



WALKERN Parish Council

**Walkern Parish Council Meeting
To be held on
Thursday 7th May 2026
At
Walkern Sports & Community Centre at 7.00pm**

MINUTES

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Rist asked for nominations for the election of Chair. Cllr Rist was the only Councillor nominated. All in attendance were in favour. Cllr Rist was duly elected and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2. Attendance

Cllrs Christine Nudds, RFO Reg Marjason, Mike Allingham, Paul Warner, Michele Rist (Chair), Cllr Tony Stowe, Cllr Deffley, one member of public, Abi Brown (Clerk)

3. Apologies

Cllr Rist informed the Parish Council that Cllr Standing has resigned. The Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Standing for his contributions and dedication as a Parish Councillor.

4. Declaration of Interest

None

5. Minutes

Minutes of Walkern Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd April 2026 were approved. Cllr Allingham proposed to approve the minutes which was seconded by Cllr Marjason. Cllr Rist signed the minutes.

6. Matters arising from Minutes

There is a tree in the High Street playground which appears to be damaged. Cllrs Rist has arranged for a tree smith to come and look at the tree and take the appropriate action to make it safe.

It was agreed by all in attendance that Facebook will be removed. The Clerk is to ask Dave Standing to close the Facebook page as it was felt that it was not used enough.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk advised that now Cllr Standing has stepped down, there will need to be a new signatory on the Unity Trust bank account. Cllr Nudds volunteered to be a signatory. All in

attendance approved. Cllr Marjason will set Cllr Nudds up on the Unity Trust Bank account as a signatory.

Action: Cllr Marjason

The WSCC playground has had it's annual inspection and Councillors have reviewed the report. The Clerk was asked to send relevant parts of the report regarding football posts to the WSCC.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Nudds raised that parking at school time continues to be dangerous. The Clerk is to contact the Community Police to request they attend the site again to deter dangerous parking.

Action: Clerk

7. Public Issues

Cllr Rist raised that a resident is parking on a dropped curb on the High Street. Clerk to write a polite letter to the resident to request that they do not park in this location as it makes it dangerous for pedestrians.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Warner raised that the hedge on the corner of Stevenage Road was overgrown again. Clerk to send a polite letter to request the hedge be trimmed.

Action: Clerk

A resident attended the meeting to provide an update on Lanvallay. The twinning town in France recently had an election and is now under a new political party. The twinning is still an official project but Walkern now only has one committee member. There are two residents from Walkern who were due to travel over to Lanvallay this year but this date has now been pushed back to 2027.

8. Chair/Clerk Updates

The Clerk is continuing to obtain quotes from solicitors to create the revised lease for WSCC.

9. Adoption of Protocols

a) Standing Orders

Parish Council adopted the Walkern Parish Council Standing Orders.

b) Financial Regulations

The Parish Council reviewed the Financial Regulations document and all were in agreement that these were satisfactory.

10. Planning

a. X/26/0172/CND - Land off Winters Lane

Councillors will review the discharge application and provide relevant comments

b. X/26/0189/CND - Land off Winters Lane



Councillors will review the discharge application and provide relevant comments

The Clerk is to chase EHDC Planning to see if there has been any response regarding the enforcement notice.

Action: Clerk

District Cllr Stowe made the Parish Council aware of a large site included in the 'Call for Sites'. It is approx. 67 acres which is twice the size of Hazel Park. Cllr Stowe and Cllr Deffley are attending meetings with regards to this site and will keep the Parish Council up to date.

11. Wilder Walkern

Cllr Allingham provided an update. The Swift meeting was a success and there has been a lot of interest from residents who would like to have a swift box installed.

A quote has been received for £3500 from the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to complete a survey. Cllr Allingham has requested funding and waits to hear back on this.

Cllr Allingham has written to MP Chris Hinchliff about the Wilder Walkern initiative and MP Chris Hinchliff will be attending the next Wilder Walkern meeting on 11th June 2026.

Cllr Allingham will be writing to those on the mailing list asking for further ideas and donations.

12. WSCC Update

Cllr Rist advised that there is a special type of wheel that can be used on the gate at the WSCC which has a spring on it which helps take the weight. Cllr Warner will be looking at the gate to see if it can be fixed without purchasing new parts.

13. Froghall Lane Site

a) To discuss the installation of a bench

Councillors will meet on site to discuss location of the bench

b) To review and discuss the risk assessment

The risk assessment will be reviewed on site.

14. Finance

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

The RFO circulated the finance reports prior to the meeting. Cllr Marjason advised that NCD have invoiced the Parish Council for 5 cuts rather than every other week. The Clerk will email NCD again to reiterate that the Parish Council would the sportsfield cut every other week.

Action: Clerk

b) Approval of the AGAR section 1 & 2

Parish Councillors agreed that the Annual governance statement detailed in **Section One** of the Annual Return, together with **Section Two**, the accounting statement 2025/2026, be approved and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.



The RFO, Cllr Marjason, will e-mail the completed Annual Return and relevant documentation to PKF Littlejohn (official auditors) on or before Tuesday 1st July. The RFO will also advertise the public inspection dates, which are 29th June to 7th August 2026.

15. WPC Calendar

The June meeting will move to Wednesday 3rd June 2026. The Clerk will book the WSCC.

Action: Clerk

The village walkabout will be done on Tuesday 26th May 2026.

Cllr Marjason advised the Council that the first half of the precept has been received.

Clerk to arrange High Street Playground inspection to be carried out in June.

Action: Clerk

16. Communications

Cllr Warner was approached by a resident regarding rubbish that continues to be dumped down the side of the shop. The rubbish has now been removed.

Meeting closed: 20:56