

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.30PM IN WISSETT VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr F. Burton, Cllr P. Parry, Cllr G. Kiddy, Cllr C. Prior, Cllr B. Matthews, Cllr E. Flaxman and D. Cllr Keys-Holloway

APOLOGIES: SC Cllr A. Dunning, D. Cllr Wakeling and Cllr M. Wetmore (apologies were approved).

ALSO PRESENT: Carol Hume (Parish Clerk). Mr and Mrs Forster

There were 4 members of the public present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 16th JULY 2026

The minutes were agreed as being accurate and were signed by the Chairman

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The latest Parish Report from SC Cllr A. Dunning had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. D. Cllr Keys-Holloway highlighted some points from her report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following the devastating recent fire on Dunwich Heath there will be a webinar on 1/10/26 hosted by ESC for Town and Parish Councils to better prepare for unexpected events and crises. A new Youth Fund has been launched by ESC offering grants of up to £2k for projects supporting young people in the district. There is also information available on the ESC website for anyone who is worried about the increasing cost of living. On Monday 7 September the Government announced that it was withdrawing its previous decision to create three new unitary councils in Suffolk. Elections in May next year will go ahead. The Chairman thanked D. Cllr Keys-Holloway for previously highlighting the Thriving Places grant scheme as he has put in an expression of interest for the proposed project to repair the Beck by the Village Hall.

At this point a presentation was given by Mr and Mrs Forster on the work they have done on Wissett Maps and census information from 1911 and 1921. As well as a description of the work they are doing on this project on behalf of Halesworth Museum, also included were detailed digital history maps of the village displayed on the projector screen. Mrs Forster is hoping to hold a future event at the Village Hall so that residents can come with their own information to then be entered on her spreadsheet along with any scanned historical documents. The Chairman said it is very important to build up a complete historical picture of the village. He thanked Mrs Forster and her husband for their presentation and said there will be a public meeting at the Village Hall on 22/10/2026 at 6.30 pm when residents could bring information and documents if this is publicised in the village. It would also be an opportunity for items, photographs etc. to be put on the new village website.

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PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Date of Public Meeting to talk about future options for the Village Hall – This will be on 22nd October at 6.30 pm. Symon Clarke is organising a flyer advertising this meeting to be distributed in the village.
- b) Defibrillator installation at the Village Hall cost estimate and purchase of replacement pads – No progress has been made on this as the electrician is busy. The Chairman will chase him and a new battery will be purchased for the defibrillator.
- c) New Wissett village website – The Chairman, Cllr Wetmore and the clerk are to have a meeting on 23rd September to finalise the layout of the new website. Then a revised draft will be sent out to other councillors then to One Suffolk for compliance. There are some village photos on the draft version but more will be added.
- d) VAS camera battery funding – update from Brampton PC. An email from the Brampton Parish Council clerk said they are still looking into options for funding their own VAS cameras. Cllr Parry will have an update for the next WPC meeting.
- e) Repair of the Beck and flood defences grant application – The Chairman has submitted an expression of interest for a £50k grant towards this project. Following a question from a member of the public about the current state of the Beck, the Chairman said that the Environment Agency should clean it out twice a year but because of a lack of funds this is only done once a year. The clerk will contact the EA expressing concern about the condition of the Beck and try to find out what plans they have to maintain it.

PLANNING

- a) DC/26/0301/P3Q – Valley Farm Vineyards – Conditions 2,3,4,5,7 and 8 have been discharged.
- b) DC/25/2021/FUL – construction of solar farm and associated ancillary infrastructure – land at Chediston Hall. The Chairman reported that an Environmental Impact Statement has been issued and the Steering Committee met producing a lengthy response. There will be a Teams meeting with the East Suffolk Council designated planner in October to discuss the objections. The main objections currently are the lack of plans for the cable route as well as highways issues especially the impact on local footpaths. A flyer has been sent out to residents of Wissett, Chediston and Linstead with information to help them lodge their own objections.

FINANCE:

Account balances as at 10/9/2026: Current a/c £4,046.83 Savings a/c £11,041.73
Income received: Interest £28.83

Accounts for payment:

Carol Hume	Salary – July and August	£239.20
Carol Hume	Expenses (as per detail sheet)	£ 79.98
HMRC	Quarter 2 PAYE due	£ 59.80
Eon Next	Electricity from 1/5/26 to 31/7/26	£ 58.03
P. Parry	Repayment for defib pads	£ 88.74

All payments were approved.

Budget-v-Actual figures for Q2 (July to September) were approved

The insurance renewal from Zurich Insurance for £214 was approved for payment. The premium is the same as in 2025.

The clerk's backdated pay rise as recommended by NALC was unanimously approved.

The NALC model IT policy was approved unanimously for Wissett PC (with one small alteration).

The Model Publication Scheme was approved unanimously for Wissett PC.

A Data Protection Policy was unanimously approved for Wissett PC.

The Internal Controls Report will be completed by Cllrs Burton and Wetmore with the clerk at a meeting on 23rd September.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE EXTREME WEATHER

The Chairman has signed up for the webinar on 1/10/26 hosted by ESC for Town and Parish Councils to better prepare for unexpected events and crises. One resident said that she is affected by the Beck flooding and that is her main concern along with any power cut. Sandbags are available this autumn to residents who need them. After the webinar the Chairman will see what needs to be done, possibly a plan with emergency phone numbers and an emergency team of councillors and residents.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Suffolk Water Recycling Transfer and Storage – This is a large project which will be completed between 2030 and 2035. There were originally three routes which would affect Wissett. This is now in the pre-application stage and the Planning Inspectorate must consult with consultation bodies, of which Wissett is one, before it adopts its Scoping Opinion. Comments must be made by 2nd October or WPC can confirm there are no comments. Cllr Kiddy said he understands the furthest eastern corridor route has been decided already and is quite close to Wissett Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Pop-up bicycle mobile repair service – The Chairman explained this is an offer from the owner of CycleRecycle to bring his repair van to the car park for about two hours on a Monday for repairs or advice. There are two slots available on 14th December and 4th January. It was agreed that this would be a useful service but it needed to be advertised widely.
- b) 'Suffolk against Fraud' advice leaflet – this will be put up on the noticeboard.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Several residents expressed their frustration with recent road closures affecting Wissett. SC Cllr Dunning has said that originally there were gas works followed by water works which are now complete. A further set of works near Farm Close has caused more diversions but is soon to be completed. One resident said she had seen in the EADT a notice saying that the Wissett to Halesworth road would be closed for up to 18 months.

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However, the Chairman has contacted First Call Traffic Management who said they had no knowledge of any such closure. Residents within an area being closed are supposed to be informed by letter and the general public by signs two weeks before the start of the works. It is possible there is some confusion that the 18-month period referred to the time a license permitting road works lasted and not the actual time it would take to do the works. WPC has no powers in these matters but residents can lodge their own complaints on the SCC online portal.

Christmas ideas will be discussed and dates agreed at the next WPC meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 19th November 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm