

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER 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 (Apologies were not approved as an email from DC Wakeling giving his apologies arrived after the start of the meeting).

NOT PRESENT: C Cllr A Dunning and DC B Keys-Holloway

ALSO PRESENT: Carol Hume (Parish Clerk), 5 members of the public.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

None

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 18th SEPTEMBER 2025:

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A resident asked about the date for the Christmas tree light-up. This will be on Thursday 11th December at 6.30 pm. Bob Stephenson will donate the tree and seasonal refreshments will be provided.

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 has been agreed by the other two villages. A 'successor clause' has been agreed to by Mark Kelly of PACE. Construction work on Grays Lane is scheduled to start in March 2027 and to finish in November 2027.
- b) Neighbourhood Plan – The Chairman said that funding to help produce a Plan has been withdrawn. There would be a cost to the Parish Council to progress to the next stage in the process. The Chairman estimated £4875 + VAT plus the cost of a referendum of approximately £1500 meant that the total could be circa £8k to £10k. A draft budget for 2026 will be discussed later but provisional figures show there could be a small deficit with no spare funds for these costs without using some reserves. After some discussion about whether having a Plan in existence would have made any difference to the decision on Grays Lane and the proposed Chediston Solar Park, it was agreed that as the Plan is already under development it should be postponed for now until more funds hopefully become available.

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- c) Wissett Plough – The current owner intends to sell the Plough as a going concern with the chalets included, and if no purchaser can be found he will apply for change of use and it could be turned into flats. The pub only was offered for sale at £425,000 but there have been no offers from the community and the moratorium period expired on 10th November. The defibrillator is currently located at the rear of the pub and is still operational. Before moving it to the Village Hall the Chairman will ask the pub owner to keep him informed when the power may be discontinued.

PLANNING

DC/25/4274/TCA – Wren Cottage, The Street, Wissett, Halesworth IP19 0JE – 1no Silver Birch (Front Garden) – reduce height by 30%. 1no Oak (Front Garden) – reduce crown by 30%. There were no objections to this application.

TO CONSIDER THE PRECEPT FOR 2026/2027

The precept letter from ESC shows that to keep the property tax charge the same as 2025/26 (ie £34.24), which would show as a 0% change on the 2026/2027 council tax bill, a precept of £4,374.16 would need to be requested. This would mean a reduction of £248.92 on the current precept of £4,623.08. A decision will be made at the WPC meeting in January when year-to-date actual spending figures will have been updated by the RFO on the current budget.

FINANCE:

A draft budget for 2026/2027 has been circulated to Councillors and this will be on the agenda for the WPC meeting in January to finalise the amounts once the precept figure has been agreed.

Account balances as at 10th November – Current £2,932.53 – Deposit £10,922.01

Income received: None

Accounts for payment:

SALC	Payroll services to 30/9/25	£ 27.00
Carol Hume	Salary – October & November	£239.20
Carol Hume	Adobe Acrobat subs, Norton renewal	£ 50.28
SES Business Water	Water charges	£ 55.03
EON Next	Electricity 1/8/25 to 31/10/25	£ 62.18
A E Kiddy & Son	Grass-cutting on village field	£384.00
Community Action Suffolk	Website hosting charge	£ 66.00
Wissett V Hall	6 months broadband supply	£ 70.50

All payments were approved.

CHEDISTON HALL PROPOSED SOLAR FARM

The Chairman said that at a meeting held on 4th November in Wissett Village Hall attended by residents of the three villages who wished to object to the proposal, it was agreed to form a Steering Committee to collate the objections. There will be a meeting on January 13th at the same venue, Wissett residents are encouraged to attend in order for concerns such as the effect on footpaths, construction traffic and other transport can be co-ordinated, even though the start date may be many years away.

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PROPOSED NEW WATER PIPE

The Chairman explained this is a major infrastructure project planned by Essex and Suffolk Water to improve water supply in Suffolk, which has been identified as a 'Seriously Stressed Water Area' by the Environment Agency. A public consultation started on 29th October which runs to 10th December and public information events are being held locally. The decision over which pipeline corridor is chosen to connect the key infrastructure components will affect Wissett residents. A map showing the three proposed corridors was displayed on the new projector screen at the meeting so that attendees could see them in detail. Councillors felt it was difficult to decide as a Parish Council which corridor would be best for Wissett as the information given is vague and they are not in a position to decide which route would have the least impact on residents. It is best for residents to comment on the proposals on the website www.suffolkwaternet.co.uk where further details on the proposed scheme can be found.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Moving to gov.uk domain name and email addresses – The clerk had obtained a price from One Suffolk, the current website hosts, for eight mailboxes and a new domain for £217 per year. This was accepted by Councillors and it was agreed the new website address will be wissett-pc.gov.uk . Email addresses will be in the same format. The clerk will contact One Suffolk and ask them to proceed with the changes.
- b) New pads and battery for the defibrillator – Cllr Wetmore has supplied a price of £56 for pads and £205 for a battery (plus VAT) from the Defib Store. A decision will be made whether to purchase at the next WPC meeting in January.
- c) 2026 WPC meeting dates – The dates had been circulated and all were agreed.
- d) Christmas Carol Service date – This will be on Sunday 21st December at 6.30 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE/CIRCULARS:

ESC Local Plan Call for Sites – It was agreed this campaign would not be relevant in Wissett.

Cllr Parry said there is only one functioning VAS battery. A Wissett resident who is currently abroad has good knowledge of them so Cllr Parry will contact him when he is back. Cllr Wetmore will also look into sourcing replacement VAS batteries.

The Wissett Web, which has been missing for a few months, will be out on 1st December.

In the New Year it is hoped to update the village email list, which is currently used for circulating items of interest.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm