

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th
September 2025 AT 7.30PM IN WISSETT VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr F. Burton, Cllr P. Parry, Cllr G. Kiddy, Cllr M. Wetmore, Cllr B. Matthews,
Cllr E Flaxman and Cllr C Prior

APOLOGIES: DC G Wakeling and DC B Keys-Holloway (Apologies were approved).

NOT PRESENT: C Cllr A Dunning

ALSO PRESENT: Carol Hume (Parish Clerk), 0 members of the public.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

None

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 17th July 2025:

Minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true copy. The Chairman said that under Planning in these minutes, the owner of the shed located to the north of Old Chapel wanted to make it clear that she is not intending to use the shed for residential purpose.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No residents were present at the meeting. The latest report from DC Wakeling had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Grays Lane Solar Farm – Community Benefits Package updates - A final offer of £10,800 annually for the next 40 years from PACE has been received by the Chairman. This amount would be split into 90% for Wissett, and 5% for Rumburgh and Spexhall. This will begin being paid from the date when electricity is produced. The figure is not index-linked. PACE would give notice if payment was to stop in any year if a loss was made. This offer is subject to Board approval by PACE which is likely to be given. It is their final offer and was said to be the highest amount of £400 per MW that they have ever paid. The money has several restrictions on usage but is basically to be used for community purposes. The Parish Council agreed unanimously to accept this offer as it stands.
- b) Landscape Mitigation - Biodiversity Network – Cllr Flaxman produced a report on the Mitigation Plan for the Grays Lane Solar Development for WPC to consider and comment on. He is keen for planting to start as soon as possible; there is a budget available which will facilitate this. The working group would be happy to go ahead or a local contractor could be used for the work. Cllr Flaxman will put together a Management Package to present at the next WPC meeting. All agreed with this as a next move.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan – The Chairman said that previously available funding to help produce a Plan has been withdrawn. There would be further expense involved in producing a Plan but it is difficult to know how much. ESC are looking at how they can support groups going forward and they have produced a guide to the nine steps

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involved in producing a Plan from area designation through to holding a referendum and finalising the Plan. The process may be affected by the change to a Unitary Authority in 2026, however the Chairman said he is happy to keep going and not give up on making a Plan. He will come up with some cost figures for discussion at the next WPC meeting and postpone any decision until then.

PLANNING

DC/25/2952/FUL – Development of dwellinghouse, garage, bridge, vehicular access, landscaping and other associated works – Land at Spexhall Manor, Wash Lane, Spexhall IP19 0RE – Councillors had no objections or comments on this application

DC/25/22901/FUL – Development of small barn/cart lodge to holiday let – Pear Tree Farm, Grays Lane, Wissett IP19 0JR – Councillors had no objections or comments on this application.

CHEDISTON SOLAR DRAFT OBJECTIONS

The Chairman said that Chediston and Linstead PC have agreed with the contents of the document that he has produced listing objections to the planning application for the solar park at Chediston Hall. They are keen to be part of a steering group to oppose the application. The Parish Council agreed to adopt the document in its current form, and Chediston and Linstead will be added to the official heading on it. The Chairman said it is unusual for there to be an Environmental Impact Assessment; one was not commissioned for the Grays Lane site. Further opportunities to comment would arise after the developer has produced an Environmental Statement.

FINANCE:

Account balances as at 10th September – Current £3,585.06 – Deposit £10,922.01

Income received: Deposit Account £36.13 Interest

Accounts for payment:

HMRC	PAYE Q2 to 5/10/2025	£ 59.80
Carol Hume	Salary – August & September	£239.20
Carol Hume	Adobe Acrobat subs	£ 26.28
SES Business Water	Water charge	£ 6.37
EON Next	Electricity 1/5/25 to 31/7/25	£ 58.22
Zurich Municipal	Insurance renewal	£214.00

All payments were approved.

The 2025/2026 updated budget-v-actuals figures were accepted.

The insurance renewal quote for 2025/2026 from Zurich Insurance was discussed and approved, with no changes to the schedule.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Circulation of emails from Rumburgh – these have previously been circulated by the clerk to the village email list. After some discussion it was agreed that only emails related to Wissett events should be circulated in future.

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- b) Report on village grit bins – Cllr Prior has recently visited all the grit bins in the village and reported on their condition. There is only one broken bin which should last until next year.
- c) Moving to gov.uk domain name and email addresses – The clerk explained that making this change is now recommended by both SALC and NALC before the 2025/2026 AGAR. Before the next meeting she will obtain three quotes from suppliers with a view to starting the changeover process before the end of the year.

Cllr Parry said the SID batteries are ‘bulging’. As Wissett share the SID with Brampton, someone from there is looking into sourcing some as they are no longer made. Cllr Wetmore said that Walberswick use the same batteries and he will look into this. Cllr Parry also said that the pads and battery on the defibrillator will need to be changed. Cllr Wetmore will also look into this and come back with prices for the next meeting. It was decided to move the defibrillator from its current position at the pub to outside the Village Hall.

There was some discussion about the future of the pub. The owner will keep WPC informed of his intentions but he is of the clear view that the property is not financially viable as a pub. There are various possibilities including selling it as a going concern with the holiday lets, renting out for accommodation, and the possibility of a buy-out by the community. The recent Wissett questionnaire established that c50% of respondents would put in some funds to buy it, but the financial viability of the pub is in doubt given the large number of tenants who have not been able to make a profit in the last 10 years.

Cllr Flaxman said that the local resident who offered free sand to go into sandbags for village use has not had much take-up. It may be that some volunteers are needed to fill the sandbags and transport them to residents.

Cllr Prior spoke of a village resident who wants to use footpaths to walk to Halesworth with her children but is finding difficulty in accessing the main one. It needs clearing but SCC have looked into this and say the costs of clearing the mature trees and hedgerows is prohibitive and they cannot afford to do it. Cllr Flaxman will provide a map showing which footpaths are able to be used to be passed on to the resident.

The Chairman wished to express his thanks to Cllrs Keys-Holloway and Wakeling for facilitating a grant to enable a projector and screen to be installed in the village hall. Thanks also to Symon Clarke who completed the application, researched the appropriate products and is overseeing the installation.

CORRESPONDENCE/CIRCULARS:

Correspondence previously circulated was noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 20th November 2025

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm