Walton Parish Council
Financial Report
For year ending 31st March 2026

Balance brought forward:	*61,906.17*
Plus	
Annual Precept received:	*46,020.70*
Total other receipts:	*1,498.85*
Less	
Staff Costs:	*17,231.78*
All other payments:	*33,276.94*
Equals	
Balance to carry forward:	*58,917.00*

Total of all bank accounts =	*58,917.00*
Total of fixed assets owned =	*83,473.72*
Total borrowings =	*4,495.69*

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

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Walton Parish Council

Annual Report April 2026



[Spring - East Mead Lane]

Report from the Chairman –

2025 / 6 has been one in which planning has been to the fore. Two major housing developments are in view, the South Street one was approved on appeal, and an application for a large development on East Mead Lane behind the Royal Oak has been lodged. The outline planning consent for further work on the Street Business Park (which is on land in our Parish), is still active and some amendments to the access plan were also lodged.

Being aware of these plans, and the potential for an even larger development on the East of our village behind Badgers Green, we have been moving to create a Neighbourhood plan. As part of this, we held a consultation in the Royal Oak discussing what types of housing we should press for. We also commissioned a Housing Needs assessment showing what housing stock and shortfalls we currently have, and a Design Codes document describing the aspect and preferred styles and locations of new housing.

The Neighbourhood Plan is an official document, and the next stage is for us to draft it, consult with the interested parties, such as you, the population, highways and the EA, and then submit it for Somerset Council approval. It will then go to a referendum of the residents for approval before being adopted. This is a fair amount of work but we hope to complete it during this calendar year.

This year we have had one vacancy almost all year. I would like to welcome also our new member: my son Damian. We still do have a vacancy and would welcome applications. If you feel you can support your community by giving your thoughts and some of your time to the Council, we would be glad to hear from you.

We, as a community, supported a number of good causes through grants. We invited them to present their activities at the Annual Meeting of the Parish so that the parishioners can see what services they provide the community. Some accepted and had stalls in the hall on the day. We also supported the installation of a second defibrillator at the West end of the village, which is now installed.

To review this past year…councillors have been busy doing their usual tasks: we held monthly council meetings, several interim planning meetings, the planning-related events at the Royal Oak and at the Church. We had a stall at the Walton Fun Day to promote participation and had some good feedback on planning, until a squall of wind and rain dampened the displays! The East Mead field has been maintained, although reports of poor behaviour and evidence of night-time drinking by the younger generation has caused concern. We stocked and maintained the book exchange, kept the Speed Indicator Device powered and working, maintained the play park, created content for the newsletter and many other tasks to improve our village.

Our ranger Matt has again been busy keeping the village looking great, and my thanks go to him. The council have taken ownership of a mower to enable Matt to keep the green spaces under control. It is possible that we will also take over ownership of these from Somerset Council in the future so the investment is a long-term requirement.

The Unitary Authority – Somerset Council, remains is under severe financial pressure and again, some items have been pushed to Parish councils to fund. In particular, we are now funding election costs which is a new item for us. We have managed to keep our costs at much the same level as last year for the like-for-like items but, unfortunately, we have had to increase the precept to fund these additional costs. We do, however, continue to have a lower rate than the majority of the parishes in our region.

In closing, I would like to thank all the councillors, clerk, ranger and members of outside groups such as Speedwatch and the Church for their assistance and efforts in making the year successful and progressing the work of the council. This coming year will doubtless see challenges to keep the village character and shape in the face of development pressures, and we will continue to do our best to protect our village for future generations.

John Harvey

Walton Parish Council