PRESENT:
Walton Parish Councillors: J. Harvey [chair], B. Collins [vice chair], L. Hardware, S. Loader, R. Vowles, H. Shearer, D. Harvey [7] R. Crossman arrived during the meeting [8]
Members of the public: None Other: Syed Shah – Liaison officer for A39 Street traffic signal replacement.
Somerset Cllr: H. Shearer
Parish Clerk: H. Moore

2025.26.149 To receive and consider reasons for non-attendance.

a. It was noted that Cllr. R. Crossman had advised that they would be arriving late due to work.

2025.26.150 Councillors

a. Disclosure of any undeclared interests and notification of any dispensations granted.
   1. Cllr. B. Collins – Village upkeep [c]
b. Training requests and feedback. None.
c. Councillor vacancy – to consider any applications received and/or co-opt to fill the current vacancy. No applications for the remaining vacancy have been received.

2025.26.151 Minutes of the previous meeting

a. It was ***Resolved [7/0]*** that the minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2025, were an accurate record. They were then signed as such by the Chair.

2025.26.152 Public Speaking and Correspondence

a. **Declarations of interest in speaking on agenda item[s]:** To speak for no more than 3 minutes on items on the agenda [Public participation shall not exceed 30 minutes in total]
   None raised.
b. **Opportunity to raise issues/concerns not on this agenda:** To speak just for information. Council to agree if the item is to be added to the agenda of a future meeting or not. [Maximum of 5 speakers per meeting and 2 minutes per item]
   None raised.
c. **Correspondence received from members of the public:** Regarding issues/concerns not on this agenda – for information only. Council to agree if the item is to be added to the agenda of a future meeting or not.
   It was noted that a question regarding the Village Vision event had been raised to a Councillor who had provided information and the date of the event

2025.26.153 Presentation from Syed Shah re the A39 Street, road works

a. S. Shah outlined the works – new traffic lights, active travel paths & resurfacing – and advised that the arrangement of the traffic lights would remain the same. Direct contact details were provided – 07812449605 & syed.shah@somerset.gov.uk
These were for use by everyone to raise concerns and advise of any immediate problems.

*Councillor R. Crossman arrived during the presentation

S. Shah was thanked for their attendance and active communication.

2025.26.154 Cycle Racks

a. The Clerk advised that due to time constraints they were not yet been able to provide quotes.

2025.26.155 Walton Neighbourhood Plan

a. To consider the Walton Village Views event and any action required.
   I. Displays – The power point slides would be printed and a display created with photographs of styles of houses etc. [Clerk in liaison with Chair]
   Coloured stickers and post it notes would be provided to facilitate public interaction with the displays. Cllr. D. Harvey agreed to purchase red and green stickers]
   II. Flyers and flyer distribution – The flyers were on their way, and it was agreed that

Councillors would distribute the flyers using the newsletter routes.

III. To consider staffing the event and any further action required.
Cllrs. J. Harvey, B. Collins, H. Shearer, R. Vowes, R. Crossman, S. Loader and L. Hardware agreed to staff the event – arriving at the Royal Oak at 6.30pm to set up for the 7pm start.

2025.26.156 Village Upkeep

a. To discuss and consider parish council ownership of a mower.
Following discussion of the potential costs including insurance, maintenance, licenses, servicing etc. and benefit of ownership, especially related to the East Mead community area, it was ***Resolved [8/0]*** that if there were a mower available at the right price to maintain the East Mead community area, Council would be in favour of obtaining it.

b. To receive a report and consider the contracting out of additional grass cutting around the village.
It was noted that this related to cuts in addition to the basic service carried out by Somerset Council. Tender requests had been sent out with the deadline for responses being the end of January 2026.

*Councillors B. Collins and R. Crossman left the meeting at this point.

c. To consider a formal proposal from The Walton Trust regarding the ownership of the Trust's Kubota mower.
Subject to a formal agreement re storage, Walton Trust use, keys and access etc. It was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that the proposal be accepted.

*Councillors B. Collins and R. Crossman rejoined the meeting at this point.

d. Village Ranger - to receive reports and consider any action required.

I. allocation of tasks and hours for the next month.
It was ***Resolved [8/0]*** that the Council allocate 3 days [24 hours].
Tasks:
Cutting back the brambles on the pavement from the bus stop to Quarry batch [South side of A39 Main Street].
Footpath trimming of the path near Huckham / Sutton farm [Cllr. S. Loader / Cllr. R. Vowles have outline of exact trimming back needed].
Any spare hours to be allocated to play area maintenance.
To note:
It was requested that an item – Possible grass waste compost area at the East Mead Community area – be put onto the agenda of the February Parish Council meeting for discussion.

2025.26.157 Precept 2026 – 2027

a. It was ***Resolved [8/0]*** that a precept of £49,523.00 be set for the 2026 2027 financial year. The precept request form was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk for submission to Somerset Council.

2025.26.158 Planning

a. To receive any planning decisions reported – none reported
b. To consider planning applications received – none received
c. General planning concerns **to note**.
1. It was reported that the fire brigade had been called out to the building site at the Walton Gateway. Cllr. B. Collins advised that they were monitoring the health and safety arrangements for the site.

2025.26.159 Annual Meeting of the Parish- [village meeting] Friday 24th April 2026

a. It was ***Resolved [8/0]*** to set a budget of £150 for catering for the event.
b. It was noted that further liaison would be needed with the School regarding their participation.
c. The Clerk is to provide the earliest start times [Local Government Act 1972] to Cllr. L. Hardware in order that a plan for the event can be started, along with the creation of invites to the event.

2025.26.160 Finances

a. To receive and consider approval of the monthly financial report.
It was ***Resolved [8/0]*** that the monthly financial report, which included a bank reconciliation as of end of December 2025, was an accurate record and it was then signed as such. [attached as appendix one].
b. To consider authorisation of the monthly payments schedule.
The monthly payments schedule [attached as appendix two] was ***Resolved [8/0]***to be authorised with payments to be made following this meeting.

2025.26.161 Telephone Box Library

a. It was reported that the shelves for children's books would soon be in place.
b. It was agreed that due to the number of books and magazines being just left on the floor a sign would be installed requesting that no books be left – and to please contact the Clerk to arrange collection.
A news item would also be put into the next village newsletter.

2025.26.162 Community Payback scheme

a. It was noted that using the service was a good idea in theory.
b. It was noted that logistics still needed to be worked out regarding
I. specific tasks
II. access to toilets. Cllr. J. Harvey agreed to discuss formal permission for the use of the outside toilets with Wessex Football club and consult with other users of the hall.
III. This item to be placed onto the agenda of the March parish Council meeting.

2025.26.163 Roads, Traffic & footpaths

a. Roads – It was reported that minor roads around the village appeared to be deteriorating with sinking occurring in some areas. Potholes needed to be reported in Asney Road, Hempitts Road and Whitley Lane
b. Village Gateway signs – The widths of the signs were still needed before a quote for the cost of replacement signs could be obtained.
c. Footpaths – It was reported that a footpath had been diverted around the edge of a field at East Mead Lane. The Somerset footpath officer is to be advised in order to check if action is required.

2025.26.164 Environment.

a. East Mead Community area – It was noted that litter picking was ongoing in the area by Councillors, and that there had been no wind damage following the recent storm.
b. Allotments – nothing to report
c. Allotments seasonal carpark extension - It was ***Resolved [8/0]*** that Council would not proceed with the project at this time.

2025.26.165 Village Newsletter

a. It was reported that the villager interview had been carried out and that content was needed for the children's page [Cllrs. B. Collins & L. Hardware] alongside Somerset services information. [Cllr. H. Shearer
b. Future content – a possible allotment report with seasonal information was discussed.

2025.26.166 Reports for information but not decision

a. Somerset Councillor[s] – including A&P LCN update.
   I. LCN - It was reported that due to weather conditions the most recent LCN meeting had been online.
   Connect Somerset had provided information about a proposal to introduce a bus route linking Glastonbury to Castle Cary station.
   II. Somerset Council – It was reported that the major concern at present was setting the budget for the next financial year. A shortfall remains and a request for special support from central government was being made. This included permission for a % of any sale of assets to go toward revenue costs and permission to increase council tax above the standard 4.99%
b. Parish Councillors reports – none provided

2025.26.167 Upcoming meetings and events

- Village Vision event at the Royal Oak – Friday 23rd January 2026 – 7pm
- Next Parish Council Meeting – Friday 13th February 2026 – 7pm at Walton Village Hall.

THE MEETING THEN CLOSED

Signed by Chairman

Date:

Appendix One -Monthly Financial report.

1.Bank reconciliation as of 31st December 2025

Detail	Amount	Column1
Balance brought forward from 30th November 2025 Bank reconciliation	**£ 74,313.52**	
Less Payments authorised at December 2025 PCM:	£ -	
HMRC month 9	£ 176.26	
Walton Trust	£ 12.00	
Walton Trust	£ 137.50	
Walton Trust	£ 3,000.00	
Michael Webb	£ 73.34	
H. Moore	£ 82.49	
BWP creative Ltd	£ 273.60	
PWLB	£ 935.45	DD
H. Moore	£ 1,134.93	SO
NEST	£ 173.26	DD
EE	£ 22.20	DD
Bank service charge	£ 4.25	
sub total	**£ 68,288.24**	
Plus receipts:	**£ -**	
Bank interest general deposit	£ 22.91	
bank interest harry skinner deposit	£ 2.11	
Homewood Park [newsletter]	£ 90.00	
Receipts and Payments Balance as at 31/12/2025	**£ 68,403.26**	
Balance to agree with bank statements:	**£ -**	
current account [Community account]	**£ 16,059.85**	
reserve account [general deposit]	**£ 48,091.27**	
Harry Skinner Reserve	**£ 4,425.40**	
Sub total	**£ 68,576.52**	
Less uncleared / outstanding, payments:	**£ -**	
NEST	£ 173.26	
Bank Accounts Total as at 31/12/2025	**£ 68,403.26**	

