

WALKERBURN RUGBY CLUB



On May 30th at the most picturesque ground in rugby, Walkerburn Rugby Club's last ever 7s brought down the curtain after one hundred and forty-two years of great rugby at Caberston Haugh.

Supporters and visitors packed the ground to watch some exciting rugby and to pay their respects and to reminisce about enjoyable past times.

The sun that had shone all day finally went behind a cloud as a skilful Kelso team crowned the last ever tournament with a hard-fought 19-14 win over Lasswade in the final. The women's final was also a close fought encounter with Gala Women winning 26-22 against Peebles Rebelles.

It was a fitting, if sad, tribute to the ending of a local institution that has been a central part of the community for such a long time. To everyone who worked so hard for this to happen, and to all who have done so much for the club over the years, the memories can never fade and the village will be secretly hoping that someone will wave a magic wand at some time in the future and rugby will again be played at Walkerburn.

Well done everyone who has contributed over the years. This is surely a case of "gone but not forgotten".

WALKERBURN VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION VEGETABLE SHOW 2026

Our 141st Annual Show takes place on **Saturday 5th September** in the Public Hall.

The Vegetable Association is the oldest organisation in the village run by a small committee and we are always keen to welcome new members. We also have a group of volunteers who help us set up the hall on Friday for the show and dismantle the tables on the Saturday evening.

Perhaps you would like to help? (for more information, please contact Allin Hoggarth allin225@hotmail.co.uk or 07985319009).

Schedules will be available from the Post Office or from the Cafe. The show is open to any and all regardless of where you live; there is no need to pre-register, just join the association when you come to set out your exhibits.

Your membership allows you to enter as many classes as you like (although only one entry per person in a class).

A reminder:- all exhibits must be received in the Hall by 10am on the day of the show.

We are also open on Friday evening to receive exhibits.

Doors open to the public at 2pm on the day of the show where you can see who has won.



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WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: June/July 2026

Mondays	Walkerburn Baby and Toddler Group. For more info, please contact Jasmine Aquilina on 07922 613890 Festival Concert – £2 entry – doors open at 6.30pm	10.00am – 11.30am 7.00pm
Tuesdays	Youth Club	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesdays	Walkerburn and District Community Council Monthly Meeting – 20 th June and 15 th July	7.00pm
Thursdays	Citizens Advice Bureau and Peeblesshire Foodbank Coffee Club – 18 th June, 2 nd July, 16 th July, 30 th July Festival Principals Party all welcome from P1 to	10.00am-12.00pm 7.00pm
Fridays		
Saturdays		10.00am – 12 noon
Sundays	ITW Church Services – 21 st June Table Tennis	10.30am 6.00pm – 9.00pm

Anyone interested in booking the hall, please note new contact:
enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk

PEEBLESSHIRE FOODBANK COFFEE CLUB



Walkerburn Village Hall, 10.00am to 12 noon every 2nd Thursday 18th June, 2nd, 16th and 30th July
 10.00am to 12 noon

Enjoy **Free** hot drinks and cakes and a chance to meet others in a warm and friendly environment. Please come along and support this very worthwhile asset to our community and bring a friend or family if you wish. Also, the Peebles and District Citizens Advice Bureau will be on hand to offer help and advice if needed.

(Coffee Mornings on 18th June, 2nd July, 16th July, 30th July in the Village Hall)

Contacts: Citizens Advice Bureau: Tel 01721 721722, Peeblesshire Foodbank: Tel 01721 588654

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WALKERBURN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH MAY 2026

Chairman's Introduction:

The Chairman welcomed everyone especially members of the public.

Present:

Mr Kerr (Chairman), Ms Daykin, Ms Brodie, Mr Thornton, Ms Aquilina, Ms Sedgwick, Mr Wilcox, Councillor Douglas, Councillor Tatler, Councillor Pirone.

Attending members of public: Ms Neville

Minute taker: Mr Ewart

Chairman's Introduction:

The Chairman welcomed everyone, especially members of the public.

Apologies and Notices:

Mrs Thornton. No notices.

Police Business:

The monthly police report was shared by PC Ryan Sheil.

The detailed police report has been cut back to only disclose basic information to the members of the public.

There were three police calls to Walkerburn in April 2026. Vandalism and littering have been minimal. Anti-social behaviour is improving. The police will consider using the speed gun for a while in the village.

April minutes and Matters Arising: Mr Thornton proposed approval of the April minutes, Seconded by Ms Aquilina. The Minutes were passed unanimously.

Matters Arising:

a) SBC are going to replace the glass in the bus shelter and paint it. Correspondence from Councillor Tatler.

b) Small Schemes approved the installation of road markings at the High Cottages, proper signage will be put in place at the end of the multi-use path in due time.

c) Farmer will receive a letter from Mr. Kerr detailing complaints from residents. Access officer Ms Denise Brydon will assess farmland issues.

Correspondence:

a) No correspondence issues.

b) It was discussed that the wooden walkway in Alexandra Park is in need of repair and is a danger to the public. Mr. Kerr will report this to Mr. Campbell Johnston of SBC.

c) We have requested to Ms Phillipa Gilhooley to consider the installation of double yellow lines at the bottom of Hall Street going onto both Tweedholm Avenue and Park Avenue.

Planning:

a) No comments or raised issues regarding planning.

b) Scawd Law Wind Farm issue was raised by Mr Wilcox. Explanation is required after court ruling in February determined that a wind farm has to have a grid connection.

Scawd Law Wind Farm has been opposed by the planning committee for a whole range of reasons. Awaiting Fred Olsens decision regarding Scawd Law.

Update on Place Making:

Ms Brodie is aiming for more than 100 questionnaires to be filled in. Ms Brodie attended the Plant sale and Walkerburn Summer Festival Coffee mornings to promote these questionnaires. 29 questionnaires have been returned.

The themes are: we have a positive natural environment, community spirit and a general positive environment.

Next steps are continuing to approach groups over the summer and contacting the school to

provide pupils with child friendly questionnaires. Mr. Kerr is to approach the TYA with child friendly questionnaires.

People are interested in a shelter being built in Alexandra Park, similar to the one in Victoria Park in Peebles. Mr. Kerr to receive permission from Mr Gregor Scougall to take a survey at the rugby 7s.

Tour de France:

A sub group consisting of Mr. Ewart, Ms Daykin, Ms Brodie and Ms Aquilina will take charge of organising how the village can be best presented for the upcoming 2027 tour.

We must apply for finance for any ideas. Red and Black bunting was suggested, as well as painting the pissoir yellow, then black afterwards. Ms Daykin will contact SBC to determine next steps for painting the pissoir as it is 'category A' listed.

Village Hall could be opened to the public and the footage broadcast inside for the public to watch, Mr. Ewart to Liaise with the Hall Committee regarding this.

AGM Meeting 17th June Nominations for WDCC:

The AGM will be held in the Village Hall on the 17th June 18:30, where confirmation of Community Councillors will take place.

Playpark upgrade:

There is a meeting on the 5th June 14:00 at Alexandra Park with councillors present to discuss how we can upgrade our playpark. £89,000 has been granted by SBC for upgrade work.

Reports by Members:

- a) A suggestion was raised that we could contact the owner of Elibank Castle and ask for a sign to be placed near the ruin explaining it. (Mr Thornton was able to confirm that this is been done).
- b) A suggestion was raised of having micro meetings
- c) A report was raised with Tweed Forum regarding the route for the trail passing through Walkerburn from Moffat to Berwick.
- d) A report of some vandalism has been raised. Any member of the public who witnesses vandalism in the village should contact the police on 101.

Reports by SBC Councillors:

- a) Cllr Pirone reported that the 'Greener Gateway' awards are open. We need ideas to enter. A local landowner has planted 200 trees alongside the Tweed. Our wildflowers in the village are really blooming.
- b) Cllr Tatler reported the Chambers Institution Fete had good attendance on Saturday. Also, they have lots of boards to display in the window of the contact centre.
- c) Cllr Tatler reported the investment proposal for the Gytes has been put on hold currently.
- d) Planning application for the deer processing shed at Clovenfords has been passed.

Any other business:

There was a good attendance for recent installation of the replacement 'Muckle-mouth Meg' statue at Thornylee. The new statue of he, her husband and a cow is looking good.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 17th July 2026: **6.20pm-** (WDCC AGM , followed by monthly meeting at **7.00pm**).

(Members of Public are welcome to attend and raise questions they may have)



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WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

Bowls

The popular Wappenshaw bowls games are open to all, including anyone new to bowls. Come along and enjoy a friendly game, as well as some pleasant conversation over tea and biscuits. They are held three times a week and start at **2.00pm on Mondays and Saturdays** and at **6.00pm every Wednesday**.

It is pleasing to see the good turnouts and how enjoyable each game has been. It is also especially heartening that we have some new lady members. We are all looking forward to the warmer summer weather and the longer evenings!

Petanque

Petanque continues each Friday afternoon, with tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards. The monthly summer League games are also under way. It is also heartening to see Petanque members showing off their skills at the Wappenshaw games!

We are always keen to welcome new members to both the Bowls and the Petanque sections. Do come along whenever possible and give it a try.

The club has Bowls and Petanque equipment free for anyone to use if needed.

Members also have access to the club every day to practice or to play with friends.

(For more details, please see the Walkerburn Bowls 'Facebook' pages, or just come along and introduce yourself any time there is a game being played. Alternatively contact George Thornton on either 01896-870251, on e-mail geoles2@tiscali.co.uk), or ask any member.

Lastly, we would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all our sponsors and helpers who have done so much for us as we enter our 127th year!



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WILD SIDE

And so we reach June, the first month of summer for 2026. The Northern Hemisphere will mark the summer solstice on 21 June, the 'longest day of the year', when there will be around 16.5 hours of daylight.

The exact time of the solstice is at 9.24am BST, and that is the moment when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted farthest towards the Sun. From here onwards the days will get progressively shorter until the winter solstice on 21 December.

A bit of a misnomer is Midsummer's Day on 24th which is really only of note if you're into Shakespeare or want to start your countdown to Christmas and New Year! From then it's 183 days to Christmas and, considering there's 365 days in a year, I guess it is about mid year so fair enough! The skies are relatively 'quiet' in June. In July and August, things pick up with the Perseid meteor shower from 17th July to the 24th August, peaking on 13th August.

The 12th August is a total eclipse event to clear the diary for and we should get a pretty good view here. Viewers in London will see the Moon touch the edge of the disc of the Sun at 6.17pm BST.

The Moon will gradually cover more of the Sun until the maximum at 7.13pm, and finally leave the disc of the Sun at 8.06pm. At the eclipse's maximum, 90% of the Sun will be covered by the Moon, which is enough to notice a difference in the temperature and light levels.

Only the lucky handful of countries that fall within the path of the eclipse will be able to see it, as the Moon only casts a small shadow on the Earth when it moves between the Earth and Sun.

Viewers in some parts of Iceland and Spain will be able to witness the first total solar eclipse in Europe since 1999!

Don't go into this much-anticipated event unprepared. As you must never look directly at the Sun to protect your eyesight (even during an eclipse), make sure you have a pair of eclipse glasses, access to a solar telescope (check out your local astronomical society) or that you use a pinhole projector. If it's anything like the last eclipse in 1999 eclipse glasses were readily available - even given out free with some newspapers. Worth getting for the kids at least! The Royal Observatory will be live streaming the eclipse which is the safest way to watch and no doubt it will be on the TV too. Let's hope it is a nice clear day or all that will have been in vain!

On the TV as I write is 'Springwatch', which I like watching every time it's on even though it covers a lot of the same things.

I like the Spring version for the young birds as certainly I haven't seen any in our own garden yet. There are a few ducklings and oystercatchers on the Tweed. This seems to be a good year for bugs and wee beasties. There are a lot of orange tip butterflies this year and the dog keeps bringing in snails which I'm less happy about. He doesn't like to give them up either without a fight! We also seem to have a lot of wasps. Wasps apparently hate citrus and peppermint so to keep them out of the house I might try the old remedy of mixing up some peppermint oil in a spray water bottle and spraying around doors and windows. The empty bird boxes will also need doing as at least one gets taken over every year.

I wrote before about the controversy of bird feeding. The latest advice is *no seeds or peanuts from May to October, only worms and suet*, should you choose to follow it. The main thing though is to keep feeders clean and disinfected and move them around regularly. It seems that tables and flat surfaces are the no-no's for feeding especially. Clean water for drinking and bathing is essential though. (Thanks to royal Observatory, RSPB and BTO)

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BURNING ISSUES CONTRIBUTORS:

Please submit any articles, letters or other material for the July issue by the end of June.

Contact *BURNing Issues* at: walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

