

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

Weds 4^{1st} April 2026 at 6.00pm at Wacton Village Hall

Present: - Chair Gary Mulhall, Councilors: Freddie Boone, Kat Ireson, Pete Fraser and Mike Hollamby

Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

3 Members of the public

1. Public Participation

A parishioner asked a question on LGR and we are part of Depwade area rather than Long Stratton. No further information is known yet on the make-up of the area moving forward.

2. To consider any apologies for absence

No Apologies received

3. To receive any disclosures of interest.

Mulbee Solutions for a payment

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

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 4th March and were duly signed by the chair as such.

Proposed Mike Hollamby Seconded Pete Fraser

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

All on this agenda

6. To receive a report from the County councillor.

No report received

7. To receive a report from the district councillors.

The main updates to share were regarding the successful CAF bid (yay!), and the next major round of grants which will have a deadline of 16th August.

This is 500k for new projects (CAF) and 500k for upgrades to existing facilities such as village halls (CFG).

There is also the South Norfolk in Bloom grant - match funding 1:1 for planting projects, up to £1 per person in the parish. And, I have double the amount of members ward grant available for this financial year.

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

The chairman has stepped down and resigned along with other members of the committee. As trustees the Parish Council will undertake the work moving forward and new committee will be in place soon.

9. To consider planning applications.

- East Pye Solar and Scoping documents comments (for Info only)
- 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
 No further information received.
- To receive an update on the proposal of Tree Preservation Orders in Wacton
 The clerk has submitted the TPO for the trees on Stratton Road and had received a reply to say the Trees are in a conservation area so a TPO is not needed and could not be taken down without a consultation with the parish that we would turn down any applications to cut them down.

10. Governance

Nothing in this area at present

11. Correspondence: -

Email regarding a culvert on the Green.

TPO received back saying trees are in a conservation area.

South Norfolk in Bloom application submitted.

CAF funding decision received.

New Year end finance package made ready for 2026-2027.

New 2026-2027 finance folder made up.

Year-end works started

AGAR work started

Electoral Role details received.

VAT refund submitted to HMRC

Details of full council training received for Wacton Councillors

LGR details received

Internal Audit Check list received and done ready for Internal audit.

Website updated ready for year end.

ICO detail updated again

SLCC Norfolk AGM attended.

Clerks networking attended.

12. Maintenance

Village Green/Common Road

An email had been received from a parishioner requesting access to the ditch on Common Road for remedial work around the culvert with further information in the councillor's pack.

It was agreed that we support this work and any costs to be paid by the parishioner requesting the works to make good any issues from the work on Parish Council land. The following response will be sent to the parishioner.

The Parish Council would require a letter from the parishioner's solicitor showing that they would make good the area and any costs incurred would be

paid by them if needed and that they can show they also meet the environmental code. No works to be started until the solicitor's letter is received by the council agreeing to these requirements.

A request from a parishioner regarding the tree opposite side of the playground all of that area of Tree Growth is under the ownership of the Village Green and an email regarding a tree coming down in the wind and the tree has been removed at present. Can we undertake more works moving forward at this area damaging the power cable.

Trees at Blacks meadow

These have been trimmed up and they could do with a harsh cut back in the Autumn moving forward.

13. To note receipts for March

None

14. Authorization of payments

March Payments

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for March £675.21
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension March £228.70
- To approve Payment to HMRC for Tax and NI £428.48
- To approve payment to NPTS for Annual Subscription £301.01
- To approve payment to BT for Broadband Charges £41.94
- To approve payment to Mulbee Solutions for Soup Kitchen and Maintenance works £167.13
- To approve payment to 02 for clerk's mobile phone £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 Gary Mulhall Seconded Kat Ireson

- To Note the financial position of the council
The council started the month of March with a balance of £8814.77 and after today's payments we will finish with a balance of £6949.39 but the clerk has submitted a VAT Refund for the year-end of £344.68 which we should receive soon.
- To receive the year-end figures for 2025-2026
The year end figure for this financial year is £8814.77 which is down from last year to the extra works undertaken on the Bus Shelter and the increased cost of Parish Insurance and Grass cutting for the council by £1144.21.

14.1 To agree Section 1 of the AGAR for the annual Governance Statements
The clerk took the Councillors through the Annual Governance Statements to ensure they approve the answers given.

Proposed Freddie Boone Seconded Kat Ireson

14.2 To agree section 2 of the AGAR the accounting statements
The clerk took the councillors through the Accounting Statements and explained how they are worked out ready for year end.
The clerk was thanked for his work on this and all councillors agreed with the statements provided.

Proposed Gary Mulhall Seconded Pete Fraser

15. Report on any ongoing matters:

- The woodland project and Bridge in the Copse repair.
Moving forward it will start again soon but there has been a lot of vandalism.
- Tree Issues on The Green
We await consent on removal of one tree and we need a coupe of branches to be cut down moving forward and the plie left by Community Payback has been cleared.
- All Councillor Training and Clerk Training
The clerk recently attended the SLCC Norfolk AGM and clerks networking and asked permission to book his attendance at the SLCC National Conference in October at a cost of £245 incl vat.

Proposed Kat Ireson Seconded Mike Hollamby

- CAF Funding
The clerk was pleased to report that the grant application for the woodland project and the new picnic area on the green was approved and we are due to receive the full £13,000 in the coming weeks which will allow for the bridge in the woodland project to be repaired and other works undertaken along with the building of the picnic area.
He also reported that he had applied for £600 from the South Norfolk in Bloom fund today to help with the costs of the planting of the planters and the well. We await the decision.

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

No matters raised by councillors at this point.

It was felt that parishioners do not know what we do to let them know in any way possible. This is added to The Sextons Wheel for their attention to show what we do. It was asked how we do this moving forward.

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

The speed watch group have been unwell and have not been out in village.

The clerk had not downloaded the SAM 2 this month as it needs moving asap and this will be done once the year end is completed.

20. To discuss the need for new parish councillors

We continue to need new councillors and if anyone would like to apply, please contact the clerk in the first instance with no people coming forward.

21. Items for the next agenda.

Internal Auditors Report

Final year end works report.
CAF Funding
South Norfolk in Bloom Grant
Tree on the Green
Dates of next meeting:

Assembly of the Parish Council starting at 5.30pm on 6th May followed by the
Annual Parish Council Meeting starting at 6pm

Meeting closed 6.32pm