

Waltham Parish Council

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Minutes of Waltham Annual Parish Meeting held on 7 April 2026

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm in Waltham Village Hall,

APM 26.01 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: Cllr Mike Bland, Penny Best, Mike Thompson and Janice, Jeremy, Les Leslie, Lynn Saxby, Chris Cox and Pam Cox.

APM 26.02 Apologies for absence:

There were no apologies received.

APM 26.03 Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 15 April 2025 & matters arising:

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

APM 26.04 Chairman's report: (see website for full report)

John Barry provided his report.

APM 26.05 KCC/CCC member reports: (see website for full report)

Mike Sole had circulated his report.

Mike Bland was in attendance and provided his report.

Cllr Robinson asked whether current Councillors can be elected to sit as a Unitary Councillor? Yes, they can, the Ward would be much bigger.

Cllr Barry mentioned that the refuse collectors are very polite and work hard.

Cllr Barry was interested in taxi licences and asked whether taxi drivers have a criminal record check undertaken? Yes, they have to undertake a high-level Disclosure and Barring Service check. What about overseas drivers' records? This doesn't present a problem and they need the same level of checks. We have contact with other countries to ensure the drivers are safe to carry public.

Cllr Hockley asked whether there had been any changes since Brexit. No, not really, public safety issues are still checked.

APM 26.06 Reports from parish organisations: (see website for full reports)

- a. **WSRA (Penny Best)** - A donation for dropping off garden waste was suggested. Cllr Bland will check how often the dog waste bin should be emptied.
- b. **Social afternoons and Scrabble (Pam Cox)** -
- c. **PAW News (Mike Thompson)** - A member of the public said that the resource is very valuable and useful. Thanks were expressed to Mike and Janice.

A member of the public asked whether Mike would be willing to continue as Editor if someone took on the finances and sorted them? Is there someone in Petham willing to get involved? Could Facebook be used.

d. Yoga classes (Lynn Saxby)

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

Have you any costs as yet for the work required as highlighted in the quinquennial report? Not yet.

What is the situation with the car park? We are looking to contact the benefactor.

f. Village Hall (Les Leslie)

The Village Hall Committee were congratulated on how nice the Hall looks. Villagers are asked what they would like to see at the Village Hall. Suggested open gallery for artists. Cllr Bland offered to send something into Canterbury City Council to ensure Village Halls could be included in their Cultural Strategy.

g. Gardening Society (Les Leslie)

APM 26.07 Q/A Open session:

Potholes have been an issue and are filled if reported. Report them to KCC.

It is easy to report them.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Mike Sole on behalf of the village.

Thanks were expressed to everyone for their civic spirit.

The Chairman thanked all of the attendees.

The meeting was closed at 8.10pm