PRESENT:
Walton Parish Councillors: Cllr. L. Hardware, Cllr. S. Loader, Cllr. B. Collins [Vice Chair] Cllr. H. Shearer, Cllr. D. Harvey [5] Cllr. R. Crossman arrived during the meeting. [6]
Members of the public: 1
Somerset Cllr: H. Shearer
Parish Clerk: H. Moore

Due to the non-attendance of the Chair of the Council, the Vice Chair Councillor B. Collins Chaired this meeting.

2026.27.018 To receive and consider reasons for non-attendance.

a. Having considered the reason for non-attendance offered by Cllr. J. Harvey it was ***Resolved [5/0]*** that the reason was accepted for this meeting.
b. Cllr. R. Crossman had advised that they would be arriving late.

2026.27.019 Councillors

a. Disclosure of any undeclared interests and notification of any dispensations granted. None.
b. Training requests and review – Cllr. S. Loader asked to attend a future planning training session. It was ***Resolved [5/0]*** that Council approved attendance with Cllr. S. Loader to advise of preferred date.
c. Councillor vacancies –
    i. It was reported that no request for an election had been received by Somerset Unitary Council, therefore Walton Parish Council may now co-opt to fill the vacancy.
    ii. To consider any applications received and/or co-opt to fill the current vacancies. It was noted that a member of the public had expressed an interest and was attending the meeting to observe.
d. It was ***Resolved [5/0]*** that from today Councillors would only be contacted by email using their official .gov.uk email address. Hard copies of information / documents would be provided if no .gov.uk email address was in use.

2026.27.020 Minutes of the previous meeting

a. It was ***Resolved [5/0]*** that the minutes of the meeting of 8th May 2026, were an accurate record. They were then signed as such by the Chair.

2026.27.021 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. No correspondence received about items not on the agenda.

2026.27.022 Planning

a. To receive any planning decisions reported –
- 2026/0770/HSE – 4 Asney – approved
- 2026/0477/FUL – Footlands Ivythorn Lane – approved change of use from agri to residential
- 2026/0512/APP – 72 Main Street - Split decision– condition 1Highways vehicular access- refused & conditions 2&3 programme of works/protected species migration approved
- 2025/0542/FUL – 5 Quarry Batch – approve variation of conditions

b. To consider planning applications received –
   i. 2025/1289/FUL Proposed ground mounted solar park, underground cable route and ancillary development, Land at 342774 135299 Nythe ~Road, Walton Street Somerset.
   Following discussion of the additional documentation supplied, It was ***Resolved [5/0]*** that Walton Parish Council maintain their OBJECTION to this application and recommend REFUSAL. Council would like to reiterate their previous comments made regarding this application and in addition,
      - The inadequacy of purely desktop studies for this unique landscape was noted, and the new reports are considered inaccurate.
      - Council state that they support the comments submitted by Ashcott, and High Ham Parish Councils, Save our Somerset Levels, and CPRE.
      - With regard to the Agricultural Land Classification report – it is considered inaccurate in its conclusions, and it was noted that it relates to Ashcott Parish, with the majority of the proposed area of actual panels laying within the Parish of Walton for which there is no such report and no investigation regarding the detrimental long term impact due to the loss of sunlight caused by the siting of this quantity of panels on this unique peatland landscape.
   ii. An additional application had been received too late to be included on this agenda. It was ***Resolved [5/0]*** that comments from Councillors regarding planning application 2026/1064/HSE would be sent to the Clerk by Friday 26th June for collation and submission to Somerset Planning East.

c. General planning concerns **to note**.
   I. It was reported that an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of proposed use of siting a caravan within the garden for residential purposes ancillary to the use of the dwelling house – the Bungalow, Asney Road, Street, Somerset BA16 9RL had been submitted to Somerset Planning East.
   II. Cllr. H. Shearer [in their role as a Somerset Unitary Councillor] advised that planning regulation changes from Central Government were in progress and the Parish Council would be kept advised.

2026.27.023 Walton Neighbourhood Plan

a. Formation of a village working group.
Cllr. L. Hardware and Cllr. D. Harvey agreed to liaise with two residents who were thought may be interested in joining.

