

Waltham Parish Council

EST. 1894

Website: <https://waltham-pc.gov.uk>

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 5th of November 2024 at Waltham Village Hall

In line with the Transparency Code all public documents relating to the meeting are published on the Parish Council website. Please note that the minutes remain in Draft form until approved at the next meeting.

Present: Parish Councillors John Barry (JB) (chair), John Hockley (JH), Jane Robinson (JR), and Hugh Robinson (HR)

In attendance: City Cllr Mike Bland and Clerk / RFO Tracey Block

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

JB welcomed all to the meeting

24/25.160 To receive any apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

24/25.161 To receive Declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

24/25.162 To approve the minutes of Motions and Resolutions of the meeting held on the 1st of October 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

24/25.163 Public Session: To receive representations questions and evidence from members of the public.

Thanks were extended to the WSRA for the fireworks celebrations and the Village Hall cut back volunteers.

24/25.164 To co-opt a new Councillor to the Parish Council, including the completion of the Acceptance of Office Form and the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests Form.

The co-option forms were completed and signed by the newly co-opted Parish Councillor.

24/25.165 Chairman's Report: To receive an update on current issues:

- a) **Capital Grants from CCC** – The Parish Council can apply for a capital grant if it wishes to. The PC will support this by way of a letter of support as required.
- b) **Meeting with local Councils** – Cllr Barry had attended the meeting with local Councils. This was a very cordial event and gave an opportunity to discuss local common issues. Recruiting volunteers and Parish Councillors seems to be difficult across a widespread area.
- c) **The light in the phone box** – This has not worked for a while, the Parish Council discussed replacing the lightbulb. Cllr Barry will discuss with an electrician.
- d) **CCC owned flat** – The fact that this is empty has been raised with Cllr Bland. It remains empty since refurbishment. Cllr Bland has emailed the Head of Service and the Head of Housing to raise the matter, a response is hopefully going to be forthcoming. A briefing on housing will be attended by Cllr Bland with housing, he will report back to the Parish Council following this. It was suggested that the City Council could brief Parish Councils about housing.

24/25.166 To receive reports: from County and City Councillors.

The report from Cllr Sole had been circulated.

Cllr Bland reported back on the retrospective planning application in Anvil Green. A number of residents have been in touch with Cllr Bland because the documents are in and the number of objections is large. Cllr Bland made a commitment that this would be called in to the Planning Committee should the delegated Officer be minded to approve the application. The application has not yet been decided. Residents are concerned that South East Water and UKPN intend to run services to the site without planning permission having been agreed.

Cllr Bland was asked about the developments in Duck Pit with residential containers being installed. Enforcement action does not appear to be robust or timely. Cllr Robinson is yet to draft a letter to planning enforcement. But will do so in order that they can be reminded of the issue.

24/25.167 Planning: To receive any outstanding planning applications and to approve a response as necessary. Planning Application: CA/24/01927 to convert a barn to a dwelling. The Parish Council only received this today, this will be viewed and discussed at the next meeting.

24/25.168 Finance:

- a) To **note** year to date receipts and payments. The Parish Council noted a bank balance £14,051.47.
- b) **Payment Schedule:** To approve payment transactions for October 2024.
The Clerk will check what we are paying Parish Online for exactly. All payments were approved.
- c) **Update** on the position regarding the HMRC penalty charges from 2023-24. The overpayment is now showing on the Parish Council account and a reimbursement of these has been requested. Repayment is awaited.
- d) **Budget Agreement** for 2025/26: The budget had been circulated ahead of the meeting and was agreed.
- e) **Precept Agreement** for 2025/26: The Parish Council agreed to precept for £8,300.00.

24/25.169 Parish Plan

To discuss the next steps with the Parish Plan. Cllr Barnes was not present so this was deferred to the next meeting.

24/25.170 Dates of meetings:

The next **Ordinary Meeting** of the council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday the **3rd of December 2024**. Cllr Barry will not be available for the meeting on 04/02/2025 and sent his apologies ahead of that meeting.

Chairmans signature:

Date: 5th November 2024