

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19th MARCH 2026 AT 7.30PM IN WISSETT VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr F. Burton, Cllr P. Parry, Cllr G. Kiddy, Cllr M. Wetmore and Cllr C. Prior
APOLOGIES: Dist. Cllrs G Wakeling and B Keys-Holloway, C Cllr A Dunning & Cllr E Flaxman
NOT PRESENT: Cllr B Matthews
ALSO PRESENT: Carol Hume (Parish Clerk), 2 members of the public.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

None

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 22ND JANUARY 2026 AND ON 19TH FEBRUARY 2026

The Minutes of these meetings were agreed and signed by the Chairman as true copies.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There were no questions or comments from any residents present.

The March 2026 Parish Reports from DC Keys-Holloway and SCC Cllr Dunning had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Grays Lane Solar Farm – The Chairman said there has been nothing new on this to report. He will email his contact for any further information. A date of March 2027 has been given for commencement. A similar development at Kelsale is progressing and the infrastructure involved in that construction is massive.
- b) Proposed Solar Farm at Chediston Hall – The Chairman said there was nothing new to report on this. The Secretary of State has approved the development as an EIA but the developers have yet to respond with their Environmental Statement. The meeting scheduled for 10th March was postponed due to the lack of new documents and there will now be a meeting on 9th June at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall. The Rambler's Association has indicated that it will put in an objection to the project.
- c) Defibrillator new location – The Village Hall Trustees had a meeting in February and are happy to have the defibrillator in the Village Hall. The Trustees think that WPC should be responsible for the cost of the installation and upkeep. That was agreed unanimously by councillors saying that although it is expensive to run, it is essential to have in the village. A resident who lives in the Street will be asked for a price to do the installation work.
- d) VAS camera battery purchase – Cllr Parry said that the quote from Westcotec is not accurate as it omits the cost of a charger and includes two different battery types. He will go back to them and request another quote which should be £200 lower than

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the first quote but with the extra cost of a charger will be in the region of £1k. He will also speak to John Slatter of Brampton and ask if they would be prepared to go 50/50 on the cost with Wissett. WPC agreed in principle to this spending if Brampton agree to do that. The Chairman will also investigate funding from the ESC Locality Budget.

At this point a resident asked if there was any further news on the sale of the former Wissett Plough. The Chairman will contact the owner for an update.

PLANNING

- a) DC/26/0301/P3Q – Valley Farm Vineyards. The Chairman outlined what happened at the planning meeting in February when the owner was present and he answered questions from councillors so that WPC felt able to register no objections to the application. Subsequently a neighbour has raised concerns about the use of agricultural land and the amount of storage needed. There may be a case for an agricultural restriction to be put on the development.
- b) DC/26/0185/FUL – 1B The Street, Wissett. The Chairman described the proposed development of the property which would effectively double its size. Previous applications made in 2007 which were more in keeping with the house had been refused. This application is twice as big and is an over-development of the site which was originally intended as a starter home but which would, if this development went ahead, probably be too expensive for new home buyers. WPC had objected to the 2007 applications on the basis of harm to the Old Chapel and inappropriate development in the Conservation Area and it was unanimously agreed the Council should also object to this application. The Chairman will draft a letter which the clerk will email to ESC Planning. The residents at this address have been told by East Suffolk Council planning enforcement to take down the kennels at the front of the house which were erected without permission.

FINANCE:

The Asset Register has no changes and was agreed as being correct.

Account balances as at 10th March – Current A/C £774.47 – Deposit A/C £10,981.61

Income received: £27.73 interest

Accounts for payment:

Carol Hume	Salary – January and February	£239.20
Carol Hume	Adobe Acrobat subs	£ 26.28
Carol Hume	Refund of PKF Littlejohn charge	£ 48.00
SALC	6 months payroll services to 31/3/26	£ 27.00
Eon Next	Electricity 1/11/25 to 31/1/26	£ 70.73
JCM Doran	Wissett Web grant	£100.00
East Suffolk Council	Land rent 1/3/26 to 28/2/27	£ 30.00

All payments were approved.

VAS CAMERAS

Dealt with above – see Progress Reports for Information – item d.

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DEFIBRILLATOR PADS AND BATTERIES

The Council agreed to replace the batteries when the defibrillator is moved to the Village Hall.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Village Hall Committee. The Chairman said that Symon Clarke, the Village Hall Committee chairman, will step down at the end of the year. Several other Trustees may also step down in the next few years so it has been suggested that WPC should consider the future of the Hall. It is possible a Parish Councillor could be on the VH Committee as a Trustee. After some discussion it was decided to support the VH Trustees' idea to call a public village meeting to get thoughts and ideas from residents. The Chairman said he will report this back to Mr Clarke. A date will be fixed which will be put in a future Wissett Web and displayed on the noticeboard.

CORRESPONDENCE AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED

- a) Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group – The Chairman briefly outlined what this group does; it is mainly a forum for sharing information about local road safety issues. He said that Wissett will continue to use the VAS and ANPR systems.
- b) Suffolk Highways – Town, Parish Council and Parish Meeting Survey. The Chairman has completed this survey on behalf of WPC. He highlighted the inefficiency of Suffolk Highways, especially with regard to potholes. The recently reported large pothole on Grays Lane has still to be repaired.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 21st May 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. This meeting will be the AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm