

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY 2026 AT 7.30PM IN WISSETT VILLAGE HALL

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

APOLOGIES: Dist. Cllr G Wakeling, Cllr M. Wetmore

NOT PRESENT: Cty. Cllr A Dunning and Dist. Cllr B Keys-Holloway

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 20th NOVEMBER 2025:

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There were no questions or comments from any residents present.

The January 2026 Parish Report from DC Wakeling had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Grays Lane Solar Farm – PACE are seeking to discharge Condition 22 of DC/22/3313/FUL concerning signage at Brookhall Farm but the Parish Council considered the location and design of the signage board for the scheduled monument as inappropriate, Cllr Flaxman has written to object and to propose an alternative signage board and location. Historic England has also objected. The Chairman proposed that WPC endorse the objection by Cllr Flaxman which was agreed. A second condition 24 concerning Archaeological conditions was objected to by the statutory consultee and the Parish Council endorsed this objection. No objection was raised to discharging a third condition 29 concerning a Soil Management Plan.
- b) Proposed Solar Farm at Chediston Hall – Report on meeting held on 13/1/2026. The Chairman reported that at this meeting a Steering Committee was formed with representatives from Chediston, Wissett and Linstead. They will be preparing an information sheet to encourage residents to object to the project, but this will not be distributed until the developers have prepared their Environmental Statement required as the development has been designated an Environmental Impact Assessment application. The Ramblers Association have been contacted for comments but have yet to reply.
- c) Defibrillator relocation to the Village Hall – The Village Hall Trustees have a meeting in February when a new location for the defibrillator will be discussed.

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- d) Essex and Suffolk Water Infrastructure Project – At the last WPC meeting in November a map showing the three proposed routes through Wissett was displayed. The initial public consultation has now closed and the route will be finalised in Autumn 2026 followed by an EIA in 2027; further consultations will follow after the EIA statement. There will be further opportunities for residents to comment at a time when more information is available on the precise routes.

PLANNING

- a) DC/25/4803/TCA – Sandpit Cottage, The Street, Wissett IP19 0JE – This has already been approved.
- b) To consider a shed built in the front garden of 1b The Street within the Conservation Area – The Chairman had been alerted by a resident who was concerned that this illuminated large kennel has been built with Leylandii planted in the front garden. He has contacted the ESC Senior Design and Heritage Officer and she confirmed that there were no recent planning applications for the property. The Chairman asked councillors how they would like to proceed and it was agreed to ask the clerk to submit an enquiry to the ESC Enforcement Team for them to investigate.

TO AGREE THE PRECEPT FOR 2026/2027

Councillors agreed to request the precept of £4,623.08 (the same as in 2025/2026) which will result in a charge of £36.19 for a Band D property showing as a 5.70% change on 2026/27 Council Tax bills against the Parish element.

FINANCE:

The draft budget for 2026/27 as presented at the November meeting was agreed to with the precept figure showing as £4,623.08.

Account balances as at 9th January – Current £1,577.28 – Deposit £10,953.88

Income received: £31.87 interest

Accounts for payment:

Carol Hume	Salary – December & January	£239.20
Carol Hume	Adobe Acrobat subs	£ 26.28
HMRC	PAYE due for Qtr 3	£119.60
IT Services at CAS Ltd	New gov.uk domain name/8 mailboxes	£217.00
SES Business Water	Water bills 82 & 83	£ 28.89
East Suffolk Services	2025 grass-cutting charge	£427.20

All payments were approved.

TO CONSIDER A NEW ELECTRICITY TARIFF WITH E-ON NEXT

The clerk said the options available were £235.02/year for a 1,2 or 3-year fixed business plan so it was agreed to accept the 3-year plan, which will start on 4th February 2026.

VAS CAMERAS

Cllr Parry hopes to be able to report to the next WPC meeting in March that he has been able to source a new battery either through the Brampton PC person responsible for VAS or

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the manufacturer of the system, Westcotec. Their cost is £189 for a battery plus the cost of a charger divided by 2 as shared with Brampton PC.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- a) New gov.uk email addresses – All councillors are now using their new email addresses.
- b) New pads and battery for the defibrillator – As the defibrillator is still located at the Wissett Plough and showing 32% charge, it was decided to defer making a decision on buying new pads and a battery until it is relocated to the Village Hall.
- c) Report on Christmas Tree light up – The Chairman thanked Bob Stephenson for supplying the tree and to all the other residents who helped make it a success, including Michael Newbon who helped put up and take down the tree.

A presentation to Jenny Ball to mark her work as editor of the Wissett Web for the last 27 years was made.

- d) ESC draft Statement of Community Involvement consultation – The Chairman said this is a consultation about consulting the public on planning issues. It is important as it explains when and how people can be involved in local planning. Any councillors with an interest could respond.
- e) East Suffolk Services 2026 grass cutting quote – £373 plus VAT for 7 cuts during the summer is £17 more than in 2025. It was agreed to accept the quote.

CORRESPONDENCE/CIRCULARS:

EA Air Ambulance have made a donation request – An email from them was read out by the Chairman. WPC decided not to make a donation at this time.

Invitation to Halesworth Museum evening event on Tuesday 31st March – Four councillors said they will be going to this event. The clerk will inform the Museum secretary.

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

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm