PRESENT:
Walton Parish Councillors: Cllr. J. Harvey [Chair], Cllr. H. Shearer, Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. R. Crossman and Cllr. B. Collins [4]
Members of the public: None
Somerset Cllr: H. Shearer
Parish Clerk: H. Moore

2026.27.055 To receive and consider reasons for non-attendance.

a. Having considered the reasons for non-attendance offered by Cllr. S. Loader, Cllr. D. Harvey, and Cllr. L. Hardware, it was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that the reasons were accepted for this meeting.

2026.27.056 Councillors

a. Disclosure of any undeclared interests and notification of any dispensations granted.
None declared.
b. Training requests and review –
   i. Cllr. J. Harvey requested to attend 'how councils can more effectively engage with young people [£40]
   ii. Cllr. L. Hardware requested to attend – CANVA parts 1&2 [total £80]
   iii. The Clerk requested to attend CANVA part 2 [£40]
   iv. Council were advised that the total training budget was £600 with a budget balance of £515. It was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that the above training requests were approved.
c. Councillor vacancies –
   i. To consider any applications received and/or co-opt to fill the current vacancies. It was requested that the Clerk confirm that the resident who had expressed an interest earlier remained interested in joining the Council.

2026.27.057 Minutes of the previous meeting

a. It was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that the minutes of the meeting of Friday 17th July 2026, were an accurate record. They were then signed as such by the Chair.
b. It was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Tuesday 28th July 2026, were an accurate record. They were then signed as such by the Chair.

2026.27.058 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]
No requests were made
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.

2026.27.059 Planning

a. To receive any planning decisions reported –
2026/0761/VRC - Walton Gateway – Approved
2026/1053/CLP – The Bungalow Asney Rd – Development is lawful
2026/1141/HSE – 21 Hempitts Rd - Granted
b. To receive a report regarding meetings at the village hall.
It was reported that following the village hall gaining a license to serve alcohol, the Parish Council may continue to meet at the village hall so long as no function serving alcohol is occurring at the hall at the same time. [report attached as appendix one]

c. To consider planning applications received
None as of date of meeting.

d. To consider the arrangement and promotion of a meeting with the potential developers regarding the proposal for a housing development at Quarry Batch.
An initial fact-finding meeting between the Council and the developers had been arranged.

i. It was agreed that this was an initial meeting for information and not a public meeting.
ii. It was agreed that Councillors could meet half an hour earlier to prepare.
iii. It was agreed that Council would request two available dates from the developers for a public consultation meeting on any application submitted.
iv. It was noted that an initial meeting between Street Councillors and the developers had already taken place.

Councillor R. Crossman left the meeting at this point

*The Chair proposed that the item 'asset Devolution' be taken next and no objections were raised.

2026.27.060 Asset devolution from Somerset Council

Councillor R. Crossman rejoined the meeting at this point – at the start of the discussion

a. Considerable discussion regarding solicitor's fees, tree condition reports, current maintenance, risk, and onward costs occurred.
b. It was ***Resolved [3/1]*** that Council formally approved the transfer of the Hempitts Road play area and the Small Moor / Meadow Lane / Littlefield estate green areas, from Somerset Council to Walton Parish Council, and authorised the Parish Clerk to proceed with the required devolution process.

2026.27.061 Walton Neighbourhood Plan

a. Due to a current lack of support from the local community, it was agreed that:
i. One specific flyer would be produced to promote the plan, and its impact, and sent to every home in Walton to encourage support.
ii. The Chair would liaise with professional technical writers regarding the creation of a neighbourhood plan with policies, background documents etc., and obtain quotes.
iii. It was noted that a great deal of consultation would need to be conducted once an initial document was produced.

2026.27.062 Walton Hill Community Tree Trail

a. It was reported that the kissing gate had been received.
b. It was reported that the Summer event was scheduled for Saturday 26th September.
c. It was reported that an invoice relating to the September event had been received for £900. It was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that as this was within the SALC grant terms and limit, it was authorised to be paid between meetings.

2026.27.063 Village Upkeep

a. Village Ranger
Tasks for the coming month were agreed as kissing gate installation [prior to tree trail event], play area weed removal, weed removal from pavement along both sides of Main Street from Mildred Road to Quarry Batch.
b. Green Waste disposal options
Cllr. R. Crossman agreed to liaise with the grass keep holder and ranger regarding the East Mead community area.

c. Trees at East Mead Community area
A quote for maintenance works to the ash trees was to be followed up on.

