

WALTON-IN-GORDANO CIVIL PARISH

In the North Somerset Council Ward of Gordano Valley

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

May 11th 2026 - 8pm - The Village Hall

Attendees: Residents 11 plus B Cannell, Chair of the meeting and Acting Minute Taker - Cllr Claire Flower

MINUTES

APM26/01 Apologies

Don Hill, Clerk to the Parish Council and usual minute taker.

APM26/02 Matters arising from minutes of last year's meeting

None - **they were duly signed by the Chair as a true record**

APM26/03 Reports from Interest Groups

These reports were attached to the agenda for attendees to read at their leisure. They are attached below as an Appendix to these minutes.

The Chair's Chairs's Report was read to the meeting and is attached as an annexe below.

The Meeting Chair also advised of his and The Clerk's retirement in April 2027. There was a call for new councillors to put their names forward for cooption before then, or election in May 2027 otherwise the parish council would revert to oversight by North Somerset Council until a quorum of Councillors could be established to run it again. Concern was raised for trying to replace our excellent Clerk and the possible need to share a Clerk with another suitable parish.

APM26/04 Discussion

The Open Discussion, which forms the core of Annual Parish Meetings was wide ranging, but revolved around the issues summarised below:

1. Walton Bay Traffic Issues

In the context of this discussion a lead resident on this issue has emerged by virtue of a letter written to the Clerk and circulation of a flyer about this meeting to residents of Walton Bay. This letter - attached as an annexe to these minutes - explained that a long history of attempts to make The Coast Road safer (stretching back some 30 years) have not driven the Highways authority (North Somerset Council) to any form of action. It was proposed that a completely new start be made based on the current significantly changed circumstances in which the populations of Walton Bay and Portishead have grown hugely and the Coast Road has become a commuter rat-run. Two key points were raised within the context of this new approach: the hiring of a traffic consultancy to prepare a highways strategy for the whole parish, and, as an essential part of that process, a new attempt to get Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) purchased and in operation.

ii. Money has been ring-fenced by the parish council for a consultant's report on highway matters throughout the parish, though it would be unlikely that the council

would have sufficient funds to implement any traffic calming/monitoring measures after the consultant's report had been undertaken (implementation of proposals would normally fall to the highway authority).

- iii. The parish council considered purchasing its own SID last year but no volunteers stepped forward to create a SID team. A team is required as the location of the machine needs changing every 2 weeks or so. Training would also be required for the safe use and installation by the highway, charging the device, collecting and analysing the data etc.
- iv. There are a large number of Walton Bay residents who would now be willing to form a SID team and it was suggested that there is the potential for fundraising for a SID, dependant on the outcome of the consultant's report.
- v. Details for the correct contact route to the Highways Authority was requested so that residents of Walton Bay - and the wider parish - could lobby the Highways Authority individually. It was suggested the same email title should be used by all residents that wanted to email in. **This request to be passed to the Parish Council.**
- vi. Research of historical police records shows two accidents happening within 40m of the public footpath and that this was a public safety issue. We should not have to wait for a fatality to spark the Highways Authority into action.
- vii. One resident is professionally positioned to review each consultant's quote and subsequent report for quality and value for money. He shared his contact details with Cllr Flower.

2. Bus Service Changes through Walton Village

Dave Wherrett advised that the Airport Flyer is available every hour and can also be taken for short journeys. The only stop currently in Clevedon is by Castlewood but due to demand it is hoped that a stop in the triangle is on the cards. Unfortunately, this has meant that the X5 has now been reduced to every 2 hours.

3. The Cliff Path

One resident wanted to add a positive note to the meeting and said that the coast path is regularly attended to by the council and is well used and enjoyed.

4. Walton Bay Signage

It was mentioned that the village sign at Walton Bay has been lowered to the ground (for visibility purposes) but it now cannot be read as grass covered the wording. Another Walton Bay resident advised of their close proximity to the sign and offered to trim the grass in front of it whenever they were doing their own garden.

5. Cross Tree Junction Garden

It was requested that the maintenance of the plants at the base of the village tree be added to the maintenance schedule/plan of the potential village contractor. **This request to be passed to the parish council.**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

APPENDIX 1

Letter to Clerk outlining the current Walton Bay traffic issues.

