



WALDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

clerk@waldridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

21st August 2026

To: The Chairman and members of the **WALDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**
(Parish Councillors Barker, Hall, Lewcock, Moist, Moffat, Sexton, Smith & Summerson)

In attendance Parish Councillors Sexton (Chair), Barker, Lewcock, Moffat, & Summerson

Co-ordinator – Jackie Smart

Below are the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the **WALDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL** held at the Parish Rooms on Tuesday 11th August 2026.

BUSINESS

1. Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence from Cllrs Hall, Moist & Smith
3. Public Questions –
 - David – gave some historic information about the parish rooms (as an ex councillor of 20 years) Advised building was consecrated, difference in building construction to hall (brick) as damaged many years ago & rebuilt. Also mine workings beneath village may cause an issue.
 - Gillian – wants ‘talent’ in village to be used for any quotes
 - Steve – what’s the current position with the sale – no decision has currently been made. Going through process, looking to establish exactly what needs to be done to bring the rooms to required standard.
 - Charlotte – what would happen with funds if Parish Rooms sold – no decision made as yet, but if it came to that it would be spend within the Parish
 - Michael – what’s income from the parish rooms - £120 for the rest of the year (2026), income & outgoings shared from slides of the previous meeting.
4. Minutes for July agreed by all councillors in attendance. (All councillors received a copy of the minutes & no discrepancies raised)
5. No Pecuniary Interests declared

6. Agenda-Motions:

- Action Log - Action Log reviewed - All actions remain on-going
- Correspondence/RFO update –
Reviewed budget to reflect election costs – inherited spreadsheet had a £3000 provision, but I’ve been advised around £10,100.

Funds	£177,899.24 (C/A £80,835.10 + Savings £97,064.14)
Capital spend	£ 27,901.90
Remaining Budget	£ 61,031.31

That leaves us £88,966, but we need to have funds set aside for other liabilities, probably at least £50k. (Mandatory 10% of budget plus election, water pipe liability for allotments, tree maintenance on Millennium Green)

Hire of the Parish Rooms -

Following feedback I’ve added link to hiring the rooms to home page of the website & updated the page to include more pictures. Contact details are on the page to hire.

Since last meeting we have lost our main hirer, due to parking issues. Two further enquiries were unsuccessful due to public transport links & the room not being big enough for a children’s party. Obviously these are not issues that would be addressed by any works on the rooms.

Called the other day & could barely get in gate as car parked across. That would present issues for anyone with mobility issues.

- County Cllr Report – Nothing at this point
- Motion to agree funding for full Building/Structural survey of WP Rooms (awaiting quotes – Cllr Sexton proposed amended to up to £2500, seconded by Cllr Moffat)
 - RFO advise building report quote received at £1350, structural survey will be £2000 + specialist reports, other verbal quotes around £1500
 - Cllr Summerson raised issue of should we even get reports, may affect any sales value if we had to disclose. Cllr Sexton said we can't make any decision without a clear understanding of what the building needs – there's been public criticism of not giving specific information/costings – a comprehensive building report gives us a starting point to provide that.

Vote taken – agreed (Cllr Summerson voted against)

Cllr Sexton allowed a discussion around survey.

Gillian – could we not just get a crack survey to monitor movement – need to know everything that faces the building

Mick – Could we not just leave it as it is & see what happens? – The Parish Rooms are a public building, we need to comply with building regulations & fulfil our legal obligations.

Mick – suggested costs £10/day to run, the village could raise – would that put this whole thing on hold?

- The consultation is around more than just the running costs, more the overall 'liability' the council could face to renovate the building.

Malcolm – Asked for clarification around reserves – RFO explained figures quoted were up to date as we currently stand.

Malcolm – Would survey show a priority rating on what needs doing? – The Surveyor will provide a RAG on what works need doing.

Kim – If the property was sold, would there be restrictions on what the property could be used for? – Cllr Sexton advised any new development must comply with DCC planning guidelines

Gillian – If we lose the hall, where would the parish meeting be held – we haven't discussed that given no decision has been made, but as stated in the last meeting we'd explore other options possibly the village hall.

Cllr Sexton raised his concern & disappointment at some of the comments being made on social media, particularly being directed at staff. To date we have had excellent feedback about the hard work of the team & costings suggest it's the right decision to in-source the flowers. Anyone making comments on our groups against staff will be removed. Verbal abuse of the staff in the village is also completely unacceptable, they have nothing to do with the discussions around the Parish Rooms – please be mindful of this & share this message.

Cllr Sexton invited community solutions to the usage issue of the rooms & the funding that may be required to renovate the rooms.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 8th September 2026

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

Details	Income	Expenditure
British Gas Service Contract		£ 30.82
Community Waves	£ 48.93	
Anglian Water DDR		£ 166.20
Play Safety Ltd		£ 204.00
BP Angel Koi (Plants)		£ 330.60
BP AA Wristbands		£ 120.00
BP Creative Start Design - Posters		£ 60.00
BP Sainsburys Fuel		£ 31.57
BP DCC - Payroll SLA		£ 600.23
BP Angel Koi (Plants)		£ 190.40
BP Roaming Tent Co		£ 1,314.00
Leamside Nursery		£ 151.00
BP Roaming Tent Co		£ 1,314.00
Eon DDR		£ 128.68
J Hall Room Hire	£ 20.00	
STO MC Robson		£ 80.00
BP Screwfix		£ 139.96
BP David Ogilvie Eng (memorial bench)		£ 2,098.80
Bank Charge		£ 25.35
BP Ad/Vantage		£ 3,319.30
BP Ad/Vantage		£ 806.40
BP Angel Koi (Plants)		£ 72.50
BACS DDR Staff		£ 3,287.74
Bank Charge		£ 7.00