

WALLINGTON PARISH VILLAGE ASSEMBLY

Minutes and Action Points

Date / Time: 14th April 2026, 8.00pm

Location: Wallington Village Hall

Councillors Present: Graham Lamb (GL) – Chair, Kate Heath (KH)

In attendance: Mark Hopley (MSGH), Michelle Hopley (MH) - Clerks, Steve Jarvis (SJ - District and County Councillor), Tracy Westgate (TW - Community Partnership Officer NHDC) & 1 member of the Parish.

Item	Description	Status / Action
26/01	Graham Lamb was elected Chair for this meeting	
26/02	To confirm the Minutes of Wallington Parish Assembly meeting held on 15th April 2025 Minutes were <i>carried unanimously</i> as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. No matters arising, other than those on the agenda. Minutes were signed by the Chair.	
26/03	No Matters were arising from the previous minutes	
26/04	Report from the Parish Councillors on the years activities - It has been a quiet year on planning applications. - There is an outstanding tree inspection report to compile which should be done in 2026. Quotes are difficult to obtain due to their high cost. - The Parish Council's ongoing complaints about the state of the roads has now been resolved with the length of Wallington Road, Kits Lane and Wallington hill having now been resurfaced with most of the potholes fixed. Thanks to Steve Jarvis and his actions on getting these issues resolved. - A planning complaint is in progress with NHDC planning department regarding a possible breach of conservation area planning regulations with a property in Wallington. The complaint is on-going.	
26/05	Report from the District and County Councillor. - Waste Collection update – improvements have been made since the introduction of the new collection cycle although public and bank holidays are still not working perfectly, however communication and reminders via the NHDC App is vastly improved and very helpful to residents. - Some feedback from residents is that the waste caddy collectors are not very careful in both picking up and throwing back down the caddies once emptied. There was a concern about damage to the caddies which could be very inconvenient and expensive for the council to replace. - Road update – great progress this year on surface dressing Wallington road and the surrounding roads. The remaining missing sections will be completed shortly along with road signage painting. - The Rushden and Redhill sections are due to be completed by July 2026 2 new Herts Lynx buses will be added to the fleet to make a total of 9. - Hertfordshire Council reorganisation option : 2 councils 3 councils	SJ

Item	Description	Status / Action
	3. 4 councils A submission was made back in November 2025. The County council proposed 2 councils but North Hertfordshire proposed 4 councils. The 4 council option would mean that in future Rushden and Wallington Parish would move to sit in East Hertfordshire. The result of this consultation will be announced in the summer of 2026 and elections will then take place for shadow councils in May 2027. Changes to the A505 at slip end are being investigated following the death of 2 people at the end of 2025. Various options will be proposed to make the whole of the dual carriageway up to Royston safer and Chris Hinchcliffe, MP is also getting involved to help find a quick and cost effective solution.	
26/06	- Footpath 22 Update – Steve Jarvis believes that the land owners impacted by the footpath have agreed that a diversion should be made but that Settle homes (now known as SettleParadigm) will not pay their share of the cost. It is not known, at this stage, whether the other landowners are willing to contribute their share of the costs. - It is not clear what this diversion should be and clarification is required from the council. The Parish Council were not aware of this agreement and have not had any communication about it. Steve Jarvis will clarify what was proposed and agreed. - Nick Collingridge proposed a meeting back in February but none of the Parish Council could make the meeting which was only proposed at relatively short notice. No further meeting dates were proposed.	SJ
26/07	There has been no progress on any community speed watch to date. Wallington now has its 20mph limit but this is not the case in the whole of the parish.	
26/08	Waste collection – refer to 26/05 above	
26/09	Baldock expansion update has been communicated to the village via the various WhatsApp groups and all the information is on the parish council website at www.rushdenwallington-pc.gov.uk	
26/10	- There have been no planning applications during the year within Wallington. - There was a query about the recent Biogen application in that the Parish Council have not been consulted to date. MH to review the ongoing situation	MH
26/11	Finance: - MSGH presented the accounts to the year-end 31st March 2026 - The unaudited accounts show an underspend to the budget of £1,538 which is explained by a number of items that are likely to occur in 2026 rather than 2025 such as the tree inspection report (c£714) and the dog bin emptying invoice from NHDC (c£328) which has not yet been received by us. The other savings of c£500 are from various smaller savings from grass cutting, print & stationery and village hall hire. - Overall a good result and justified us setting a lower precept demand budget of £4,500 last year, thereby lowering residents council tax bills. - We have kept our precept demand request at £4,500 for the coming year (2026-27) confident that we can keep to this level of spend and again not adding to any	

