

# WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025 AT 7.30PM IN WISSETT VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr F. Burton, Cllr P. Parry, Cllr G. Kiddy, Cllr M. Wetmore, Cllr B. Matthews, County Cllr A. Dunning, District Cllr B. Keys-Holloway.

APOLOGIES: Cllr E. Flaxman, Cllr C. Prior (Apologies were approved).

NOT PRESENT: District Cllr G. Wakeling

ALSO PRESENT: Carol Hume (Parish Clerk), 1 member of the public.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

## REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

None

## MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2025:

Minutes of the meeting agreed and were signed by the Chairman as a true copy.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The resident present wished to speak during Item 8 on the agenda.

The reports from County Cllr Dunning and from East Suffolk Council had already been circulated to councillors. There were no points raised from either report.

## PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Grays Lane Solar Farm – Community Benefits Package. The Chairman had an online meeting with Mark Kelly from PACE and CC Annette Dunning to discuss a possible community benefit package. Mr Kelly said PACE were committed now to working with the Parish Council. The Chairman will be negotiating on behalf of the three parishes affected and suggested both a capital sum and annual payments. Mr Kelly said PACE will pay the market rate, he hoped to get back to the Chairman in about a month's time with a proposal. Mr Kelly welcomed the suggestion of WPC being involved in species selection and management of the planting, He will also look into the private water supply issue at Bulhams. Asked when the construction at Grays Lane will start, he said the panels have been purchased however because of work needed on the grid connection, there could be a significant delay so the start was certainly not imminent. He agreed to regular updates on progress from PACE to the parish council.
  
- b) Neighbourhood Plan - There were 73 replies to the recent questionnaire sent to residents which the Chairman was grateful for. He had now produced summary of the responses which constituted a good representation of how residents feel about the village now and for the future. All the information collected will be most useful in moving on to the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan. The raw data replies as well as summary of responses will be published on the village website.

- c) Wi-fi installation in the Village Hall – the Clerk gave councillors the figures for future payments - £71.40 due at the end of December followed by £71.40 due in June 2026 which will be at the end of the current contract with FramBroadband. The Village Hall trustees have applied for an ESC community grant to go towards buying a projector and screen for use in the hall and the Chairman encouraged residents to make use of these facilities.

### PLANNING

DC/25/2386/FUL – First floor extension over garage and internal remodelling – Lilac Lodge, The Street, Wissett IP19 0JH.

The Parish Council had made clear previously their objections to similar applications at this address which still stand for this current application.

DC/25/2668/CLE – Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing) – building works to shed - Land to the north of the Old Chapel, The Street, Wissett.

The Parish Council were made aware of concerns that the owner may be currently using the shed for part time residential purposes.

### CHEDISTON SOLAR PARK (DC/25/2021/FUL)

The Chairman went to a public meeting at Chediston on the 30th June where there were approximately 28 residents including 6 from Wissett attending and all were opposed to this application. Concerns were raised about harm to footpaths, increase in noise levels, loss of views, damage to heritage assets, loss of good agricultural land, increases in traffic and a substantial cumulative detriment to Wissett making this the third solar development in the area. 7 Wissett residents have written to the Chairman expressing their views, all were against the proposal, none in favour. The resident present at this meeting gave detailed reasons why he opposed the development and how it would affect him as he lives along Mill Road which will be close to it. The Chairman has written to ESC Planning asking for an extension of 3 months for WPC to make reasoned objections to the application. It is now known that the applicant will have to provide an Environmental Impact Assessment which will mean the application will have to be re-advertised so the deadline for objections to the application will be extended. The Chairman said he will be working on the details of a joint objection to the application with Chediston PC and may ask the “Save Grays Lane” group for their help as they have knowledge of the objection process. Halesworth Town Council has already lodged an objection because of the effect on local footpaths and as the connection will be underground, there will be a further planning application for a cable running to Halesworth so the whole process could take up to ten years. There may be community benefits available from this application as well as from the Grays Lane development. After some discussion the Council agreed to oppose the application but not to hold a public meeting in Wissett as the views of Wissett residents had been made clear in their objections to the Grays Lane Solar Development and from recent answers in the Neighbourhood Plan survey which overwhelmingly rejected large scale solar developments in the village. The Parish Council resolved to keep Wissett residents informed over developments and did not rule out a public meeting in the future.

