PRESENT:
Walton Parish Councillors: J. Harvey [chair], S. Loader, R. Vowles, D. Harvey [4] H. Shearer, arrived during the meeting [5]
Members of the public: none Somerset Cllr: H. Shearer Parish Clerk: H. Moore

2025.26.210 To receive and consider reasons for non-attendance.

a. Having considered the reasons for non-attendance offered by Cllr. B. Collins and Cllr. R. Crossman it was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that the reasons were accepted for this meeting.
b. Cllr. H. Shearer had advised that they would be arriving late.

2025.26.211 Councillors

a. Disclosure of any undeclared interests and notification of any dispensations granted. None.
b. Training requests and review – None.
c. Councillor vacancy – to consider any applications received and/or co-opt to fill the current vacancy.
It was proposed that a separate flyer could be produced to promote the vacancy.

2025.26.212 Minutes of the previous meeting

a. It was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that the minutes of the meeting of 13th March 2026, were an accurate record. They were then signed as such by the Chair.

2025.26.213 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 received.
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. None raised that are not already items on this agenda.

2025.26.214 Planning

a. To receive any planning decisions reported –
   I. Haycroft Farm **2026/0538/AGB** REFUSED
   II. Land at Ivythorn Lane **2025/0714/FUL** APPROVED
   III. Land at Butleigh Moor Drove **2025/2108/FUL** APPROVED
b. To consider planning applications received –
   I. Footlands **2026/0477/FUL** – Change of use from agricultural to residential – Footlands, Ivythorn Lane, Walton BA16 9RH
   Following discussion it was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that Council raised no objection to this application.

- **Councillor H. Shearer joined the meeting at this point**

   II. 5 Quarry Batch 2026/0493/VRC – variation of condition 4 [self-build and custom housebuilding Biodiversity Gain Exemption Development] relating to planning permission 2025/0542/FUL [erection of 2 dwellinghouses]. 5 Quarry Batch Walton BA16 0NZ
   It was ***Resolved [5/0]***to make no comment on the application and respond that this application be left to the planning officer.
c. SCRAPP [Somerset Communities Raging Against Poor Planning]
   I. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact SCRAPP asking for Council to be kept on the mailing list and discover what any potential membership fees would be.
   II. Cllr. D. Harvey agreed to attend the Community Planning Alliance event.

d. General planning concerns **to note**.
   I. Updates regarding existing applications
      i. Submitted - 72 Main Street- 2026/0512/APP application for approval of conditions placed on original application [2024/0298/FUL]
   II. New application submitted
      ii. Planning application 2026/0584/FUL – Creation of2no. Traveller and Gypsey caravan pitches together with the erection of 1no. day room, land at 346610 136027 East Mead Lane Walton
      It was reported that an extension had been received to allow Council to consider this application at their meeting of May 8th, 2026.

2025.26.215 Walton Neighbourhood Plan

a. Cllr. J. Harvey was taking advice from Somerset Planning East with regard to the next steps of the process and a draft was in progress.
b. Cllr. H. Shearer agreed to liaise regarding a Somerset strategic transport plan.

2025.26.216 Asset Devolution from Somerset Council

a. Following discussion, it was agreed that Council would advise Somerset that they remained interested in principle to the transfer of areas of land to the Parish Council.
b. It was noted that before a firm decision could be made initial costs would need to be investigated.
   I. Clerk to obtain quotes for solicitors with experience in this area.
   II. Clerk to obtain quotes for a tree survey. [Large trees on several of the areas of land]
   III. Cllr. H. Shearer agreed to investigate boundary responsibility. [a range of fencing, walls and hedges, adjoin/surround, some areas of land]

2025.26.217 Meadow Lane Village Play Area

a. The Clerk advised that due to safety concerns, a replacement soft closing mechanism for the Meadow Lane Play area gate had been purchased and installed at a cost of £550.00 plus VAT. This was done under delegated powers and in liaison with the Parish Council Chair. This was noted by Council.

2025.26.218 Village Upkeep

a. The following tasks were agreed for this month:
   - Mowing / If possible, to remove the broken glass from the bus stop at Broughton Close / Liaise to introduce Councillors on the use of the Kubota mower.

2025.26.219 Annual Meeting of the Parish – [village meeting] – Friday 24th February 2026

a. The flyers were provided to Councillors for distribution.
b. It was noted that groups who had received a precept grant had been invited and the WI, Street Bypass works Public liaison officer & Men's Shed.
c. The Annual report text had been completed by the Chair with pictures etc to be added by Clerk.
d. It was agreed that Cllr. D. Harvey would invite the Tree Trail project people.

2025.26.220 Finances

a. To receive and consider approval of the monthly financial report.
   It was *Resolved [5/0]* that the monthly financial report, which included a bank reconciliation as of end of March 2026, was an accurate record and it was then signed as such. [attached as appendix one].
b. Annual Governance & Accountability Return [AGAR]
   I. Documents would go to the internal auditors now the end of year financial report had been approved.
   II. Council were provided with information regarding the new AGAR assertion 10 and what was required for compliance.

c. To consider authorisation of the monthly payments schedule.
The monthly payments schedule [attached as appendix two] was *Resolved [5/0]* to be authorised with payments to be made following this meeting.