Signed by Chairman

Date:

2. Balance of Reserves as of 31st December 2025

RESERVE	TYPE	BALANCE
Administration	*designated*	17,508.32
Election Expenses	*designated*	799.00
Play area	*designated*	12,477.71
East Mead Field	*restricted*	8,809.87
Community Benefit	*restricted*	846.91
Office Equipment	*designated*	791.68
Events	*designated*	2,125.07
Environment	*designated*	2,760.52
Village Improvement	*designated*	1,465.19
Village upkeep equipment	*designated*	500.00
TOTAL	*[balance of general deposit account]*	**48,084.27**

(Designated reserves are those agreed [ring fenced] by Council, restricted reserves are those restricted by grant conditions etc.)

3. Transfers made between accounts in December 2025 -

- None

4. Harry Skinner Reserve Account

Balance £4,425.40 *[restricted reserve]*

5. Note - second installment of PWLB paid

Appendix Two – Payments for authorisation

Walton Parish Council Payment sheet Financial year 2025 - 2026 **January 9th 2026**

Payments for authorisation

cheque number etc.	payee	budget area	budget set	balance	amount authorised	VAT	VAT reg.No.	budget remaining	invoice number	invoice date	total payment	notes	Column1
Standing order	H Moore	Staff costs	£ 17,231.78	£ 4,163.17	£ 1,135.13			£ 3,028.04	Month 10	January	£ 1,135.13	SO	
Direct Debit	NEST	Staff costs	£ 17,231.78	£ 3,028.04	£ 173.26			£ 2,854.78	Month 10	January	£ 173.26	DD	
Direct Debit	EE	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 1,315.88	£ 22.20	£ 3.70	245 7193 48	£ 1,297.38	January	January	£ 22.20	DD	
2026/01/p1	HMRC	Staff costs	£ 17,231.78	£ 2,854.78	£ 176.06			£ -			£ -		
2026/01/p2	NC Rogers - [Defib project]	Harry Skinner Fund	£ 250.00	£ 4,425.40	£ 250.00			£ 2,678.72	Month 10	January	£ 176.06		
2026/01/p3	Walton Trust	village upkeep	£ 7,930.00	£ 6,245.50	£ 900.00			£ 4,175.40	grant - defibrillator	January	£ 250.00		
2026/01/p4	Michael Webb	play area	£ 2,500.00	£ 1,588.48	£ 73.34			£ 5,345.50	agreed Dec 2025	January	£ 900.00		
2026/01/p5	Walton Trust	room hire	£ 250.00	£ 142.00	£ 12.00			£ 1,515.14	WEGM2020	January	£ 73.34		
2026/01/P6	Lian Hardware	ADMIN	£ 3,075.00	£ 1,297.38	£ 120.00			£ 130.00	Inv. 188	31st December	£ 12.00		
		VILLAGE PROJECT	£ 500.00	£ 449.01	£ 31.73			£ 1,177.38	online receipt	January	£ 120.00		
								£ 417.28	online receipt	January	£ 31.73	£ 151.73	SINGLE PAYMENT
								£ -			£ -		
								£ -			£ -		
								£ -			£ -		
								£ -			£ -		
								£ -			£ -		
								£ -			£ -		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:					£ 2,893.72						£ 2,893.72		

online payments total: £ 1,563.13

NOTES:

Reference NUMBER:	NOTE:
2026/01/p1	Tax & NI
2026/01/p2	defibrillator grant
2026/01/p3	contribution toward Kubota mower maintenance
2026/01/p4	play area grass cutting
2026/01/p5	meeting room hire December
2026/01/P6	village vision flyers & shelves for phone box

TWO COUNCILLORS TO SIGN CHEQUES, INITIAL CHEQUE STUBS / AUTHORISE PAYMENTS ONLINE,
INITIAL INVOICES, AND SIGN THIS SCHEDULE PLEASE

Cllr.	Sign:	Date:

KEY:
DD or SO
Online payment
cheque

Note:
Late invoice
2026/01/p7 - Go 2 Services - £240 - village upkeep [Ranger]

closed 10am on day of meeting