

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16th
May 2024 AT 7.30PM IN RUMBURGH VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Frank Burton, Paul Parry, Edward Flaxman, Geoffrey Kiddy, Camilla Prior,
Matthew Wetmore

APOLOGIES: Cllr Beth Keys-Holloway, Beryl Matthews

NOT PRESENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Annette Dunning, Cllr Geoffrey Wakeling, Bill Simpson (Parish
Clerk), 0 Members of the public.

The Parish Council Meeting was preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Parish, where the
Chair read out the annual statement. A copy is included in these minutes for reference.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Frank Burton was elected Chair and Matthew Wetmore as Deputy Chair unanimously.
All present Parish Councillors duly signed the acceptance of office declarations and were
witnessed by the Parish Clerk. Beryl Matthews to sign no later than the next meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13th March 2024:

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

REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS.

None received

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.

REPORTS:

- a) VAS (Vehicle Activated Speed) is due back soon.
- b) Grays Lane proposed solar farm - DC/22/3313/FUL. Recent submissions from PACE
have attempted to rebut the opinion prepared for the steering committee by a KC.
Frank Burton is to prepare a response on behalf of the Parish Council. The
Environment Agency have removed their holding objection but imposed conditions
including a 30-decibel maximum noise which must be monitored within 3 months of
any construction. A revised landscape report has been submitted but still fails to
recognise previous County landscape reports.
- c) There were no updates to the Cost-of-Living crisis scheme and will be raised as
required at future meetings.
- d) The Beck – The further collapse was reported on 21/12/22 on ref. No. 00381699. A
letter has been received from the Parochial Church Council expressing the concerns
of further flooding to the Church and Village Hall. PC are still investigating the
reinstating an old pond which previously may have helped hold excessive water and
will be asking expert opinion

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

- e) There were no updates to the Local Community Partnership scheme and will be raised as required at future meetings.
- f) Coronation Mugs. Still a limited quantity available for sale. Take off future agendas.
- g) Neighbourhood Plan. A Public Meeting in April had 21 Parishioners attend and expressed a significant level of interest. The general consensus was that any plan should be solely for the Parish of Wissett. FB will prepare a Policies and Objectives document for further discussion.
- h) Local Biodiversity Plan. EF said the website for information and recording Wissett biodiversity is now up and running. <https://wissett-biodiversity-network.org/> Clerk has added to the home page of the Wissett website. This is in its early stages but discussions are already ongoing with landowners covering some 130 acres. Further workshops and surveys are being prepared.
- i) Playing Field – Grass cutting. Edward Kiddy has now carried out 2 cuts and agreed the ongoing price of £40 plus VAT per cut. Cutting frequency is dependent on weather and growing conditions.
- j) There were no updates to the proposed WW1 Memorial Trail and will be raised as required at future meetings.
- k) Parish Clerk recruitment. No one from the village has expressed interest in the role. Clerk to ask Rumburgh, Spexhall and Chediston Clerks for any local interest. Failing this, we will have to advertise formally via the Suffolk Association of Local Councils.
- l) Defib / CPR training. 7 Parishioners expressed an interest in attending. Contacted person asked for circa 20. It was decided to defer any alternative trainers until the Village Hall works are completed and available for use.

BK-H and AD sent in their reports, which were emailed to Parish Councillors and discussed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS/DECISIONS:

DC/24/1318/FUL The Swan 24 The Street, IP19 0JG Creation of a wildlife pond with associated engineering work within the curtilage - with the option for occasional recreational swimming.

No objections raised

RESOLUTIONS

It was resolved to sign off the Annual Accountability and Governance Return for 2024 / 2025 Form 2 and Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2022/2023 Form 2.

FINANCE:

The Village Asset Register was reviewed.

The budget for the year 2023-2024 was reviewed.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

Heart 2 Heart	Defib pads	£58.00
Suffolk Assn of Local Councils	2024-2025 membership	£178.59
SES Business Water	Water charge March	£2.88
Wissett Web	Grant	£100.00
Wissett Parochial Church Council	Churchyard Grant	£980.00
Mr W Simpson	Agreed mileage expenses	£20.88
Mr W Simpson	Salary 6 months	£790.80
Mr W Simpson	Printer ink	£38.69
SES Business Water	Water charge April	£2.88

All were approved for payments to be made.

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

INCOME RECEIVED:

HMRC VAT	VAT refund 2023/2024 year	£347.37
East Suffolk Council	Precept 2014/2015	£4,327.59
Oscar Mayhew	6 months rent land near Rumburgh	£100.00
Russell Linard	12 months rent for land near old school	£160.00

Account balances at 13th May from internet – Current £5,425.58 - Deposit £11,184.65

CORRESPONDENCE/CIRCULARS:

General circulars previously emailed, and letters received shown, with no action required.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL:

Wissett Village Hall may not be available for the July meeting. Situation to be monitored No alternative arranged at this time.

Barclays Bank have now updated our categorisation from “clubs and associations” to a “Parish Council” under “Local Authorities”.

It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council that a formal Biodiversity Statement / Policy might be required. Clerk unaware of any notification of this, but will look at. We do now have a Biodiversity Plan in any case as above, Reports item h.

After the sad death of someone in a serious road traffic incident on the Wissett Road on Saturday 11th May, a discussion took place with Cllr Annette Dunning and Cllr Geoffrey Wakeling on how best to proceed to try and have this narrow stretch of road reduced from the national speed limit to either 30mph or 40mph. Clerk to contact Highways and see if we can get a Highways Engineer to meet at the location and surrounding stretch of road to ascertain is there is any possibility of a reduction now being possible. AD & GW advised their support and would also try from their perspectives.

All attending expressed their deepest sympathies for all those effected by this tragic accident.

Clerk to email AD copy of email refusing to reinstate footpath No.6 on the Wissett Road from 2021.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 18th July 2024 venue TBC

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting 16th May 2024

Chairman's Report 2023/2024

Finance:

I can report that the Council's finances remain good with a yearend closing balance of £674.97 in the current account and £11,184.65 in the saver account.

The Council's expenditure was £6,786 with income of £7,207.
This is in line with the budget plans.

The precept for 2024/2025 changes from £4,369.71 to £4,327.59. 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 in opposing the proposed solar development in Grays Lane.
We would like to thank the Suffolk Preservation Society for their support in opposing the proposed development on landscape, heritage and loss of visual amenity grounds

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.

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

Grants:

The Parish Council made grants of £980.00 for churchyard maintenance, £100.00 for the Wissett Web, and £520.10 to the Village Hall Committee to pay for the annual insurance.

Chairman's thanks:

I should like to thank all members of the Council and the Clerk 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.