

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10th DECEMBER 2025, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllr L Erith (Chair), Cllrs G Battye, O Brown and D Finnigan attended in person. Cllrs J Border and C Thompson joined the meeting following their co-options. D Hattrell (Clerk), County Cllr J Finch (arrived around 8.15p.m), and 2 members of the public (our new Councillors ahead of their co-options) attended in person. L Brooks and 2 members of the public attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** Nothing was raised.

b. **District Council Report**

District Cllr Isabelle Reece had sent her apologies and the report outlined: -

District Council (DC) Meeting (25th November):

- o The Half-Year Report on Treasury Management 2025/26 was noted.
- o The Bentley Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan (CAAMP) was adopted.

Norwich to Tilbury (N2T) Project:

- o The National Grid Energy Transmission (NGET) application for a Development Consent Order was accepted for examination.
- o The DC's, along with SALC, are assisting parishes in making representations.

Local Government Reorganisation Consultation:

- o A statutory consultation on local government reorganisation in Suffolk and Norfolk is open until 11 January 2026.
- o Proposals include a three-unitary solution by the DC's and a one-unitary proposal by Suffolk County Council (SCC).
- o Residents, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to participate via the official consultation portal.

Planning & Conservation:

- o The Planning Committee inspected the site for a proposed solar farm in Chadacre Ward, with a decision expected in Spring 2026.
- o Bentley was designated a Conservation Area, with the CAAMP now part of the planning authorities' Historic Environment Record.
- o The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk were launched on 6th November to enhance biodiversity and sustainable land management.

Cabinet Meeting (11th November):

- o Cabinet voted to decommission several sheltered housing schemes, including Parkers Way in Nayland, as part of a shift toward Independent Living.
- o Residents at Parkers Way are advocating to preserve communal facilities and extend access to the wider community.
- o Cabinet approved Fees and Charges for 2026/27.

For more details, visit the Babergh District Council website.

On local matters, Cllr Reece is chasing the repairs to the old Burial Ground wall.

c. **County Council Report**

County Cllr J Finch attended later into the meeting, and his report issued in advance covered:

1. A project called "Beyond Labels" has received a substantial grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to honour the resilience and contributions of people with disabilities. It will collect personal stories and histories, launch a community forum, and offer workshops to promote inclusion, accessibility, and equality.
2. Sunnica Ltd have withdrawn their proposed changes to planning permission to allow future large-scale projects, such as data centres, to overlap with their solar and battery infrastructure. They will concentrate more on amendments around Burwell substation.
3. SCC continues to lead in EV infrastructure through its "Plug-In Suffolk" project. A trial of cross-pavement gullies is underway to help residents without off-street parking charge their EVs. The trial's success will be evaluated in early 2026.
4. Veteran journalist Paul Geater supports the idea of merging Suffolk's six councils into one unified authority, citing the county's strong identity and the inefficiency of splitting governance into three councils.
5. A new walking, wheeling, and cycling route will be constructed in Sudbury starting January 2026, with phased road closures to minimize disruption. The project is expected to be completed by March 2026.

6. Suffolk Archives has received national accreditation for its high-quality service, modern facilities, and strong community engagement.
7. Cllr James Finch emphasizes his focus on education, supporting vulnerable people, jobs and growth, localism, and building on Suffolk's strengths, supported by strong financial management and fair council tax.

Cllr Finch confirmed there are 13 NSIP's in Suffolk and the impact of which is increasing. A local example is the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement and the scale of which is starting to become more apparent.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllrs K Sheath, D Harris and P Fuller. District Cllr Reece was also unable to attend. County Cllr Finch arrived later at the meeting.
2. **Co-option of Members:** Joan Border and Charlie Thompson had been invited to be co-opted to the Parish Council (PC). Their co-option was proposed by Cllr G Battye, seconded by Cllr D Finnigan and unanimously carried. Their Declarations of Acceptance of Office forms were then completed. Cllrs Border and Thompson then joined the Meeting.
3. **Approval of Minutes of 12th November Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record.
4. **Declaration of Interest by Councillors:** Nothing was declared.
5. **Highways:** A damaged bollard had been reported on Bear Street near the horsewatering. Concerns were expressed regarding potholes and the speed of traffic. It was agreed to report potholes on the reporting tool and if repairs are delayed provide the reference to County Cllr J Finch to chase up. In relation to attempts to reduce the speed limit, the meeting was closed briefly to allow the representative from the Conservation Society to remind the meeting that their attempts to reduce the limit became cost prohibitive when SCC and Cllr Finch noted the relevant criteria for funding was not met. New Cllr Thompson confirmed this mirrors some of his experience in relation to similar matters.
6. **Local Government Reorganisation Consultation:** Individual Councillors had considered the proposals for one and three unitary councils respectively. Whilst there were differing views, the consensus was around concerns of potential remoteness of services and accessibility which could result. It was agreed to encourage residents to engage with the consultation and for the Clerk to respond sharing this PC's concerns. Cllr O Brown will provide a wording for L Brooks to use on FaceBook to encourage engagement – **Action Cllr Brown**. The Clerk will respond on behalf of the PC to the consultation – **Action Clerk**.

7. Finance Report:

i) The Chair read from the bank balances as of 28th November 2025 as £1000 in the Current Account, £30,704.18 in the linked Account and £19,819.75 in the Capital Investment Account, £4,444.86 in the National Savings Account making a total of **£55,968.79**.

ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the November period paid on or by 2nd December 2025: -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1694.72	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£320.40	Litter/sweeping
Funds Transfer	A. Griffiths	£75.00	Horsewatering
Funds Transfer	Nayland Community Council	£30.00	Remembrance wreaths
Funds Transfer	Mary George	£24.59	Trough planting
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£20.00	Hall hire – October

Formal Approval of all the above payments was resolved.

iii) **Approval of Minutes and spreadsheet from Finance Meeting.**

Approval of the Finance Minutes and spreadsheet was resolved.

iv) **Precept for 2026/27 subject to final taxbase figures** - A Precept of £51,260 (4% increase) for 2026/27 year (subject to final tax base figures). This was resolved. The illustrative Band D charge would be £91.22, an increase of £3.50 on last year (4%).

v) **Appointment of Contractors for 2026/27** – It was resolved to award Grass and Litter Contracts for 2026/27 to our existing contractors.

vi) **Review & adoption of Policies** - The Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Internal Controls have been reviewed and were recommended for adoption. Approval of these policies were resolved, and the website will be updated – **Action Clerk**.

vii) **Charity Funding – Foodbank and CCLA Mandate (Walsh Allotment Prize Fund investment)**. It was agreed to approve around £500 subject to receipts for provisions for Nayland Foodbank stores. The Chair agreed to organise, and the receipts will be forwarded to the Clerk to organise reimbursement – **Action Chair and Clerk**. The CCLA Mandate was partially signed following the meeting and will be brought to a future meeting to complete the necessary signing – **Action Clerk**.

viii) **Other Finance Meeting Recommendations**

1. A Precept of £51,260 (4% increase) for 2026/27 year (subject to final tax base figures) See above iv)
2. **Provisional reserves for our contributions towards the Village Hall Kitchen and the Allotment Perimeter Fencing to be in next year’s capital expenditure of up to £2500 and £2300 respectively.** These funds enable the PC to consider making contributions. The exact resolutions and requests for documentation are still to be determined at future PC Meetings. The information for each project and other grant sources is limited at this stage, so provisional sums have been allocated.
3. **It is recommended the capital funds be allocated as follows: -**
Village Hall Carpark £5500
Streetlights £5500
New driveway £2000 (with no action until the potential development resolved)
National Savings £4445
Total £17445.
4. **A further £2000 be allocated to the Capital Investment Fund from the 2026/27 year.**
5. **This PC continues to adhere to the National Scale for Clerks Salaries and terms for 26/27 yr**
6. Award the Grass and Litter Contracts for 2026/27 to our existing contractors – item v) above.
7. **The Contribution towards Webbs Meadow grass cutting to stay at £385**
8. **The Allotment Rents to be retained at the current level which is £52 (£1 per week) whole plot £26 half from October 2026.**
9. **The Burial Fees will have an uplift of 4% from 1st April 2026.**
10. The Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Internal Controls have been reviewed and are recommended for adoption – see vi) above.
11. **Parish CIL monies are preserved for a Housing Needs Survey and the remaining £1000 still to be allocated to a future Capital Project.**
12. **The National Savings funds to be moved to a new Savings Account with our existing bank – Action Clerk.**
13. Future structure of Finance Committee/Group – See item ix) SALC advise a Finance Committee to be formed with Terms of Reference.
14. Charity funding – see vii) above
15. **The budget for Horse watering for next financial year to remain at £200.**

All the above recommendations in bold type were considered and approval resolved.
 Any reserves will still be subject to resolutions when payments are proposed.

ix) **Finance Committee Structure** – SALC advise Finance Committee should be formed with terms of reference. It was resolved to set up a Finance Committee. The Meetings will be held in public, and

Terms of Reference will be drawn up for consideration at a future PC Meeting – **Action Clerk**. It was suggested that the Finance Budget Meeting could replace the December PC Meeting next year, however, this is still to be considered.

x) **Any other urgent Finance matters.** Nothing was raised.

8. Planning:

1. Decisions from the Planning Authority: -

- a) Planning Permission was granted to extend and alter including roof and solar panels at 14 Church Lane – **DC/25/03976**.
- b) Non-material amendment was approved for pedestrian step access to site adjacent Paddock Grove – **DC/25/04622**.

2. PC Observations to the following application was reported: -

The PC had **No Objections** to the householder application to replace existing garage and store at 1 Fox Cottages, Bures Road – **DC/25/04974**.

3. Any other urgent Planning matters: - Nothing was raised.

- 9. **Street Lighting:** As usual for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve our PC lights will be programmed to mirror the SCC lights and stay on all night.
- 10. **Housing Needs Survey:** Cllr O Brown confirmed he is still waiting to hear from Community Action Suffolk with the quote. The Clerk reminded the meeting we can use PC CIL monies and reserves have been set aside in the budget for this purpose.
- 11. **Recreation and Open Spaces:** Updates on Caley Green. Cllr K Sheath had sent his apologies with an update regarding the plans for a revetment and soft landscaping at the river. Checks are being made regarding their preferred option as to whether planning permission was needed and that the proposals would not affect wildlife. Following these checks, the proposals will come before this PC for review and comment and the Environment Agency for necessary permission.
- 12. **Village Hall:** The work to the Village Hall (VH) roof is progressing and there will be some work that will not be completed by the previously anticipated date of 19th December for practical completion. The roof leaks at the front of the building are being investigated and will be rectified when the cause of the water ingress is fully known and understood. The works are still on budget.
- 13. **Community Council:** Cllr Joan Border will join Cllr David Finnigan representing the PC on the Community Council. They would like to engage more Parkers Way residents with community events. Cllr Battye congratulated the Community Council on the recent Annual Christmas Family Fayre.
- 14. **Allotments:** Cllrs Brown and Harris will be planning the Annual Allotment Holders Meeting. All Allotment Holders and PC Members will be invited to the Meeting in the New Year.
- 15. **Burial Ground:** There was nothing to report.
- 16. **Footpaths:** It was agreed to discuss an item in Committee following the Meeting in the public interest.
- 17. **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items. Cllr Battye continues to pin PC notices on the Harpers Estate/ Heycroft Way noticeboard in the old bus shelter. Use of this and other physical noticeboards provides information to residents in addition to the website.
- 18. Next PC Meeting is scheduled for **14th January 2026**.

The meeting closed at **8.56 pm**.