

**Walton Village Forum (WVF) Public Meeting  
Tuesday 24 February 2026, 8-9.30 pm**

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

George Curry (Interim Chair) welcomed everybody and thanked the Dog House for hosting.

He reminded everyone about the sign-in list. Those who would like to be on the WVF mailing list please sign up on the website. For GDPR reasons we are unable to manually add people from the sign-in list.

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from David Lerner, Andy Parkinson, Wendy Pitsillides, and Liz and John Bishop

**2. Approval of previous Meeting Minutes (October 2025)**

The minutes were proposed by Mike Board and seconded by Nikki Mann. They were voted on and agreed unanimously as accurate.

**3. WVF Committee**

Committee introductions were given and a plea made for new members or volunteers to be part of any committee activities. The current committee consists of George (interim chair); Marilyn (treasurer), Jean (Walton in Bloom), Caroline, Nicky, Emmeline, Wendy, Andy and David

**4. Financial update**

Treasurer update – due to the previous bank closing the account, the WVF accounts will be moving to Metro bank. The defibrillator will be installed by Spaghetti Tree within the next month

Walton and Tadworth Preservation Society

Cllr Green, Cllr Ashford and Cllr Cooper

**5. Matters Arising & Correspondence**

- a. **May Pageant update** - summary (attached) of last year's event provided by Lorraine (Chair of Pageant Committee), who sent her apologies due to having their own meeting this evening. Key charities supported this year are detailed in this. The confirmed date is 16 May. A further update to follow via email (committee were meeting tonight). Any questions or queries to be directed to Lorraine.
- b. **The Rat Public House** – update to be shared after the meeting.

- c. **Tadworth and Walton Preservation Society** (Rob) – the charity did not raise enough money to achieve the aims. However, an investment company (the Walton on the Hill investment company) has been set up to purchase the land – individuals can buy a share of the land for £25k. Still looking for individuals to buy shares for phase 2. Anyone who wants to invest can contact them directly. Once the land has been secured, the charity will meet to discuss how the money donated will be dealt with, although it was originally promised that if the land couldn't be purchased then the donations would be returned.

There was a discussion around the future of the land purchased by the investment company, which is unknown at this stage, although a commitment to preservation has been made.

Difficulties were noted around communicating with the whole village.

**ACTION** – once a decision has been made and the land purchased, Rob/company to share information with the forum at the next meeting in June.

## **6. Cllr Cooper update**

Winter newsletter sent over Christmas and available at the meeting. Cllr drop-in surgery with Rod on 7 March at Good Shepherd, Tadworth.

Scout hut in Tadworth having a new garage built for storage and asbestos safely removed from old storage area. Toad patrol are looking at possibility of installing amphibian fencing in conjunction with WVF. Projects looking at food security and poverty, working with supermarkets and food banks to redistribute food in conjunction with Olio. Hoping to bring that in on a bigger scale to help reduce waste and ensure wider distribution. Collections happen throughout the day.

Elections will be taking place on 7 May – request to consider all the information and what you want for your village.

Canon's Farm, Burgh Heath – planning application and request to engage with the planning forum no matter whether you agree or disagree with the proposals. It is a powerful tool that can be utilised to record your views. Part of another application for development of farmland in Langley Vale.

Gully on pavement near Tadworth station has been fixed with help from Rebecca Paul.

- 7. TWRA** (Richard Harris) – planning update. Note to be shared post meeting.

## **8. Walton in Bloom update**

Jean introduced Walton in Bloom. Started 12/13 years ago by Ethel Armstrong and Lyn Fern and detailed the development of that initial work done by then. Have looked to make more permanent and sustainable changes such as bulb planting.

Grateful to the forum for a contribution to the hanging baskets and to individuals who have made private donations. These will be installed at Gun Corner and by the pond again. Unfortunately, businesses in the village are struggling to be able to make donations. Need to have a company to manage the baskets and water them as it's not possible for individuals to maintain them. All donations, no matter how small are very gratefully received and there will be a plant stand at the May Pageant too. Volunteers are also very welcome to help and can contact Jean directly, along with any ideas for fundraising.

### **9. Christmas decorations and Poppies**

Emmeline explained how a small group of volunteers forage for local greenery and make the garlands each year. This year, moved away from garlands to wreaths which were better at lasting the whole season. Similarly, poppies are installed by a small group of volunteers. Another example of different ways that volunteers can get involved in the village activities and if you're interested, please contact the forum committee.

### **10. Pond update**

George gave his thanks to David for all his work supporting Mere Pond and the Christmas tree and lights display. Echoed by other members of the public. UPDATE ATTACHED.

### **11. Cllr Rod Ashford update**

Has been working in Lower Kingswood which is part of the ward (Tadworth, Lower Kingswood and Walton). Working with the council to get some paths dug in the Rec with some CIL funding. Has taken 10 years to get this path built, but beneficial to residents especially children walking to and from school and those coming through the Rec from the A217.

Lower Kingswood Social Club and the hall started as a reading room which has been there since 1902 and possibly 1880. Club had fallen into financial difficulty although it has been a village hub and new committee are looking to rebuild this as a community hub again. Rod was able to help them with some grants to stay afloat.

Fox on the Hill pub – planning application for small development of houses. 130 houses on prime agricultural land and the land forms a gap between Kingswood and Burgh Heath which once developed could mean the merging of the villages through further applications. It is now possible to make comments anonymously on the planning portal (although the council will have your name and address), which follows feedback given around the Chequers Lane planning application. Rod echoed Zelanie's plea for everyone to consider the wider area and to make your views known.

### **12. Cllr Ben Green update**

Council currently conducting a Green Belt review which will feed into a new local plan which will be shared for consultation. Community Asset transfer programme to be announced at end of March / beginning of April. Community Governance Review – results of consultation to be shared soon. Elections will be taking place on 7 May to unitary council which will start on 1 April 2027. Will choose 2 councillors to represent you on unitary council for 5 years. Change in the law this year regarding postal votes – if you registered for a postal vote over three years ago then this will be invalid.

Cllr Ashford asked Cllr Green about community assets and issues regarding exclusivity of pitches. This also impacts Howards Close Pavilion which was funded by the community.

Next meeting is 23 June – where?  
23/24 October

**AOB** – Philip Truett asked about the signpost at Gun Corner warning of traffic in middle of the road. County issue so has been forwarded to Rebecca Paul. Request for a replacement sign to be more in keeping with the finger post that is there.

George drew meeting to end at 9.33 pm