



Report on the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 7pm at Waltham Village Hall

The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners for the Parish of Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold to receive reports from community groups covering activities carried out over the past year and to raise any matters of concern that relates to their local community.

Parish Council:

Projects that the Council have completed this past year include:

- Co-ordinating a two-week children's activity session at the Village Hall in July and August
- Pavilion Refurbishment
- Installing three new picnic tables at the Playfield and a bench in Churchyard 1
- Carrying out a Parish consultation on new infant play equipment for the Play Park

Future projects will include:

- Completing the installation of the new play equipment chosen by consultees
- Consulting on new projects to be funded from the MUGA reserves

Biodiversity Group:

- Ten more swift boxes were installed by LCC
- A fruit tree pruning workshop was held and covered theory and practical elements
- All apple and pear trees in the new and old Orchards have been pruned

St Mary Magdalene's Church:

- The church is the hub of many community events such as community café, Little Gems and a fortnightly Youth Club, which has proved to be very popular.
- A major project has been launched to replace the rotten wood in the Tower costing around £30,000. Grants will be sourced to help with financing.
- The church is keen to pursue eco-church status

The 1st Waltham Scout Group:

- There are 80 members across all sections and 15 DofE participants being administered
- All sections take part in local and national activities throughout the country including attending the County Beaver Day, the Mini Jamboree Day in Oakham and the Larkin Jamboree in Yorkshire.
- Two Scouts and two leaders are joining with other district and county members and are taking part in the Spirit of Nepal Expedition in 2025.

Waltham Village Hall:

- Events will be back to a more normal schedule following the post Covid rush. Large events and weddings will be capped at 20 per year.
- Costs have risen sharply due to inflation, especially of energy supplies
- The trustees are keen to pursue sustainability of the running costs and will look to invest in energy efficient options

Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) - FoxConnect

- The DDRT initiative is effectively 'dial a bus' and is run through Foxconnect. Buses can be booked through an App or by phoning the call centre.
- Timetabled buses have been streamlined and the FoxConnect service connects smaller villages and communities to interchange points. Waltham is an interchange point.
- Foxconnect services could be used to access the surgery in Bottesford. Services can be booked up to 7 days in advance and the return journey can be booked at the same time.
- There are two pick up points in Waltham. No cash. Contactless payments only.
- Leaflets are available from the Parish Clerk.