2025.26.221 Roads, Traffic & footpaths

a. Roads – The monthly list of completed works was provided to Councillors.
b. Parking on Saturday mornings in Meadow Lane – It was noted that the concerns raised by residents had been forwarded onto the Walton Trust and the local PCCSO who were continuing to look into the matter.
c. Village Gateway signs – This item was deferred to the next meeting.
d. Footpaths – It was confirmed that the Somerset Officer for Footpaths in this area remained in post.

2025.26.222 Environment.

a. East Mead Community Area - It was reported that the PCSO had advised that, when possible, they would carry out increased checks of the area. Cllr. R. Vowles advised that they were continuing to carry out regular litter picks of the area.
b. Allotments – It was reported that the previous secretary was temporarily back in post.
c. Memorial Trees – It was noted that, following advice, it would be better to plant the replacement green beech tree in the Autumn.

2025.26.223 Walton Hill Community Tree Trail Project

a. It was agreed that Council remained positive about supporting the project however further information was required to support the potential funding application and clarify long term sustainability.
b. Cllr. D. Harvey agreed to meet with the group and look at the information required for the funding application, along with proposals to ensure the ongoing running of the project, e.g. formation of a formal steering committee.

2025.26.224 Village Newsletter

a. It was reported that a further advertiser had been obtained.
b. Cllr. D. Harvey agreed to talk with the two residents currently working on the tree trail project to see if they would be happy to be interviewed.
c. Cllr. J. Harvey advised that they were approaching another long-term resident for an interview.
d. The Clerk advised that they would need to take a back seat on the design and layout of this edition due to time constraints.

2025.26.225 Reports for information but not decision

a. Somerset Councillor[s] – including A&P LCN update.
Cllr. H. Shearer advised that they met with a local resident to look at the timing of the A39 pelican crossing. This had illustrated that residents were finding it difficult to cross within the 5 second current crossing time. The Councillor advised that they had written to Highways regarding the current situation and requesting clarification.
Council were also advised that a pre-school in Street may close.
b. Parish Councillors reports – none provided

2025.26.226 Upcoming meetings and events

a. Extra Ordinary meeting of the Council – Wednesday 15th April [7pm at Holy Trinity Church]
b. Annual Meeting of the Parish – Friday 24th April [5.30pm at the Village Hall]
c. Annual Parish Council Meeting – Friday 8th May [7pm at the Village Hall]

THE MEETING THEN CLOSED

DRAFT

Appendix One - Monthly Financial report

1.Bank reconciliation as of 31st March 2026

Detail	Amount	Column1
Balance brought forward from 28th February 2026 Bank reconciliation	**£ 62,714.02**	
Less Payments authorised at March 2026 PCM:	£ -	
HMRC month 12	£ 176.26	
Michael Webb	£ 73.34	
SLCC	£ 149.40	
Zurich	£ 223.94	
Aboricare Ltd.	£ 1,350.00	
The Walton Trust	£ 137.50	
The Walton Trust	£ 12.00	
Go.2.services	£ 360.00	
H. Moore	£ 1,134.93	SO
NEST	£ 173.26	DD
EE	£ 22.20	DD
Bank service charge	£ 4.25	
sub total	**£ 58,896.94**	
Plus receipts:	**£ -**	
Bank interest general deposit	£ 18.46	
bank interest harry skinner deposit	£ 1.60	
Receipts and Payments Balance as of 31/03/2026	**£ 58,917.00**	
Balance to agree with bank statements:	**£ -**	
current account [Community account]	**£ 8,004.94**	
reserve account [general deposit]	**£ 47,855.86**	
Harry Skinner Reserve	**£ 3,056.20**	
Sub total	**£ 58,917.00**	
Less uncleared / outstanding, payments:	**£ -**	
Bank Accounts Total as of 31/03/2026	**£ 58,917.00**	

DRAFT

2. Transfers made between accounts in March 2026

From Harry Skuinner Reserve account to C/a re memorial trees	£1,125.00
From Administration reserve to C/a re staff costs	£ 289.78
From Administration reserve to C/a re Insurance costs	£ 3.35

[All transferred on 20th March]

3. Balance of general Reserves as of 31st March 2026

RESERVE	TYPE	BALANCE
Administration	*designated*	17,279.91
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]*	**47,855.86**

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

4. Harry Skinner Reserve Account

Balance £3,056.20 [*restricted reserve]*

5. End of year transfers from current account to reserves

These will be made only once the precept has been received from Somerset Unitary Council

Budgeted – play area equipment reserve	£1,368.46
Budgeted – village upkeep equipment reserve	£ 500.00
Agreed at March PCM – Administration reserve	£3,068.24
Agreed at March PCM – Village improvement reserve	£3,068.24
Total transfer =	**£8,004.94**

Signed by Chairman

Date:

