

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

Tues 30th September 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

2 Members of the public

1. Public Participation

Nothing to report

2. To consider any apologies for absence

Apologies Received from Councillor Kim Prentice

All agreed to accept

3. To receive any disclosures of interest.

None

4. To approve the minutes from the meeting held on 3rd September 2025

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting on 3rd September and duly signed by the chairman.

Proposed Pete Fraser Seconded Freddie Boone

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

None

6. To receive a report from the County councillor.

Alison Thomas gave the following report

A couple of things to report

Long Stratton only accessible from Parkers Lane due to the new drainage being put in and this should be done in the next 2 weeks.

Formal opening of the Bypass in October.

LGR have all agreed and submitted their proposal to government and we await their final decisions on either a one, two or three unitary councils and we await the decisions. The government will decide what is best way forward and how we move forward.

Devolution will happen on 16/10 but this due to the letter from the ex-minister was valid with the new offer being slightly better than the original offer.

If devolution is not agreed, it will go ahead with no funding so it was felt that the county councils would move forward with this

Field have submitted their application as yet no information from county engineers John Curtis on what the movement is.

Lots of development of housing with care scheme with many schemes starting

to break ground with on in Harleston. The people that would benefit would be those that only need 4 hours care and have their own housing. The scheme is really coming on board with lots of areas starting their schemes under Places for People scheme with a huge injection of funding from the county council. New Norwich castle is complete and is spectacular and all are urged to visit.

7. To receive a report from the district councillor.

Kim Carsok did not attend the meeting and sent no report

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

No report received

9. To consider planning applications.

None received

- East Pye Solar and Scoping documents comments (information only)

Nothing new to report

- Field Battery Storage Plant update (information only)

Nothing new to report

10. To discuss the community payback details and agree the actions for the team.

The Community payback team again visited the Parish for three days and did some great work and really helped with how the village is looking. It is hoped a new date/date will be sorted soon for a revisit.

Many parishioners have commented on the standard of the work and how excellent the village looks

11. Governance

- To approve the updated Parish Council Policies

All updated as September meeting and on the website as required

12. Correspondence: -

Pension details done and sent in

Internal Control undertaken with thanks to Councillor Freddie Boone.

Email from District Councillor that CAF funding may be available to help with the woodland project areas that need repair

Grass Cutting Invoice for three months received

Email sent to Grass Cutting contractor requesting a meeting asap

Hedge behind Victoria Cottages cut

Precept Payment received

Pre-budget work undertaken by the clerk

Website updated

All Parish policies on website

NPTS Autumn Seminar booked for Chair and Councillor

Assertion 10 Seminar attended

SAM machine moved and downloaded

Clerk invited to attend national Clerks conference in Holland

13. Receipts

Precept Payment received

£11,402.00

14. Authorization of payments

September Payments

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for Sept £652.51
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension Sept £228.70
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI Sept £411.28
- To approve payment to Unity trust for bank charges £6.00
- To approve payment to NPTS for Autumn Seminar £134.40
- To approve payment to Excite for grass Cutting £1373.40
- To approve payment to Mulbee Solutions for Village maintenance £360.00
- To approve Payment to Lloyds for monthly credit card charge September £3.00
- To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile September £12.91
- To approve payment to BT for Broadband for defib September £35.84
- To approve any payments on Credit Card for September
- Browns Timber for Creosote £36.54
- Compost for tree Planting £20.97
- Amazon for community payback Paint,
- Brushes and Lead Kit £65.04
- Amazon for new steps as parish ones damaged by Community Payback £63.88
- Brushes and Lead Kit for community payback works £27.48
- Trees for orchard £155.92
- To approve payment to Viking for Stationery £29.99
Proposed Kat Ireson Seconded Pete Fraser
- To note the financial Position of The Parish Council
- To agree any Payments are the agenda is posted
None

The Parish Council started October with a balance of £19,886.62 and this included the next precept payment of £11,402.00 and after today's payments of £3614.79 we will have a balance of £16,271.83 and a Vat refund of £408.86 having been reclaimed today meaning the council are in a good position but it's vital we are prudent moving forward and do not overspend.

15. Report on any ongoing matters:

- The woodland project and Bridge in the Copse repair.
We have been unable to get grants to carry out the work, but there may be light at the end of the tunnel as we have been made aware of the CAF funding next year we could utilise

- Councillor and Clerk Training

The clerk is travelling to Holland tonight to speak and attend the Dutch national clerk conference returning on Friday evening. The clerk, Chair and a councillor are attending the excellent NPTS Autumn Seminar and after that the clerk will attend the SLCC national conference when many new items will be discussed and the clerk will be trained on.

- Benches and repairs to damaged ones

Two more benches need some repair and one in the orchard from a personal donation needs repair and we will adopt this. One repaired by Long Stratton men's shed and the community payback stained on

- Biodiversity

The 4 new trees have been planted 2 x cherry and 2 x pear in the Orchard, and we thank Mulbee Solutions and those that helped for doing this asap

- Damaged Play Equipment

Will be discussed at the clerk's national conference when he will also look at what grants are out there to update the play area. It is hoped the baby swing area could be repaired

- Community Payback report

The community payback team have recently spent three days in the village supervised by the chair and have done a great job, and we look forward to their return at a date to be arranged

- Defib training

This has been booked for Thursday 30th October at The Village Hall from 7pm all welcome to attend

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

All kit for the defib training will be provided

The grass cutters forget to do round the pond and this need instructing of the contractor to get this done

One of the ladies that does the flowers near the bus stop is resigning and the other lady may also leave quite quickly after

Look at the possibility of removing one of the goalposts on the green as it is bent and badly damaged with the area quite dangerous.

Overflow from the well when we have a heavy rainfall

The bench in the woodland project and she was in contact with the parishioner and it was felt we would leave this as it was now.

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

The clerk has moved the SAM 2 machine and downloaded the latest data which showed we have one speeder on 13/9 at 22.10pm at 55mph which is unacceptable. The data showed that 85% of drivers are travelling at 31.6mph when entering the village and 50% are travelling at 26.69mph which is acceptable in both instances. The worrying data is that in 4 months we had

48740 vehicles enter the village averaging 750 a day one way and we now await the next data from the new post outside the village hall as drivers leave the village.

17.To discuss the need for new parish councillors

Nothing to report on this

18.Items for the next agenda.

Pad for defibs

Grass Cutting

Dates of next meeting:

Parish Council meeting 5th November 2025