2026.27.064 Finances

a. To receive and consider approval of the monthly financial report.
It was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that the financial report, which included a bank reconciliation as at end of July 2026, and the report of the external auditor for the financial year ended March 2026, was an accurate record and it was then signed as such. [attached as appendix Two].

b. To consider authorisation of the monthly payments schedule.
The monthly payments schedule [attached as appendix three] was ***Resolved [4/0]***to be authorised with payments to be made following this meeting.

2026.27.065 Precept Grants

a. It was reported that the precept grants had been advertised on the village noticeboards and website and in the latest edition of the newsletter. Information would also be available at the Funday.

b. It was ***Resolved [4/0]*** that council would not contact everyone who had previously received a grant.

2026.27.066 Annual Play Area Inspection report

a. It was noted that the report had been circulated and the play area rated as low risk.
b. It agreed to investigate the potential cost of adding the annual inspection of the MUGA [owned by the Walton Trust] to the annual Meadow Lane play area inspection. [Owned by the Parish Council]
c. The cost of updated training for play area visual inspections is to be investigated.

2026.27.067 The Walton Trust Village Family Fun Day

a. The Council stall would be staffed by Councillors as available throughout the afternoon.
b. The Clerk to create displays around both the visual history project and the 'Village Vision' neighbourhood plan information.

2026.27.068 Roads, Traffic & footpaths

a. Roads – It was reported that Butleigh Road was passable. It was noted that some highways repairs remained outstanding
b. Footpaths – Concerns had been raised by residents regarding the bad condition of pavements in the Chancellors area. The issues had been reported via the Somerset online system and would be monitored.

2026.27.069 Reports for information but not decision

a. Somerset Councillor[s] – including A&P LCN update.
It was noted that following external reports, Somerset Council was continuing to work on improvements to key areas including Adult Social care and Public finance.
b. Parish Councillors reports – none provided

2026.27.070 Upcoming meetings and events

- Next Parish Council Meeting – Friday 18th September 2026 – 7pm at Walton Village Hall.

THE MEETING THEN CLOSED

Appendix One - Walton Village Hall Licensing

Report to the August 14th, 2026, Parish Council Meeting.

The village hall now has a license for serving alcohol.
To avoid doubt:
The Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, states that meetings of a Parish Council may not take place on licensed premises unless no other suitable room is available free of charge or at a reasonable cost.

Following liaison with the Society of Local Council Clerks [SLCC] on 3rd August 2026:
The SLCC legal advisor's legal interpretation of the above is that the Parish Council may meet in a licensed village hall ***as long as no bar is open at the time.***

Therefore, the Parish Council may continue to meet at the village hall so long as no function serving alcohol is occurring at the same time.

Appendix Two - Monthly financial Report

1.Bank reconciliation as of End July 2026

Detail	Amount
Balance brought forward from 30th June 2026 Bank reconciliation	**£ 68,643.04**
Less Payments authorised at July 2026 PCM:	£ -
HMRC month 4	£ 176.26
Michael Webb	£ 73.34
WPC prepayment card re Norton anti virus Annual Fee	£ 39.99
The Walton Trust	£ 15.00
Viking Office Depot	£ 101.98
Go.2.Services	£ 707.00
Somerset Council	£ 507.00
Arboricare Ltd.	£ 192.00
SLCC annual subscription	£ 200.00
H. Moore	£ 1,134.93
NEST	£ 173.26
Bank service charge	£ 5.17
EE	£ 24.00
sub total	**£ 65,293.11**
Plus receipts:	**£ -**
Bank interest general deposit	£ 22.92
bank interest harry skinner deposit	£ 1.28
Receipts and Payments Balance as of 31/07/2026	**£ 65,317.31**
Balance to agree with bank statements:	**£ -**
current account [Community account]	**£ 6,415.96**
reserve account [general deposit]	**£ 55,797.52**
Harry Skinner Reserve	**£ 3,103.83**
Sub total	**£ 65,317.31**
Less uncleared / outstanding, payments:	
none	
Bank Accounts Total as of 31/07/2026	**£ 65,317.31**
variance	**£ 0.00**

2. Transfers made between accounts in July 2026

- None

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

RESERVE	TYPE	BALANCE
Administration	*designated*	20,200.21
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]*	**55,797.52**

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

4. Harry Skinner Reserve Account

Balance £3,103.83 [*restricted reserve]*

5. External Auditors Report for year ending 31/03/2026

No issues were raised by the external auditor. Their full response is attached as appendix one of this report.

