

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

Weds 5th November 2025 at 6.00pm at Wacton Village Hall

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

County Councillor Alison Thomas

Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

6 Members of the public

1. Public Participation

The upcoming consultation on the solar panels and the meeting is from a local action group, and all are welcome. It is to show which developments are coming to our area and the council are aware of the issues and are keeping their options open.

Neither of the applicants will be in attendance that have put the planning applications into Norfolk County Council planning system.

The local MP is in Long Stratton in late November

Could the Parish Council put a planning application in for barriers to make the roads smaller and this is a nonstarter.

Are there parking restrictions in Hall Lane so cars can park along Hall Lane anywhere they want to.

2. To consider any apologies for absence

Kim Prentice sent her apologies, and all agreed to accept.

3. To receive any disclosures of interest.

No Disclosures detailed for this meeting

4. To approve the minutes from the meeting held on 30th September 2025

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th September and the chair duly signed them

Proposed Pete Fraser Seconded Freddie Boone

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

All on the agenda from the last meeting

6. To receive a report from the County councillor.

Bypass construction now complete and northern compound decommissioned with southern due to be reduced significantly in size.

Remaining works are around planting and landscaping and will continue through into the new year. Roundabout planting now completes so traffic disruption should cease!

Devolution was agreed last month so we proceed to a mayoral election for Norfolk & Suffolk next May. £37.4m annual additional funding to allow the mayor to plan and fund schemes.

Strategic transport budget devolved to mayor so projects like LS Bypass would no longer have to fight for central government funding if they are deemed to be needed local infrastructure by the mayor.

Work continues by officers to "setup" a mayoral county combined authority ready to hit the ground running once the mayor is in place.

Awaiting government decision regarding LGR public consultation. Still don't know if all proposals (1,2&3) will proceed to the next stage.

Locally further supported living and housing with care projects started across the county enabling bespoke provision for elderly and those with learning disabilities to live independently with support.

Norwich Dental School under construction but still awaiting Health minister approval and funding for the required training places.

I've sent an email re East Pye briefing with officers if you could confirm if you wish to attend.

7. To receive a report from the district councillors.

No report has been submitted

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

No report received

9. To consider planning applications

2025/3381

Location: Bretts Manor the Common Wacton Norfolk NR15 2UP

Proposal: Replacement of unsafe flooring tiles.

Application Type: Listed Building Consent.

The council discussed this and agreed to support this application

- East Pye Solar and Scoping documents comments (for Info only)
Alison Thomas had sent an email to the clerk on which councillors would like to attend the upcoming online briefing with county officers to ask any technical questions they may have
- Field Battery Storage Plant update (for Info only)
Still on hold and no further information available

10. Governance

No Governance this month

11. Correspondence: -

Grass Cutting Invoice for Sept received

Meeting held with Grass Cutters to show our issues

Pride in Place Town and Council in-person forum details emailed and forwarded to all councillors

Email from NPTS to say we have overpaid for the Autumn Seminar, and they would refund the difference

Lots of emails from Hempnall Parish Council regarding east pye solar

Pylons Norwich to Tilbury Development order submitted

Winter Pressures grant applied for

Pension enrolment undertaken as our 3 years was up
SLCC National Conference attended
Clerk attended VVG Conference as guest of Dutch clerks' association
Budget work undertaken
Pension work done and sent in on Spreadsheet and i-connect
3 x Emails from Wacton Village Hall
Email from District Councillor saying there could be CAF funding next year for bridge repair and new bins and benches
Email from Alison Thomas on the possible meeting with officers to ask technical questions of the County Highways officers on East Pye Solar with a date to be arranged
Town and Parish in-person Seminar place booked for clerk
Email to say we SNDC have been oversubscribed on the warm pressures grant so we were unsuccessful at this time
Wreaths collected and email sent to Wacton PCC to collect theirs from the office and bill sent for the £20 charge to them

12. Maintenance

The clerk commented that any future maintenance that needs doing moving forward must be fully costed before any work is started without fail
Only outstanding issue is the 4 tonne bags that the community payback used when they did the stream and this need removing asap.
It was thought we use the 2 spare bags to make them smaller, so they are easy to remove. A parishioner has a flat bed truck which my help. A quote to be looked for

