

**Walkern Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 3rd September 2026
Walkern Sports & Community Centre at 7.00pm**

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Cllrs RFO Reg Marjason, Mike Allingham, Courtney Blinco, Michele Rist (Chair), District Cllr Tom Deffley, Abi Brown (Clerk).

2. Apologies

Cllr Nudd and Cllr Warner sent their apologies.

3. Declaration of Interest

None

4. Minutes

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

5. Matters arising from Minutes

None

6. Public Issues

District Cllr Tom Deffley advised the council that Vicky Glover-Ward has now left her position as Executive Member for Planning and Growth at East Herts Council and ward member for Hertford Kingsmead, and has been replaced by Maura Connolly.

7. Chair/Clerk Updates

The Clerk has tried to contact Leon DeBruyn to query how we can contact the relevant department within the Police who are dealing with reuniting the stolen lamps with their owners. He advised that we report the theft to 101. The Clerk is trying to locate an image of the stolen lamp to report it to the police.

Action: Clerk

8. Planning

To review planning applications received and discuss any other planning matters:

i. 3/26/1042/HH - 62 Stevenage Road – Part single/part two storey rear extension, new door opening and front porch and alterations to fenestration

The Parish Council responded to the planning application on 21st August with no comments or objections.

Cllr Rist raised the solar planning application and queried if District Cllr Tom Deffley was aware of any news. District Cllr Tom Deffley advised that he wasn't aware of any updates but would investigate.

A request for screening (3/26/1230/SCREEN) has been received today for the land at the West Of High Street, Walkern, for a request for an environment report for 125 homes to be built by Taylor Wimpy. EHDC have not notified the Parish Council and have not asked for comments at this stage. District Cllr Tom Deffley is attending a Planning Committee meeting on 17th September and will advise the Parish Council of the outcome. Councillor's will review the draft response that Cllr Marjason has prepared for the Clerk to submit.

Action: Clerk

9. Wilder Walkern

Cllr Allingham advised that the bug hotel has been created and finished. The Parish Council passed their thanks to all of the volunteers who helped construct and supply materials for the bug hotel and Graphix who supplied the sign free of charge.

An Ecology Survey has still not been received. Cllr Allingham has chased to see when it would be provided but has not received a response as yet.

Cllr Allingham has been trying to find a guest speaker for the next meeting for Wilder Walkern and is exploring various options.

10. WSCC Update

a) Update from WSCC

None

b) Update on lease

Chair of the WSCC Committee, Nigel, attended the meeting to sign the amended lease which was reviewed and agreed upon at a meeting between the Parish Council and the WSCC Committee on 27th July. Two copies of the lease were signed and one was kept by the WSCC and one by the Parish Council.

11. Speeding Concerns

The Parish Council have received several communications regarding speeding within the village. The Clerk will email Cllr Ken Crofton to raise the speeding issues.

Action: Clerk

12. Street Lighting and Road Markings

The light in the Highstreet has now been repaired by Ringway.

Road markings along Stevenage Road have not been painted and the Parish Council felt that due to the layout of the road this was particularly dangerous. There is also a section in front of the school which has been repainted but the 's' of 'slow' has not been repainted. Clerk to report this to Highways.

Action: Clerk

13. Yew Tree Pub

The Parish Council were expecting a group of local residents to attend the meeting to discuss the acquisition of the Yew Tree but there was no one in attendance.

14. Finance

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

Cllr Marjason circulated the financial reports prior to the meeting. The predicted expenditure has now levelled out due to the agreed lease amount with the WSCC and the Clerk's pension contributions having been lowered.

The Clerk queried if the allotment rent should be increased or if the water charges cover the consumption costs. The Council felt that due to the increase in water usage as a result of the hot weather this summer and the increase in cost for water supply that the rent should be increased to cover these costs as follows:

Full Plot - £35 to £50

Half Plot - £30 to £40

Quarter Plot - £15 to £20

The Clerk will send the invoices out to the plot holders and include an explanation of the increase in the annual rent due to the increase in water charges and usage.

Action: Clerk

b) AGAR Amendment

PKF Littlejohn asked that the Charity funds be added to the AGAR. RFO Cllr Marjason and Cllr Rist initialed the amendment. Cllr Marjason will submit the amendment.

Action: Cllr Marjason

15. WPC Calendar

The calendar was circulated prior to the meeting and reviewed. All items are currently up to date.

16. Communications

None

Meeting closed: 21:10