

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14th MAY 2025, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllrs G Battye, O Brown, P Fuller, D Harris, K Sheath and S Treharne attended in person. D Hattrell (Clerk) and 1 member of the public attended in person. L Brooks and 2 others attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** On behalf of Friends of Caley Green, an update was requested on the cutting of the long reed bed. A request was made to mow up to the Royal Memorial Bench and a question as to whether the mowing regime had changed on Caley Green as more wilder areas have been observed. A van from a local business had been observed parking in the layby on Bear Street for some days in the build up to the PC Meeting. It was agreed to investigate all the points and follow up with the local business regarding the van. The new information regarding the long reed bed is that a permit was not required from the Environment Agency and a date for the work to start following the nesting season was awaited. Further discussion was to take place during the Meeting under Recreation and Open Spaces – Agenda item.

b. **District Council Report**

District Cllr Isabelle Reece had sent her apologies; however, the general District Council (DC) report included the following: -

Local Government Reorganisation – latest

We are still awaiting the Government’s promised feedback on our interim plan for local government reorganisation, submitted in March, but in the meantime, we continue to work with the other district and borough councils to progress proposals for either two or three unitary councils to meet the differing needs of our county’s diverse communities.

An important part of this process will be seeking the views of our town and parish councils, and the residents, businesses, organisations and communities across our districts.

We will be in touch over coming weeks with further information and would be grateful for your help to spread the message locally. Please look out for more details soon.

New regional mayor can bring benefits – but local views must be heard, councils say

The Government’s proposed new Mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk can bring benefits to the region, but local communities must be fairly represented.

New-look grant sees more than £580k given to community projects

From filmmaking workshops to mental health support for young people, dozens of community projects across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have received a share of more than £580,000 as part of a new grant from the DC’s.

Cash injection for communities in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Town and parish councils in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are set to receive more than £813,000 in developer contributions to help community infrastructure keep pace with housing growth.

Solar partnership brings boost for businesses

A new pilot partnership is set to turn solar energy into savings for businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Council designates new conservation area to protect historic and special part of Suffolk

Babergh DC has designated a new conservation area in south Suffolk to protect an area rich in history and architecture.

Free compost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk residents

Green-fingered residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk could collect free compost in May as part of a drive to get people growing.

c. **County Council Report**

County Cllr J Finch had sent apologies, and his report issued in advance covered:

1. **£4 Million Skills Funding Boost:** Suffolk County Council (SCC) has received funding from the Department for Education to provide free skills training to 1,345 adults in 2025/26 through Skills Bootcamps. These courses address skills shortages in high-demand industries like digital technology, construction, engineering, net zero, and childcare, benefiting both individuals and businesses.
2. **Suffolk Highways Maintenance:** Summer maintenance works have begun, including grass cutting and weed treatments across Suffolk. Grass verges along major roads will receive two cuts, while smaller roads will be cut once. Glyphosate is used for weed treatments due to its effectiveness and safety.

3. **Primary School Placements:** On National Offer Day, 99% of children received a place at one of their three preferred primary schools, with 96% securing their first choice. SCC processed 6,695 applications.
4. **Concerns Over Infrastructure Reform:** SCC opposes proposed changes to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which could reduce community consultation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) like solar farms and offshore energy. The council plans to submit written evidence against these reforms.
5. **Fostering and Adoption Sessions:** Virtual sessions are available for those interested in fostering or adopting, offering flexible options to support local children.

Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed for Cllr Gerry Battye to Chair the Meeting.

1. Election of Chair and Declaration of Acceptance of Office:

Cllr Dawn Harris had discussed with our current Chair, Cllr Laura Erith, between meetings. Cllr Harris confirmed that Cllr Erith was willing to continue as Chair. As a result, Cllr Harris proposed Cllr Laura Erith to continue as Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Sam Treharne and unanimously carried. Cllr Laura Erith was therefore elected to continue as the Chair in her absence.

Cllr Gerry Battye continued chairing the Meeting.

2. Apologies: were received and accepted from Cllr Laura Erith (PC Chair).

3. Approval of Minutes of 9th April Meeting: These were accepted as a true record.

4. Declarations of Interest by Councillors: Cllr Kevin Sheath declared an interest in the Planning Application at Walsh Rise. He had some information to make as a member of the public on this item, however, would take no part in the decision of how to respond to this Planning Consultation. The Chair of the Meeting, Cllr Gerry Battye agreed to close the Meeting briefly at that point to allow Cllr Kevin Sheath to speak as a member of the public.

5. Appointment of Vice Chair, Sub Committee's and Representatives:

This item was deferred due to the absence of the PC Chair until the June Parish Council (PC) Meeting. This will also give Councillors time to consider which Sub Committee's they would like to join.

6. Highways: One item was agreed to be discussed in Committee following the PC Meeting in the public interest. It was agreed to ask our Grounds Maintenance Contractors to make another visit to clear weeds from the traffic islands on the A134 – **Action Clerk.**

7. Finance Report:

i) The Chair read from the **bank balances as of 1st May 2025** as £1000 in the Current Account, £42166.73 in the linked Account and £79,549.04 in the Capital Investment Account, £4,400.73 in the National Savings Account making a total of £127,116.50. The largest receipt during April period was the first instalment of the Precept at £25,000, others included the VAT reclaim which came to £4742.84, £783.42 in Bank Interest and £440 in Burial Fees. Payments made during April came to £5152.70.

ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the April period paid on 1st May 2025: -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1619.59	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£589.20	Litter and Grass
Funds Transfer	SALC	£467.95	Subscriptions
Funds Transfer	John Moore Tree Services	£337.00	Tree Inspections

Agreement of these payments was resolved.

iii) **Annual Governance and Accounting Return 2024/25**

The End of Year Accounts and Governance Statement had been circulated ahead of the PC Meeting. Cllr Sam Treharne commented on the quality of reports available from Scribe Accounting. The Annual Governance and Accounting Return for 2024/25 Year was approved by a unanimous vote. The Acting Chair and the Clerk duly signed the forms.

iv) **CIL Return for year ending 31.3.25**

Cllr Dawn Harris proposed approval of the CIL Return for last Financial Year. This was seconded by Cllr Owen Brown and unanimously carried. This was then signed.

v) **Model Publication Scheme to be finalised at June PC Meeting**

The Model Publication Scheme wording had been circulated with a table at the end relating it to Nayland with Wissington Parish Council. Comments will be circulated between meetings with final approval at the June PC Meeting – **Action All and the Clerk to include on the agenda.**

vi) **Any other urgent Finance Matters: -**

The Acting Chair referred to the Community Pantry and Hardship Fund Report which is now on our website with the other documents and reports from the Annual Parish Assembly.

8. Planning

1. Decisions from the Planning Authority (PA): -

- a) The PA Confirmed Discharge of Pre-commencement Conditions were partially met for contamination at Nags Corner, Wiston Road – **DC/25/01336.**
- b) Consent was granted for works to protected trees at 100 Bear Street – **DC/25/01178.** This PC and our Parish Tree Warden had No Objections to these works.
- c) Discharge of Conditions for roof facing materials, eaves & verges, rainwater goods, fenestration and internal elevations were approved by the PA for 5 High Street – **DC/25/01115.**

2. Snowdrop Cottage, Bures Road – **DC/25/01879.** Householder application to demolish a garage and construct an annexe etc.
The PC had **No Objections** between Meetings.

3. Householder application for extensions and additional fenestrations at **3 Walsh Rise – DC/25/01906.**
The PC had No Objection to the work. A neighbour had contacted the PC between meetings supporting the application, however, with some care to enable continued access for neighbouring residents. Cllr Sheath was able to speak as a member of the public and explained what steps were being taken by the applicant to minimise any disruption. It was resolved to issue **No Objections with a comment about maintaining access – Action Clerk.** (Cllr Sheath took no part in the PC discussion to agree the response on this Consultation due to his declared interest).

4. From the Annual Parish Assembly – Guest Speakers had attended to explain Neighbourhood Plans and Housing Targets. The proposal around not displaying official notices of plans was also raised in the Assembly. Cllr Kevin Sheath had researched since the Assembly whether meeting Local Housing Needs following a Housing Needs Survey counts towards those new housing targets. He confirmed that they do. It was then discussed that a Neighbourhood Plan, although overseen by the PC, is a Village venture. Volunteers are therefore needed to make a Neighbourhood Plan feasible. It would also be dependant a majority vote at the Referendum at the end of the process. It was agreed to set up a shared comment form and to include as an Agenda item for next meeting – **Action Clerk.** Cllr Owen Brown agreed to look out details and costs of a Housing Needs Survey and circulate between meetings – **Action Cllr Owen Brown.**

5. **Any other urgent planning matters** – Nothing was raised.

9. **Street Lighting:** There was nothing to report.
10. **Recreation and Open Spaces:** The Tree Survey next steps would be discussed under Burial Ground. In relation to the long reed bed on Caley Green, Environment Agency permission is not required and information relating to the start date for the works was due the following week. It was agreed for Cllr Kevin Sheath to investigate this matter further and liaise more directly with the SCC to see this through – **Action Cllr Kevin Sheath**. The PC Meeting closed briefly to allow the representative from Friends of Caley Green to speak. She was very pleased with this development and is happy to support Cllr Sheath with any information required. Correspondence had been received between meetings in relation to Kayak/paddle board on the River near the Anchor. A trial has been agreed to assess demand. Whilst the PC had No objections to the principle, it was agreed to share observations and concerns. It was agreed for Cllr Kevin Sheath to draft a list of those issues for the Clerk to forward – **Action Cllr Kevin Sheath and Clerk**. It was agreed to seek an up-to-date quote for the Playpark fence and to provide budget information for a decision to be made at the June PC Meeting – **Action Clerk**. It had been commented that there are no benches at the recreation ground in the shade. This will be investigated between meetings. It was agreed to order bird spikes for the top of the basket swing frame from our Grounds Maintenance Contractors – **Action Clerk**.
11. **Village Hall:** It was agreed to check with our Contractor when bird nesting season allows for tree work in Webb's Meadow adjoining Fen Street Garden to be completed – **Action Clerk**. In relation to the Roof, the final decision from the National Lottery was awaited. The hall will remain open throughout the works. They will officially be asking the PC for our contribution of £60,000 shortly. This includes the PC CIL monies. They are hoping to commence the works during June.
12. **Community Council:** The Minutes are regularly circulated. The Pro-forma Invoice had been received for the Wiston Defibrillator. It was agreed for the Clerk to pay in full and ask the Community Council for their contribution – **Action Clerk**.
13. **Allotments:** update from the sub-committee. The Sub Committee are working on suitable termination letters in respect of neglected plots. One plot has now become vacant and for the first time in ages, there is nobody on the Waiting List. It was agreed to seek a date for the judging of the Best Kept Allotments this year – **Action Clerk**.
14. **Burial Ground:** The Tree Hazard Evaluation had identified some urgent work, some within 6 months and some within a year. In the first instance, it was agreed for Cllr Kevin Sheath to have a site Meeting with Cllr Dawn Harris to note which trees are the responsibility of the PC and which are the responsibility of other authorities. Work could then start on an action plan and the seeking of quotations. This will remain on the agenda until an Action Plan is devised – **Action Cllr Kevin Sheath, Cllr Dawn Harris and Clerk**.
15. **Footpaths:** Nothing was raised.
16. **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items. The Local Authority Re-organisation was noted. It was agreed to issue a polite approach to the business regarding the van being left on Bear Street – **Action Clerk**. It was agreed to contact our Grounds Maintenance Contractors to ask them to mow up to the Royal Memorial bench and ask if the mowing regime had changed in relation to wildlife areas. This was raised in the public forum at the start of the Meeting – **Action Clerk**.
17. Any remaining **Actions arising from the Annual Parish Assembly**. All items had been picked up by the various Agenda items.

The meeting closed at **9.20 pm**.