Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Council held at Wacton Village Hall.
Weds 5th October 2026 at 6.00pm at Wacton Village Hall

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

Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

3 Members of the public

1. Public Participation
   A parishioner made comment that a member of BEPS will submit the document on our behalf as the clerk cannot access it. There are worries that the clusters development may increase into Wacton moving forward with the boundary between Wacton and Long Stratton could take over the area. It is hoped this would not happen moving forward and the chair felt the number of sites is quite worrying locally.
   The new local Wacton Sign was still not in place.
   The bus shelter and book area is being used and there is worrying thoughts that lots of added items are being put into the bus shelter and could we put a sign in the area telling people what to leave.
   It was asked if we could put a notice board up to allow people to put there adverts on it. The clerk would look at this.
2. To consider any apologies for absence
   None received
3. To receive any disclosures of interest.
   None Declared
4. To approve the minutes from the meeting held on 2nd September 2026.
   The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 2nd September and the chair duly signed them.
   Proposed Mike Hollamby Seconded Pete Fraser
5. To consider matters arising from the last minutes (for information only).
   All items on the agenda
6. To receive a report from the County councillor. (Max 5 Minutes)
   The county Councillor submitted her report as Appendix 1
7. To receive a report from the district councillors. (Max 5 Minutes)
   Kim Carsok sent her apologies as she was busy this evening and could not attend.
8. To receive a report from the Village Hall committee. Incl Grant application details submitted.
   We recently held an event and the caterers made comment that they were impressed with the village hall and will pus the village hall as a venue for further events. The event went very well.
   The clerk had worked hard on the grant process for the village hall committee and the chair and councillors thanked the clerk for his work on the grant and it

was great to report that Wacton Village Hall have been awarded the full £14,000 grant monies to upgrade the Village Hall.

9. To consider planning applications.

- East Pye Solar and Scoping documents comments (for Info only)
  If anyone would like to make their representation to this it must be done by 6th October and you must have your own registered email to do so
- 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
Nothing further to report on this application
Application Type: Full Planning Permission

- To discuss and note any comments from Councillors on the SNDC Housing allocation for Wacton.
  Already been discussed earlier and the document is on the website for all to make their thoughts known via the consultation.

10. Governance – No Governance
11. Correspondence: -
    Grant application news
    Warm space grant submitted.
    NPTS Seminar attended with councillors
    Email from Parishioner on East Pye proposal and shared by the chair to all councillors via email.
    East Pye Rule 8 Letter received.
    Issue with Grass Cutting reported and dealt with by contractor.
    Lots of work done on Community Facilities Grant as requested early in the month.
    Digital AGAR seminar attended in Reading.
    Sam machine taken to Westcotec for repair.
    Sam machine collected from Westcotec repaired and back in place with new padlocks and no charge.
    Clusters allocation document added to Website.
12. Maintenance
    Village Green
    Nothing to report but there are several low hanging branches but these will be left down to aid rewilding in the future.
    Trees at Blacks meadow
    Nothing further to report and once everything is dropped the trees will be cut back to aid them.
13. To note receipts for September

2nd Precept Payment £12,542.20

14. Authorization of payments

October Payments

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for September £784.19
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension September £228.61
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI £442.28
- To approve payment to Excite for grass cutting June, July, and August £1373.40
- To approve payment to Viking for Stationery £115.12
- To approve purchase of Locks for SAM machine £20.85
- 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 Freddie Boone Seconded Kat Ireson
- To Note the financial position of the council

  The council started the month of September with a balance of £19.017.24 and after receiving the second precept payment we start the month of October with a balance of £31,559.44 and after today's payments totally £3,029.78, we finish the month with a balance of £28,529.66 with a vat refund to be reclaimed of £428.62 which the clerk will do at the end of October.
- To receive the 6-month budget v Expenditure report

  The clerk Produced this for all councillors to see budget v Expenditure report and was thanked for this.

  The clerk had produced this for all councillors and will add to the website.
- To agree the setting up of scribe system for financial work to aid the clerk moving forward including setting up of complete system for the council.

  At the recent NPTS seminar the chair met with the scribe team to look at the possibility of implementing this financial system to help the clerk moving forward. The clerk had emailed all the councillors the details of the costs £249 for the initial license and £149 for the set up to add all the details onto the system with a monthly charge of £33.

  The system is excellent and really helps one of the clerks' councils and he would be in favour of getting this all sorted asap.

  It was proposed to get the clerk to action this asap.

