual Precept received:	*35,837.00*
Total other receipts:	*1,256.72*
Less	
Staff Costs:	*13,724.52*
All other payments:	*20,305.73*
Equals	
Balance to carry forward:	*68,795.24*

Total of all bank accounts =	*68,795.24*
Total of fixed assets owned =	*76,749.47*
Total borrowings =	*7,883.60*

Financial reports for the year can be found on the Parish Council Website - www.waltonsomerset-pc.gov.uk

Walton Parish Council, Walton Village Hall, Meadow Lane, Walton BA16 9LA.
07957 249066 clerk@waltonsomerset-pc.gov.uk
& Facebook.

Walton Parish Council

Annual Report

April 2024



Report from the Chairman –

Over the past few years, Walton Parish Council has increased its diversity of its councillors, and has a full quota of members. We now boast a broad range of ages, interests, and backgrounds, as well as a better balance of male and female councillors. This has increased the variety of ideas expressed during meetings and led to many more split votes, but always with good humour and willingness to accept decisions democratically. It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of such a dynamic group.

Our newest member, Jaimi Bartlett, joined during the year and has fitted in well and assisted with a number of projects. I was re-elected as Chair, ably assisted once again by Bob Collins as Vice-Chair and Helen Moore continues to do an outstanding job as Clerk to the council.

We have held the normal monthly council meetings, as well as several interim planning meetings. Apart from domestic planning applications, there were a number of significant developments either as applications or as long-term plans that were discussed. An application for a Solar Park to the west of the parish led to significant public interest, and the council decided to object to the plans as presented. The development of a housing estate on South Street, which was objected to by residents and council alike, has gone to appeal and we await the decision. A fishing lake off Cockrod was approved by the council with conditions, in part to increase the safety for road users, and is now awaiting the Somerset planning board meetings.

Foot access from the village to the Walton Trust Field via the new developments at Oak Crescent has been reinstated, as the council is acquiring sufficient land to provide a public footpath where the old unofficial cut-through used to be.

We supported a number of good causes and invited them to present their works at the Annual Meeting of the Parish, so that the parishioners can see what services they provide the community.

Improving the environment, in the wide sense of the surroundings in the parish, has been a major concern. We heard from a number of people that some of the wildflower beds were too close to the road and grew too tall. Our ranger Matt, who does a great job helping the council maintain the village, helped move them back and the council aims to replant them with less tall bedding plants. East Mead field recreation area has been discussed and now has benches and trees, as well as a dog-waste bin. It will undergo further change to improve it for the parishioners' enjoyment. Other initiatives include plans to convert the old telephone box into a library / book exchange and to improve the play area at the end of Hempits Road.

We are compiling a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a vision of what we would like to do in the coming years to improve the parish. It will be sent for public comment and approval once completed. As part of this, a questionnaire was available to be filled at the Walton Fun Day, and views will be sought in other ways as it develops.

The council has rebranded and will restructure the communications, and this will be seen on the newsletter, website and Facebook pages. We are doing all we can to ensure that the decisions we make represent the views of the parish and to make your voice heard in our decisions, and from there into the Unitary Authority (County Council as was).

There is now a functioning Local Community Network (LCN). This is a meeting of some two dozen councils in our area, including large and small, for example, Glastonbury, Street, Ashcott, Meare and Catcott. This meeting allows us to share solutions to common issues, many of which span our area. These include Health, Highways, Environment, Public Transport, etc. This body has been established over the course of the last few months and is starting to get to grips with these issues. I hope for and expect some useful results in the coming year.

In closing, I would like to thank all the councillors, clerk, ranger and members of outside groups such as Speedwatch for their assistance and efforts in making the year successful and progressing the work of the council. It is an interesting year and one that promises further small but significant and cumulative improvements coming in the year ahead, to make our village and parish an even greater place to live.

John Harvey