

WALTON ON THE WOLDS MINUTE BOOKS AND ACCOUNT BOOKS

B.1. PARISH VESTRY BOOK

Minutes of Parish Vestry meetings 24th March 1873 to 8 November 1894. Minutes of Parish meetings 4th December 1894 to 31st March 1983.

White/grey book, pages handwritten until 1973 and then typed pages stuck into the book.

Inside two loose pages, one a notice for a vestry meeting February 1885 signed by William Ward and George Loseby, the second a note re parish land.

The book records the minutes of the Parish Vestry until 1894. From 1894 the book records the minutes of the Parish Meetings. It does not record the minutes of the Parish Council, they are in a separate volume.

Both meetings dealt with the election of parish officers: the constables, the overseers, the assessors and collectors of tax and their successors who represented the village on the parish council and various boards and authorities. They also let the grazing along the lanes: Bottom Lane, Seagrave Lane and Top Lane (Loughborough Road, Seagrave Road and Six Hills Road) and the Constable's Field. They were instruments for managing the communal assets of the village: the allotment field, the sheep wash, the village green, the village pump, the new cemetery etc, and concerned themselves with problems such as bad drinking water and pollution of the brook. They administered the parish charities, they looked after the footpaths and bridle ways, and they monitored services provided by outside bodies: electricity, water, telephones, council houses, buses, road signs, etc.

There are one or two subjects of special interest, for instance, the lowering of Barrow Hill in 1882, and in 1926 the meeting signed an agreement with Loughborough Corporation for the use of the country fire engine.

During WW2, the lanes were taken over by the War Office, including the verges at the crossroads between Walton, Barrow and Burton. This was a dangerous corner, and the book records the widening of the approaches in 1973.

In 1873, in a desperate attempt to prevent a board being formed to manage the school, a 2d rate was levied. Only a penny rate was actually collected and some ratepayers wouldn't even pay that.

B.2. PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minute Book March 5th 1934 to 9th September 1955

Red book with red leather corners and spine. Handwritten.

This book contains the first parish council minutes.

The first chairman was Rev. M.B. Bird and meetings during the period were held at the Rectory, at Ivy House Farm, at the old schoolroom, and at the village hall.

The importance of the Parish Award is mentioned several times and this was lodged at the Westminster Bank for safety.

Subjects covered include:

The sheepwash, the village green, the lanes, the constable's field, Walton Brook and the Walton Brook bridges, village charities, the churchyard and the new burial ground,

allotments, the schoolroom, footpaths and bridleways, village hall, the village pump, water quality, rubbish, scavengers, roads and signage, parking, street names, drains and sewers, fire hydrants, telephones, postal service, bus service, street lighting, WW2 evacuation, shelters and requisitioning of verges, and manorial rights.

The book also contains notice of a meeting (undated) signed by William Ward, overseer, and William Daft, churchwarden, and an empty envelope which once contained the bank receipt for the "award and title deeds of allotments" deposited September 19th 1934.

B.3. PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minute Book 7th November 1955 to 30th October 1969

Red book with red leather corners and spine. Handwritten.

At the beginning of the book there is the note, "appointment of Parish Council as Burial Authority August 3rd 1955".

Below is a photograph of the Rev. P Lindsay, the Bishop of Leicester, the Diocesan Registrar and the chairman of the council Mr T Maries at the consecration of the burial ground September 11th 1964.

Meetings were held in the village hall.

The minutes cover the story of the new burial ground from inception to opening, the renouncement of manorial rights over the village green in favour of the parish council, and two bequests to the parish. They mirror the protest at the threatened closure of the A46 junction with the Seagrave and Thrussington roads and the concerns of the parish council about a proposed site for itinerants in Burton parish. Cattle being driven through the village and children playing in the village streets came under discussion, and dog fouling was also a problem.

Other topics include: Election of representatives to Burton School board and other bodies, the allotments and the constable's field, planning, street lighting, footpaths and bridleways, roads and road signs, water supply and drainage, dangerous trees, telephones and the telephone kiosk, medical services, and the filling in of the "top hole".

B.4. PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minute Book 22nd January 1970 to 19th January 1977

Red book with red leather spine.

The book is handwritten to begin with but typed from January 1974. Meetings during the period were held mainly in the village hall but also at the Robin's nest on Six Hills road and Hawthorne Cottage.

The minutes of the first meeting record an investigation into the legal position with regard to the Constable's Field and a proposal to abandon the custom of letting the verges. Later, there is reference to the security of the Parish Award and the advisability of returning this to the bank.

The book records the activities of British Gypsum and registration for drilling and mineral rights, the impact of Dutch Elm Disease, the gift of a *Leicester Mercury* Centenary seat, and the village becoming a conservation area. Improvement of the crossroads (Prestwold to Barrow and Walton to Loughborough) is discussed several times.

Other topics include: the village green, the allotments, Walton Brook, North Plantation, charities, the burial ground, roads, footpaths, hedges and verges, drains, electricity supply, gas service, school buses and service buses, water supply, refuse collection, planning and development, parking, vicious dogs and vandalism.

Of particular interest, during this period, Duncan Norvelle, who became a well-known radio and television personality, was carrying out odd jobs for the Council such as mowing the village green and painting noticeboards.

B.5. PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minute Book 15th February 1977 to 14th November 1984

Black book with index.