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### FINANCE:

The updated NALC Model Standing Orders had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and were unanimously adopted.

The Internal Audit report had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and was approved. The clerk will list the recommendations made in the report for action at future Council meetings.

### ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

HMRC	PAYE Q1 ending 5/7/2025	£119.60
Carol Hume	Salary – June and July	£239.20
Carol Hume	Adobe Acrobat subs	£ 19.34
Heelis and Lodge	Internal audit Invoice HL9625	£ 85.00

All payments were approved.

### INCOME RECEIVED:

Business Premium account	Interest	£ 36.04
Oscar Mayhew	12 months rental	£200.00

Account balances at 10<sup>th</sup> July – Current £4,054.57 - Deposit £10,885.88

### CORRESPONDENCE/CIRCULARS:

Correspondence previously circulated, with no actions required.

### MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL.

The new editor of the Wissett Web is Jocelin Doran, who will in conjunction with the current editor Jenny Ball help produce the next edition.

The VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) will be deployed in the village following Latitude in August.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

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# WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

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## Annual Parish Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

### Chairman's Report 2024/2025

#### **Finance:**

I can report that the Council's finances remain good with a yearend closing balance of £238.83 in the current account and £10849.84 in the saver account.

The Council's expenditure was £5971.10 with income of £5200.15  
This is in line with the budget plans.

The precept for 2025/2026 changes from £4,327.59 to £4,623.08. This represents no increase on Parishioner's council tax bills

#### **Developments over the year:**

We continue to hold the community benefit monies in the saver account to consider contributions towards various Village projects and maintain a reserve for potential future needs. No money was taken from this account during 23/24 with all costs being met from the normal account.

Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs continue to be used in the village every 3 months at present and have the occasional use of ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) equipment by the Police.

The Parish Council continues to work with Spexhall Parish Council and Rumburgh Parish Council to monitor the construction of the Grays Lane solar development and to ensure conditions will be adhered to.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to opposing the Grays Lane application.

I have been in contact with the Chair of Chediston Parish Council to see what their approach to the application to extend the Bonner's Farm solar site is. The Chediston Hall Solar Park seeks to increase 70 acres of panels to 200 acres. 30-40% of the increase appears to be in Wissett with the remainder in Chediston.

The village website continues to be a source of Parish Council information, as well as the Parish Email list comprising of residents who have signed up under the GDPR rules.

The Parish Council has supported Councillor Edward Flaxman in the Wissett Biodiversity Plan which aims to increase the biodiversity in and around Wissett.

The Parish Council is also actively encouraging volunteers to develop and agree a Neighbourhood Plan for submission to Suffolk County Council for adoption. Questionnaires have been delivered to all homes in Wissett. Please place completed forms in the black post box attached to the railings outside the Village Hall. A drop-in session at the Village Hall will take place from 10am to 1 pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June for any one wishing to discuss the form.

We are working with the trustees of the Village Hall to install WiFi.

New goal posts were erected on the village field following a very generous donation for the Wissett Community Council.

**Grants:**

The Parish Council made grants of £980.00 to Wissett PCC for churchyard maintenance, £100.00 for the Wissett Web, and £429.37 to the Village Hall Committee to pay for the annual insurance.

**Chairman's thanks:**

I would like to thank Carol Hume who took on the role of Parish Clerk in October 2024 for the seamless way the handover from Bill Simpson has taken place. Our thanks go to Bill for his many years of service, and we wish him a happy retirement

I should like to thank all members of the Council for their help, support and time over the last year.

I would also like to thank County Councillor Annette Dunning and District Councillors Beth Keys-Holloway & Geoffrey Wakeling for their continued support for the village over the last year.

I would like to thank the Wissett resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, who has made available sand and bags to assist those houses in the Street that are at risk of flooding.

I would also like to thank Symon Clarke, Chair of the Trustees of the Village Hall, for his tireless work in getting the Village Hall serviceable again after it sustained extensive flood damage.