

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Council held at Wacton Village Hall.
Weds 2nd September 2026 at 6.00pm at Wacton Village Hall**

Present: - Chair Gary Mulhall, Councillors: Kat Ireson, Pete Fraser, and Mike Hollamby
Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

4 Members of the public

1. Public Participation

A parishioner asked if we had heard anything about the building of housing in South Norfolk. The clerk has heard nothing about this yet.

The chair commented that this is to do with the Greater Norwich Local Plan and a call for possible sites moving forward for housing. There have been over 40 responses on this and there may be a couple of places in Wacton. Nothing has been decided. The list is huge and the Wacton area is very tiny in the scope of things.

2. To consider any apologies for absence

Freddie Boone sent his apologies all agreed to accept

3. To receive any disclosures of interest.

Mulbee Solutions for a payment. All agreed to accept

4. To approve the minutes from the meeting held on 1st July 2026

These were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 1st July and was duly signed by the chair

Proposed Pete Fraser

Seconded Mike Hollamby

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

Nothing has arisen from the minutes

6. To receive a report from the County councillor. (Max 5 Minutes)

County Councillor was not in attendance and the report is Attached as Appendix 1

7. To receive a report from the district councillors. (Max 5 Minutes)

The District Councillor was unable to attend and sent no report as she was on holiday

8. To receive a report from the Village Hall committee. Incl Grant application details submitted

A couple of new regular bookings are in place.

A new black bin has been provided by SNDC

The committee have had a meeting and the hall seriously needs an upgrade to make it more interesting and more village appealing with a couple of important points to be upgraded including the fire panel and the fire exit at the end of the corridor as it is not disabled friendly.

The clerk along with members of the Village Hall had submitted a grant application for £14,000 via the community facilities fund to aid the upgrading the village hall as detailed above and we await the decision which we believe will be in late October.

The clerk was thanked for all his work on this by all councillors and village hall trustees.

9. To consider planning applications.

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

The East Pye Planning Inspectorate meeting will be held at Dunston Hall in the coming weeks.

- 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 has been shared with the council recently. Except It was commented that the fire service has commented that they can cope should there be a fire at a recent meeting held at Great Moulton.

2026/2409

Location: Stuart House the Green Wacton Norfolk NR15 2UN

Proposal: Alteration to the existing garage to include a new home office

Application Type: Householder

Approved by the council all agreed

10. Governance – To agree the Clerk's pay rise allocated by the government at 3.3% (which equates to 64p per hour.) back dated from April 1st

Proposed. Kat Ireson

Seconded Mike Hollamby

11. Correspondence: -

Government pay rise backdated from 1st April received at 3.3%

Community Facilities grant submitted

Community Facilities quotes received but other needed asap

Complaint sent to Highways on the missing Wacton Village Sign by Councillor Boone.

Clerk booked on both the SLCC Digital AGAR seminar, Governance Seminar's

Clerk and councillors booked on NPTS Autumn Seminar

Clerk booked on SLCC National Conference

Planning Application 2026/2409 received

Digital AGAR platform set up ready for the trial and training.

12. Maintenance

Village Green – Track to Stuart House has been renovated and this has now been seeded that highways use on their areas.

Trees at Blacks meadow – Delayed till November

13. To note receipts for May

None

14. Authorization of payments

August Payments

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for July £711.46
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension July £209.29
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI £221.41
- To approve Payment to NPTS for councillors attendance at Autumn Seminar £134.40
- To approve payment to PKF Little john for external Audit £252.00
- To approve payment to BT for Broadband Charges £41.94
- To approve payment to 02 for clerk's Mobile £13.39
- To approve payment to Lloyds for Credit card charge £3.00
- To approve payment to Unity Trust for Monthly bank Charges £7.00

September Payments

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for August £769.89
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension August £228.61
- To approve payment to Mulbee Solutions for new bridge work £3800.00
- To approve payment to Tharston and Hapton PC for share of clerks attendance at upcoming £21.25
- SLCC digital AGAR and governance seminar
- To approve payment to BT for Broadband Charges £41.94
- To approve payment to 02 for clerk's Mobile £13.39
- 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 Mike Hollamby

