



Walkern Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 5th March 2026
Walkern Sports & Community Centre at 7.00pm

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Cllrs Christine Nudds, David Standing, RFO Reg Marjason, Mike Allingham, Paul Warner, Michele Rist (Chair), Nigel Bennett, Abi Brown (Clerk)

2. Apologies

None

3. Declaration of Interest

None

4. Minutes

Minutes of Walkern Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th February 2026 were approved. Cllr Marjason proposed to approve the minutes which was seconded by Cllr Nudds. Cllr Rist signed the minutes.

5. Matters arising from Minutes

Council to contact Vicky Glover Ward at EHDC listing complaints regarding planning applications. Cllr Allingham will collate a response and will circulate to the council to review. The Clerk will then send to Vicky Glover Ward.

Action: Cllr Allingham/Clerk

6. Public Issues

None

7. Chair/Clerk Updates

St Mary's church now have a sufficient amount of volunteers scheduled to open and close the church over the weekends.

8. Planning

3/26/0207/OUT - Orchard Land Adjacent To Manorview 21 High Street Walkern Hertfordshire - Clerk to send response created by Cllr Marjason

Action: Clerk

3/26/0275/LBC - Finches Farm - Single story extension to the north facing elevation of the existing dwelling - submit no comment other than it is a grade II listed building and this should be taken into consideration.



3/26/0180/HH - Cornfield Cottage - Creation of a new vehicular access and off-street parking space to the front of the property, including a dropped kerb - no comment

9. Wilder Walkern

The council have received 71 responses from local residents, expressing their interest in supporting Wilder Walkern. Of those, 29 people have said that they would be able to attend the meeting on Wed 11th March at 7.30pm. There will be a brief presentation regarding Walkern Terra Carta at the meeting. It was felt that a new website dedicated to Wilder Walkern would be beneficial. Parish Websites have said that they will host the website. Cllr Allingham will be asking those attending if anyone has the skills to design a website.

Cllr Allingham proposed that there should be an open day at the Froghall Lane site and potentially hand out seeds of native plants at the event to help promote Wilder Walkern.

Councillors have met with Tim Hoskin from EHDC which went very well and there were lots of suggestions made of local groups and educational facilities that could assist. There may be potential funding.

10. WSCC Update

Nigel Bennett attended on behalf of the WSCC Committee and provided an update to Council. A new bank account with Unity Trust has now been opened and the new treasurer is being added to the bank account. The fire risk assessment has been carried out and there was one issue which was that the emergency lighting is on the same circuit as the rest of the lights. In the case of a power cut the emergency lights will go out aswell and so this needs to be resolved. A map of the building needs to be created to show fire exits and assembly points in the case of an emergency. Following the assessment, the WSCC will be reviewing the outstanding issues and working out what requires immediate action.

11. WSCC gate/footpath gate

Cllr Warner has temporarily fixed the wooden gate at the WSCC. He has spoken with local land owners and they confirmed that they have never paid for gate repairs. Cllr Rist has spoken with EHDC who have said that as the gate is on the Parish Council boundary that the Parish Council are liable to repair it. Cllr Standing suggested that perhaps Chris Bert, from EHDC, may be able to advise who is responsible for the repair of the gate. Clerk to look at HCC 'Rights of Way'.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Warner has also spoken to a local resident who is going to come and have a look at the WSCC gate to see if it can be fixed.

12. Highstreet LED Lamp post



It was proposed by Cllr Warren that the quote received for the repair to the lamp post be accepted and the lamp post fixed. Cllr Rist seconded but that it not be paid until the new financial year.

There are also two other lamp posts within the village that need to be repaired/replaced with something that looks more Victorian and to be wired in by an electrician of the Parish Council's choice. Cllr Standing will take a photo of the lamp posts so that Clerk can contact Ringway for a quote.

Action: Clerk

13. Openreach inspection covers

Work has recently been carried out throughout the village by Openreach but the covers have not been put back correctly and are creating a trip hazard. Cllr Standing offered to put together a list of locations where they were deemed unsafe and the Clerk will write to Openreach advising them of the locations which they need to assess.

14. Finance

Finance report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Marjason advised that the budget is currently at a £5000 overspend. The Parish Council has received the lighting invoice from EHDC and will pay this in the next tax year.

It has become apparent that Castle Water have removed the water meter for the allotment and are now estimating the bill. Cllr Marjason has contacted them to query this and awaits a response.

15. WPC Calendar

Calendar was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that all items were up to date.

16. Communications

Cllr Rist has spoken to residents of Froghall Lane who are concerned about the parking of cars towards the burial ground and the accessibility for emergency vehicles. Residents have spoken to those that are parking and causing an obstruction but did not receive a welcome response. Cllr Rist advised the resident that as there are no parking restrictions along the road there is little that the Parish Council can do as it is not under their jurisdiction.

Meeting closed: 21:04