

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Wacton Village Hall.

Weds 4th March 2026 at 6.00pm at Wacton Village Hall

**Present: - Chair Gary Mulhall, Councilors: Freddie Boone, Kat Ireson and Mike Hollamby
County Councillor Alison Thomas,**

Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

County Councillor Alison Thomas was also in attendance.

4 Members of the public

1. Public Participation

No comments were raised at this point.

2. To consider any apologies for absence

Pete Fraser sent his apologies. All agreed to accept

3. To receive any disclosures of interest.

Gary Mulhall for a payment regarding Soup Kitchen Expenses

4. To approve the minutes from the meeting held on 4th February 2026

These were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 4th February 2026 and duly signed

Proposed Freddie Boone Seconded Mike Hollamby

5. To consider matters arising from the last minutes (for information only).

All on the agenda

6. To receive a report from the County councillor.

Alison gave the following report.

East Pye Solar need to do more work on their application so there is a delay in them submitting their planning application. Alison also commented that the consultation had only just met the legal tests required, but the county council are looking further into this and need further information before it is submitted to the county council planning team.

Pre-election period starts 27th March till around late April, and no major decisions can be taken during this time.

Alison commented that she will not be standing for the new elections and was thanked by the councillors and parishioners for her 19 years of service to the county and local councils.

Not a lot is known around Local Government review moving forward.

7. To receive a report from the district councillors.

Kim Carsok sent the following report

Members Ward Grants at SNC have been doubled for next year, so I will have £2,000 to fund projects in my four parishes from April 2026.

In February, South Norfolk District Council councillors voted to **supersize the**

Community Action Fund (CAF) funding pot to £500,000, allowing the Council to support a wider range of impactful community projects. In recent years, the CAF has helped fund mental health and wellbeing services, outdoor play areas and fitness equipment, youth, sports and cultural programmes. To complement this, the Council has created a **new £500,000 Community Facilities Grant** to improve local infrastructure such as village halls, community centres and other key community venues.

A new South Norfolk in Bloom fund has been created, with £150,000 (£1 per resident) offering matched funding to help parishes, towns and community groups enhance their green spaces. The initiative aims to support planting schemes, floral displays and habitats that encourage biodiversity across the district.

The rollout of food waste collections has been delayed due to a bottleneck in the supply chain of the specialist lorries required for the service. We will update residents by letter when they are due to receive their food waste caddies.

The District Council's share of Council tax will increase by a below-inflation £5 per band D household per year.

8. To receive a report from the Village Hall committee.

No report received

9. To consider planning applications.

- East Pye Solar and Scoping documents comments (for Info only)

Detailed in the county councillor Report earlier

- Field Battery Storage Plant update (for Info only)

2025/1689

Proposal: Erection of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure including access, drainage, landscaping and other incidental works

Location: Land North of The Junction of Market Lane and Carr Lane Great Moulton Norfolk

Applicant: Field Long Stratton Ltd

Application Type: Full Planning Permission

All planning objections have been submitted, and we have received the report from SNDC that they have submitted, and the clerk will get this on the website asap.

No Further information has been shared with the council

A third consultation on the local land flood authority has been done, and it has been sent back as incorrect.

- To discuss the possibility of Tree Preservation Orders in Wacton

The TPO application for all the trees on Stratton Road has been submitted and we await the decision.

10. Governance

Nothing to report this month

11. Correspondence: -

Planning Objections submitted and taken to SNDC as requested

TPO Application submitted

CAF Funding application submitted for £13,000

SNDC Information on solar Farms and BESS in South Norfolk Received

Mental Health Awareness Training evening for Parishioners to be held on 23/3 at Wacton Village Hall from 6pm to 8pm.

NPTS Spring Seminar booking made for Chair and Councillor

Apologies received from Councillor Pete Fraser

All Quotes received for CAF Funding application

New Clerk Pension rates received and submitted as agreed

Email from bank to say monthly charge increasing from £6 to £7 starting this month

12. Maintenance

Village Green

A call from the grass cutters when do we need the first cut for the village green and it was said to be done end of March

Trees at Blacks meadow

Trees will need to be cut back by the end of the month and the cut through also need cutting back and the obstruction of view for Buses and larger vehicles. It needs to be done by the end of march due to the nesting season.

13. To note receipts for February

None received

14. Authorization of payments

February Payments

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for Feb £684.01
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension Feb £228.70
- To approve payment to G Mulhall for Soup Kitchen ingredients £135.34
- To approve payment to BT for Broadband Charges £37.14
- To approve payment to 02 for clerk's Mobile £12.91
- To approve payment to Lloyds for Credit card charge £3.00
- To approve payment to Unity Trust for Monthly bank Charges £7.00

Proposed Freddie Boone Seconded Kat Ireson

- To Note the financial position of the council

The council had a balance of £9922.87 at the start of March and after today's payments of £1108.10 we finish the year with a balance of £8814.77 but do have a VAT reclaim of £344.79 to do at the end of the month.

It is noted that we will finish the year with a deficit of £1144.21 from last years end figures but considering the works done this is a good figure and the clerk had produced an Expenditure v Budget report for 2025-2026 for

all councillors

15. Report on any ongoing matters:

- The woodland project and Bridge in the Copse repair.
The CAF funding has been submitted and we await their decision
Lots of work to be done in the woodland project as the log stores have been damaged and the works
- Tree Issues on The Green
The price is in and once the precept is in, we will look at getting this done in early April and then a new native tree will be planted to replace the one taken down. One tree at the far end of the playground is dead and needs taking down asap.
One Tree also in the play area which is an old apple tree, and this has toppled over and needs a cut back.
A tree by the goalposts needs to also be looked at. All agreed.
- All Councillor Training and Clerk Training
The chair, Clerk and Councillor Kat will all be attending the upcoming NPTS Spring Seminar and the clerk will also be attending Clerks Networking in Attleborough on Friday 13th March along with SLCC Norfolk AGM.
- Defib Pads
The new pads have been received and have been duly fitted in the Defib and Councillor Pete Fraser was thanked for his work on this.
- CAF Funding
The funding application has been submitted for £15,000 and the councils share being £2,000 with the full application made for £13,000 for the bridge repair, Picnic area with benches and waste bins along with two new items for the play area with one being suitable for disabled children to use. We await the decision on this asap.

18. Matters raised by councillors and members of the public. (For information only).

A report regarding Norfolk highways with the Wacton Village sign and this will be replaced with a new one.

Two issues reported with footpaths, one at the top of Buttles Lane and impassable, the beginning of FP24 which goes across the field that the finger post is in the wrong place and it has been reported a few times and highways have come back that the fingerpost is in the correct position and a chat with the farmer is needed asap.

Why is Church Road closed again, and it was noted there was a water leak that was being fixed.

Thanks were given to all the volunteers that run the soup kitchen on a Wednesday, and it was really well received by all that attend.

19. To receive details of the Parish Speed Watch group, plus Volunteers that are needed and SAM data download.

No data submitted as the group has not been out for a few months now due to illness and weather issues.

The clerk has downloaded the SAM 2 machine and will be moving it to another location asap.

The data is very encouraging except for one speeder on 1/2/2026 at 65mph at 17.05pm which was reported as a Police car under Blue Lights. The average speed coming into the village is 32.7mph which is acceptable and the report has been forwarded to the Police moving forward.

20. To discuss the need for new parish councillors

We still need new councillors, and they can be co-opted straight away.

21. Items for the next agenda.

Year-end figures

CAF Funding decision hopefully

Meeting Finished at 18.35pm.

Dates of next meeting: 1st April