

Present:

Councillors: T Earnshaw, C Pearson, D Brooke, J Sutcliffe, S Baker, B Kaushiva & J Carlon (Chair)

In attendance:

2 members of public. Suzanne Knowles (Temporary Clerk). Apologies received from PC C Steel (West Yorkshire Police)

Ward Councillors – M Cummings. Apologies received from F Heptinstall & U Ali

174 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons for absence – Cllrs K Nixon & T Saunders submitted apologies for absence. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the reasons for absence.

175 To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on 4th March 2025

RESOLVED The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th March 2025 were **approved** as a correct record

176 To receive declarations of interest – none.

177 To be advised of matters achieved or arisen since the last meeting not included elsewhere on the agenda

- None

178 Wakefield MDC Ward 5 Councillor update

- Numerous objections have been raised regarding the introduction of a 30mph speed limit on Oakenshaw Lane to still include a 40mph section. It is possible that the TRO may be withdrawn and a new TRO issued to reflect the views of the residents and the Ward Councillors.
- The state of School Lane was discussed, after the resurfacing which is very satisfactory but does now mean there is a possibility of people driving faster.
- Kids Kitchen was highlighted as the annual party put on by the Ward Councillors.
- Regarding the proposed site for Wakefield AFC, a discussion took place regarding the Parish Council to meet with G Decker (owner of W.A.F.C.) prior to a public meeting. The timings of the proposed meetings were discussed as only there is a small window of time the owner of W.A.F.C. is available to meet in person.

RESOLVED – Council to meet with W.A.F.C via Zoom on 7th April, followed with the Council to meet W.A.F.C. face to face at Walton Village Hall on 14th April. The public consultation with W.A.F.C. to be held at Walton Village Hall on 17th April. Ward Councillor M Cummings to liaise with W.A.F.C. to confirm availability.

- A list of roadworks was emailed to Walton Parish Council

RESOLVED – Receipt of this document was acknowledged by the Council

179 Public Forum –

- A member of the public expressed concerns over the Brooke Farm area development proposal from an ecological perspective. The crucial part this area plays to connect wildlife was highlighted; lose the connectivity and you will lose the wildlife. The disruption, activity, road usage, and especially the lighting

is a threat to all wildlife not just the nocturnal animals. The representative also raised concern that further development may follow in the long run.

RESOLVED – Council advised an ecology report would form part of a suite of reports being compiled by Wakefield Council. Council further advised the local ecology groups to endeavour to work with the developers.

- A member of the public expressed concerns over new practices that have been introduced at Walton Academy regarding how pupils walk around school.

RESOLVED – Council stated it has no authority in this matter and advised to follow the Academy’s complaints procedure.

180 SAFE Scheme & Police matters - The latest report was reviewed. No priority crimes were reported.

- The illegal activity of copper stripping from the railway lines was highlighted.
- The parking outside the Village Hall was discussed, specifically with respect to Village Hall users.

RESOLVED – A request to regular hirers to remind their group members to park safely and legally whilst attending. In addition, the Village Hall Hiring Conditions to be amended to include a statement that users should park safely and legally. Proposed by Cllr J Sutcliffe, seconded by Cllr D Brooke.

181 Finance & Governance

The temporary Clerk submitted details (as prepared by the Clerk prior to absence) for February 2025 of accounts paid totalling £3,016.72 and income received of £1,971.63. The account balances at the end of February 2025 were: -

Barclays current	£5,485.21
Barclays premium	£41,606.21
Nationwide savings	<u>£83,350.81</u>
Total	<u>£130,442.23</u>

RESOLVED

- Accounts paid and already paid under delegated authority and income received in February 2025 were approved.
- It was agreed Cllr S Baker cover the Clerk’s financial reporting whilst the Clerk is absent. In this capacity, hardcopy of invoices received were passed to Cllr S Baker
- Village Hall/ Tennis court insurance renewal quote was accepted and passed to Cllr S Baker for payment.
- Coronation Cottage Insurance to re-quote to reflect no occupier.
- Final energy bills for Coronation Cottage to be passed onto P Readman’s family by Cllr J Carlon.
- An amendment to be made to the hiring conditions that all hirers must ensure full insurance cover for any 3rd party companies used. Proposed by Cllr J Carlon, seconded by Cllr S Baker
- Invitation to Safe Scheme 2025/2026 – the Clerk to confirm continued membership with the same number of hours as current year. Proposed by Cllr J Carlon, seconded by Cllr S Baker
- Mobile Phone monthly price increase accepted.
- The appointment of a temporary Clerk was approved.

