

Waltham Parish Council

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Minutes of Waltham Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 April 2025

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm in Waltham Village Hall,

APM 25.01 Welcome and introductions:

The Chair (John Barry) introduced himself, Cllrs Yolande Barnes, Jane Robinson, Hugh Robinson and John Hockley, the Clerk and welcomed those present: Penny Best, Carolyn and Dean Lawrence, Les Leslie, Paul Newton, Chris Cox and Pam Cox.

APM 25.02 Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Heather Robertson, Lynn Saxby and Mike Thompson

APM 25.03 Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on & matters arising:

These were confirmed with no matters arising and signed as a true record.

APM 25.04 KCC/CCC member reports: (see website for full report)

Mike Sole had circulated his report.

APM 25.05 Chairman's report: (see website for full report)

We spent in the region £600 spent on inclement weather gritting, we would like views on this.

The play equipment at the park was discussed, some of the play equipment had to be removed. Thoughts on what should be provided to replace this.

Parish Council – elections are due in 2027, it was asked whether this should be staged mid-terms but this is undertaken as legislation. The Council needs Councillors to be elected in order to retain the General Power of Competence.

A resident questioned that when we received the Council Tax bill, the Parish Council had been allocated with £0.

The Clerk is to check this.

Any views on the gritting costs? Quite a lot of money was spent and there were probably 8-9 frosty mornings. The specification is to spread salt where required. There is an argument for changing this and wondered what the parishioners thought.

A resident queried whether all hills in the parish have salt bins? – all hills do have salt bins and these are the responsibility of KCC.

Would we be snow ploughed out if it snowed? Yes, we would have to pay. If you don't have a policy of gritting then, the School route would not be gritted. Individuals would be cut off.

Suggest that the routes are more specific.

Play equipment - A discussion ensued regarding the replacement of the removed play equipment. Whether there are alternative uses and costs associated with replacing the item. It was suggested that, as the ship and swings exist, there could be a volley-ball court or similar. If no need for additional seating, a court could be ideal. Maybe a poll would be useful.

APM 25.06 Reports from parish organisations: (see website for full reports)

a) WSRA (Penny Best) – congratulations on managing the WSRA.

b) Bodsham School (Paul Newton)

Observation – School in Waltham had 5 children. Just a single family can affect the viability of the School.

What is the location of the parents – Canterbury, Ashford, Wye etc. Quite widespread.

Do you have any children on pupil premium? - Yes, but this is below the national average.

The work of the PTA helps to balance this lack of income.

c) Table tennis (John Barry on behalf of Heather Robertson) - Of the 22 members, 2 are from Petham and one is from Bodsham.

d) Yoga classes (John Barry on behalf of Lynn Saxby)

e) Social afternoons and Scrabble (Pam Cox)

f) St. Bartholomew's Church (Chris Cox)

g) Village Hall (Les Leslie)

h) Gardening Society (Les Leslie)

APM 25.07 Q/A Open session:

Would it be possible to have the dates of the meetings advertised more widely?

- Dates are on the noticeboard and they are on the website. Dates of meetings to be put in PAWNews.
- Cllr Hockley has agreed to notify the public of meeting dates on Facebook.

Chairman thanked the attendees for being here.