Date _____

PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
Minutes and Action Points

Date / Time: 15th April 2025, 8.00pm

Location: Wallington Village Hall

Councillors Present: Kate Heath (KH) – Chair

In attendance: Mark SG Hopley (MSGH) - Clerk, Steve Jarvis (District and County Councillor) & 1 member of the Parish

Item	Description	Status / Action
1	To confirm the Minutes of Wallington Parish Assembly meeting held on 16th April 2024 Minutes were <i>carried unanimously</i> as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. No matters arising, other than those on the agenda. Minutes were signed by the Chair.	
2	Report from the Parish Councillors on the years activities See below and attached for the full report.	
3	Report from the District and County Councillor. - Feedback has been very positive on the new Wallington Road re-surfacing to the point that other villages are now demanding the same! - The rest of the road towards Redhill and Sandon is planned to be done later this year and there is a proposal to complete the resurfacing of Wallington Road to the bypass roundabout. - The new waste collection schedule, including the new waste bin, is due to commence in August 2025 and new bins will be delivered from May. - FP22 update – the latest information that SJ has is that the council were waiting to hear back from the landowners. - Feedback on the Cumberlow Green Lightrock Solar Farm presentation that was held in Rushden Village Hall recently was that the presentation, although very slick, did not reflect the reality of what would be delivered. There would be noise, and it would be visible, so the Parish Council agreed that a close, watchful eye be kept on the planning process. - Residents should be aware that their opinion matters and if there is an opportunity to comment on the plans then they should take every opportunity to do so. - SJ commented on the proposed changes to unitary councils. - SJ gave a summary of the changes proposed under the NHDC Community Governance Review 2025 which involved potential changes to election dates and parish boundaries, as well as the minimum number of parish councillors. SJ encouraged parishioners to respond to the review otherwise decisions may be made that are not welcomed. - SJ did reiterate that there were no proposed changes to arrangements for parish councils.	
4	The Community Drivesafe scheme has changed its guidelines and rules so that areas with a 20mph speed limit cannot now do their own speed monitor surveys. KH will	KH

Item	Description	Status / Action
	follow this up with the Police and Crime Commissioner directly.	
5	- It was noted that the Luton Airport expansion programme had been approved. - The Parish Council keep a watching brief over the plans for both Luton and Stanstead airports and are copied into RELAS communications as well as directly through NHDC and NHC.	
6	Finance: - MSGH presented the accounts to the year-end 31st March 2025. - The unaudited accounts show a surplus of £948, which is a budgeted surplus of £661 and an unbudgeted surplus of £287 (made up of £156 bank interest and £131 VAT recovery)	
7	Matters Raised by residents: - The matter of the long grass near FP22 was raised and a question whether it was planned to cut the grass and if so, when? KH pointed out that the grass cutting was a matter for HCC and they should be contacted directly. It was noted that the grass was not too long now. SJ was asked if could enquire as to whether FP22 was now on the cut list. - SJ suggested that the PC contact Robert Lloyd at HCC who is responsible for footpath maintenance at HCC. - A resident expressed concerns that the horses kept in one of the fields in Wallington were quite overbearing when trying to walk on one of the public footpaths. The PC noted this but as this is outside of their powers, the only thing the PC could suggest was if they could find a way to make representations on the resident's behalf. - The issue about the traffic build up at the crossroads in Baldock was raised and a question as to whether the left filter lane could changed to make it clearer to road users that you can filter left at your own will. SJ commented that when the Baldock building development starts the whole Baldock road layout will change accordingly. - There was a query about how the Herts Lynx bus app works. The Clerk volunteered to show the resident how to best use the app.	SJ KH / GL MSGH
8	Confirm date of next meeting and any items to be included on that agenda. Next PC Meeting due on 15th May 2025	
	The Chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm	

RWPC - Wallington Parish Assembly

- The PC chair alternates between Rushden and Wallington and this year was Rushden's turn. The PC had a new chair: Jenny Barlow. Other members for

Rushden are Steve Pettyfer and Sue Lewis, and for Wallington Graham Lamb and Kate Heath.

- The Parish Council domain name has been changed to an official “.gov.uk” identity, which has only recently been made available for Parish Councils, along with funding for making the change. Thanks to our clerks for arranging the switchover. The previous PC email addresses continue to be forwarded to our inboxes.
- This year’s Internal Audit was carried out by Andy Nunn for the first time. Andy has kindly taken over from Ann Warner who was the Parish Council’s independent volunteer auditor for many years. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Ann for all her years of audit service.
- There were no new planning applications in the Wallington PC area during the financial year 2024-25.
- KH and GL had a meeting with representatives from NHDC (owners of the land which the PC leases), the new manager of Herts County Council Rights of Way team (responsible for footpaths) and Settle Homes (local housing association). It was left that NHDC and HCC would seek to make a firm proposal as soon as possible, including reviewing options that had previously been discounted to see whether a lighter touch solution could be found which would gain agreement. The most recent information was that they are still “working on it”.
- Meanwhile the unofficial footpath with steps down to the road has been blocked off with some ‘warning – hazard’ tape, either by HCC or by the landowner, as the steps had not been maintained for several years and are in a very poor state. We gather that residents who have the original FP22 going through their gardens have been told by HCC that they could be liable, should any member of the public injure themselves walking on the original footpath route. We note that this route is blocked by planting and garden fences. The Parish Council is not responsible for footpaths and therefore should not be a decision-making party in this matter, other than to protect the land we lease. We continue to try and facilitate contact between stakeholders, and to emphasise that, while we appreciate the concerns of affected householders, all Wallington residents need and want a safe path which they can use.
- Highways – HCC resurfaced the road between Wallington and Baldock. Further work is planned through and on the other side of the village later this year. HCC Highways will inform residents ahead of work taking place.

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- The PC received a request from the Wallington bell ringers for a donation towards new ropes. We suggested that they contact Steve Jarvis to see if there are any District or County Council grants available. The Parish Council work very hard in keeping their funding requirement as low as possible and this means that unfortunately there are no spare funds to offer grants or donations.
 - We planned to go ahead with some longer-term tree work this winter, to try and avoid potentially damaging failures. Unfortunately, it took much longer than anticipated to gather the required three quotes for the work, and early storms resulted in a fallen tree before the work could be carried out, resulting in damage to overhead broadband lines which had been installed through the trees. The PC recorded its thanks to those residents who were involved in the speedy clearing / removal of fallen branches.
 - Our next tree inspection is due. When we attempted to book with our most recent provider, the cost had gone up by 29%, just 1 year after the last tender process. We are currently gathering alternative quotes to try and get the tree inspection completed within budget. Again, this is not a quick process, but we are hopeful that the inspection will be able to go ahead soon, leaving the planned amount of PC funds available for any further tree work may be needed.
 - There is an ongoing proposal to build a large solar farm in the River Beane valley beyond Rushden, and a related consultation has been taking place. A local protest group contacted the PC, and we agreed to pass on their contact details, along with information about the proposal, so that Wallington residents can form their own views and object or support as they wish. We did not feel it was appropriate for the PC to respond to the consultation because it is not a statutory consultee, and various councillors had been contacted by residents supporting both sides of the debate.
 - As part of a widespread Community Governance Review, North Herts Council has put forward a proposal to change the boundaries of the RWPC area to include the whole of Redhill. Currently the Wallington side of the road is split, being mostly in Wallington with a tiny minority of houses in Rushden administrative parishes, while the Sandon side of the road is in Sandon PC area. The PC debated this subject, but we decided not to propose it ourselves because there did not seem to be a drive from Redhill residents to make a change. Now that NHC have proposed it, we would of course accept the change if the consultation favours putting it into place.

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- Following the tragic discovery of the late Victoria Greenwood near Wallington in November 2023 we introduced a PC Safeguarding Awareness Policy, raising awareness of violence against women and children, and signposting to relevant organisations via noticeboards and our website. Updated posters are displayed in Rushden and Wallington, and on the PC website, after every PC meeting.
 - Community Drivesafe Update: The Hertfordshire Drivesafe Scheme has changed its requirements. 10 signatures are needed to support taking part in the Scheme, and only 5 volunteers are now needed. They must be trained in the operation of the equipment. Signatures and volunteers can come from across the Parish. We plan to communicate this across Wallington and Rushden and report back on potential engagement.
 - Housing Assessment Survey – Update. We hosted a guest speaker from Community Development Action (CDA) Herts in 2022, and we planned to ask him back after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, when it would be appropriate to revisit the services that they provide in relation to Affordable Housing Needs. The invitation was extended during 2024. Unfortunately, funding constraints mean that the organisation now must focus on areas with larger development opportunities and will not be able to include Wallington after all.