182 Planning Committee Working Party

- 25/00421/FUL – Single Storey Front & Rear extension – 20 The Balk, Walton

RESOLVED – No Comments

- 25/00484/TPO - AWA Consultants TPO applications on our behalf - Walton Park, Walton

RESOLVED – No Comments

183 Village Hall & Coronation Cottage

RESOLVED – Coronation Cottage Refurbishment

- Cllr J Carlon proposed to move from employing a project management company to managing the refurbishment works by a working party within the Council. This was agreed.
- Refurbishment to include:
 - Kitchen replacement and fitting
 - Move the electricity meter
 - Re-wire/ Electricals
 - Plastering
 - Flooring replacement
 - Porch refurbishment/ removal
 - Decoration
- Three quotes to be sought for each area. The Clerk to contact suggested suppliers.
- Working party to be Cllr J Carlon, Cllr J Sutcliffe, Cllr T Earnshaw & Cllr K Nixon
- An initial budget of £25,000 was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Sutcliffe, seconded by Cllrs Pearson & Baker

184 Park & Jubilee Field

- AWA Tree Consultants have been instructed to apply to WMDC for tree trimming and tree felling for those trees in the Park and ex-tennis court area with TPOs. No progress will be made until permission received.
- Reported damage to the basketball courts will be checked by the Council
- Risk Assessment by Sport Active

RESOLVED – Council will undertake the risk assessment. The Clerk to advise Sport Active accordingly.

185 Parish Environment

- Tanya's bench has been installed.

186 Floral Displays

- The Council's own listing of in use hanging basket lampposts differs to the WMDC listing and physical validation has been sought.

RESOLVED – Council will use the list as held by Walton Parish Council,

- Clerk P Walsh contacted C Davison on 6th March regarding displays testing but there has been no response.

RESOLVED – Cllr J Sutcliffe to follow this up

- Florals order to First Impressions

RESOLVED – the Clerk to order the florals. Proposed by Cllr D Brooke, seconded by Cllr S Baker

187 Communications – Cllr J Sutcliffe has surplus newsletters if required

188 Tennis Club Refurbishment

- Discussion around possibility of qualifying for extra funding.

189 Correspondence Received

RESOLVED – A request to start a weekly Pilates class was discussed. The Clerk to correspond to establish a clear idea of what is expected and how this might be accommodated.

RESOLVED – A suggestion to create additional parking was refused as it is a ground dedicated to sports and recreation.

RESOLVED – Offer of help during search for a permanent Caretaker was discussed. The Clerk to correspond to establish what kind of help is being offered.

RESOLVED – Shay Lane re-surfacing enquiry to be passed on to Ward Councillors.

RESOLVED – A request to begin a weekly playgroup in the Village Hall was discussed. The Clerk to correspond to establish what is possible.

190 Invitations to the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th May 2025

RESOLVED – the Clerk will email Working for Walton, Friends of Waterton’s Wall, Walton Community Library & West Yorkshire Police with an invitation as per previous years. The Clerk will also post a notice on the Village Hall notice board.

191 Regarding the posting of the co-opting of the 2 vacant Councillor positions onto social media

RESOLVED – Permission has been received from WMDC so the Clerk will post the vacancies on Facebook and the website. A printed notice will also be posted at the Village Hall.

192 Regarding the financial processes required during Clerk’s absence including the payment of salaries.

RESOLVED – Cllr J Carlon and Cllr S Baker will cover the payments, receipts and banking. It was agreed Clerk P Walsh would have to cover Payroll/ HMRC. This was proposed by Cllr J Carlon and seconded by Cllr C Pearson

The meeting ended at 9.45pm