

# WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30PM IN WISSETT VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. F. Burton, Cllr. P. Parry, Cllr. G. Kiddy, Cllr. C. Prior, Cllr. M. Wetmore, Cllr. B. Matthews. Cllr A. Dunning and Cllr G. Wakeling joined the meeting at 8 pm.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. E. Flaxman. (Apologies were approved).

NOT PRESENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Carol Hume (Parish Clerk), 1 Member of the public.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AND THE INTERIM PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024:

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

### REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS.

None received

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION – No matters were raised.

### REPORTS:

- a) Grays Lane proposed solar farm – The Chairman reported that no agenda has been published yet for the Planning Committee meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> February. If there is enough interest in the village to attend the meeting there may be a coach provided by Save Grays Lane who have available funds for travel. 5 oral presentation summaries have been prepared to be presented at the meeting. The chairman then shared some official government information on renewable energy indicating that there are 700 gigawatts of projects in the pipeline which according to Mr John Pettigrew the CEO of the National Grid are 5-6 times the amount required to meet the government target for 2035. This is mainly because of the high profit margins available to landowners and developers. This oversupply should enable planning decisions to discriminate where new solar farms are built to avoid siting them on good agricultural land, near listed buildings and in valued landscapes. As soon as the date of the meeting is confirmed, that information will be shared.
- b) Neighbourhood Plan - The Chairman said this is currently on hold and there is nothing new to report.
- c) Wissett Road speed (report ref 472929) – This was a request to Suffolk Highways to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph following the fatal accident in 2024 but they responded that the criteria had not been met and there were no grounds to alter the current speed limits This item will be taken off the next WPC agenda.
- d) Defib/CPR Training – This took place on 10<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Hall. 8 people attended and it was declared a great success. The defibrillator is currently showing as green and is working fine. It was noted that very cold weather will affect the battery charge.
- e) Lodge Lane flooding – A request made to SCC Highways for two “Flood” signs to be kept in the village was rejected. Some good news though is that a Wissett resident

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has rodded the pipe, cleared the blockage and hosed the pipe out. It therefore remains to be seen what happens next time there is heavy rain and whether the flooding will happen in the same place again.

- f) Cllr Parry reported that the speed cameras are back working and should be in position for up to two months. He will try to recharge the batteries but it is a long process.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS/DECISIONS:

DC/24/4037/FUL – The Swan, 24 The Street, Wissett IP19 0JG – construction of a sauna in the rear garden. The ESC conservation department has had a look at the proposal and found there is no impact to the listed building or conservation area and it will not be visible to residents. The council therefore has no objection to this application.

The County Councillor's report had been circulated to councillors by email prior to the meeting and District Councillor Dunning distributed copies of her report to the council and the clerk. Both reports will be available on the Wissett PC website.

District Councillor Dunning reported to the meeting that following an Extraordinary Meeting of SCC on 9<sup>th</sup> January it was decided to write to the Government asking for Suffolk to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme. If accepted this could mean the suspension of Council elections in May 2025 and would represent the biggest change to local government in Suffolk for over 50 years. Devolution could see the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority, probably covering Suffolk and Norfolk, with a mayor elected in May 2026. Local government reorganisation would see the abolition of county, district and borough councils replaced with a unitary council. There will be lots of questions asked in the months ahead so everyone should watch this space for developments.

### FINANCE:

The clerk/RFO presented a new budget format for the financial year 2025/2026 which was approved by the council.

### ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

SES Business Water	Water charge Dec	£2.99
Matthew Wetmore	Expenses ref clerk's laptop repair	£91.60
C Hume	Salary December & January	£239.20
HMRC	PAYE Quarter 3 (ending 5/1/25)	£119.60

All were approved for payments to be made.

### INCOME RECEIVED:

Barclays Bank	Interest	£42.14
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Account balances at 10.1.2025 – Current a/c £836.06 - Deposit a/c £11,310.60.

The clerk/RFO was authorised to transfer £500 from the deposit a/c to the current a/c

The Chairman said that the Barclays Bank hub at Halesworth Library was very helpful in dealing with the recent bank mandate change, which has now been completed.

### TO CONSIDER E.ON ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT RENEWAL

It was agreed to opt for the 1 year Fixed Business tariff with E,On for the next year at an estimated cost of £223.58.

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

- a) Village Xmas tree disposal – Cllr Burton apologised for burning the tree on site because it was too large to move. He said that it would not happen again, next year there will be a different plan of action.
- b) Mirror at the bottom of Grays Lane – the previous mirror in this location had been of no use at all. It was agreed to ask Cllr Flaxman, who uses Grays Lane frequently, whether he thinks another mirror would be helpful, and to take more soundings and investigate further.

### CORRESPONDENCE/CIRCULARS FOR INFORMATION – Nothing to mention.

The Chairman said that a parishioner, who wished to remain anonymous, has given 100 sandbags and sand for residents to use in case of future flooding. The sand and bags will be kept at Clive Stollery's yard from next week so that residents can go there, fill them take them away, and store them at their homes. There is no charge. The bags will be heavy so some people may need help. The Village Hall chairman has also been informed.

The Chairman also said there has been some fly-tipping in Grays Lane. This has now been moved but residents are asked to be vigilant to prevent a recurrence.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in Wissett Village Hall  
Meeting closed at 8.30pm