



Welcome to Walton Parish Council newsletter Summer 2026 edition.

Parish Council Matters

Are you interested in getting involved and becoming a Parish Councillor? We currently have 4 vacancies. You just need to be able to attend the monthly meetings and make decisions in a way that represents the residents of Walton. We do expect prospective councillors to have attended at least one Parish Council meeting (the next one is at 7pm on Tuesday 1st September). If being a Parish Councillor of interest to you, then please contact the Clerk (details in the panel at the head of this newsletter), or speak to one of the other Councillors.

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Chris Pearson who has recently retired from his Parish Council duties. Chris has been a key player within the Council for many years and will be missed.

Hot topics from recent Parish Council meetings

Traffic concerns - The reduction in the speed limit along Oakenshaw Lane has been greatly appreciated by local residents. Our **Safe Scheme** officers have been monitoring the road on a regular basis and have found on the whole that people are driving safely within the 30mph limit.

The Parish Council pay for extra police support as part of the Safe Scheme programme. This scheme allows PC Craig Steel and his colleagues to concentrate patrols on the village of Walton, based around intelligence received and requests from the local community. The scheme also means the patrols are dedicated and uninterrupted. They are there solely to patrol Walton no matter what other calls come in and also have the advantage of having excellent links with the Special Constables. The Traffic officer concentrates predominantly on the issue of speeding, and other road safety issues, and his expertise has resulted in numerous prosecutions for road traffic offences. The SAFE scheme also provides dedicated patrols at and around the school, monitoring the zebra crossing, and the general flow of traffic. Tickets have been issued for people using phones whilst driving past the school, parking too close to the junction and failing to use the zebra crossing correctly.

PC Steel urges the public to report any suspicious behaviour or suspected crime. Please contact 101 or in case of an emergency 999. You can also email him directly at Craig.steel@westyorkshire.police.uk

At the recent PACT meeting PC Buck shared "Op Snap" which allows road users to upload video recordings of bad driving through an online submission form found at:

www.westyorkshire.police.uk/SaferRoadsSubmissions

Be a good citizen - With the summer here, we would like to encourage residents to keep bushes and trees in their gardens trimmed back where they overhang the pavement. Where pavements are obstructed, this can be reported to WMDC who may ultimately undertake the pruning and pass the cost back to the homeowner. So by being proactive with the shears, it is less hassle for both homeowners, the council, and everyone walking round the village.

Please also be thoughtful when parking. Some of our roads are narrow and it is crucial that pavements are clear for pedestrians, pushchairs and mobility scooters. Thank you!

Recent projects carried out by the Parish Council

Park and Tennis Court Plans - Thank you to the many residents who visited the Parish Council's stand at the Party in the Park the other month and gave their feedback on our plans for the old tennis courts. The plans include a wide range of potential facilities: padel courts, new play equipment, a wildlife pond, quiet places to sit, pretty planting and wildflower meadows, new southern & northern entrances, an orchard, pétanque pitch, table tennis, raised beds for community planting and tree planting to the boundaries of football pitches. Knowing how much support there is for each of these facilities will help us move forward to the next stages of obtaining planning permission and funding. It is not too late for you to give us your feedback; you can visit our website www.waltonparishcouncil.org.uk/tennis-court-development where you can see the plans and complete the Engagement Questionnaire, which will remain open for comments until the end of July.

Floral Displays - The Parish Council are pleased to see that the summer hanging baskets from our suppliers are in situ. If you wish to sponsor a basket please contact the Clerk. The large planters have now come under the remit of the Parish Councillors and are blooming. Our groundsman is now responsible for their on-going care.



The Blue Plaque commemorating Charles Waterton and Walton Hall has been refurbished and is now back in situ. The Fingerpost has been carefully removed and is currently being repaired and refurbished by specialists. It

will hopefully be back in situ in the Autumn.

Training - Around 30 people attended the recent CPR and AED Familiarisation training organised by the Parish Council. This was a great turn out and we thank our local paramedic team for their expertise and time.

Smiley Sid - Councillors are currently looking at a variety of options to hire/purchase signs which warn drivers about their speed. These can be moved to different areas of the village.

Village news

Walton Community Library – Walton Community Library is working hard to keep our Library open for everyone. Over the Summer, our doors will be open to everyone, especially children, through our reading challenge. The theme this year is “A Summer of Sport”. From 18th July to 12th September, children from anywhere are encouraged to come to the library to take and read six books. Once they complete the challenge, they will receive a Gold Medal and a certificate.

Alongside the reading challenge, a table football game will be available on Saturday Morning for all the children to have some fun. Saturdays are always busy, filled with our Junior Volunteers and Youth Ambassadors who help everyone. There will also be a display of information for sporting activities in Walton and the surrounding areas.

We have recently set up an online Vinted store to sell some of our books. Why not take a look?

The annual library calendar photography challenge is now open. Submit a photo you may have of Walton for a chance to have your photograph used in the 2027 calendar. Photos need to be submitted by 31st August to be entered for the final votes.

Working for Walton -Walton's 9th Scarecrow Festival will take place on Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September 2026, at Scarecrow HQ – Walton Village Hall. Here you will purchase your Scarecrow Trail Maps (still only £3), find refreshments, licenced bar, cake stall, tombola and raffle. Once you've seen them all, vote for your favourite back at Scarecrow HQ. Why not stay for the results and raffle draw, enjoy a cuppa and a cake in the pop-up café, or an alcoholic beverage from the licenced bar. Prize giving begins at 5pm - come along and join in the fun.

Proceeds from the Scarecrow Festival weekend helps fund Walton's Christmas Trees and fabulous Light Switch On event. We really need those scarecrow entries submitting early please. Closing date for entries is Friday 30th August 2026. Thinking caps on folks, submit your scarecrow entries by Friday 28th August.

Walton Methodist church – there is a service at 10.30 each Sunday and anyone is made welcome, whether you are new to the village or have lived here a while and looking to connect with the church. The church is open on Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning for anyone who wants a quiet safe space to reflect or pray.

We continue with our charity fund raising efforts throughout the year and engage with village events.

Of note there is our Macmillan coffee morning in September and a Murder Mystery evening and coffee morning fundraiser for Breast Cancer in October. Each Thursday afternoon we have the pop-up Post Office 1-3pm with coffee, cakes and crafts available We have our monthly lunch/bingo session to support Maureen Cummings and her fund raising efforts for Kids Kitchen and Women's Refuge. We collect for CAP dried food etc. throughout the year and any donations can be dropped at the church when it is open. Look out for other events on the Walton Forum and Working for Walton Facebook pages.

The Friends of Waterton's Wall - WallFest26, celebrating the bicentenary of the completion of the wall around the first nature reserve, was a great success. The Lord Lieutenant of Yorkshire opened the festival by unveiling the refurbished Blue Plaque. More than 50 events took place across 20 sites, involving collaboration with around 40 individuals and organisations from across the Wakefield District. The 31 day festival ended with a procession down School Lane by Studio A dancers, Brownies and Guides which led to a Party in the Park, organised with Working for Walton and attended by about 1,000 people. A fabulous afternoon of entertainment included music, Morris dancing, stalls and the very popular sports races and Tug O War.

Many events were held at The Nest, an area of land with a bench and interpretation panel adjacent to the wall that we have preserved. Search Google Maps for “The Nest” and tell us what you think.

Our recently updated website includes the trailer for our film featuring Sir David Attenborough: www.friendsofwatertonswall.com

