

**WALDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

1 Poplar Street, Waldridge Village

Co Durham, DH2 3SE

clerk@waldridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

01 July 2026

To: Waldridge Parish Residents – Proposed Sale of the Parish Rooms

Waldridge Parish Council is making you aware of an important decision, which will be made at its next Parish Council meeting on 14 July 2026, on whether to sell the Parish Rooms. This is a building owned and maintained by the Parish Council at 1, Parish Rooms, Poplar Terrace, Waldridge Village, DH2 3SE.

This pending decision has been prompted by a number of factors:

- the significant annual costs to maintain the building and retain financial viability
- the very limited use of the building by the community
- the need for future capital expenditure to secure major repairs to the building

To provide some additional context, a brief overview below demonstrates the annual costs/usage for the past two financial years:

2024/25

Costs (mostly utility costs)	£5,858.42 per annum
Community Usage	60 hours per annum

2025/26

Costs (mostly utility costs)	£3,567.78 per annum
Community Usage	123 hours per annum

2026/27

The annual costs and community usage forecast ranges are unlikely to change for 2026/27 and we have recently been advised that the Parish Rooms heating system is in urgent need of repair, which will come at a significant cost, alongside other major repairs required.

Each year, Waldridge Parish residents pay an additional charge on their Council Tax to fund Waldridge Parish Council. This 'Precept' enables Waldridge Parish Council to use that funding to deliver services and improvements targeted to the Waldridge Parish community. Waldridge Parish Council is a 'not-for-profit' organisation supported by volunteer Parish Councillors who do not receive any remuneration or expenses. With this in mind, you will appreciate the obligation on the Parish Council to manage a financially viable annual budget and to secure 'value for money' when delivering services for its' community.

Further information around this pending decision can be found on the Waldridge Parish Council Website, which includes some additional 'frequently asked questions and answers' (FAQ's). Parish residents are always invited to attend Waldridge Parish Council meetings, with a standing agenda item for residents to ask questions and raise any queries with the Parish Council. Given this important pending decision, Parish residents are welcome to attend the next Parish Council meeting at the Parish Rooms on 14 July starting at 19:00, or they can submit any views in advance to the Parish Clerk at clerk@waldridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thank you.

Waldridge Parish Council