(Due to consent regulations under the new GDPR best practice codes individual names and locations have been omitted)

WALTON BAY SPEED LIMIT AND THE SAFETY OF THE TWO ACRES LANE JUNCTION

I would firstly like to thank the parish council for allowing me to speak on this subject and secondly would like to thank the council members for working tirelessly on our behalf to maintain and improve the parish in which we live.

My wife xxx and I moved into, Walton Bay - on the Coast Road - in October 2022, and since then had to experience the joys of that road.

I am fully aware this is not a new subject and having looked at the available parish records can see it has been on the agenda for over 30 years. These ten pages of A4 represents the efforts of both councillor's and residents over the past 26 years to achieve a speed reduction on the Coast Road. A number of tactics have been used from traffic monitoring, to accident recording, to potential purchase of land, all usually failing due to a lack of equipment, insufficient money or changes in personnel, or by simply North Somerset Highways Department sitting on it so long, interest is lost. Having recently dealt with North Somerset Planning and in particular the highway department it is very apparent that they work to a very strict and un-creative set of government issued regulations, with no consideration for local safety issues and concerns, or common sense. In preparation for this evening I drafted a letter asking the residents of Walton Bay for their views. That letter was delivered to over 150 homes in The Bay, Sandbanks, Walton Bay Park, Seascapes and houses adjacent to the Coast Road. During the time my wife and I were out delivering we had a number of conversations and everybody we spoke with had horror stories of near missis or accidents, and in one case their family now doesn't visit them due to the safety of the Coast Road. Many expressed their concerns in particular with the difficulties in navigating the junction of Two Acres Lane and the Coast Road which we have to do daily. I have also received 9 telephone calls and 10 emails from residents all saying the same thing - the road is not safe and sooner or later something serious is going to happen. That said, it has also been said to me that the highways are unlikely to do anything until there is a fatality! Is this really a sensible approach to road safety?

So what do I and other residents of Walton Bay feel that has changed to warrant the highways considering the current situation differently? It is very apparent that the volume of vehicle traffic using the Coast Road has significantly increased, with the number of early morning and evening commuters now basically making it a rat race between 6am and 9 and 4pm and 7. On the flip side the number of leisure users, cyclists, runners, and walkers has steadily increased since the pandemic and the combination of the two, you will very well know, doesn't mix. We do also get our fair share of boy racers, and this is not exclusively limited to youngsters, with a number of what I would call older gentlemen in their sports cars thinking that the Coast Road is a race track.

I appreciate this change is not going to happen overnight and that the highways department is not going to readily agree to any speed reduction without the issues being clearly set out. An obvious example of this being Clevedon Sea Front where local residents were clearly not listened to.

I fully understand that the Parish councillors, Councillor Wherrett and North Somerset Councillor Ashton have been advocates for change over the years but would ask for this subject to be revisited.

I personally feel that the advice of a traffic consultant should be sought and that two speed indicator devices should be purchased for either end of the village. I am fully aware both of these things have been previously muted and for whatever reason haven't come about.

I am happy to work with Councillor Wherrett if that is appropriate and know there are several other residents of Walton Bay who have expressed an interest.

We know what the concerns are but let us investigate and discover what can be done to address them.

Thank you for your time and I am aware there are other people here wishing to talk on this subject.

xxxxx 11th May 2026

APPENDIX 2

Reports from Interest Groups

Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council Chair's Report

Looking back over the reports I have given to these meetings in previous years, they are all much the same in content. Such is the reality of a small rural Parish Council, where for decades the main focus of issues involves traffic and road speed, buses and transport challenges, footpaths, verges, drainage issues, planning applications...

This year is little different from previous with a few exceptions. Full details are published on our website via the meeting minutes.

As of today - Walton-in-Gordano Parish Councillors are Mr Brian Cannell, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower. Today, Mrs Rachel Dickinson has temporarily stepped down in order to concentrate on family and work matters. We are hopeful that she will re-join the Parish Council in the future.

Today the Annual Meeting of the Council was held. It is at this meeting that various posts are decided for the coming twelve months to the following May, ie to May 2026. After discussions, Councillor Brian Cannell was elected as Chair. We do not have to have a Vice Chair, so this position is currently unfilled.

?? will represent the PC on the Village Hall management committee. We have no PPC representative. Councillor Brian Cannell will continue as representative on NSC Standards Sub committee.

