WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

Walton-on-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 9th November 2026 at the Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Brian Cannell in the chair, Cllrs Claire Flower and David Wherrett. ACTION
In attendance: Three members of the public and the Locum Clerk.

DON HILL
It is with sadness that we announce the recent death of our longtime Clerk, colleague, and friend, Don Hill.
Don spent much of his life in the Gordano Valley and this was where his heart always was. For many years Don lived in Walton in the Old Shop where he ran an educational publishing company.
We will be eternally grateful to Don for his commitment to the village and to the Parish Council, which, helped by his impressive organisational skills, he guided through massive legislative and standards changes that affected all councils across the UK including the tumult of Covid. Don did two stints as council clerk – May 2000 – Dec 2001 and Dec 2005 – to date, a total of 22 ½ years.

53/26 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Nigel Ashton.

54/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.

55/26 MINUTES
Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2026, copies of which had been circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

56/26 URGENT DECISIONS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS
Following the illness and subsequent death of the Clerk, the Chairman had consulted with councillors regarding issues requiring immediate attention.

- It had been agreed that the sickness clause in the Clerk's contract should be invoked, meaning that he would continue to receive his salary but not expenses.
- It had been agreed that the chairman should become the contact for banking arrangements.
- Having made appropriate enquiries, Vena Prater had been appointed as Locum Clerk until a permanent appointment could be made.

It was unanimously agreed that the above decisions be ratified.

57/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS
(a) New applications

26/P/2006/S.73: Yew Corner, Walton Bay: Adjustment to vehicular access onto Down Road (app. No. 25/P.2140/FUL)
No objections were raised.
26/P/2026/TRCA: The Stable House, Walton Street: Coppice Cherry Laurel stem to ground to enable management:
No objections were raised.

(b) Updates
The following decisions were noted:

26/P/0700/FUH: The Sanctuary, Walton Bay: Proposed second floor and balcony: Approved
26/P/0818/FUH & 26/P/00917/LBC: Plum Tree Cottage, Walton Bay: Replacement windows: Approved

58/26 PARISH MATTERS

(a) Highways and Footpaths

(i) Maintenance: It was noted that due to insurance restrictions the Council could not endorse work carried out by village residents. The Chairman had obtained information regarding a contractor currently working for other parish councils and believed the costs would be within the allocated funding. It was agreed that before approaching the contractor a list of work to be undertaken should be drawn up. BC

Post meeting note: The contractor is Heritage Gardens.

(ii) Traffic Survey: Cllr Flower would draw up a specification of the survey requirements and obtain three quotations for consideration at the next meeting. CF

(iii) North Somerset Council Maintenance Survey

This survey referred to maintenance issues only, not to speed limits, traffic calming etc. It would be completed by the Chairman and the Clerk. BC

(b) Public Light

A second quotation had been received by the previous clerk. If it could not be found the Locum Clerk would contact Banwell Parish Council for the name of the contractor. The Locum Clerk would also provide the name of Tickenham's contractor. VP

(c) Bus Stop at Walton Bay

The Locum Clerk had contacted NSC regarding the unstable nature of the ground surrounding the bus stop. A reply was awaited. VP

(d) Blocked Gullies on the Coast Road

Cllr Wherrett referred to blocked gullies where silt had built up due to inadequate cleaning. It was agreed (i) that this problem should be included in responses to the NSC Maintenance Questionnaire and (ii) that the Locum Clerk should request information as to what cleaning had been carried out. VP

(e) Notice Boards

Quotations had been received but clarification was required as to fitting costs. VP

(f) Walton Street Brook

NSC had agreed to send an area officer to look at the problem.

59/26 MEMBERSHIP

It was agreed that Mr Stephen Spencer, who had expressed interest in becoming a councillor, be appointed as a co-opted member of the Council. He completed the necessary documentation and was welcomed to the meeting. BC

60/26 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Wherrett reported as follows:

Sandbanks Estate: Cllr Wherrett had submitted a written report on the condition of the footpath and requested that NSC be informed. He also referred to missing footpath directional signs and concern was expressed about the condition of a nearby tree. VP

His report also referred to the pipe outside of Two Acres Park at Walton Bay where fluid flowed continuously, possibly polluting the Channel. VP

Cllr Wherrett hoped to attend a meeting at Portishead to discuss bus services, particularly to Walton Bay.

Concern was expressed about proposed large developments to the south west of Portishead: these would result in an intolerable amount of traffic through the village. Cllr

Wherrett believed NSC should be urged to provide a traffic management scheme for the village.

Residents should be encouraged to report any issues to NSC: the larger the number of reports, the more likely it was that action would be taken.

61/26 FINANCES

(a) Banking Arrangements

Due to difficulties in obtaining the necessary information from Lloyds Bank it had not yet been possible to add the Locum Clerk to those authorised to act on behalf of the Council. In the meantime, Cllr Cannell was the main contact. If necessary, Cllr Cannell and the Locum Clerk would visit the Clevedon Branch to resolve the issue.

(b) Payments to Date

A list of payments made following the last meeting was provided and ratified by the Chairman and two councillors. The list is attached to these minutes.

(c) Request for Grant

A request had been received from the Village Fete for a grant towards the cost of the marquee in 2027. £600 was suggested but the Locum Clerk would check the level of Section 137 grants permitted under the Local Government Act 1972. If not permitted, a grant of £500 would be made. VP

(d) Draft Budget 2027/28

A draft budget had been previously circulated. The following three areas showed a suggested increase in expenditure.

The Clerk's salary had not been adjusted in the current year to reflect the NALC 3.2% increase. In addition to this, an anticipated increase of 3% in 2027 had been calculated.

Meeting costs: It was anticipated that the cost of hiring the hall would increase next year.

Other miscellaneous costs showed an increase of £500, to £1,500, allowing for a grant to the Village Fete and other anticipated expenditures. If the suggested grant of £600 to the Fete were not permitted, this budget figure could be adjusted.

Overall, the precept would increase from £10,442 to £11,177, a rise of 7.04%

The draft budget would be considered again at the December and January meetings in readiness for submitting a precept request by 29th January 2027.

62/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 14th December 2026 at 7.00 p.m.