PRESENT:
Walton Parish Councillors: Cllr. J. Harvey [Chair], Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. S. Loader, [3], Arriving during the meeting : Cllr. H. Shearer [4] Cllr. B. Collins [5] Cllr. R. Crossman [6]
Members of the public: None
Somerset Cllr: H. Shearer
Parish Clerk: H. Moore

2026.27.071 To receive and consider reasons for non-attendance.

a. Having considered the reasons for non-attendance offered by Cllr. L. Hardware, it was ***Resolved [3/0]*** that the reason was accepted for this meeting.
b. It was noted that Cllr. R. Crossman had advised that they would be arriving late.

2026.27.072 Councillors

a. Disclosure of any undeclared interests and notification of any dispensations granted.
None declared.
b. Training requests and review – Training attended by Chair is a separate item on the agenda

Councillor H. Shearer joined the meeting at this point

c. Councillor vacancies –
i. To consider any applications received and/or co-opt to fill the current vacancies.
No new expressions of interest at this time.

2026.27.073 Minutes of the previous meeting

a. It was ***Resolved [3/0/1]*** that the minutes of the meeting of Friday 14th August 2026, were an accurate record. They were then signed as such by the Chair.

2026.27.074 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.

Cllr. B. Collins joined the meeting at this point

2026.27.075 Planning

a. To receive any planning decisions reported – None reported
b. To consider planning applications received - None as of date of meeting.
c. To consider the current status of the proposed housing development at Quarry Batch.
It was noted that the developers had confirmed that they would be holding a consultation and information meeting in the village once a planning application had been submitted. This is to be promoted at the time and more specifically to residents who are likely to be most affected.
d. General Planning concerns to note.
The Chair reported on a recent information session that they had attended about the national planning policy framework [NPPF] and the changes this has created to how

Somerset Council would be considering planning applications. Two slides about the NPPF from the training session were provided [attached as Appendix One].
It was noted that smaller planning applications [less than 9 dwellings] would generally be considered by the Planning officer with all bigger developments to go to the planning board.
It was noted that this does not impact on Parish Council consultations – Except that the timescale within which to respond may be tighter.

e. SCRAPP Meeting 30th September.
It was noted that an invitation to attend the meeting, Cllr. B. Colins advised that he may be able to attend.

*The Chair proposed that the item 'Visual History Project' be taken next and no objections were raised.

2026.27.076 Visual History Project

a. Reproduction of a 1975 booklet about Walton "Our village Heritage". It was noted that only about 375 copies of the booklet had been produced and that it was copyright by the Walton Women's Institute [WI].

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

i. It was reported that the booklet was a very good illustration of village buildings and life at that time but could not really be put on public display at events as this was the sole original in the collection.
ii. Permission had been obtained from the Walton WI to reproduce the booklet for the visual history project on the condition that a copy was provided to Walton WI as they did not have one.
iii. It was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that Council would have 20 copies of the original booklet produced.

2026.27.077 The Walton Trust Village Family Fun Day

Feedback and review.

a. The Parish Council stall had received positive feedback with it's 'past/present/future' layout. Those who had staffed it were thanked. Several people volunteered for the neighbourhood plan working group.
b. The Council's representatives to the Trust reported that the event had gone off with no incidents and positive feedback. The finances of the day were still being calculated. Complaints received regarding the fireworks and on road parking have been responded to by the Trust.

2026.27.078 Walton Neighbourhood Plan

a. Following on from the additional contacts obtained at the Funday, it was agreed that a meeting of the working group would be arranged as soon as possible.
b. It was reported that several consultants had been approached regarding the cost of assisting with the plan. With limited availability at this time one quote for a consultant had been received plus a costing for an AI system. It was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that Council would investigate further the option of working with the live consultant who had quoted, starting with the Chair approaching other Councils that the consultant had completed work with, for references.

2026.27.079 Asset devolution from Somerset Council

It was reported that as of 17th September –

a. Wellers Solicitors have been contacted and appointment letters exchanged. No further action required at this time.

b. Somerset Council are working through their devolution process. *"Just to confirm, we need no more action from yourselves for the time being. From our point of view, we now have some governance processes to go through, including this devolution item being run past Lead Members at the next Asset Management Group (date tbc) for approval. I will keep you updated but feel free to get in touch if you any questions."*

No further action required at this time.

2026.27.080 Communications and community engagement

a. Following on from the Chair regarding recent training and a discussion regarding the use of short point video and visual communication as opposed to static reports it was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that the Council Chair would set up a Council Instagram account linked to the existing FB account.

b. The Clerk to check that the hello@waltonsomerset-pc.gov.uk email address was still active and forward details onto the Chair for use with online community engagement.

2026.27.081 Meadow Lane Play Area

a. A report was provided re maintenance works required to the trim trail roller unit and rubber safety surface gapping. Quotes for removal and replacement of the existing unit were provided from the contractor currently used for replacement parts with several options. Quotes had also been provided for several options regarding the safety surface gapping.

b. It was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that the roller would be removed from the unit as a safety measure until options had been considered.

c. It was agreed that topsoil would be used to fill existing gaps and grass seed added.

d. Cllr. B. Collins agreed to investigate alternative maintenance options and provide a report to the next Parish Council meeting.

2026.27.082 Annual Independent Inspection of Play Area[s]

a. The cost of adding an annual inspection of the Walton Trust MUGA to the existing annual inspection routine for the Parish Council play area was discussed. It was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that this was affordable and would be of benefit to the community.

b. It was agreed that the Trust would be approached to ask if they would like to accept this offer from the Parish Council.

2026.27.083 Walton Hill Community Tree Trail

a. It was reported that the equipment purchased for the nature-based learning project would be stored by the Parish Council and made available by them for events.

b. The Tree Trail event was arranged for Saturday 26th September between 2 and 4pm. Cllr. D. Harvey reported that it was being promoted to the school, PTA, pre school etc. and advertised via FB.

c. The kissing gate had been installed by the village ranger and the additional grass path requested was due to be mown in the week prior to the event.

2026.27.084 Village Upkeep

a. Village ranger.

i. It was reported that the kissing gate had been installed and that the barbed wire fence would be re connected once the support posts were firmly set.

ii. The following tasks for next month were agreed –

- The planting of daffodil bulbs at the East Mead community area was discussed and it was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that a budget of £30 for their purchase [East Mead Reserve] with the ranger to plant.
- The maintenance work at the play area [gap filling and roller removal]
- The clearing of weeds from the pavements between Mildred Road and Quarry Batch.

b. Green Waste Disposal.
It was reported that Cllr. Crossman had been liaising with the grass keep tenant and ranger and were looking at an appropriate area to set this up.

c. East Mead Community Area trees.
Following discussion, it was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that the required works to the two Ash trees were authorised to be carried out, but not any works to the small elms within the hedge at this time. [East Mead reserve]

2026.27.085 Finances

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

c. The date for the budget working group meeting was set as Tuesday 27th October 2026 at 7pm

2026.27.086 Precept Grants

a. Three applications had been received.
   i. Walton Under-fives preschool
   ii. Holy Trinity Church re closed churchyard maintenance etc.
   iii. Holy Trinity Church re required maintenance to the clock.

   The application forms were provided to all Councillors for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

2026.27.087 Walton Village Award

a. It was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that an award would be made to a proposed resident with the wording to be provided by Cllr. B. Collins as soon as possible to enable the painting of the award board etc.

2026.27.088 Roads, Traffic & footpaths

a. Roads –
   i. Berhill to Marshall's Elm – following discussion of concerns raised by residents regarding the speed of traffic along this road it was ***Resolved [6/0]*** that Council would again approach the area traffic engineer about measures to reduce the speed of traffic.
   ii. Highway repairs and maintenance - The current ridges [deformation] at the edges of the A39 carriage way were reported as being a growing hazard to cyclists. The recent speed of possible unmarked police cars through the village was reported and noted.
   iii. Concerns raised re the blocking of visibility displays the junction of Chancellors and South Street were discussed. It was ***Resolved [6/0]*** to discuss the possibility of installing double yellow lines with the area traffic engineer.

b. Footpaths –
   i. It was noted that the Bramble Hill to Chancellors footpath needing clearing and Cllr. B. Collins agreed to look into this.

c. Rural Active Travel -
   It was reported that a toolkit had been provided by Somerset Travel to promote schemes for local active travel [no funding for such schemes was currently available from Somerset Council] and free training for the toolkit was being provided.

2026.27.089 Staffing

a. The date for the annual staff appraisal is to be Tuesday 27th October at 6:30 pm prior to the meeting of the budget working group.

2026.27.090 Reports for information but not decision

a. Somerset Councillor[s] – including A&P LCN update. – It was reported that the annual Somerset Council budget process was now underway.
b. Parish Councillors reports –
   i. Allotments – It was reported that suspicious behaviour had been reported in the area of the allotment car park in late evenings. The PCSO is to be made aware of the situation.

2026.27.091 Upcoming meetings and events

- Next Parish Council Meeting – Friday 16th October 2026 – 7pm at Walton Village Hall.

THE MEETING THEN CLOSED

Signed by Chairman

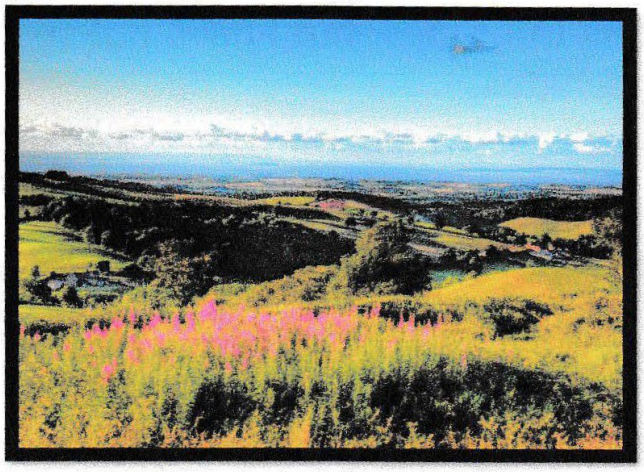
Date:

Appendix One – NPPF information slides from Somerset Council

Zac Ellwood
Policy S5(c) page 25

NPPF Constraints That Can Override the Presumption in Favour of Development

- Habitat Sites (including internationally protected sites)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- Green Belt
- Local Green Space
- National Landscapes (formerly AONBs)
- National Parks
- The Broads
- Heritage Coast
- Irreplaceable Habitats
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Scheduled Monuments
- Registered Parks and Gardens Registered Battlefields
- Areas at Risk of Flooding or Coastal Change
- Low density



Outside Settlement Limits

Policy S5: Development Outside Settlements

- Development in the countryside is restrictive rather than permissive and should only be supported where it falls within specified policy categories.
- Supported forms of development include:
  - Rural enterprises, agriculture and infrastructure
  - Reuse or replacement of existing buildings (proportionate increases)
  - Previously developed land (brownfield redevelopment)
  - Limited infilling and rural exception sites
  - Gypsy and Traveller accommodation where need is evidenced
  - Sustainable development linked to settlements or rail stations
  - Allocated sites and development meeting evidenced unmet needs (housing, employment, etc)
- Proposals should be approved unless adverse impacts substantially outweigh the benefits.
- Isolated homes and other forms of development not covered by the policy will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where benefits clearly outweigh harm to the countryside and sustainable travel objectives.

Key Message: *Outside settlements, development must be justified by policy and demonstrably sustainable, with protection of the countryside remaining the primary consideration.*

Appendix Two - Monthly financial Report

To the September 18th, 2026, Parish Council Meeting.

1.Bank reconciliation as of End August 2026

Detail	Amount	Column1
Balance brought forward from 31st July 2026 Bank reconciliation	**£ 65,317.31**	
Less Payments authorised at August 2026 PCM:	£ -	
HMRC month 5	£ 176.06	
Michael Webb	£ 73.34	
WPC prepayment card re Microsoft 365 Annual Fee	£ 84.99	
Aboricare Ltd.	£ 636.00	
The Walton Trust	£ 2,000.00	
PKF Littlejohn LLP	£ 378.00	
Play inspection company	£ 172.80	
Built by Bison	£ 868.80	
St Andrews Press	£ 499.00	
The Walton Trust	£ 22.50	
Go.2.Services	£ 432.00	
Friends of Sidney gardens	£ 900.00	
H. Moore	£ 1,134.93	SO
NEST	£ 173.26	DD
Bank service charge	£ 4.25	DD
EE	£ 24.00	
sub total	**£ 57,737.38**	
Plus receipts:	**£ -**	
Bank interest general deposit	£ 24.46	
bank interest harry skinner deposit	£ 1.36	
Receipts and Payments Balance as of 31/08/2026	**£ 57,763.20**	
Balance to agree with bank statements:	**£ -**	
current account [Community account]	**£ 630.28**	
reserve account [general deposit]	**£ 54,027.73**	
Harry Skinner Reserve	**£ 3,105.19**	
Sub total	**£ 57,763.20**	
Less uncleared / outstanding, payments:		
none		
Bank Accounts Total as of 31/08/2026	**£ 57,763.20**	

