



WALDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

1 Poplar Street, Waldridge Village
Co Durham, DH2 3SE

Co-ordinator-WaldridgeParish@outlook.com

10th September 2025

In attendance Parish Councillors Sexton (Chair), Moffat, Smith, Lewcock & Barker
Co-ordinator – Jackie Smart

Below are the minutes of the meeting of the **WALDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL** held at the Parish Rooms on Tuesday 9th September 2025.

Public Participation Session

Prior to the start of the meeting, there will be a public participation session which, at the Chair's discretion, may last up to 15 minutes, to enable members of the public to ask questions of and make comment to the Council. Questions relating to services provided by the Parish Council will be answered where possible at the meeting. If this is not possible, a written response will be provided within 14 days of the meeting. Members of the public are asked to restrict their comments and/or questions to five minutes per item/individual. This section does not form part of the formal meeting of the Council.

BUSINESS

1. Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Apologies for absence from Councillors Moist, Kinnear & Hall
3. Public Questions – A Resident, Mr Glass asked two questions (both of which were County Council issues, but Cllr Sexton responded in his capacity as County Cllr)
 - Raised concerns over 'Raising the Flags' – Union Jack & St George's Cross – advised DCC had decided not to remove any flags unless they caused a safety risk to road users or become 'tatty'
 - The dog park on Whitehill Way – what were the plans – Cllrs Sexton & Moist are reviewing this as just come into their ward after the recent boundary changes. Park was closed very quickly following vandalism of the site. Likely to take a minimum of 3-4 months, but could be longer depending on review.
4. Minutes were agreed unanimously
5. No Disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared
6. **Agenda-Motions:**
 - Action Log - Action Log reviewed, Waldridge Weekender Event closed, all other actions ongoing
 - Correspondence/RFO update
 - Audit update – Verbal report from Mazars confirms no serious issues, couple of minor comments on figures carried forward 23-24 & minor audit admin procedure errors – await written report following Manager review
 - Policies being reviewed & compared to other Parish Councils

- Defibrillator – no response from Germany, chased – Defib is currently upstairs in Parish Rooms awaiting collection. No invoice received.
- Website – trying to link with John Mears to update
- County Cllr Report - All updates Cllr Sexton covered in public questions
- Elect Vice Chair – Cllrs were asked to submit expressions of interest ahead of our next meeting
- Millenium Green Play Area
 - Cllrs Lewcock & Sexton will explore the availability of grants to support a possible upgrade/enhancement of the play area
 - Options will be considered should a budget be available
- Assets Register
 - Cllrs Lewcock & Sexton will review the asset register to ensure accuracy of current assets
 - Maintenance team will assist in compiling a list of items they have/maintain
- Ash Trees – all trees withing the parish, with the exception of those on the Millenium Green are the responsibility of DCC.
 - Team requested to confirm if any Ash trees.
 - Millenium Green Trust to undertake a tree survey at some point
- Events update –
 - Halloween – Cllr Trainor confirmed room booked, kids disco & gift bags to but sorted
 - Christmas – Cllr Lewcock will look at decorations we currently have & purchase additional if required (budget previously agreed)
 - Waldrige Weekender – weather greatly impacted the event, particularly on the Saturday – to be discussed at the next meeting, with possible suggestions to ‘weather proof’ the event
- Course Funding – A training budget was agreed in the MTFP, Cllrs agreed any courses required were at the discretion of the Co-ordinator
- AOB
 - Grit Bins – Cllr Moffat raised the issue of kids opening/playing in bins. Cllr Smith will link in to explore suitable locking solutions
 - Grit to be ordered ahead of the winter (funding previously agreed), with bins being filled by our team.
 - Current Cllr vacancies following the resignation of Cllrs Westgate & Fantarrow. DCC Electoral Services have advertised accordingly, should there be no applicants, Cllrs will review co-opted candidates.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 14th October 2025

Yours faithfully, **Cllr Paul Sexton (Chair)**