

Waltham Parish Council

Chair's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 07/04/26

WPC currently have 5 Councillors, three elected and two co-opted. All Councillors' terms will end in May 2027. The Council is fortunate to employ Mrs Tracey Block our very experienced clerk.

Over the past year the Council has met in public 10 times. All meetings are at 19.30 hrs. in the village hall, usually (but not exclusively) on the first Tuesday of the month. Earlier this year the Council agreed to reduce the number of meetings to six per year. Forthcoming meetings are due to be held on: 26th on May, 23rd June, 1st of September, 3rd of November, and on 2nd of February 2027. All documents for the meetings are published on the Council's website before each meeting is held. Minutes are placed on the: Parish Council's website; the notice board; and where possible in PAW news.

Meetings routinely cover: Council Finances and grants, reports from City and County Councillors, planning matters, highway & road safety issues, the PC's property and responsibilities, and communications with parishioners.

All business is conducted in accordance with the Government's transparency code and the Council always endeavours to reach appropriate standards of governance.

The precept for the year 25/26 was set at £8,300, and grants of £2,251 and £140 were received from Canterbury City Council in accordance with the concurrent funding arrangements. It remains to be seen if/how these arrangements will fare after the forthcoming local government reorganisation is completed. For now, however, the Council's finances remain in good order with a balance of £3,076.93 (on 06/04/26) to be carried over to the new financial year (26/27). The usual grants have been made to local organisations: £1,000 to St Bartholomew's towards the cost of grass cutting , £2,500 to WSRA for grass cutting, and £2,750 toward the running costs of the village hall. In addition, a further grant of £1,000 was made to WSRA to pay for clearance of accumulated non-burnables at the bonfire site, disposal of the old rubber base in the play area and to help address a backlog of general maintenance at the playing field.

All financial details and the budget can be found on the Council's website. This year the precept will rise to £8,915 an overall increase of £615 on 25/26.

Finally - thanks are due for so much work quietly undertaken by so many parishioners for the benefit of the community - and for which the Council extends its sincere thanks.

John Barry

07/04/26