  Proposed. Kat Ireson Seconded Mike Hollamby

15.Report on any ongoing matters:

- The woodland project.
  All moving forward since the bridge ahs been done it is still a mess and some parts have been cleared but there is more work to be done.
  Continued ongoing work in the next few months.
- All Councillor Training and Clerk Training
  The clerk is attending the upcoming VVG Conference and the SLCC national conference in the next two weeks so is out of action but will take his laptop with him to work during the SLCC National Conference.
  The clerk also passed his audit qualification.
  The clerk will be staying on after retirement for an extra couple of years to help the council.
- CAF Funding purchases of benches and Play Area item.
  and Wildflower border proposal
  The clerk to action the purchases asap on his return.
- Setting up of Emergency co-ordinator for the parish
  Deferred till Nov Meeting

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

Nothing brought up by councillors

The county councillor gave her apologies for being late due to the clerks not being free on the usual day this month.

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

As detailed earlier the Sam 2 machine has been repaired with no charge and back on site and will be downloaded for the next meeting.

20. To discuss the need for new parish councillors

We still need new councillors.

21. Items for the next agenda.

Scribe System in place and first reports.

CAF Funding purchases information on delivery

Emergency planner.

Village Sign

Dates of next meeting: Parish Council meeting Weds 11th November 2026 6pm

ontinue to be a key issue for local residents. Norfolk County Council is trialling a new repair system called Roadmender, which treats cracks and road defects before they develop into potholes. The aim is to provide quicker, more durable repairs, minimise disruption and make better use of taxpayers' money.

The County Council has also published its initial . Rising demand for adult social care and children's services continues to place pressure on finances, and the Council is consulting on a range of proposals aimed at protecting frontline services while closing a projected funding gap.

Key proposals include:

- Earlier intervention and neighbourhood support to reduce demand for adult social care
- More support for children to remain within or return to family networks, alongside expanded family help services
- Higher income from infrastructure fees and charges

remains an important priority. The national is seeking views from residents to help shape future care provision. This complements Norfolk's ongoing work to support people to live independently and remain connected to their local communities for longer. [caseycommi...sion.co.uk], The Big Conversation on Care | The Casey Commission

initiatives are also expanding across the county. New self-service health check stations have been introduced, allowing residents to access free health assessments, including blood pressure, heart rate and lifestyle indicators, together with personalised advice and signposting to support services.

recorded its busiest month ever in August, attending 1,295 incidents following an exceptionally hot and dry summer. The increase was largely driven by fires across the county, including incidents in Kenninghall and other rural locations.

Young people across Norfolk have benefited from a range of summer activities organised by the County Council's youth support team. Nearly 1,700 young people took part in programmes designed to build confidence, improve wellbeing and provide positive opportunities, particularly for those at risk of isolation or exploitation.

There are also several available for community organisations. Grants are currently being offered to support community facilities, local projects and renewable energy initiatives. Parish councils and local groups may wish to explore whether these opportunities could benefit their communities.

Finally, the County Council has adopted its new priorities, focusing on supporting vulnerable residents, improving roads and transport, strengthening communities, encouraging economic growth and ensuring value for money. These priorities will help shape the Council's work over the coming years.

Alongside these county-wide developments, I have continued to represent residents and communities across West Depwade on a range of local issues, including major planning applications, road safety, rural infrastructure and adult social care transformation.

- I recently attended the Planning Inspectorate examination hearings for the proposed East Pye Solar Farm and spoke on behalf of local residents. I raised concerns about the difficulties many people have faced engaging with the process and the confusion and stress this has caused. During the issue-specific hearings, I highlighted the lack of assessment of the cumulative impact that multiple large-scale energy developments could have on residents' mental health and wellbeing, as well as their potential impact on local services. I am pleased that the Planning Inspectorate agreed that this issue should be scoped back into the examination. I will continue to make representations throughout the process, liaise with the Block East Pye Solar campaign group and remain firmly opposed to this application.
- I also recently raised concerns at the County Council's Planning and Infrastructure Select Committee regarding Anglian Water's compensation process for affected farmers. I highlighted the complexity of the arrangements and the additional stress and uncertainty this can create, particularly for tenant farmers, and called for a simpler and more transparent approach.
- As Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I continue to play an active role in helping to drive the transformation programme currently taking place across Norfolk. This work is focused on improving outcomes for residents, supporting greater independence, delivering services closer to communities where possible, and ensuring best value for money across the adult social care sector.
- I continue to liaise with highways officers on speed reduction measures and wider road safety concerns across the division.
- I am also working with digital services to support improvements in both digital connectivity and digital skills across Norfolk, helping to ensure rural communities are not left behind.
- In addition, I continue to make representations on behalf of residents regarding planning applications where there are significant local concerns, ensuring community views are fully considered throughout the planning process.

Please contact me if you wish me to raise any concerns or issues on your behalf.