Variance to 2025-26 Budget

	Total Budget (Incl. Inflation)	Actual Full Year Spend	Variance Good / (Bad)	Comments
Grass Cutting	£1,235.00	£1,040.00	£195.00	Less Grass Cuts over the dry Summer in 2025
HAPTC Membership	£276.26	£276.26		
PC Insurance	£218.28	£214.00	£4.28	
Tree maintenance	£714.00		£714.00	No Wallington Tree work done on 2025-26 but will be carried out in 2026-27
Information Commissioner	£35.00	£47.00	(£12.00)	Unexpected 34% increase in charge in 2025-26
Website Hosting costs including website and email support	£117.45	£131.99	(£14.54)	Additional cost of adopting the .Gov.UK web presence
Wallington Insurance	£241.28	£230.25	£11.03	
Staff Costs	£600.00	£600.00		
Dog Bin Emptying	£328.38		£328.38	Invoice has not been received by the year end.
Rushden Insurance	£312.24	£290.70	£21.54	
Printing & Stationery	£100.00	£41.27	£58.73	Less expenditure on P&S as utilising as much digital communication as possible
Village Hall Hire	£150.00	£90.00	£60.00	Less planning meetings than forecast.
Tree inspection and report				
Election Fee				
Sub-Total	£4,327.89	£2,961.47	£1,366.42	Sub-total of regular expenditure
Available for one-off expenses	£172.11		£172.11	The contingency was not required in 2025-26
Total Precept Required 2023-24	£4,500.00	£2,961.47	£1,538.53	Under budget for 2025-26
Prior Year Precept 2024-25	£4,850.00			

2026-27 Budget - DRAFT

2026-27 Inflation Assumption 2%

	PYR Income / (Expenditure)	Actual or Estimate			Total (Excl. Inflation)	Inflation %	Inflation £	Total (Incl. Inflation)	SPEND BY PERIOD							ANTICIPATED SPEND TO COME		
			Rushden	Wallington					April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Bank Charges	(£51.00)	A	(£34.00)	(£17.00)	(£51.00)			(£51.00)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)
Grass Cutting	(£1,235.00)	E	(£1,235.00)		(£1,235.00)			(£1,235.00)	(£130.00)	(£195.00)	(£130.00)	(£130.00)		(£260.00)	(£130.00)	(£130.00)		
HAPTC Membership	(£276.26)	A	(£184.17)	(£92.09)	(£276.26)	6.9%	(£19.07)	(£295.33)	(£295.33)									
PC Insurance	(£214.00)	A	(£142.67)	(£71.33)	(£214.00)	2.0%	(£4.28)	(£218.28)		(£218.28)								
Wallington Tree maintenance - Inspections & Reports	(£700.00)	E		(£700.00)	(£700.00)	2.0%	(£14.00)	(£714.00)						(£714.00)				
Information Commissioner	(£47.00)	A	(£31.33)	(£15.67)	(£47.00)			(£47.00)						(£47.00)				
Website Hosting costs including website and email support	(£83.99)	E	(£55.99)	(£28.00)	(£83.99)	2.0%	(£1.68)	(£85.67)							(£85.67)			
Wallington Insurance	(£230.25)	A		(£230.25)	(£230.25)	2.0%	(£4.61)	(£234.86)							(£234.86)			
Staff Costs	(£600.00)	E	(£400.00)	(£200.00)	(£600.00)			(£600.00)								(£600.00)		
Dog Bin Emptying	(£354.24)	E	(£236.16)	(£118.08)	(£354.24)	2.0%	(£7.08)	(£361.32)										(£361.32)
Rushden Insurance	(£312.24)	E	(£312.24)		(£312.24)	2.0%	(£6.24)	(£318.48)										
Printing & Stationery	(£100.00)	E	(£66.67)	(£33.33)	(£100.00)			(£100.00)										
Village Hall Hire	(£120.00)	A	(£60.00)	(£60.00)	(£120.00)			(£120.00)										
Election Fee																		
Sub-Total	(£4,323.98)		(£2,758.23)	(£1,565.75)	(£4,323.98)	1.3%	(£56.96)	(£4,380.94)	(£429.58)	(£417.53)	(£134.25)	(£134.25)	(£4.25)	(£1,025.25)	(£454.78)	(£734.25)	(£4.25)	(£365.57)
Available for one-off expenses			(£79.37)	(£39.69)	(£119.06)			(£119.06)										
Total Precept Required 2026-27	(£4,323.98)		(£2,837.61)	(£1,605.43)	(£4,443.04)	1.3%	(£56.96)	(£4,500.00)	(£429.58)	(£417.53)	(£134.25)	(£134.25)	(£4.25)	(£1,025.25)	(£454.78)	(£734.25)	(£4.25)	(£365.57)
			63.9%	36.1%	OK		(£56.96)	(£4,500.00)										
					Check		Check	Check										
Prior Year Precept 2025-26	£4,500.00	A	£3,000.00	£1,500.00	£4,500.00			£4,500.00	£2,250.00					£2,250.00				
			66.7%	33.3%														

Explanation of Budget Methodology

This budget has been drafted using the "Incremental Budget" method - i.e. starting with historical figures from the latest invoiced costs

2% inflation has been applied to all general costs unless renewal costs are already known at the time the draft budget is produced.