North Somerset Council was represented at the Parish Council meetings by Councillor Nigel Ashton, our Ward councillor with North Somerset Council. Unlike most Wards, ours has 5 parishes: Nigel attends when he can, and is a greatly valued advisor. He also does a lot for the Parish 'behind the scenes'.

Fortunately, during this last year, reported crime in the parish has been very low. Neighbourhood watch schemes continue to operate in various parts of the Parish.

Planning applications have been few in numbers this last year – down from last year, being made up with a mix of redevelopment, conversions and tree orders.

Community Speedwatch is being enthusiastically led by John Jackson, who is leading a group of volunteers who are running the activity in the Parish. If you would like to be involved please contact John.

The other main topics this year were:

Streetlight – Finally, we have a new and re-located street light on the northern pavement opposite Moor Lane. This came in at a cost just short of £2500

Walton Brook: At last after more than a year of chasing and escalating the matter, the Gabion that was mostly blocking the open section between Old Rectory Farm and Church Farm has been removed by North Somerset. Many thanks go to Cllr Nigel Ashton for facilitating this.

Traffic Speed – Cllr Claire Flower is heading up this topic. To progress any changes, evidence is required. Speed Indicator Display Signs (SIDS) were being investigated and budget sought to purchase. A call for volunteers produced no replies, so this is on hold for the moment.

Walton Bay Transport – Cllr Dave Wherrett is leading this. Extensive work had been done although the progress seems to have stalled in other local councils. Full details in the council minutes.

Village Hall Car Park – This too appears to have stalled apparently due to some objections being raised.

Parish maintenance: New stiles for the Plum Tree to Common path have been installed. The Council is continuing to explore the scope and funding for a Village maintenance contractor.

Recycling: North Somerset, along with many other Councils are moving to a 3 weekly Black Bin collection schedule. An audit of refuse last year showed that 45% of the Black Bin waste (costing £135 per ton to dispose of) could be recycled. 27% of the bin contents was food waste, 50% still wrapped up and un-used! Weighted Red bags for plastic have recently been handed out. Soft Plastic kerb-side recycling is imminent, we are told.

Finance: As to finance, the Budget for 2025/26 was set during the January 2025 Parish Council meeting at £8190. After including future capital expenditure (£1000) and an election provision (£200) the amount of the precept from North Somerset Council was £9390.

The Parish Council has been approached to help fund the Centenary Village Fete 2026. Following discussion and advice regarding Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and common practice from other councils, the Parish Council offered a £500 donation to this event.

I would like to thank those who have shown an interest in the Parish and its Council over the last year and encourage those who have yet to do so.

Finally, on behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors: Mrs Rachel Dickinson, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower - not forgetting the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Don Hill - for their hard work and support over the last year.

Brian Cannell May 2025

Cross Tree Chronicle

At the beginning of 2025 we welcomed 2 new parishioners to the team, Rose Cowan and Nicola Spencer who now collate the Chronicle every month, this brings our team up to 9 in the delivery team, 2 collate and 1 Editor that writes and oversees the publication a total of 12 parishioners makes up the Chronicle team. We deliver 200 paper copies, 90 emailed and 69 on what's app, our thanks to the Parish office for supporting the village with a discounted rate for printing and the social committee for providing the funding.

Emma Edwards May 2025

Village Whats app

The village whats app celebrates 5 years of contribution in our village in 2025, thanks to Abby Coad and Emma Edwards the what's app supports community cohesion and tackles social isolation which is ever present in a rural location like walton. It now has 69 participants sharing good news, important information and weekly updates on community activities, we link up with the book club, craft club, Walton bay and Norton wood what's app groups, we look to provide a warm welcome to anyone new to our community.

