

# WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

---

MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22nd  
May 2025 AT 7.30PM IN WISSETT VILLAGE HALL

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

APOLOGIES: District Cllr B. Keys-Holloway, District Cllr G. Wakeling, County Cllr A.  
Dunning (Apologies were approved).

NOT PRESENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Carol Hume (Parish Clerk), 2 Members of the public.

The Parish Council Meeting was preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Parish. The  
Chairman read out his annual statement later in the meeting following the public  
participation session. A copy is included at the end of these minutes for reference.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Frank Burton was elected Chairman (proposed Cllr Prior, seconded Cllr Kiddy) and  
Matthew Wetmore was elected Deputy Chairman (proposed Cllr Parry, seconded Cllr Prior)  
unanimously.

They both duly signed the acceptance of office declarations which were witnessed by the  
Parish Clerk.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

## MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025:

Minutes of the meeting agreed and were signed as true copies.

The Parish Council resolved to readopt the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and the  
Code of Conduct, and to continue to accept Summons to attend meetings and  
Communications via email. The clerk will circulate an updated version of the Model  
Standing Orders as recommended by NALC to councillors before the next meeting when  
they will be adopted by the Parish Council.

## REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The residents present had no points to raise but were interested to follow the business of  
the Parish Council for the remainder of the meeting.

The report from County Cllr Dunning had already been circulated to councillors

## PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Grays Lane Solar Farm – The Chairman asked for guidance from councillors with  
regard to correspondence he has recently had with Ben Woolnough, ESC Planning  
Officer, about the proposed Chediston Solar Park extension, approximately 30% of  
which will be in Wissett, specifically that Mr Woolnough had known about the  
proposal as early as 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 but had not passed on this information  
until 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The Chairman found this to be quite upsetting because

## WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

---

there was nothing confidential in the pre-application preventing Mr Woolnough from sharing the information he already had. After some discussion councillors decided there was no point in the Chairman meeting Mr Woolnough as there was nothing to be gained at this stage. ESC Planning are in some turmoil at the moment with issues of their own but councillors stressed that WPC should be kept fully informed of any future similar planning applications with full disclosure. The Chairman said that the Save Grays Lane group are pursuing a complaint about the planning decision and have met with Chris Bally, ESC Planning Officer. A report on Mr Bally's response will be made available in due course. PACE want to discuss community benefit packages. The Chairman will negotiate at a future meeting with them to get the best result for Wissett as he believes most of any payment should come to the village. Issues to be taken into account should be water supplies, possible leakages, bio-diversity and disruption caused to residents by vehicles using the Street. There should be community input with possibly a village meeting to discuss these and other issues.

- b) Neighbourhood Plan village survey – 240 copies of the questionnaire were printed at a cost of £90 and have been distributed to residents by the Chairman and two other residents who were thanked for their help. There is a box outside the Village Hall for completed forms to be put in and several have been returned already. The Chairman asked those present to remind residents to return theirs asap. There will be a “drop-in” for residents who may need help completing the form on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Once all forms are returned it will be possible to move on to the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan reasonably quickly.
- c) Village Hall wi-fi installation – The VH Chairman, Symon Clarke, has informed the Chairman that the wi-fi will be connected on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Purchase of a projector will be researched in due course.
- d) Village Hall new power points – Several of these have already been installed. It is hoped this will make the Hall much more useable. The insurance renewal will change this year because CAS want to use a different insurer, Ansvar instead of Hiscox. Symon Clarke has completed a questionnaire about the cover required for the Village Hall. Flooding is included and the anticipated increase in cost will be shared 50/50 with WPC.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS/DECISIONS:

No new applications to consider.

### RESOLUTIONS

It was resolved to sign off the AGAR 2024/2025 Form 2 Accounting Statement, Annual Governance Statement and Certificate of Exemption. All forms were signed by the Chairman. It was agreed to appoint Heelis and Lodge as auditors for the year 2024/2025.

### FINANCE:

The Asset Register had been approved at a previous meeting. After some discussion it was agreed not to add 10 Coronation mugs, 8 life-size soldiers and the stage currently housed in Cllr Prior's barn to the Asset Register.

The budget for the year 2025-2026 was reviewed, along with budget-v-actual figures for the year 2024/2025.

### ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

SALC	6 months payroll service	£27.00
------	--------------------------	--------

## WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

---

SALC	2025-2026 membership	£178.82
Eon Next	Electricity 1/2/25 to 30/4/25	£58.44
SES Water	Water charge March to April 2025	£5.91
Carol Hume	Salary – April and May	£239.20
Carol Hume	Adobe Acrobat subs	£19.97
Edward Flaxman	Road shavings supplied	£72.00

All payments were approved to be made.

### INCOME RECEIVED:

East Suffolk Council	Precept 2025/2026	£4,623.08
Russell Linard	12 months rent for land	£160.00
HMRC	VAT refund 2024/2025	£194.25

Account balances at 9<sup>th</sup> May – Current £5,089.34 - Deposit £10,849.84

### CORRESPONDENCE/CIRCULARS:

Correspondence previously emailed, with no action required. The clerk had received an email from Halesworth and District Museum thanking WPC for the donation of £100.

### MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL:

- a) Chediston Solar Park – The Chairman had attended an Open Day and he said there will be no BESS. This development would be very different to Grays Lane with no road frontage and access to the site through Halesworth so less impact on Wissett. The Chairman had contacted John Ibbott, Chediston PC chairman for his views as the bulk of the land is in Chediston. He has yet to gauge how Chediston residents feel about the project and help from Wissett was offered. It was agreed to monitor reaction in Chediston and possibly have a meeting in Wissett to get views from residents after an email has been sent asking for their thoughts.
- b) Sizewell C traffic – A village resident had recently emailed the clerk with details of an incident on 30<sup>th</sup> April involving large vehicles supposedly travelling to Sizewell C and using Wissett Road. The clerk contacted the Sizewell C Community Team informing them of the incident but the reply received from SZC was unsatisfactory to the resident who complained. She was present at this meeting to reiterate her concerns about Sizewell C traffic and the expected Grays Lane traffic when construction starts, creating disruption for 5 months. It was pointed out that Wissett is not a designated route for SZC traffic but other traffic going to Sizewell through Wissett cannot be stopped. The advice given is to keep monitoring traffic, take number plate details and keep the Parish Council informed.
- c) Maintenance of land at the west end of the playing field – Cllr Wetmore said that the area where trees have been planted is in a mess and needs to be tidied up. It is Parish Council land so it would be good to arrange a working party to do this. Cllr Flaxman said he will take a look at it and email other councillors with an estimated cost to do the work.
- d) Village verge cutting – Cllr Flaxman said it had been suggested to him that the verges were cut too early last year and could East Suffolk Services be asked to move the scheduled June cut to July. The clerk will contact ESS and request this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

# WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

---

## Annual Parish Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

### Chairman's Report 2024/2025

#### **Finance:**

I can report that the Council's finances remain good with a yearend closing balance of £238.83 in the current account and £10849.84 in the saver account.

The Council's expenditure was £5971.10 with income of £5200.15  
This is in line with the budget plans.

The precept for 2025/2026 changes from £4,327.59 to £4,623.08. This represents no increase on Parishioner's council tax bills

#### **Developments over the year:**

We continue to hold the community benefit monies in the saver account to consider contributions towards various Village projects and maintain a reserve for potential future needs. No money was taken from this account during 23/24 with all costs being met from the normal account.

Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs continue to be used in the village every 3 months at present and have the occasional use of ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) equipment by the Police.

The Parish Council continues to work with Spexhall Parish Council and Rumburgh Parish Council to monitor the construction of the Grays Lane solar development and to ensure conditions will be adhered to.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to opposing the Grays Lane application.

I have been in contact with the Chair of Chediston Parish Council to see what their approach to the application to extend the Bonner's Farm solar site is. The Chediston Hall Solar Park seeks to increase 70 acres of panels to 200 acres. 30-40% of the increase appears to be in Wissett with the remainder in Chediston.

The village website continues to be a source of Parish Council information, as well as the Parish Email list comprising of residents who have signed up under the GDPR rules.

The Parish Council has supported Councillor Edward Flaxman in the Wissett Biodiversity Plan which aims to increase the biodiversity in and around Wissett.

The Parish Council is also actively encouraging volunteers to develop and agree a Neighbourhood Plan for submission to Suffolk County Council for adoption. Questionnaires have been delivered to all homes in Wissett. Please place completed forms in the black post box attached to the railings outside the Village Hall. A drop-in session at the Village Hall will take place from 10am to 1 pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June for any one wishing to discuss the form.

We are working with the trustees of the Village Hall to install WiFi.

New goal posts were erected on the village field following a very generous donation for the Wissett Community Council.

## WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

---

### **Grants:**

The Parish Council made grants of £980.00 to Wissett PCC for churchyard maintenance, £100.00 for the Wissett Web, and £429.37 to the Village Hall Committee to pay for the annual insurance.

### **Chairman's thanks:**

I would like to thank Carol Hume who took on the role of Parish Clerk in October 2024 for the seamless way the handover from Bill Simpson has taken place. Our thanks go to Bill for his many years of service, and we wish him a happy retirement

I should like to thank all members of the Council for their help, support and time over the last year.

I would also like to thank County Councillor Annette Dunning and District Councillors Beth Keys-Holloway & Geoffrey Wakeling for their continued support for the village over the last year.

I would like to thank the Wissett resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, who has made available sand and bags to assist those houses in the Street that are at risk of flooding.

I would also like to thank Symon Clarke, Chair of the Trustees of the Village Hall, for his tireless work in getting the Village Hall serviceable again after it sustained extensive flood damage.