2026.27.024 Asset Devolution from Somerset Council

Councillor R. Crossman joined the meeting at this point

a. Following discussion of the areas of land under consideration, potential solicitors' fees and potential longer-term costs
   i. it was ***Resolved [6/0]*** to proceed with the tree health and safety inspections for both the Hempitts Road Play Area, and the Meadow Lane Small Moor Estate Area.
   ii. it was ***Resolved [6/0]*** to advise Somerset Council that the Parish Council were carrying out due diligence and retained an interest in obtaining the Hempitts play area, and to also enquire if the Meadow Lane, Littlefield Close & Small Moor Chase estate areas would be covered by one Land registry title.

2026.27.025 Village Upkeep

a. It was reported that grass cutting was ongoing around the village.

b. Ranger Tasks for the Month were agreed as:
- The repair to the bench at the East Mead Community Area.
- Rust removal and repainting of the steps on the slide in the Meadow Lane Play area.
- The trimming back of the shrubs on Mildred Road verge to improve visibility splays.

Cllr. B. Collins agreed to check the current condition of the Chancellors to Bramble Hill footpath to see which parts required maintenance.

2026.27.026 Insurance

a. It was reported that Council were now insured with Zurich Municipal.

2026.27.027 Finances

a. To receive and consider approval of the monthly financial report.
It was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that the monthly financial report, which included a bank reconciliation as of end of May 2026, 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 [6/0]***to be authorised with payments to be made following this meeting.

2026.27.028 Walton Hill Community Tree Trail

a. Following discussion regarding the potential longer-term cost of the project, it was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that Council would initially commit to the installation of a kissing gate to provide a secure access to the area from a public footpath. This would be funded from the existing Environmental reserve.

b. it was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that the application to the SALC community Health & Wellbeing fund for a grant toward the cost of nature-based learning events through the Summer would be submitted.

2026.27.029 Walton In Bloom

a. Allotments – it was agreed that these would be judged by Cllr. S. Loader and Mr. R. Vowles at the end of June.

b. Village – It was agreed that Cllr. H. Shearer would judge the categories at the end of July.

c. it was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that a budget of up to £75 was authorised for the engraving of any trophies awarded.

2026.27.030 Village Newsletter

a. The May 2026 edition had been well received. Some comments were made regarding the colour of pages.

b. It was noted that the August 2026 Edition would have a focus on the village family funday with the villager interview being the new Headmaster of the village school.

c. The need for a split of one delivery route was noted with Cllr. D. Harvey agreeing to take on responsibility for the additional route created.

2026.27.031 Somerset Councils Chair's awards for service to the community 2026.

a. It was noted that Cllrs. B. Collins and R. Crossman would be proposing an individual for the award.

2026.27.032 Roads, Traffic & footpaths

a. Roads –
It was noted that the noisy drain cover/manhole cover, at the junction of Main Street and Whitley had still not been repaired.
Cllr. H. Shearer agreed follow up on the agreed site visit report for the pelican crossing at the Church.

b. Village Gateway signs –
This item was deferred to the next meeting to give time for quotes to be obtained.

c. Footpaths – Cllr. B. Collins agreed to check the Chancellors to Bramble Hill footpath.

2026.27.033 Reports for information but not decision

a. Somerset Councillor[s] – including A&P LCN update.
   It was reported that –
   - Council were coming together with a new focus on Health & Wellbeing
   - The geography of the Local Community Networks was being looked at.

b. Parish Councillors reports – none provided

2026.27.034 Upcoming meetings and events

- Next Parish Council Meeting – Friday 10th July 2026 – 7pm at Walton Village Hall.

THE MEETING THEN CLOSED

Signed by Chairman

Date:

Appendix One - Monthly Financial Report

1.Bank reconciliation as of End May 2026

Detail	Amount	Column1
Balance brought forward from 30th April 2026 Bank reconciliation	£ 76,197.81	
Less Payments authorised at May 2026 PCM:	£ -	
HMRC month 1	£ 176.06	
Michael Webb	£ 73.34	
Go.2.services	£ 809.44	
SALC	£ 85.00	
L. Hardware	£ 145.25	
Walton Trust	£ 75.00	
Zurich	£ 1,637.90	
W.A.S. refund re water charges	-£ 29.91	
H. Moore	£ 1,134.93	SO
NEST	£ 173.26	DD
EE	£ 25.50	DD
Bank service charge	£ 4.25	
sub total	£ 71,887.79	
Plus receipts:	£ -	
Bank interest general deposit	£ 24.50	
bank interest harry skinner deposit	£ 1.34	
C. Willcox	£ 127.00	
Receipts and Payments Balance as of 31/05/2026	£ 72,040.63	
Balance to agree with bank statements:	£ -	
current account [Community account]	£ 13,186.88	
reserve account [general deposit]	£ 55,752.42	
Harry Skinner Reserve	£ 3,101.33	
Sub total	£ 72,040.63	
Less uncleared / outstanding, payments:		
	£ -	
Bank Accounts Total as of 31/05/2026	£ 72,040.63	

