

Walcott Parish Council

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Chairman: Pauline Porter

Parish Clerk/RFO: Denise Revell

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walcott Parish Council held at the Lighthouse Inn on 21st July 2025 at 7pm

Present: Graham French, Nicholas Lee, William Love, Tricia McCarthy, Pauline Porter (In the Chair), Andy Starkins and Maria Withington

Public: 2

1. **To receive Apologies for Absence.**
1.1 To consider and agree apologies for absence
Cllr K Porter and Cllr Mills sent their apologies and they were accepted by the council
2. **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations**
2.1 To consider and agree declarations of interest and requests for dispensations
Cllr P Porter declared an interest in item 8.3
3. **Minutes of previous meetings**
3.1 To agree and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the **19th May 2025**
The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th May 2025 were agreed at the meeting. These will be signed at the next meeting
4. **Chairman's Report**
Cllr P Porter and Cllr Withington attended the Coastal Forum meeting part of the discussions were about the Flood and Coastal Erosion Funding Reform and included rain water run off, information about government grants and a questionnaire for the public to complete, the more people that participate the effective the outcome will be
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flood-and-coastal-erosion-funding-reform>
5. **Public Participation Time**
The meeting will be adjourned for a period of 15 minutes to allow Members of the Public to speak, to receive District and County Councillors reports and any Councillors with prejudicial interests to speak.
Note that only items on this Agenda are to be discussed – for any other item/ subject please contact the Clerk in writing for submission at a future meeting.

Graham French recently attended Parliament to speak about the impact of homes and businesses being flooded, he gave a brief summary of the meeting and urged people to join the group Flooded People UK <https://www.facebook.com/groups/floodedpeople>

A parishioner asked about the TRO and it was explained that this had been passed to the relevant department for agreement, questions were raised regarding suggested parking fees and how this will be enforced and where the money will go. They also asked about the promised additional drains and the Flood mitigation money, the council stated that this was being discussed with Highways as they were the ones that promised the extra drains. All supporting evidence had been provided to Highways and the council were still chasing the outstanding works

Francis Debieux, having previously formally requested time to speak, via the clerk, addressed the cancellation of the Summer Event, expressing his disappointment that it

could not go ahead. He wanted it noted that the event was cancelled due to a mistake made by the clerk regarding the TEN (which was correct but the weather forecast was for thunder and lightning so the event would have to have been cancelled) He raised concerns that the event appeared to be organised solely by the Parish Council, rather than as a wider community initiative. His hope was for the event to serve as a way to bring the whole community together.

While acknowledging that emotions may have run high, Mr. Debieux firmly stated that at no point did he swear at or threaten Councillor K or P Porter. As a gesture of goodwill, he offered the services of the Band free of charge for the rescheduled event, explaining that as a resident of the community, he wishes to contribute positively.

Mr. Debieux also shared his concern that some individuals may be speaking about him behind his back and casting aspersions on his character. Despite having extended an olive branch, he noted that his efforts have thus far been declined.

6. Matters arising from previous meetings

To report on progress on items from previous meetings. No decisions may be taken

6.1 or the rear of Bacton gates, ongoing

6.2 TRO - ongoing - Clerk to chase for an update

6.3 Additional Drains - ongoing - Clerk to send Flooding document to resident

6.4 Levelling Footpath to the Lighthouse - Ongoing

7. Planning

To consider and agree responses to planning applications and received updates

8. Finance

8.1 To consider and agree the bank reconciliation of accounts

The bank reconciliation of accounts were agreed by the council

8.2 To receive the budget update

The budget update was noted

8.8 To consider and agree the Payments and Receipts

The following payments and receipts were agreed

2024			
PAYMENTS			
Date	Payable to	Description	Amount
21.07.2025	NALC	Subscription	£84.00
25.06.2025	D Revell	Salary	£373.43
21.07.2025	D Revell	Expenses	£11.82
21.07.2025	NNDC	Bin Emptying	£979.68
25.05.2025	D Revell	Salary	£373.43
21.07.2025	Nine Way Spin	Cancellation Fee Summer Event	£200.00
RECEIPTS			

9. Policies, Documents, Communications and Training

9.1 To consider and agree Memorial Bench Applications

The council currently has no space for anymore benches but as the person was has links to the Walcott Caravan and Chalet park it was suggested that a bench may be placed there

10. Events

10.1 Christmas Light Switch on, 29th November 2025

The date of the Christmas Light Switch on was agreed by the Council

10.2 First Aid Course 5th September 2025

Walcott Village Hall had been booked, and the attendees confirmed,

10.3 Summer Event 6th September 2025

The date of the event, location, risk assessment, application for TENs, stall holders, entertainment and food vendors were agreed. It was agreed with the land owners permission to place a temporary car park opposite the hall and the land owner would provide signage

There were concerns raised about Walcott Gap being used as a toilet and holiday makers emptying their chemical toilets into the public toilets

11. To report any other business

Note that this is to report matters for inclusion in a future agenda or matters which require no decision to be made by the Council

The Broken drain on the Coast Road had been reported for repair, the road was in a dangerous state as a sink hole had been discovered, Highways had responded that this did not meet the criteria for repair, Cllr Love would write to Highways regarding this matter as if the drain collapsed further it would have an impact on residents

Cllr Starkin questioned the breakdown in communication between the Cllr P Porter and Mr Debieux and suggested that the council take up the offer of Nine Way Spin to play for free at the next event. Cllr P Porter objected aggressively and shut down the conversation. Mr Debieux objected to being spoken to in this manner and Cllr Love raised his voice to try and bring back order to the room, at this point Cllr P Porter banged her gable loudly onto the table, Mr Debieux objected to being spoken about

Cllr McCarthy asked where at Walcott Gap the picnic benches were planned to go, this had been discussed at a previous meeting and would not be added to a future agenda

12. Correspondence

To consider any correspondence and agree responses thereto

13. Date of Next Meeting

To confirm that the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 15th September 2025

Meeting Closed: 21:15