

Walkern Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 2nd July 2026
Walkern Sports & Community Centre at 7.00pm

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Cllrs Christine Nudds, RFO Reg Marjason, Mike Allingham, Paul Warner, Michele Rist (Chair), Courtney Blinco, District Cllr Tom Deffley, 1 x resident

2. Apologies

None

3. Co-option of new Councillor

Cllr Rist proposed that Courtney Blinco be coopted as Parish Councillor. Cllr Nudds seconded and all in attendance were in favour. Cllr Blinco signed the declaration of office and was coopted into Walkern Parish Council.

4. Declaration of Interest

None

5. Minutes

Minutes of Walkern Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd June 2026 were approved. Cllr Marjason proposed to approve the minutes which was seconded by Cllr Nudds. Cllr Rist signed the minutes.

6. Matters arising from Minutes

None

7. Public Issues

District Cllr Tom Deffley asked if there had been an improvement in communication from East Herts Planning department. The Parish Council felt that there has been a small improvement but there is room for further improvement.

Cllr Warner raised a query regarding a site on Stevenage Road where buildings have been erected and people are living on the site. The Clerk will raise a query with planning enforcement.

Action: Clerk

8. Chair/Clerk Updates

The Clerk advised that the S106 monies for tree pollarding were rejected due to it being maintenance of the area and not for new equipment.

The Clerk has submitted Council's response to the East Herts Local Plan Scoping consultation and received confirmation that it was delivered safely.

Cllr Rist confirmed that following reporting the debris on the road from a tree falling in Stevenage Road, this has now been cleared up and the road is safe again.

9. Planning

- a) **3/26/0731/FUL - East Barn Bridges Farm** – Conversion of existing barn from agricultural to residential – No comment to be submitted

Action: Clerk

- b) **3/26/0732/LBC – East Barn Bridges Farm** - Listed building consent for the conversion of existing barn from agricultural to residential – No comment to be submitted

Action: Clerk

10. Wilder Walkern

Cllr Allingham provided an update on Wilder Walkern. MP Chris Hinchliff attended a meeting which was very successful and positive. Countryside Management Services have visited Walkern and did a walk around with several Parish Councillors. They will be putting together a report which should then enable the Parish Council to apply for grants and funding.

Swift and House Martin Cups have been installed throughout Walkern. Cllr Allingham has asked the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife representative to come and give a talk and is awaiting to hear back from them.

There has been a lot of volunteers who would like to donate building materials and help build the bug hotel. Cllr Allingham produced a sign for the bug hotel which Graphix kindly offered to produce free of charge. Cllr Allingham produced a sign for the bug hotel which Graphix kindly offered to produce free of charge.

Cllr Allingham has written a newsletter to ask for future ideas that residents would like to see happen and is awaiting a response.

11. WSCC Update

a) Update from WSCC

None

b) Update on lease

Parish Councillors have met and reviewed the new lease which will be shared with the WSCC Committee. A meeting has been arranged between the Parish Council and the WSCC Committee on Wednesday 29th July at 7pm at the WSCC. The meeting will be an opportunity for both parties to review and discuss the newly proposed lease. Clerk to send the draft lease with mark ups to the WSCC prior to the meeting.

Action: Clerk

Clerk to send Cllr Courtney a copy of the draft lease, our insurance policy and the WSCC Insurance policy.

Action: Clerk

12. Froghall Lane Site

Two new benches have been purchased by the Parish Council and one of these is to be placed at the Froghall Lane site. The location of the bench will be carefully considered so that it is not overlooking onto the houses near to the site. The other bench will be placed at the High Street Playground.

13. Village Hierarchy Study

Cllr Marjason has reviewed the study and it was felt that it was generally accurate. It was agreed that there is no action to be taken as yet until the final report is issued.

14. East Herts Local Plan Scoping Consultation

Cllr Marjason put together a response to the consultation. The Clerk submitted the response on 29th June 2026 and a confirmation of receipt has been received.

Clerk to send a copy of the consultation to Cllr Courtney.

Action: Clerk

15. Finance

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

RFO has circulated the financial statement prior to the meeting. There is a forecast deficit of around £2000 by the end of year.

b) Charity Accounts

It was proposed by Cllr Nudds that the new benches and installation of them should be paid for by the charity accounts. All Trustees in attendance voted in favour of this motion.

It was proposed by Cllr Nudds that the cost of the tree cutting at the playground be paid from the charity accounts. All Trustees in attendance voted in favour of this motion.

Action: Cllr Marjason

16. WPC Calendar

The calendar has been circulated and was reviewed to ensure the monthly actions are up to date.

17. Communications

Cllr Warner suggested having a WhatsApp group. All in attendance were in approval. The Clerk will set up the WhatsApp group.

Action: Clerk

The Walking and Cycling Infrastructure has been released but without an appendix H and without a key to the maps. Clerk to contact EHDC to request access to this information.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Blinco volunteered to review the options with Facebook and Instagram to see if they would be a good option to encourage engagement from residents.

Action: Cllr Blinco

Meeting closed: 21:01