



Who does what in Walton Parish?

People sometimes get confused about the roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee.

This article sets out the position as at 4th April 2025.

Walton Parish Council was established by law. There are thousands of Parish Councils across England and Wales and they all largely conform to the same rules and requirements set out by Parliament.

The Parish Council has 8 Councillors elected every 4 years. The electorate are the people of the Parish aged 18+. The process for the election is set out in law. Vacancies within the 4-year period can be filled by a co-option process set out by law. There must be 3 councillors in place to be quorate. A chair and vice chair are elected each year after the Annual General meeting in May.

The Parish Council's key responsibilities are:

- Maintaining the Village Green (grass cutting etc)
- Tree management and maintenance
- Maintaining the Play Area
- Providing 2 representatives to serve on the Village Hall committee

The Parish Council receives annual funding via the Parish precept which is collected by Cumberland Council along with Council Tax and Police and Fire Service precepts.

The Walton Village Hall Committee is a registered charity.

It is governed by a Trust deed and regulated by the Charity Commission. Committee members are recruited in three ways:

- Election at the Annual General Meeting in May
- Appointed by the Parish Council (2 representatives)
- Co-option by the existing committee

There is no limit on the number of committee members but the committee cannot operate with less than three members. A Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are required officers who are normally elected by the new committee established at the Annual General meeting.

The Village Hall Committee's key responsibilities are :

- The management and maintenance of the Walton Village Hall
- The management and maintenance of the Reading Room
- Compliance with regulations set out by the Charity Commission to maintain charitable status

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Walton Parish Council – Annual Report.

Over the last year, the Parish Council has maintained a watching brief on the grass cutting arrangements, street parking and the play area which were all subject to change in the last 12 months. All seem to be in a good place.

The Solar Farm development at Leaps Rigg remains quiet. We know it will happen at some point but the actual timing is unclear and there are probably national infrastructure changes that will determine that. The continuing dialogue with the developers is important as when the Solar Farm goes live, community funding should be made available to the Parish Council to support projects within the Parish.

In the last six months, respective roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council and the Village Hall committee have been under the spotlight. There has been much misunderstanding, confused history and frustration for a lot of people in this but, hopefully, not anymore. The concrete link between the two bodies is the two Parish Council representatives that need to sit on the Village Hall committee. All the relevant documentation should be on the Parish Council website in the near future.

We are in a time of change. Just as there are now a lot of new faces on the Village Hall committee, there are now a number of vacancies on the Parish Council. A great opportunity for new people to put themselves forward!

Graham Shaw, Chair.

31st March 2025

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Old Vicarage Brewery

2025 Season

23rd April 2025 - 30th August 2025

11th September 2025 - 4th October 2025

OPEN Monday - Saturday 12 noon - 8pm

oldvicaragebrewery.co.uk

The Future of St Mary's Church

The church committee held a public meeting at St Mary's on Wednesday 19th March to hear from the Archdeacon of Carlisle, Ruth Newton, about the future of our Parish church.

The meeting was very well attended and, at the time of writing, up to 31st March, there is still an opportunity for the wider community to provide comments and ideas in a suggestion box that has been placed in the church.

Led by the Archdeacon, there was a very broad discussion and the future of the church will only be mapped out to reflect the wishes and ambitions of the community.

So far, views have been based on:

As a place of worship: we can carry on as now, we can close the church or we can become a Festival church (just services for key times like Easter, Remembrance Day, Christmas, funerals, weddings and baptisms.)

Establishing a sustainable future: there is a broad understanding that we need to develop the church as more of a community venue if it is to survive.

Ideas put forward at the meeting included:

- Removing pews to create a large community space

- Having a venue for music

- Installing wifi and a TV for community events e.g. sports and entertainments

- "Champing facilities" for tourists

- Improving the heating and installing solar panels

- Visit other churches in the locality to see how they are addressing the same issues

Any way forward will need to consider the question of investment as disabled access for the church needs to be improved if the church is to remain open and toilets and basic kitchen facilities will be needed if we want to use the church as a venue for community activities.

Walton Church Committee

St. Mary's Church, Walton – April/May 2025

Services

All Welcome

Sun 6th April, 11am, Holy Communion

Sat 19th April (Holy Saturday), 9pm, Service of Light & First Communion of Easter

Sun 20th April (Easter Day), 11am, Service for Young People followed by Easter egg hunt and refreshments

Sun 20th April (at Lanercost) 11am, Holy Communion

Sun 27th April (at Lanercost) 11am, Holy Communion and Rev'd Angela's farewell service

Sun 4th May (Methodist Led) 11am, Holy Communion

Sun 18th May, 11am, Morning Worship

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The poster features the word "EASTER" in large, bold, orange letters. Above the letters are various icons: a musical note, a palm branch, a chalice with bread, a crown, a heart, and a cross. Below "EASTER" is the word "Celebration" in multi-colored letters, with a heart, a rooster, and a musical note. Underneath "Celebration" is the text "suitable for young people". The date and time are listed as "Sunday 20th April 11am" at "St Marys Church, Walton". A cartoon illustration shows two people in white robes running out of a tomb with their arms raised. At the bottom left is a logo with three colored circles (blue, yellow, orange) and at the bottom right is the "NETWORK YOUTH CHURCH" logo.

EASTER

Celebration

suitable for young people

Sunday 20th April
11am
St Marys Church, Walton

A short service followed by
Easter Egg hunt, Craft and Refreshments.

NETWORK
YOUTH CHURCH



Walton and Lees Hill CE Primary School

What a great start to 2025 we have all had here at Walton and Lees Hill; the last half term has been filled with some very exciting fun for all the children.

You may remember that we kicked off the year by having a special visit from the GNAAS for us to hand over the cheque of £200 that was raised from our Pudding Night.



This term we have continued to grow our relationships with local schools: all children attended a morning of trampolining at William Howard School and most recently our Key Stage 1 and 2 children have been attending textile workshops at Gilsland CE Primary School. This is a great way for the children of our school to make new friendships and build new bonds.

We had a great celebration of Chinese New Year in school: Mrs Blair, our school cook, cooked us up a Chinese feast for our lunch. Children made their own name places for the table in Chinese writing.

Our Key Stage 2 children went for a visit to Tullie House where there was a Sheila Fell exhibition. The children spent the morning learning about her artwork, to build on what they had learnt in school, and using her art to inspire their own pieces of artwork.

We were then all very excited when we had a visit from Walking the Wall Veterans. They talked to the whole school about the Romans and the challenge they are undertaking walking the wall. The children all got to try on the Roman armour they were wearing to take on their walking challenge.





Reverend Angela, who comes into school weekly, has been teaching the children the true meaning of Ash Wednesday. Some of the children were marked with an ash cross to help them think about forgiveness. The children all thoroughly enjoy their weekly worship sessions.

As the weather is starting to get brighter and the days drier, we have been making the most of the sunshine with lots of outdoor learning and play.

We have some up-coming community events in school. We have our Spring community lunch on Thursday 3rd April, 12pm. If you are interested in joining us for this event, please let the school office know; a 2-course lunch costs just £5.

To celebrate the hard work of our children we have a Spring Showcase on Friday 4th April, from 2:30pm. This is a great opportunity for the children to show off all the hard work they have been doing to their families, friends and wider community. Everyone is welcome and some light refreshments will be available.

The forthcoming weeks are promising to be just as exciting, filled with trips out, special visitors and many new learning opportunities inside and outside of school.

We really hope the lovely weather lasts into the Easter break and all our families, friends and wider community have a peaceful and well-rested Easter.

<https://www.leeshill.cumbria.sch.uk>

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Walton Village Hall - an update

There's been a hive of activity at Walton Village Hall in recent months! The committee has been hard at work behind the scenes to improve safety, accessibility, and the overall experience for everyone who uses the hall and reading room.

We've introduced a range of new policies including a fire procedure, safeguarding policy, keyholder guidelines, updated hire agreements, and a clear complaints procedure — all designed to support both community use and hall hirers.

Maintenance has also been a major focus: from fixing windows, toilets and lighting. We've also begun sourcing quotes for larger projects to ensure the building remains safe and welcoming.

New safety assessments have been carried out, highlighting necessary changes — including fire safety lighting and accessibility, which we are actively addressing. As part of this process, both the Village Hall and Reading Room have had to close temporarily while we work to bring the facilities in line with insurance and licensing requirements. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

After thoughtful discussion with Nicola and Richard from the tearoom, it was mutually agreed that, due to the ongoing challenges of balancing the business needs of the tearoom with the broader needs of the village hall and community, the tearoom tenancy of the village hall will conclude on **31st March 2025**. While these changes naturally raise some questions about the future use of the hall, we also see this as a positive opportunity to reflect and re-engage with our wider community. It's a chance to explore what the community would most value from their village hall and how we can shape its future to better meet local needs. With a focus on introducing a social events calendar.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the previous trustees and committee for their hard work and dedication in supporting the hall over the years. Their efforts have laid the foundation for the continued development's we're building on today.

We kindly ask that any queries or concerns relating to the Village Hall be directed to waltonvillagehall@outlook.com, rather than approaching individual committee members at their homes. If you do not have internet access or find email difficult, please feel free to use the post box located at the entrance to the Village Hall. Thank you for your understanding and support. To stay up to date with what's happening with the village hall and any community events, please like and follow Walton Village Hall, Cumbria - on Facebook, and keep an eye on our notice boards.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the hall — we're proud of the progress made and excited about what's to come.