The minutes are on typed sheets throughout. The first meeting was held at the Old Manor House, subsequent meetings in the village hall.

The minutes record British Gypsum plans for mining in and around the parish and their likely impact, flooding in Walton Lane, the North Wolds Plan, a proposal to close the Church, the unreliability of the water supply, planting of new trees, problems with the bus service, application for a gas supply, installation of underground electricity cables, and emergency planning and home defence. There was unanimous opposition to proposals to add fluoride to the water supply.

The Council discussed vandalism, damage and mess caused by cows on the road and grazing by goats on the village green. They also considered football facilities for younger residents and the problems caused by children skateboarding.

Ongoing topics include: the Walton Brook, the burial ground, charities, the constable's field, the allotment field, the cricket field, parking of cars and agricultural machinery, heavy lorries through the village, street lighting, fire hydrants, roads, footpaths, drains, planning and development, drains and ditches.

During the period the village celebrated the Silver Jubilee, held a "Have a Go" day and took part in the Radio Leicester Quiz.

B.6. PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minute Book 16th January 1985 to 24th March 1992

Typewritten sheets in black ring binder.

Meetings were held in the village hall.

The book contains two sets of specimen signatures as provided to the bank.

The minutes include a parish meeting held on 11th February 1986 concerning the village green, a meeting on 22nd November 1986 at the burial ground, and a meeting on 1st

November 1988 to discuss the Council's opposition to the proposed development at Wymeswold Airfield.

Several planning matters were dealt with and these were complicated by the constraints of Walton's conservation village status, for example, in the case of satellite dishes. A special meeting was held on 21st February 1989 about an application to erect two houses at the rear of 25/33 Loughborough Road.

British Gypsum's activities and the impact on Walton on the Wolds came under discussion, as did speeding traffic, the failure of the postal service to distinguish Walton on the Wolds from Walton near Lutterworth, fluoridation and chlorination of the water, and the new water pipes being laid from Asfordby mine to the River Soar.

Other topics include: Walton Brook, the allotment field, the bus service, charities, the telephone kiosk, waymarking of the footpaths, vandalism, dumping of rubbish, roads and signage, and the nuisance caused by slurry tankers.

The 250th anniversary of the rebuilding of the Church was approaching and plans for a village festival were under way.

B.7. PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minute Book 5th May 1992 to 13th January 2000

Typewritten sheets in dark blue ring binder.

Meetings held in the village hall.

The minutes include a meeting on the village green 27th September 1995 to decide where to put the VE commemorative seat and they record extensive correspondence and negotiations with the owner of property adjoining the village green regarding fences and boundaries. The churchyard was finally closed for burials, and the sale of Ivy House Farm highlighted the need to clarify the situation regarding the parish pound.

There were problems with travellers parking at Top Corner and plans are outlined for deterring future encampments, and there were complaints about litter, dog-fouling, the noise from bird scarers, and the nuisance caused by the burning of horse "muck" at local stables. A neighbourhood watch scheme was introduced also mobile bottle banks and the green bin recycling scheme. An archaeological warden was appointed. The Parish Council completely failed in the attempt to find a suitable site for a village bus shelter.

The minutes record that Burton Bandells had been selected by the Borough Council as suitable for the construction of 1,000 houses.

Other topics include: British Gypsum traffic, the supply of gas to the village, planning (including refusal for the extension of the Anchor Inn), the Quadramania Kart Track, roads, footpaths and bridleways.

Towards the end of the period, the parish council discussed proposals for marking the millennium and the village received a visit from the sitting MP Andy Reed.

B.8. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

21st March 1984 to 16th March 2005

Typewritten sheets stuck into dark blue book.

The minutes include the annual report of the chairman of the parish council, also the letting of the allotment field, the closure of the churchyard for burial, and the replacement the village's listed K6 telephone box following an accident.

At the meeting of 24th March 1999 the owners of the Grade II listed house Kingscote gave a presentation outlining their plans for the future of the building, the condition of which had been causing concern.

There are public expressions of gratitude to several people whose efforts within the village community were especially appreciated.

Other topics: problems caused by heavy lorries, the quality of the water, roads and road markings, damage to the village green, waymarking, postal services, lack of parking space, and the new neighbourhood watch scheme.

B.9. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ACCOUNT BOOK

31ST March 1895 to 31ST March 1929

Grey-blue patterned book with red spine.

All handwritten.

Includes proceeds from letting of the lanes and constable's field, and the use of the sheepwash.

Payments included the use of the Loughborough Corporation fire engine, £16.7s.0d for a new door to the sheepwash in 1920, and an investment in 5% war bonds in 1919.

In 1909 the village paid 9s.2d. for a motor warning sign.

B.10. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND PARISH COUNCIL CASH BOOK

Accounts for the Parish Meeting 31ST March 1930 to 31ST March 1934. Accounts for the Parish Council 31ST March 1935 to 31ST March 2003

Black cash book with red corners and red spine binding.

All handwritten.

Shows rental for lanes and constable's field, with separate allotment accounts shown on page 3, also parish precept.

In the early years of the Council, five shillings was spent on a Councillors' Guide and six shillings and sixpence for a County Boundary map. There are contributions to the Loughborough Corporation for use of their fire engine and payments for telephone service. The accounts for 1994 show the sum of £652.48 for four new street lights.

During WW2 rents for the lanes were received from Northern Command, and in 1942 the Council paid £2.10s for war damage insurance.