Appendix Two – March 2026 Payments for authorisation

Walton Parish Council — Payment sheet: Financial year 2026 - 2027 — **Apr-26**

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
Standing order	**H Moore**	Staff costs	£ 17,965.00	£ 17,965.00	**£ 1,135.13**			£ 16,829.87	Month 1	April	**£ 1,135.13**	SO
Direct Debit	**NEST**	Staff costs	£ 17,965.00	£ 16,829.87	**£ 173.26**			£ 16,656.61	Month 1	April	**£ 173.26**	DD
Direct Debit	**EE**	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 3,075.00	**£ 22.20**	£ 3.70	245 7193 48	£ 3,056.50	March	April	**£ 22.20**	DD
Direct Debit	**ICO**	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 3,056.50	**£ 46.00**			£ 3,010.50	Annual fee Z7452288	April	**£ 46.00**	DD
								£ -			£ -	
2026/04/p1	**HMRC**	Staff costs	£ 17,965.00	£ 16,656.61	**£ 176.06**			£ 16,480.55	Month 1	April	**£ 176.06**	
2026/04/p2	**Michael Webb**	Play area	£ 1,100.00	£ 1,100.00	**£ 73.34**			£ 1,026.66	inv WebM2038 12 of 12	31st March	**£ 73.34**	
2026/04/p3	**Somerset Council**	village upkeep	£ 7,500.00	£ 7,500.00	**£ 507.00**	£ 84.50	131 2544 12	£ 7,077.50	C0001124/32016333	March	**£ 507.00**	
2026/04/p4	**Go.2.Services**	Village upkeep	£ 7,500.00	£ 7,077.50	**£ 57.83**			£ 7,019.67	inv 2218	March	**£ 57.83**	
2026/04/p5	**Bristol&Wessex Water**	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 3,010.50	**£ 29.91**			£ 2,980.59	ref202844590501 2	March	**£ 29.91**	
2026/04/p6	**GB Sport & Leisure**	Play area	£ 1,100.00	£ 1,026.66	**£ 660.00**	£ 110.00	634 5525 40	£ 476.66	inv 19831	March	**£ 660.00**	
2026/04/p7	**SALC**	Subscriptions	£ 780.00	£ 780.00	**£ 558.72**			£ 221.28	inv 2842	April	**£ 558.72**	
2026/04/p8	**Allotment Society**	precept grant	£ 470.00	£ 470.00	**£ 470.00**			£ -	precept grant	April	**£ 470.00**	
2026/04/p9	**Pre school [*]**	precept grant	£ 608.00	£ 608.00	**£ 608.00**			£ -	precept grant	April	**£ 608.00**	
2026/04/p10	**Holy Trinity**	precept grant	£ 800.00	£ 800.00	**£ 800.00**			£ -	precept grant	April	**£ 800.00**	
2026/04/p11	**PTA [*]**	precept grant	£ 380.00	£ 380.00	**£ 380.00**			£ -	precept grant	April	**£ 380.00**	
2026/04/p12	**St Margaret's Hospice [*]**	precept grant	£ 600.00	£ 600.00	**£ 600.00**			£ -	precept grant	April	**£ 600.00**	
2026/04/p13	**D&S Air Ambulance [*]**	precept grant	£ 600.00	£ 600.00	**£ 600.00**			£ -	precept grant	April	**£ 600.00**	
2026/04/p14	**Go.2.Services**	village upkeep	£ 7,500.00	£ 7,019.67	**£ 648.00**			£ 6,371.67	inv 2225	April	**£ 648.00**	
2026/04/p15	**The Walton Trust**	Room Hire	£ 250.00	£ 250.00	**£ 12.00**			£ 238.00	inv 233	April	**£ 12.00**	
2026/04/p16	**Lian Hardware**	events	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00	**£ 120.00**			£ 1,880.00	refund re Vill.Mtng flyers	April	**£ 120.00**	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE:				**£ 7,677.45**						*£ 7,677.45*	

online payments total:

£ 6,300.86

NOTES:	
Reference NUMBER:	NOTE:
2026/04/p1	Tax & NI
2026/04/p2	play area grass cutting
2026/04/p3	kubota mower fuel
2026/04/p4	Ranger fees
2026/04/p5	allotment water charge
2026/04/p6	replacement gate [safety]
2026/04/p7	annual subscription
2026/04/p8, p9, p10, p11, p12 & p13	precept grants
2026/04/p14	ranger fees
2026/04/p15	meeting room hire
2026/04/p16	refund re flyers for parish meeting

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

Notes:

- Council to note that, based on current expenditure, an overspend is now projected for the budget area 'village upkeep' and that Council may need to consider the authorisation of a reallocation of funds from reserves to this budget area [virement] in the latter part of the financial year.

- Some of the precept grants [*] are being awarded under Section 137 of the LGA 1972 and therefore Council needs to confirm that the direct benefit to the Parish is commensurate with the expenditure incurred for those grants.

- End of year balance of current account is £8,004.94

closed 10am on day of meeting