- To Note the financial position of the council
At the start of August we the council had a balance of £25,496.21 and after the payments for that month totalling £1593.89 we were left with a balance of £23902.32 meaning we started the month of September with the opening balance detailed at the end of August of £23902.32 with payments for this month totalling £4885.08 we end the month of September with a balance at present of £19017.24 and a VAT refund of £158.62 to do and our second precept payment due at the end of September totalling £12,542.20 we would start the month of October with a balance of £31,559.44 although we have some grant items to purchase to meet grant requirements.

The chair then signed both July and August bank statements as a true record of the balances

- To receive the External audit Report and note any actions required
The clerk reported that the External Auditor's report had been received and it was a good report with the only action required to update the section 2 box 6 for the year 2024/2025 to ensure we have the correct salary and pension figures in that box. We also were made aware that Section 1 box 9 was incorrectly filled in and this was done by most of the clerk due to the dreadful wording of the explanation.
The clerk was thanked for his great work again on this and councillors noted the actions had been done by the clerk.

15. Report on any ongoing matters:

- The woodland project and Bridge in the Copse repair.
The bridge is finished and looks great. The anti-slip mesh is now on the bridge and its nice and safe and now usable. it also has a new handrail for disabled access. There are worries that the pathway is not usable with no access the path has been messed up and trashed by local children and will be opened when this is complete. A local farmer has trimmed the trees back off the road and along the sides of common road.
- Tree Issues on The Green
Nothing more to report on this regarding the big tree from Stuart house that has been removed. Some do need trimming as they are hanging low hindering the grass cutters.
- All Councillor Training and Clerk Training
Lots of training in place for the clerk including the upcoming SLCC digital AGAR and Governance workshops booked along with SLCC National Conference and locally clerks networking and the NPTS Autumn Seminar with the chair and Kat Ireson
- CAF Funding and Wildflower border proposal
The first part of the CAF funding has been spent on the bridge repair and we will be ordering the benches and play area items at the end of September so we can get them in place before the year end.
The wildflower border was deferred till October meeting.
- Setting up of Emergency co-ordinator for the parish
Deferred till all councillors had discussed this item

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

No comments from the public at this point.

Common road has been repaired recently and once reported to highways they did the work in around 5 weeks.

Drain cover had been repaired

Is there a possibility of anymore grant funding for winter warm space but a discussion with District Councillor Kim Carsok was needed on this,

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

The clerk had downloaded the SAM 2 report for the last two months and it was excellent with the only speeder over the limit being 35mph on 12th July at 19.30 pm and he was unable to print the report as the system was down.

It was hoped to get the volunteers ready soon but the coordinator was in an accident so could not get this in place.

20. To discuss the need for new parish councillors

We still need two new councillor's if anyone knows a parishioner that would like to join the council, please contact the clerk

21. Items for the next agenda.

Benches to be ordered

Play Area item to be ordered

Clerk's salary rise and back pay

Winter warm grant funding.

Wildflower border

Meeting closed 18.38pm

Dates of next meeting:

Parish Council meeting 7th October 2026 6pm

Report from Margaret Thomas

County Councillor for West Depwade

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August 2026

Here is my latest update on Norfolk County Council activity, local developments, funding opportunities and issues that may be of interest to residents, businesses, parish councils and community organisations.

Norfolk County Council Updates

Appointment of a New Chief Executive

Norfolk County Council has appointed **Dennis Bacon** as its new Chief Executive. Mr Bacon brings extensive leadership experience from the health and care sector and has previously worked closely with organisations across Norfolk. His appointment comes at an important time for the authority as it prepares for significant change, including Local Government Reorganisation and the continued delivery of key public services. The appointment was approved by a **special meeting of Full Council** following the recruitment process. [\[norfolk.gov.uk\]](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk)

Support Following Exam Results Day

Students across Norfolk have received their A Level, T Level and Level 3 qualification results. Norfolk County Council is encouraging young people, parents and carers who may be unsure about their next steps to make use of support and advice available on education, training, apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

Community Wellbeing

Feel Connected Campaign

Public Health Norfolk's Feel Connected campaign is encouraging residents aged 55 and over to stay socially connected and actively involved within their communities. The campaign aims to reduce loneliness and social isolation by promoting local activities, volunteering opportunities and community participation.

School Uniform and Back-to-School Support

The County Council's Crisis and Resilience Service is providing targeted support for families experiencing financial hardship with school uniform and back-to-school costs. Assistance may be available for clothing, shoes and other essential items. Residents who may qualify are encouraged

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service

Investment in Fire and Rescue Services

Funding originally allocated to the proposed Norfolk Community Fund has been redirected to Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service due to increasing operational pressures. The service has experienced a significant increase in activity over recent years, including incidents linked to extreme weather events and lithium-ion batteries. While the Norfolk Community Fund will not proceed during 2026/27, the Council has confirmed its continuing commitment to supporting the voluntary and community sector through alternative grant programmes.

Recognition of Long Service

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service recently recognised Holt firefighter **Tony Pointer** for reaching the remarkable milestone of **50 years' service**. Mr Pointer joined the service at the age of 19 and has spent the last 31 years serving as Watch Manager at Holt Fire Station. During his career he is estimated to have attended more than 7,000 incidents.

As crews continue responding to outdoor fires during the summer period, residents are being encouraged to take extra care when enjoying the countryside and open spaces to help reduce the risk of preventable fires.

Highways and Transport

Trial of New Pothole Repair Technology

Norfolk County Council will trial an innovative pothole repair machine during September as part of ongoing efforts to improve road maintenance. The trial will take place in South Norfolk and will help assess whether new technology can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of repairs.

Highways Local Member Fund

Following a recent decision by the Leader of the Council, the Highways Local Member Fund will not continue for new schemes during the current financial year. Funding will instead be redirected towards highway maintenance and repairs across Norfolk's road network.

Funding Opportunities for Local Projects

Parish Partnership Scheme 2027/28

Norfolk County Council has opened the next round of the Parish Partnership Scheme, enabling Town and Parish Councils to bid for funding towards local highway and transport improvements. The County Council has provisionally allocated £500,000 to the programme and will generally fund projects on a 50/50 basis, with a maximum County Council contribution of £25,000 per bid.

Applications close on **1 December 2026**.

Projects may include:

- Footpaths and surfacing improvements
- Road safety measures
- Speed awareness signs
- Rights of way improvements
- School safety schemes
- Bus shelters and transport infrastructure
- Electric vehicle charging facilities

Smaller parish councils with annual incomes below £2,000 may qualify for enhanced support of up to 75% of project costs. Parish councils are encouraged to contact their local Highway Engineer as early as possible to discuss proposals

Bus Infrastructure Funding

Additional funding is available for bus stop infrastructure improvements, including bus shelters, seating, lighting and cycle parking. Funding may cover up to 80% of eligible project costs.

Best Start Family Hub Grants

A range of grants is available for organisations, community groups and individuals supporting children and families. Funding can assist with new activities, expansion of services, equipment, venue improvements and initiatives supporting infant feeding and family wellbeing. Grant values range up to £9,000, with a combined application limit of £10,000.

Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Grant Programme

Funding is available for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations delivering projects that support residents facing financial hardship and help build stronger, more resilient communities

Go Digital Funding Programme

Norfolk businesses can apply for grants of up to £500 to support digital improvements, including websites, software, online marketing and productivity enhancements.

Heating Oil Crisis Fund

Support of up to £350 is available for eligible low-income households that rely on heating oil for heating and hot water and are struggling with fuel costs.

International Partnerships

Norfolk's Partnership with Lviv

Norfolk County Council recently welcomed a delegation from Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University in Ukraine. The visit forms part of the ongoing partnership between Norfolk and the Lviv region, supporting collaboration in healthcare, education and public services.

Keeping in Touch

If you would like further information on any of the issues highlighted above, or if there are local matters you would like me to raise with Norfolk County Council, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Margaret Thomas

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