Unforeseen one-off expenditure or grants by the PC to external organisations could exceed the budget in 2025/26 and dip into reserves, in accordance with the financial regulations.

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2026-27 Budget - DRAF

	February	March	Invoiced Spend To Date	Anticipated Spend to Come	Full Year Forecast	Full Year Forecast Vs Budgeted Good / (Bad)	Comments	Background Information Upon which the 2024-25 Budget was based
Bank Charges	(£4.25)	(£4.25)		(£51.00)	(£51.00)		New Fee introduced in 2025 - £4.25 p/m	New Fee introduced in 2025 - £4.25 p/m
Grass Cutting		(£130.00)		(£1,235.00)	(£1,235.00)		Based on PYR and assumes no inflation in 2026-27 as Greg has not increased prices for a number of years	19 Cuts @£65 = £1,235
HAPTC Membership				(£295.33)	(£295.33)		Actual Fees to be paid in 2026-27	Actual Fees to be paid in 2026-27
PC Insurance				(£218.28)	(£218.28)		Based on PYR & Assumes 2% inflation in 2026-27	Actual 25/26 = £214 (Zurich)
Wallington Tree maintenance - Inspections & Reports				(£714.00)	(£714.00)		Updated report required in 2025-26	Updated report required in 2025-26
Information Commissioner				(£47.00)	(£47.00)		Based on PYR & Assumes no inflation in 2026-27	Actual 25/26 = £47 (30.9.25) - £5 discount for completing it online Price increased from £35 PYR (34% Increase)
Website Hosting costs including website and email support				(£85.67)	(£85.67)		Higher than PYR as PYR had one-off 3 year Domain Renewal @ £25.16 (runs to 2027) and we have the additional cost of the .gov.uk domain name @ £24 per annum instead of £8.39 pa	Net Nerd Invoices - 25/26 - Unlimited Hosting = £59.99 3 Year Domain agreement (2025-27) @ £25.16 Vs £24 per annum for .Gov.uk 1 Year Domain name for .gov.uk @ £24
Wallington Insurance				(£234.86)	(£234.86)		Based on PYR & Assumes 2% inflation in 2026-27	Actual 25/26 = £230.25
Staff Costs				(£600.00)	(£600.00)		£600 PA salary	No Pay Rise anticipated
Dog Bin Emptying				(£361.32)	(£361.32)		Based on PYR & Assumes 2% inflation in 2026-27	Based on bill in 24/25 of £337.37 and anticipated invoice in 25/26 (increasing by 5% Inflation by local authorities)
Rushden Insurance		(£318.48)		(£318.48)	(£318.48)		Based on PYR & Assumes 5% inflation in 2026-27 for 2024-25 and 2% for 2025-26	Actual 24/25 = £290.7
Printing & Stationery		(£100.00)		(£100.00)	(£100.00)		Based on PYR (with no one-off costs)	Based on PYR (with no one-off costs)
Village Hall Hire		(£120.00)		(£120.00)	(£120.00)		Based on 8 Meetings a year @ £15 each (3 PC & 2 PA & 3 EGM Planning)	Based on 8 Meetings a year @ £15 each (3 PC & 2 PA & 3 EGM Planning)
Election Fee							New Fee introduced in 2023 - Flat Fee of £250 for 5 seats in an election year	New Fee introduced in 2023 - Flat Fee of £250 for 5 seats in an election year
Sub-Total	(£4.25)	(£672.73)		(£4,380.94)	(£4,380.94)		Sub-total of regular expenditure	
Available for one-off expenses		(£119.06)		(£119.06)	(£119.06)		Contingency (2.65%) of total budget	Contingency (2.65%) of total budget
Total Precept Required 2026-27	(£4.25)	(£791.79)		(£4,500.00)	(£4,500.00)			
Prior Year Precept 2025-26				£4,500.00	£4,500.00		No increase in precept required	

Explanation of Budget Methodology

flow Positive / (Negative)
This budget has been drafted using *Budgeted annotated Spend*
2% inflation has been applied to all
Unforeseen one-off expenditure or;

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