2. ±╕Ï τ═┘Ě⅗╣┘ Ï ×¾╜³¾╕☺³⅗₫ ┘ðð─╧τ═┘╫ك Ï ♣ك□□□ك

- £237.90 from Admin reserve to current a/c for insurance budget overspend
- £42.34 from current a/c to Harry Skinner a/c [one third of grasskeep]
- £84.66 from current a/c to Village Improvement Reserve [two thirds of grasskeep]

3. 7Ï ÏÏ τ ð³⅗ك╪Ě⅜₫³¾ ³⅗Ï Ï┘ ³╡³⅗╓³╡┘Ě═ك┘Ě□□╧ك Ï ♣ك□□□ك

RESERVE	TYPE	BALANCE
Administration	*designated*	20,155.11
Election Expenses	*designated*	799.00
Play area	*designated*	13,846.17
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*	4,618.09
Village upkeep equipment	*designated*	1,000.00
TOTAL	*[balance of general deposit account]*	**55,752.42**

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

4. Harry Skinner Reserve Account

Balance £3,101.33 [*restricted reserve]*

5. Interim Payment

The payment for Parish Council Insurance [Zurich] was made between meetings as authorised at the May 8th, 2026, Council Meeting.

Appendix Two – June 2026 Payments for authorisation

Walton Parish Council

Payment sheet Financial year 2026 - 2027 **Jun-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	£ 14,996.50	**£ 1,134.93**			£ 13,861.57	Month 3	June	**£ 1,134.93**	SO
Direct Debit	**NEST**	Staff costs	£ 17,965.00	£ 13,861.57	**£ 173.26**			£ 13,688.31	Month 3	June	**£ 173.26**	DD
Direct Debit	**EE**	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,988.25	**£ 24.00**	£ 4.00	245 7193 48	£ 2,968.25	VO2478148186	June	**£ 24.00**	DD
								£ -			**£ -**	
2026/06/p1	**HMRC**	Staff costs	£ 17,965.00	£ 13,688.31	**£ 176.26**			£ 13,512.05	Month 3	June	**£ 176.26**	
2026/06/p2	**Michael Webb**	Play area	£ 1,100.00	£ 403.32	**£ 73.34**			£ 329.98	WGGM2080	May	**£ 73.34**	
2026/06/p3	**St Andrews Press**	Newsletter	£ 1,400.00	£ 1,580.00	**£ 459.00**			£ 1,121.00	SI-26193	May	**£ 459.00**	
2026/06/p4	**The Walton Trust**	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,968.25	**£ 137.50**			£ 2,830.75	inv. 037	May	**£ 137.50**	
2026/06/p5	**The Walton Trust**	Room Hire	£ 250.00	£ 223.00	**£ 15.00**			£ 208.00	inv.036	May	**£ 15.00**	
2026/06/p6	**Monahans**	Internal Audit	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	**£ 588.00**	£ 98.00	436 3680 84	£ 10.00	invoice.39000009	May	**£ 588.00**	
2026/06/p7	**Go.2.Services**	village upkeep	£ 7,500.00	£ 5,562.23	**£ 700.00**			£ 4,862.23	inv.2242	June	**£ 700.00**	
								£ -			**£ -**	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE:				***£ 3,481.29***						***£ 3,481.29***	

NOTES:	
Reference NUMBER:	NOTE:
2026/06/p1	**Tax & NI month 3**
2026/06/p2	**play area grass cutting**
2026/06/p3	**May newsletter**
2026/06/p4	**quarterly office rent**
2026/06/p5	**monthly meeting room hire**
2026/06/p6	**internal audit**
2026/06/p7	**ranger fees and mower fuel**

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

Cllr.	Sign:	Date:

Notes:

KEY: DD or SO / Online payment / cheque

closed 10am on day of meeting

Signed by Chairman

Date: