

Waltham Parish Council

EST. 1894

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

Minutes of Waltham Parish Council meeting on 23rd of June 2026 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), Hugh Robinson (HR), Jane Robinson (JR) and Yolande Barnes (YB).

In attendance: Cllr Bland and RFO Tracey Block

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm
JB welcomed all to the meeting.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Sole and Cllr Hockley.

2. To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared.

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2026.

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2026 were signed as a true record.

4. To discuss matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda.

There were no matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda.

5. To receive a Report from District/County Councillors (to include an update on the position at Anvil Green/Dene Meadows).

Cllr Bland reported that he has been investigating the issues in Anvil Green and Dene Meadows.

Re Dene Meadows, he has no update yet from Planning Enforcement and will continue pursuing these matters. There is an outstanding planning application for Dene Meadows and this needs to be settled. Cllr Bland will pursue the planning department for this. Cllr Bland has agreed he will follow this up.

As far as Anvil Green, he is expecting that CCC will have taken legal advice and is hoping to receive an update. He is also going to discuss the matters with Rosie Duffield later this week.

JR asked if there are enough Enforcement Officers in Canterbury City Council? CCC have employed more and there still may not be enough.

Cllr Bland has offered to meet with the resident; the Clerk will put the resident in touch with Cllr Bland.

6. Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

7. To receive any report from the Chairman.

The Chairman had nothing to note.

8. Financial matters:

a) To note/authorise the following:

i. To note the Parish Council's financial position.

The Parish Council noted a bank balance of £11,034.08 as at 16th June 2026

ii. The following payments were authorised:

Invoice	Payment
Bank charges	£ 7.30
Bank charges	£ 8.05

Clerk	£ 261.50
HMRC	£ 62.20
Bank charges	£ 7.30

9. To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment.

There were no changes to the Risk Assessment

10. Planning matters: to approve the responses to any recent planning applications.

There were no planning matters to discuss.

11. To discuss a response to the questions posed by Canterbury City Council regarding the Community Governance Review

The PC has received: an email from Canterbury City Council asking that this matter be addressed, and a KALC discussion paper. The Clerk had circulated a briefing paper and a Councillor, who could not be present, had submitted written comments. Councillor Barry has discussed this matter with our County Councillor, Mike Sole. A meeting has been attended with Petham Parish Council at which Lower Hardres and Nackington Parish Council was also present.

Mike Bland explained Canterbury City Council is carrying out a Community Governance Review, the first stage of which closes on 5th July 2026. He set out the background to the CGR, how it is being undertaken and how it fitted with Local Government Reorganisation. It is being undertaken mainly to **parish** all **unparished** areas, mainly the towns in the City Council area. With this in mind, however, there is also consideration being given to the future frame of Parish Councils. Petham PC has suggested they might be interested in joining up with Waltham.

Members discussed their thoughts on the review and recent conversations with neighbouring parishes.

Cllr Barry noted that before May 21st, when we received our first email from CCC regarding this matter, we had no plan to engage with the subject or to make any changes.

If we wish to, we need to respond to CCC by 7th July. Given the way Parish Councils function this is not much notice in which to make any decision. We would need to canvass parishioners and endeavour to secure their informed views.

At the Petham meeting, Petham PC and Lower Hardres and Nackington PC both expressed interest in joining up with Waltham. (Upper Hardres PC has expressed an interest in joining with Stelling Minnis, which is not possible as things currently stand.)

The main benefits from joining with others would be from efficiencies such as burden sharing. There are three options; merger, grouping and stay as we are. Nothing would be binding at this stage.

JR commented that Waltham village may not be keen because it would lose its identity. There also doesn't appear to be any need at this stage. The PC has, however, always struggled to get Councillors in the past. All the time the new Unity Authority areas have not been decided (**not due until after 7th July**) we should not consider making any changes.

YB explained she was concerned Petham/Lower Hardres could naturally tend to take over. Petham could inevitably prove dominant. The possibility of Upper Hardres in the mix is also an issue.

Regarding the Unitary Authorities, Cllr Bland anticipates there will be 3 Unitary Authorities although there could be 4. There will be elections for Shadow Unitary Authorities next year. The level of representation in the Unitary Authorities will be more or less the same as with KCC cover now.

There was discussion about the timing of this review. It was felt for parishes it is premature coming before the shape of the Unitary Authorities are known. And the notice is too short. There is also concern that we would need to discuss this matter with the community (usually possible at an Annual Parish Meeting).

The Council concluded it is not keen on merging or grouping but are open to collaborating with Petham on specific matters as they might arise.

The Council agreed its response to the review should be that we are content to remain as we are, but are willing and interested in cooperating on specific issues in an informal way once the Unitary Authority areas are known. The Clerk will inform the Clerk of Petham PC of this decision.

12. To receive any updates on Highways/Environment.

The verge has been strimmed.

13. Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

PAW News was discussed. Petham PC are keen to take on responsibility and potentially financing this. Waltham PC were asked to assist with financing some of these. JR had spoken to a resident and PAW News is spending far too much on production. The feeling of the Petham meeting was that the magazine would be resurrected in 2027. The Clerk will liaise with Petham to ask them to attend the next meeting to discuss PAW News.

There was no other business to discuss.

14. Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

1st September 2026

3rd November 2026

2nd February 2027

2nd March 2027

4th May 2027

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed by:.....

Date: