

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 12th January 2026

Meetings are held at 7.00pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

There is a vacancy for a Councillor - contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you would like to apply

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Claire Flower, Dave Wherrett

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 2

Maureen Rutley

We were so sorry to hear of Maureens recent passing. The Rutley's were stalwarts of village life here through so many years, serving as Councillors for nearly 16 years (Gordon from November 1993 to April 2003 and Maureen from July 2003 to April 2009. Maureen also used to produce the Information Sheet (predecessor to the Cross Tree Chronicle) from December 1998 to May 2004. Their move to Clevedon did not cut them off from life in our village, and Maureen's passing will leave a large gap.

001/26 APOLOGIES

NSC Ward Cllr Nigel Ashton

002/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Dispensations apply to Cllrs re the setting of the precept, and to Village Hall matters)

Cllr Flower: re parish maintenance - her partner is the prospective contractor.

003/26 LAST MEETING MINUTES

The December 8th minutes were agreed and signed.

004/26 PLANNING (The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)

- i. **New: 25/P/2526/TRCA** - Manor House tree work - noted.
- ii. **Decision Awaited: 25/P/2140/FUL** - Yew Corner, Walton Bay. Replacement house

005/26 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Highways & Footpaths:** Cllrs Flower and Cannell preparing works and cost arrangements.
- ii. **Public Light:** Maintenance contract - awaiting details from contractor and NSC. **Clerk to chase**
- iii. **Walton Bay Bus Stop erosion:** Still no feedback from NSC.
- iv. **Drainage pipe - Coast Road to Walton Bay:** reported twice to be taking in sewage. No NSC response.
- v. **Blocked Gullies on the Coast Road from Squires Cottage to the B3124 Cross Tree Junction:**

Blocked gullies marked for emptying:

7 gullies to be dugout from Two Acres Park to The Gargoyle.

17 gullies reported to the NSC drainage team for emptying:

- 2 x gullies outside Squire Cottage
- 2 x gullies from Two Acres Park to Walton Bay Park
- 1 x gully outside Seascapes
- 1 x gully outside Arodene
- 2 x gullies outside Taggart House
- 1 x gully opposite Hill Cottage
- 1 x gully outside Orchard Lea
- 1 x gully outside Sylvanlea
- 1 x gully outside Old Rectory House
- 5 x gullies from The Old School to Cross Tree junction with B3124

- vi. **Black bollard** - around the Cross Tree has been destroyed and needs replacing. **Clerk to report.**
- vii. **Blocked brook on Walton Street:** Now cleared - reported as being a 'good job'.
- viii. **30 mph sign at Plum Tree:** Cutting surrounding hedging due to be done.
- ix. **Notice Boards:** Ring-fenced provision is included in 2026-27 budget discussion document.
- x. **Highway Improvements:** Cllr Flower to seek a consultant to prepare a report on all the parish roads.
- xi. **Horse sign in Moor Lane:** Waiting for sign's removal.
- xii. **NSC Shared Cost Parish Maintenance Trial:** When trial report appears we can revisit to see if there are any positive opportunities for us.

006/26 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Flower

- Fly-tipping in Moor Lane:** large agricultural tyre at gateway to old tip field. **Clerk to report**
- Broken Somerset Stone by Myrtle Cottage:** NSC area Officer has its replacement in hand.

007/26 FINANCE

- i. **2025-26 Accounts to date:** were reviewed and reconciled with the bank statement.
- ii. **2026-27 Budget:** This was reviewed and approved per **Annexe to these minutes.**
- iii. **Payments Authorised:** ALCA re A10 training course for Councillors **£52.50 Clerk to pay**

008/26 GOVERNANCE

Preparing for Assertion 10 (AGAR 2025/26):

- i. Clerk distributed some supporting documents to Assertion 10 for the ALCA training course.
- ii. **ALCA GDPR Awareness Webinar:** 3 attendees, at £17.50 each per 007/26 iii above.
- iii. **Clerk's 2 Courses re Assertion 10:** These are £35.00 each. 1 to be paid for by Walton at £35: the other to be paid for by Puxton PC. First part completed today.

009/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday February 9th 2026

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

DRAFT

WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-2027

EXPENSES HEAD	25-26 BUDGET	25-26 ESTIMATE	% DIFFERENCES between 25-26 budget and estimate	26-27 Draft Budget	% Differences between 25-26 Budget and 26-27 Budget
Clerk's Pay	£3225.00	£3225.00	0.0	£3332.00	3.3
Clerk's & Other Expenses	£315.00	£397.00	26.0	£400.00	27.0
Hall Hire Fee	£150.00	£144.00	-4.0	£150.00	0.0
Public Light	£500.00	£418.00	-16.4	£700.00	40.0
Insurance, Subs, Audit, Legal	£600.00	£490.00	-18.3	£600.00	0.0
Parish Maintenance	£2500.00	£0.00	-100.0	£2500.00	0.0
Other Costs	£500.00	£200.00	-60.0	£1000.00	100.0
Website	£400.00	£424.00	6.0	£450.00	12.5
Bank Charges	£0.00	£51.00		£60.00	
Election Provision	£200.00	£200.00	0.0	£250.00	25.0
Capital Provision (noticeboards)	£1000.00	£1000.00	0.0	£1000.00	0.0
Contingency Fund	0	£0.00			
PRECEPT	£9390.00	£6549.00	-30.3	£10442.00	11.2
Contingency Fund					

NOTES

Clerk's Pay increase is +3.2%. This is the NALC agreed increase due to be paid retrospectively from April 2023, but Walton-in-Gordano Clerk doesn't take it until the following April - 2026.

Clerk's Expenses have not increased over the years. Since Clerk no longer able to drive, he is taxed by Chair at standard public service mileage cost.

Hall Hire Fee has not increased over the years but has done so post a Hall Committee reviews in Autumn 2024/25.

Public Light: The running cost increases of the new light are significant but understandable. A sum for a maintenance contract is provided now the new light is in to operation. The Clerk progressing this.

Highways & Footpaths: The 25-26 Budget included provision for a contractor working 2 days per visit. 8hrs per day. 4 visits per year = 64 hrs @ £30 per hr = £1920. 26-27 costings being worked on.

Insurance, Subscriptions Audit and Legal: There is provision for modest increases in these costs.

Other Costs: is a catch all for unforeseen expenses which are likely to increase rather than otherwise with the increasing service responsibilities passing down from our Principal Authority. **Provision for defibrillator service costs and £500 Centenary Fete contribution are included here.**

Website: This is working well. In addition to the annual service cost, provision is included for special event adjustments such as coronations, jubilees, death of a senior Royal etc.

Bank Charges: Introduced for the first time during 2025-26 at £4.25 per calendar month.

Election Provision: In 2023 contested election cost were running at some £1900 and will be more by the next election in 2027. It is prudent to build this provision to nearer £3000. It currently stands at £2735.

Capital Provision has stood budgeted at £1000 since its introduction. As we can see, it takes years to build the fund, but just one or two capital projects to decimate it. 2026-27 will include a ring-fenced provision towards new noticeboards plus a transfer from the General Fund - see 2nd page below.

The Precept Increase: Principal Authorities - NSC in our case - are funnelling costs down to town and parish councils due to the squeezing of their own funding from Central Government and the annual government-imposed caps on their Council Tax increases. Parishes like ours, that have no income generating assets, have to be realistic about how much they need to operate with from year to year under these circumstances, and how much they need to provision for future capital costs

2026/2027 LOCAL COUNCIL PRECEPT

Parish or Town Council

Please select your council name from the drop down list above, by clicking in the cell

Band D equiv properties X

Your number of Band D equivalent properties will then show here

Local Council Precept (£) Y

Please enter your council's required precept for 2026/27

The rest of the form will complete automatically

Local Council Element of Y/X=Z

For a Band D property the Parish Council charge will appear as follows on the council tax bill

Walton-in-Gordano	74.27	11.4%
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Local Council Tax Element for Properties in Each Band (£ per property)

Band	Amount of Local Council Tax	
A	49.51	Z x 6/9
B	57.76	Z x 7/9
C	66.02	Z x 8/9
D	74.27	Z
E	90.77	Z x 11/9
F	107.28	Z x 13/9
G	123.78	Z x 15/9
H	148.53	Z x 2

Council Tax and the Tax Base

The Council Tax payable on a particular property is based on the local authority precept requirements relevant to the area and the value of that property as at 1 April 1991. For valuation purposes, properties have been "banded" A to H in ascending order of value.

The Council Tax will be quoted with reference to a Band D property and in order to make the tax calculation, an equivalent number of Band D properties must first be calculated. This is done by applying a weighting to the number of properties in each band, e.g. one Band A property is equivalent to two-thirds of a Band D property.

The Band D equivalent number of properties is an estimated figure based on assumptions on banding changes and on growth in the District. The Band D equivalent number as shown, is based on a 98.7% collection rate.

The normal calculation sheet is included here, which will enable you to assess the effect of your own Council's precept on the "headline" Band D Council Tax in your area, as well as the Council Tax paid on properties within each valuation band in your area. If you would like to receive the file by hard copy in the post, please contact Emma Roberts on 01275 884152 or emma.roberts@n-somerset.gov.uk.

The aggregated total level of your area's Council Tax will, of course, depend upon the budget decisions of North Somerset Council, the Avon and Somerset Police Authority and the Avon Fire Authority as well as your own budget.

WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL - CAPITAL FUND RING-FENCED BREAKDOWN WITHIN
TOTAL FUNDS

FUND	ITEM	£		
CAPITAL FUND	Highway Projects	12,000		
	Noticeboards	3,000		
	Contingency	2,000		
	Capital Fund Total		17,000.00	
GENERAL FUND		4,010.34	4,010.34	
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS	Capital plus General		21,010.34	
	Add Current Account	500	500.00	
TOTAL FUNDS	Operating plus current	21,510.34	21,510.34	

The figures above are based on Total Funds at £21510.34 at November 17th 2025