13. To note receipts for October

NPTS overpayment of Training course £134.40

14. Authorization of payments

November Payments

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for October £699.76
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension Oct £228.70
- To approve payment to HMRC for tax and NI £268.47
- To approve payment to Unity trust for bank charges £6.00
- To approve payment to Excite Solutions for Grass Cutting £457.80
- To approve payment to RBL for Poppy Wreaths £40.00
- Payment to Lloyds for monthly credit card charge Oct £3.00
- To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile Oct £12.91
- To approve payment to BT for Broadband for defib Oct £35.84
- To approve any payments on Credit Card for October Clerk's door sign for the office £12.57

Proposed Gary Mulhall

Seconded Kat Ireson

- To agree any Payments after the agenda is posted
None
- To note the financial Position of The Parish Council
The council started the month of November with a balance of £16406.23 and after today's payments of £1765.05 are taken out we will have a balance of £14641.18 in our account And a VAT reclaim of £94.51 to be done once we reach over £100

15. Report on any ongoing matters:

- The woodland project and Bridge in the Copse repair.
District Councillor Kim Carsok had emailed the clerk in October to say that there may be CAF Funding to get the bridge repaired and hopefully purchase some benches and waste bins.
- Councillor and Clerk Training
The clerk recently attended the VVG and National SLCC Conferences and they were both very good. One of the main points at the SLCC conference was Biodiversity and the clerk met a company called Green Solutions to talk about biodiversity and he is arranging a free visit to Wacton for the company to do a bio-diversity audit to see how we can move forward on this.
Many other topics were discussed from Devolution to play areas and the SLCC National really was a great conference.
The Dutch clerks conference is run very differently but it was amazing to hear that they suffer the same issues we do with members of the public interrupting in meetings (which makes the meeting illegal) to bullying, speeding, dog mess and finally the issue with immigrants coming into their country and not abiding by their laws.
- Benches and repairs to damaged ones
3 remaining benches need to be rubbed down and scrubbed done and repainted
- Book Exchange
Still being well used and is a great asset to the village and is seriously oversubscribed.
- Biodiversity
As detailed in clerks training report
- Damaged Play Equipment and annual play inspection report
The main damage is the frame for the baby swings, and it was felt we did not need 2 sets of baby swings and the baby swing and a child swing on one frame. The old Frame is rotted and moves badly on that post. There are several options one is to repair it or cut it down making a smaller frame concreted into the ground. The other suggestion is to leave the

ground and maybe make a tyre area for all to enjoy. The Trim Trail is not in a great state and needs looking at once funding can be sourced. The issue will be investigated asap.

- To discuss Grass Cutting contractor meeting

This was held recently with a supervisor from the company, and they agreed that at times they are rushed and have agreed to ensure the grass is cut correctly and all areas are cut. Maps have been sent to Excite Solutions, and they agree that they will ensure areas are cut as the maps

- Defib Training and New Pads

The Defib training was held recently and was reasonably well attended and was very good and David was thanked for his work on this. It seemed the posters did not work, and we need to find a way to promote these events in a better way. It was felt the email response did not work and it was felt a leaflet drop would be a better way moving forward.

Feedback was very impressed by the way the course was run and how personable the course was by the providers.

New pads to be ordered in Jan.

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

Common road is bad and will be reported to highways by a parishioner. The camber on the road is very poor and dangerous.

There is damage to the green that has been caused by works being done and piles of rubble that have been left on the green by GLS contractors and they have been spoken to, and they will remove the pile of rubble, and they have agreed to make good.

A parishioner asked again about the meeting at the church on the Action Group at the church.

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

The clerk downloaded the SAM 2 machine today and the figures are again encouraging with the average speed around 26.89 mph, but we did have one speeder on 13/9/25 at a speed of 55mph at 22.10pm which is still unacceptable. The average 5-day peak at 8am is 50 cars and at 4pm is 62 cars with the average 7-day peak at 8am being 48 cars and at 4pm 56 cars so it seems the Long Stratton Bypass is helping our traffic flow better

20. To discuss the need for new parish councillors

We are still looking for new councillors, and we may have one that is now eligible to apply, and the clerk will contact him to ask if he still would like to be a councillor

21. Items for the next agenda.

Budget

Precept

Defib Batteries.

Dates of next meeting: Parish Council meeting 7th January 2026 6pm
Meeting finished at 18.37pm