Walton Village Hall Committee

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Walton Village Hall Social Committee

We're excited to launch a **Walton Village Hall Social Committee** to bring our community together through fun, inclusive events and celebrations. Whether it's a quiz night, summer picnic, film screening, or festive gathering — we'd love to create opportunities for us all to connect and enjoy time together in Walton.

We warmly welcome your ideas, suggestions, or offers to get involved.

What would you like to see happening in your village hall?

Please get in touch by emailing waltonvillagehall@outlook.com — we'd love to hear from you! Let's work together to build a vibrant calendar of community events.

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Walton WI meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in Walton Village Hall. Already this year we have had a 'Pointless' style quiz night, a dance session, a cookery demonstration led by Sally from Sally's café at Warwick Bridge and entertained visitors from local WIs.

Over the coming months we are learning from Cumbria Police how to stay safe from cyber-crime, having a visit from a local wildlife photographer and learning a little bit about crystals.

Visitors are welcome to come to meetings for a small cost, so if you'd like to come along for an evening of fun, chat and friendship please do, we would love to see you!

We also hold a 'Knit and Natter' session most Friday mornings, this year we are making poppies to be displayed in St Mary's Church, Walton for Remembrance Day. If you would like to help there are knitting and crochet patterns on the WI table in the Village Hall, please help yourself, and return completed poppies to the box there.

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Walton Reading Group

The group meets in the Old Vicarage Brewery at 7pm. Dates and book details are on the next page. We are a friendly informal group, there is no pressure to finish reading each month's book, just come along and enjoy the discussion it leads to. We hope to see you there!

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Walton Reading Group

13th March **Transcription** by Kate Atkinson

10th April **The Half Life of Valery K**
by Natasha Pulley

8th May **Love in the Time of Cholera**
by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

12th June **The Lost Bookshop** by Evie Woods

10th July **The Raven Master**
by Christopher Skaife

No meeting in August

11th September **The End of the Affair**
by Graham Greene
and / or **Agnes Grey** by Emily Bronte

9th October **Klara and the Sun**
by Kazuo Ishiguro

13th November **The Very Thought of You**
by Rosie Alison

11th December Your Choice
A Festive Themed Book



Churchyard Spring Update

Here we are again, at the start of a new growing season; as winter turned to spring we were blessed with a wonderful display of snowdrops and crocuses. Now the daffodils are taking over and soon, hopefully, the bluebells will make an appearance.

As we progress into summer, we hope to see the results of the extensive planting of wildflower plugs that was carried out last autumn. Unfortunately, establishing wildflowers is not the easiest thing to do and is dependent on following a strict process for preparing the area to be planted and then maintaining it. The intention is to extend the planted area in the old area of the Churchyard while still allowing access to the graves, particularly those that are regularly visited.

It is also intended to clear brambles, ivy and holly that are restricting access to some of the graves on the south side of the Church.

In recent months a professional survey of the trees in the churchyard was carried out to identify any that might potentially pose a risk in the future. As a result of the survey, one of the lime trees and a larch on the north side of the Churchyard have been taken down and dead-wooding of some other trees has been carried out. A professional survey of the trees will be conducted every three years.

We are developing a Maintenance Plan for the Churchyard, this has been drafted with advice from Cumbria Wildlife. During the course of this summer we will be carrying out surveys of the wildflowers and wildlife in the church including a moth and bat surveys.

At Christmas, to remember loved ones, many people place wreaths on family graves in the churchyard. If there are any still there at Easter we will remove them as part of our regular maintenance work.

As a result of the tree felling earlier this year, we now have a large pile of logs to dispose of. If you would like, please do take some for your own needs and just leave a small donation to the church. There is a wooden, locked, donation box inside the church.

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Waste Disposal in Walton

At present, outside the Reading Room are a number of recycling large recycling bins for glass, plastic, tin cans and cardboard. These were installed some years ago by Carlisle City Council which, for a short time, also provided a financial payback to the Parish Council for each large recycling bin that was emptied.

The recent fire safety inspection for the Reading Room has highlighted a major risk with the current siting of the large recycling bins.

The Parish Council no longer receives any revenue in respect of the large recycling bins.

Cumberland Council has announced steps to change household waste collection which will see additional wheelie bins for plastics, glass etc for every property in the parish. The existing bags and boxes will no longer be collected. Full details can be seen on the Cumberland Council website.

Given all these factors, the Parish Council is faced with a choice of **either** finding a different location for the large recycling bins **or** having the large recycling bins removed altogether and ceasing that service.

The Parish Council decided at its last meeting to cease the service and have the large recycling bins removed by Cumberland Council.

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