Emma Edwards May 2025

St Pauls Church Yearly Report

2024 has been a very interesting year as we have navigated the challenges of reestablishing the church. We welcomed Pat & Nick Wood to the newly formed PCC also Kevin Edwards. All aspects of church housekeeping were examined and dealt with accordingly. The monthly service has been warmly welcomed, the Village coffee morning has proved very popular. The clergy in 2025 will be depleted as retired clergy will be able to offer less support with services but we gain Micheal Dyne who will be ordained in June and join the benefice with his wife from July. The church has been able to address some important maintenance issues this year and we are pleased to say we are watertight now. In 2024 we had one funeral, and we are pleased to say in 2025 a village wedding. As with all Village churches finances are difficult and St Pauls is no different, it costs over £8000 a year to 'keep the door' open. We have introduced a Parish giving Scheme and QR code which can be accessed in the church for one off donations. In 2025 we are introducing Music evenings and informative talks to encourage the community to see the church as an asset, we are also keen to work more closely with the whole community recognising the need to work cohesively to achieve a greater community atmosphere, we are stronger together. The PCC work as joint Churchwardens and have individual roles within the church also. We look forward to 2025 with enthusiasm, if you wish to get involved contact Emma at Waltonchronicle@gmail.com

Emma Edwards May 2025

Walton in Gordano Events Committee (Previously known as the Social Club committee)

It was decided at our March 2025 meeting to change our name from the Social Club Committee to Walton in Gordano Events Committee. This was in order to reflect the fact that we organise social events for the benefit of our community – and are not, in itself, a social club – exclusively operating for its members.

The successful 2024 Village Fete enabled us to donate £2000 each to the Village Hall and to the Village Church. This money will help towards keeping these two vital village community spaces open.

We are currently working towards this year's Village Fete which is undoubtedly the biggest event of the year and our main fund raiser. We receive incredible support from our Committee and from the wider community – and I would like to thank everyone for every contribution they make.

Plans are in development for the Centenary Village Fete in 2026. I should point out that the Fete is great fun – providing a great afternoon of entertainment and socialising for our residents and our wider village family (as well as incredibly hard work).

Other events held include a fun January Wassail evening and supporting a Village Bonfire in November. Both events were well attended and enjoyed by all. There is no charge for these events. December also sees our Annual Christmas Quiz - always popular.

In May – our allocation of flowers from NSC arrive and these are planted (involving constant watering through the summer) which enhance the surroundings of our village.

In December we display the Christmas Lights and encourage the local area to join in and this promotes a festive and community atmosphere.

Both of these endeavours incorporate the Bay area where our committee members from Walton Bay organise displays of flowers and Christmas Lights.

- We support the production of our Village Chronicle by paying for the printing.
- This year we have been particularly successful implementing a small amount of support for the creation of a Craft Club which is doing really well with many members enjoying their time there – and a new Book Club has been formed – both clubs being incredibly well managed by two of our committee members.
- An additional event this year will be a Boules Afternoon/Evening in August.

Barbara Wilyman May 2025

Report from Village Hall Committee

Our treasured village hall has undergone its most recent change of guardianship since the AGM in March which saw 3 members of the committee stand down and 2 new ones step up to help. Deb stepped down as booking secretary and caretaker and was acknowledged by the committee with huge gratitude and praise for keeping the hall in great condition and regularly booked, especially through very tricky times during COVID restrictions. Alison also served in the committee for many years alongside Deb and has stepped down from her role in keeping inventory and assisting in hirings. Jane also stepped down from car park research, application and communication for now with promise to return if she is needed on car park matters.

Rosie, and Rose were welcomed on board formally to the committee at the AGM. Tracy has taken on the role of treasurer and continues as secretary subject to change in the coming months as more volunteers come forward to take one of the roles. Anne will be, chairperson, caretaker and booking secretary with assistance with hirings and maintenance from other committee members as needed.

After much discussion, research and pre application it has been decided that the car park will not be going ahead for now. The physical issue of the very busy main road being a major factor as well as difficulties aligning all concerned parties.

New craft and book groups have formed and use the hall regularly as a result of the committee decision to hire the hall to the local community wherever possible. A positive result from the lengthy discussion of the car parking issue.

We will also welcome a regular musician, table tennis groups and other ad hoc hires including several parties throughout the coming months. The hall will also be hosting the summer fete in July.

The hall received a generous donation of £2000 from the events committee in 2024 which was gratefully received and has helped with running costs and much needed repairs.

Overall the start of the year has been one of change and positivity from the small but dedicated committee and we are looking forward to ways that the community can become involved in the future of the hall, building on the hard work of the previous guardians to keep it used and in good order.

Any queries or comments about the hall can be directed to the committee via this email address and I look forward to hearing of your plans too in the coming months!

Anne Wilson May 2025