Appendix one

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of Walton Parish Council - SO0277 ow

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a limited assurance review is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is not a full statutory audit, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it does not provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-auditpractice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with

Proper Practices which:

• summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026; and

• confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

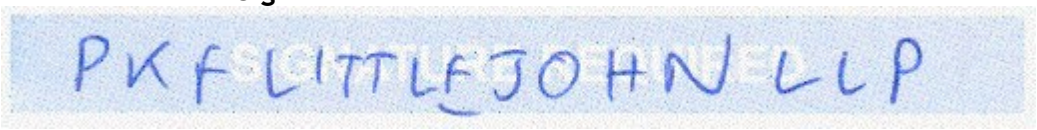
None

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026.

External Auditor Name - PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature -



Date - 24/07/2026

Appendix Three – Payments for authorisation – August 2026

Walton Parish Council Payment sheet Financial year 2026 - 2027 **Aug-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	£ 12,027.60	**£ 1,134.93**			£ 10,892.67	Month 5	August	**£ 1,134.93**	SO
Direct Debit	**NEST**	Staff costs	£ 17,965.00	£ 10,892.67	**£ 173.26**			£ 10,719.41	Month 5	August	**£ 173.26**	DD
Direct Debit	**EE**	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,672.86	**£ 24.00**	£ 4.00	245 7193 48	£ 2,652.86	July invoice	August	**£ 24.00**	DD
								£ -			£ -	
2026/08/p1	**HMRC**	Staff costs	£ 17,965.00	£ 10,719.41	**£ 176.06**			£ 10,543.35	month 5	August	**£ 176.06**	
2026/08/p2	**Michael Webb**	Play area	£ 1,100.00	£ 329.98	**£ 73.34**			£ 256.64	inv.WEGOMZ090	June	**£ 73.34**	
	WPC prepayment card re Microsoft Annual											
2026/08/p3	**subscription**	administration	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,652.86	**£ 84.99**			£ 2,567.87	annual subscription	August	**£ 84.99**	
2026/08/p4	**Arboricare Ltd.**	reserve	none		**£ 636.00**	£ 106.00	570 3129 62	-£ 530.00	inv.113773	June	**£ 636.00**	
2026/08/p5	**The Walton Trust**	events	£ 2,000.00	£ 1,674.75	**£ 2,000.00**			**-£ 325.25**	grant re funday	July	**£ 2,000.00**	
2026/08/p6	**PKF Littlejohn LLP**	External Audit	£ 260.00	£ 260.00	**£ 378.00**	£ 63.00	440 4982 50	**-£ 55.00**	Ref 500277	July	**£ 378.00**	
2026/08/p7	**Play Inspection Company**	play area Environment	£ 1,100.00	£ 256.64	**£ 172.80**	£ 28.80	845 1940 23	£ 112.64	Inv.88131	July	**£ 172.80**	
2026/08/p8	**Built by Bison Ltd.**	Reserve			**£ 868.80**	£ 144.80	975 7820 67	-£ 724.00	inv.15215	August	**£ 868.80**	
2026/08/p9	**St. Andrews Press**	Newsletter	£ 1,400.00	£ 1,121.00	**£ 499.00**			£ 622.00	inv. 5127061	August	**£ 499.00**	
2026/08/p10	**The Walton Trust**	room hire	£ 250.00	£ 193.00	**£ 22.50**			£ 170.50	inv.065	July	**£ 22.50**	
2026/08/p11	**Go.2.services**	Village upkeep	£ 7,500.00	£ 3,732.73	**£ 432.00**			£ 3,300.73	inv. 2257	August	**£ 432.00**	
								£ -			£ -	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE:				**£ 6,675.68**						**£ 6,675.68**	

NOTES:

Reference NUMBER:	NOTE:
2026/08/p1	Tax & NI month 5
2026/08/p2	play area grass cutting
2026/08/p3	Microsoft 365 software annual fee
2026/08/p4	Meadow Lane Tree report
2026/08/p5	the Walton Trust
2026/08/p6	Annual External Audit fee
2026/08/p7	Annual play area inspection
2026/08/p8	Kissing Gate re Tree Trail
2026/08/p9	August Newsletter [600 copies]
2026/08/p10	July meeting room hire
2026/08/p11	Ranger [2 days only]

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

Cllr.	Sign:	Date:

Notes:

a. Events budget Overspend of £325.25 agreed to be funded from events reserve at the July 17th 2026 Parish council meeting.

b. External Audit overspend of £55 to agree to fund from Administration reserve.

TOTAL EXP	£ 6,675.68
C/A BAL	£ 8,186.21
REMAINING	£ 1,510.53

KEY: DD or SO — Online payment — cheque

closed 10am on day of meeting

Signed by Chairman

Date: