

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12th MARCH 2025, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllr L Erith (Chair), Cllrs G Battye, O Brown, D Harris, and S Treharne attended in person. District Cllr I Reece, County Cllr J Finch (arrived around 8.15 p.m.) and 1 member of the public attended in person. D Hattrell (Clerk), L Brooks and 1 attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** Mr I Wright, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, reported the great news that they were successful in gaining the £100,000 CIL grant which is the final block of funding needed along with the National Lottery and other grants to complete the Village Hall Roof Improvements. This news was very much welcomed and Mr Wright and all involved were congratulated. The PC was asked for an update about Caley Green, and it was agreed to discuss with County Cllr J Finch when he arrived at the meeting.

b. District Council Report

District Cllr Isabelle Reece attended, and her report issued in advance covered:

The District Council (DC) has agreed to increase its share of Council Tax by 2.99%. The options for Unitary authority or authorities are being considered in relation to Devolution. The DC will be voting on a recommendation on 20th March. The public consultation on Devolution is open. Agreement has now been reached with Roy's in Sudbury over free parking. The Champion Hill sign has now been replaced, and Cllr Reece is chasing progress with the green area by the former bus shelter at the start of Heycroft Way/Harpers Estate. Cllr G Battye confirmed he is reviewing the old Minutes to find various information including the transfer of maintenance of the Old Burial Ground to the DC.

c. County Council Report

County Cllr J Finch attended at around 8.15 p.m., and his report issued in advance covered :

1. Proposal for One Council for Suffolk: Suffolk County Council leaders propose consolidating all county, district, and borough councils into a single-tier system to simplify, reduce costs, and improve service delivery. The initial proposal will be submitted to the government by 21 March, followed by a detailed business case and public consultation.
2. New Cabinet Role for Devolution and Local Government Reform: Cllr Richard Rout has been appointed to lead on devolution and local government reform, with Suffolk being fast-tracked for these changes. A mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk will be elected in May 2026 to oversee strategic policy areas.
3. Investment in Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service: Following a government inspection, Suffolk County Council proposes a £1.6 million investment over two years to address areas needing improvement, such as leadership, culture, and IT infrastructure.
4. Library Service Investment: Suffolk County Council plans to bring the library service back in-house, investing in new mobile libraries, books, and computers. This follows unsuccessful attempts to secure an external provider and concerns about the current provider's viability.
5. 2025/26 Budget Confirmation: The council's budget of £803.7 million focuses on protecting essential services and supporting vulnerable residents, with 77% allocated to Adult Care and Children's Services.
6. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions: Information on fostering and adoption opportunities is provided, encouraging interested individuals to contact the team for more details.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllr P Fuller and Cllr K Sheath. The Clerk attended by video link due to on-going health issues.
2. **Approval of Minutes of 12th February Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record.
3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** Nothing was declared.
4. **Highways:** It was agreed to check with our Grounds Maintenance Contractors when the traffic island weeding is scheduled – **Action Clerk.**

5. Finance Report:

i) The Chair read from the bank balances as of 27th February 2025 as £1000 in the Current Account, £18932.75 in the linked Account and £79,000 in the Capital Investment Account, £4,400.73 in the National Savings Account making a total of £103,333.48.

ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the February period: -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1623.69	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£223.20	Litter
Funds Transfer	Suffolk Cloud	£205.00	Domain & Emails

iii) **Any other urgent Finance Matters:** - Nothing was raised.

6. Planning

1. Decisions from the Planning Authority: -

- a) Tree Preservation Order application to reduce lime at 104 Bear Street was granted – **DC/25/00176.**
- b) The Planning Authority raised No Objections to Conservation Area Tree application at 5 High Street – **DC/25/00244.**
- c) Planning Permission was granted for garden shed at Vine House, 1 Court Street – **DC/25/00057.**
- d) Listed Building Consent was granted for repairs following oil leak at Star House, 83 Bear Street – **DC/24/04756.**

2. Hillside, 14 Stoke Road – Conservation Area tree application – **DC/25/00656.**

Both the PC and our Parish Tree Warden had **No Objections** between Meetings.

3. Church of St James, Church Lane – **DC/25/00855.** Conservation Area tree application.

Both the PC and our Parish Tree Warden had **No Objections.**

4. **Neighbourhood Planning** - The Chair asked for a place to be booked on the forthcoming Neighbourhood Planning Meeting – **Action Clerk.**

5. **Any other urgent planning matters** – It was agreed to seek guidance from the District Council regarding solar panels planning issues – **Action Clerk.**

7. **Street Lighting:** The accident damage to unit 24 on Elm Grove has not been restored and the target date for repairs has passed. It was agreed for the Clerk to report again – **Action Clerk.**

8. **Community Led Housing:** Cllr P Fuller is representing the PC on the Lady Anne Windsor Charity meetings regarding Affordable housing and a Call for Sites for Affordable Housing has been agreed for Nayland with Wissington and Leavenheath to see if any suitable land is available for a scheme.

9. **Recreation and Open Spaces:** Arrangements for the Tree Risk Assessment and Annual Play Park Inspection were in hand.

10. **Village Hall:** including roof project: Great news was shared in the Public Forum that the CIL bid had been approved. The gardening party was arranged for 9 am on 5th April 2025.

- 11.** **Community Council:** The Minutes are regularly circulated and the defibrillator for Wiston was being ordered.
- 12.** **Allotments:** update from the sub-committee. Arrangements were being made by the Allotment Sub Committee to review neglected plots and to provide draft letters to the Clerk to issue to some Allotment Holders – **Action Allotment Sub Committee.**
- 13.** **Burial Ground:** There was nothing to report.
- 14.** **Footpaths:** The paths were much better under foot due to the drier weather and there was nothing to report.
- 15.** **Annual Parish Assembly arrangements:** The date had been set for Wednesday 30th April 2025. It was agreed for the Chair and Clerk to secure a speaker about Neighbourhood Planning having first spoken to District Cllr I Reece. Cllr O Brown will organise an advert and the Clerk will organise the agenda nearer the time – **Action Chair, Cllr Brown and Clerk.**
- 16.** **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items.

The meeting closed at **8.26 pm.**