



**Walkern Parish Council Meeting  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026  
Walkern Sports & Community Centre at 7.00pm**

**MINUTES**

**1. Attendance**

Cllrs David Standing, RFO Reg Marjason, Mike Allingham, Paul Warner, Michele Rist (Chair), Abi Brown (Clerk), 2 x members of public

**2. Apologies**

Cllrs Christine Nudds

**3. Declaration of Interest**

None

**4. Minutes**

Minutes of Walkern Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were approved. Cllr Marjason proposed to approve the minutes which was seconded by Cllr Standing. Cllr Rist signed the minutes.

**5. Matters arising from Minutes**

None

**6. Public Issues**

Two members of the public were in attendance and raised that they would be objecting to planning application 3/26/0180/HH (90 Stevenage Road, Walkern). They advised the Parish Council that there are several designated parking spaces for each property. They requested that the Parish Council consider the implications the dropped curb would have to their property. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to submit further comments for consideration to EHDC. Cllr Allingham to finalise response and Clerk to email to East Herts Planning.

**Action: Cllr Allingham/Clerk**

**7. Chair/Clerk Updates**

None

**8. Planning**

**3/26/0357/VAR: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 12 Church End Walkern** – Change in application has been noted by Parish Council but have no further comments

3/26/0372/CLEO – 12 Finches End – Submit no comment



## **9. Wilder Walkern**

Cllr Allingham provided a detailed update regarding Wilder Walkern. The website is now live and the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March was a success. There will be a meeting with the Hertford Swift Group (date to be confirmed). Bird boxes were kindly donated and will be installed around the village including at the Highstreet playground.

Cllr Allingham has kindly offered to collect the bench which was purchased by the Parish Council. It was proposed that the bench be installed at the newly acquired Froghall Lane site. A base will need to be installed for the bench to be fixed down. Cllr Allingham also proposed to host an open day at the Froghall Lane site. All in attendance were in agreement.

There is an opportunity to apply for free native trees from the Woodland Trust. Councillors discussed potential locations and how the trees would be maintained once planted. It was agreed that Cllr Allingham would apply and then the Councillors would discuss locations.

**Action: Cllr Allingham**

Please see attached report for further information.

## **10. WSCC Update**

The Parish Council, as the landlord, has received financial documents from the WSCC. This information will support the Parish Council in preparing a new lease and determining a fair rent that appropriately reflects the costs associated with maintaining the property.

The WSCC have bought a bench in memory of Gareth McCormick and would like to request permission to put the bench on the sportsfield facing the cricket pitch. All Councillors in attendance were in agreement that the bench could be installed on the sportsfield.

## **11. Agenda Review**

Cllr Marjason requested further detail on the agenda items for transparency to residents. Clerk will list planning applications along with the reference number and address of property and an additional sentence to confirm any other planning matters may be discussed. The Clerk requested that Councillors provide her with the information they want added to the agenda items that they request for clarity.

## **12. Finance**

### **a) RFO to make a statement of the last months finances**

End of year accounts and month end accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. Please see attached reports.

Clerk to review applications of S106 monies and ensure everything has been claimed.

**Action: Clerk**



Clerk to obtain three quotes from local solicitors regarding rewriting the WSCC lease.

**Action: Clerk**

**b) Review and approval of revised 2026/7 budget**

Cllr Marjason has reviewed the budget based on expenditure for 2025/2026 and some amendments have been made. All in attendance were in agreement with the amendments. Please see attached report.

**c) CFTBOTIOW Barclays mandate**

Cllr Standing and the Clerk have completed the forms and submitted to Barclays. Cllr Marjason should receive communication from Barclays within 10 business days.

**13. Burial ground risk assessment**

Cllr Rist and the Clerk will carry out the risk assessment. Cllr Warner suggested having a sign created to explain some of the history of the site.

**14. Street lights**

Cllr Standing has provided the Clerk with images of the street lights that need replacing on Winters Lane and the church. Cllr Rist will speak with the church to see if the streetlight is working. The Clerk should wait to hear from Cllr Rist before contacting Ringway for quote.

**15. WPC Calendar**

Monthly tasks were reviewed and are up to date.

**16. Communications**

Cllr Warner has spoken to a local resident who could not confirm who repaired the WSCC field gate.

Cllr Standing has been made aware that the red pointer on the clock on the new playground equipment in the High Street is broken. He has gone to the playground and checked and the pointers are both on the equipment but are loose. Clerk to contact Luke King HAGS to request that they come and repair.

**Action: Clerk**

Meeting closed: 21:18