Signed by Chairman

Date:

2. Transfers made between accounts in August 2026

From Deposit a/c to Current account, a total of - £1,794.25
This consisted of:

- Environment reserve to c/a re 2 tree surveys £ 690.00
- Environment reserve to c/a re kissing gate £ 724.00
- Events reserve to c/a re Funday £ 325.25
- Admin reserve to c/a re Extern Audit fee £ 55.00

3. Balance of general Reserves as of End August 2026

RESERVE	TYPE	BALANCE
Administration	*designated*	20,169.67
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*	1,799.82
Environment	*designated*	1,346.52
Village Improvement	*designated*	4,618.09
Village upkeep equipment	*designated*	1,000.00
TOTAL	*[balance of general deposit account]*	**54,027.73**

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

4. Harry Skinner Reserve Account

Balance £3,105.19 [*restricted reserve]*

5. Precept

The second part of the precept is due from Somerset Council by the end of September
A transfer from d/a to c/a may need to be made to cover the payment of September invoices. [Admin reserve]

Appendix Three – Payments for authorisation – August 2026

Walton Parish Council
Payments for authorisation

Payment sheet Financial year 2026 - 2027

Sep-26

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	£ 10,543.15	£ 1,134.93			£ 9,408.22	Month 6	September	£ 1,134.93	SO
Direct Debit	NEST	Staff costs	£ 17,965.00	£ 9,408.22	£ 173.26			£ 9,234.96	Month 6	September	£ 173.26	DD
Direct Debit	EE	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,652.86	£ 24.00	£ 4.00	245 7193 48	£ 2,632.86	August inv.	September	£ 24.00	DD
								£ -			£ -	
2026/09/p1	HMRC	Staff costs	£ 17,965.00	£ 9,234.96	£ 176.26			£ 9,058.70	month 6	September	£ 176.26	
2026/09/p2	Michael Webb	Play area	£ 1,100.00	£ 589.30	£ 73.34			£ 515.96	wgen3009	August	£ 73.34	
2026/09/p3	Local Authority Technology CIC [parish online mapping]	admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,632.86	£ 60.00	£ 10.00	450 9547 78	£ 2,582.86	inv.4OUB0S4-009	August	£ 60.00	
2026/09/p4	Rural Services Partnership Ltd.	admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,582.86	£ 66.16	£ 11.03	900 3612 76	£ 2,527.73	RVSG/26/27/42	April	£ 66.16	
2026/09/p5	Helen Moore	admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,527.73	£ 64.62			£ 2,463.11	6 mnth exp refund	18th Sept 2026	£ 64.62	
2026/09/P6	The Walton Trust	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,463.11	£ 137.50			£ 2,325.61	inv.078	August	£ 137.50	
2026/09/p7	The Walton Trust	room hire	£ 250.00	£ 170.50	£ 15.00			£ 155.50	inv.077	August	£ 15.00	
2026/09/p8	G. Roche - community tree trail project	SALC Grant received	£ 1,000.00	£ 100.00	£100.47			-£ 0.47	receipts	September	£ 100.47	
2026/09/p9	Viking Direct	Admin	£ 3,075.00	£ 2,325.61	£ 108.75	£ 18.14	536 1533 57	£ 2,235.00	inv.4411057035	September	£ 108.75	
								£ -			£ -	
								£ -			£ -	
								£ -			£ -	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE:				£ 2,134.29						£ 2,134.29	

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

Cllr.	Sign:	Date:

Notes:
As second half of precept has now been received from Somerset Council, balance of current account as of 8th September = £25,917.78

KEY:
DD or SO
Online payment
cheque

NOTES:	
Reference NUMBER:	NOTE:
2026/09/p1	Tax & NI month 6
2026/09/p2	play area grass cutting
2026/09/p3	annual charge
2026/09/p4	annual fee
2026/09/p5	6 month expenses refund
2026/09/P6	Office Rent
2026/09/p7	Meeting room hire
2026/09/p8	Community Tree Trail Project
2026/09/p9	wall year planner and display supplies

closed 10am on day of meeting