

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllr L Erith (Chair), Cllrs G. Batty, O. Brown, P. Fuller, K. Sheath and attended in person, as did, District Cllr I Reece & County Cllr J Finch.  
L Brooks and S. Dalton M. Wright (Con.Soc.) attended by Video link.  
Cllr G Batty noted the Minutes.

Before Commencement of the Meeting:

a. **Public Forum:**

Sally Dalton asked whether Mr. Lee of SCC had replied, as to whether, he'd received permission from the Environment Agency to deal with the overgrowing reed bed at Caley Green.

SCC Cllr. James Finch, promised to chase up this matter yet again. He would contact Matthew Lee, the following morning.

b. **District Council Report**

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

i. **Devolution.**

a. Babergh's realistic possible options were a Single Unitary Authority, covering the whole of Suffolk; Two Unitary Authorities, with a basic East-West Divide; or Three Unitary Authorities, with the Ipswich Area standing alone. However, it has been shown that the Three Unitaries option will significantly increase costs rather than result in any savings.

b. A Babergh consultation seeks views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for all the local government areas in the two counties. The consultation invites those who live and work across both counties to share their views on:

- The proposed geography
- The effect of establishing a Mayoral Combined Authority in Norfolk and Suffolk
- How the Mayoral Combined Authority will make decisions.

The development of A Mayoral Combined Authority and Unitary Authorities will not affect Town and Parish Councils and the important work they undertake for their Parishes and residents. The Regional Mayor will be elected in May 2026.

ii. **Planning**

There is a statutory requirement that as Planning Authority, Babergh District Council, notify neighbouring residents about a planning application by sending them a letter, **or** by placing a site notice on display in the relevant location.

Babergh is proposing to stop sending letters to neighbours for certain types of planning application, citing as justification the fact that most comments received from neighbours are received electronically.

The move is intended as a way of reducing costs, but many of us are concerned that the envisaged alternative methods of ensuring effective communication on planning applications are ill-conceived. For further details and to respond to this consultation see the following link:

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning-consultations#community-involvement-consultation>

*District Council Report (Continued)*

Babergh/Parish Liaison Matters

Discussion between Cllr. Reece and Parish Councillors followed. Concern about grass cutting regime on Nayland Heights and Harpers Estates was expressed. Cllr. Reece has contacted the department concerned. The contact point is Tom baker, Chief of Operations, Public Realm.

The Council had been informed about a mistake in identifying land adjacent to Nags Corner/Paddock Grove on planning matters. Cllr. Reece commented that the matter had now been rectified.

Cllr. Reece had asked Cleansing/Public Realms to clear the by-pass gutter areas.

The Parish Council (PC) had updated Babergh with a history of the Cemetery Area, taken from the Council minute books.

**c. County Council Report**

County Cllr J Finch attended; his report having been issued in advance.

It included:

**i. Electricity Transmission Issues**

The County Council continues to object to electricity pylons on the Norwich/Tilbury line. He noted that Ofgem had approved the project before any planning permission had even been given. Whilst there would be some undergrounding within the Dedham Vale National landscape, this was not to be the case in the Waveney Valley

**ii. School Places.**

This year parents and carers of 97.5% of children were offered a place at one of their three preferred schools and 91.9% were offered a place at their first preference school. SCC received 7831 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to transfer to in September 2025.

200 (by 2026) SEND places had been commissioned with many financial implications. The system is to be brought back 'in County' with units alongside schools.

**iii. Devolution**

SCC's cabinet has approved an interim 'One Council' plan for local government reorganisation in Suffolk which was submitted to ministers on 21st March 25. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/2025-03-21-suffolkcc-lgr-interim-plan-final.pdf>

Mr. Finch was due at another meeting so the Agenda Item 4. (see below) was dealt with at this point, in his presence.

**Parish Council Meeting**

**1. Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllr D. Harris, Cllr S. Treharne and D Hattrell (Clerk).

**2. Approval of Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> March Meeting:**

These were approved. Proposed by Owen Brown and Seconded by Kevin Sheath. Unanimous with P. Fuller abstaining owing to her absence from that meeting.

**3. Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** Cllr. Kevin Sheath declared his interest in Item 5.

#### **4. Highways:**

Mr. Finch continued to voice his concerns about the speed of traffic along Stoke Road, within the village boundary. New road markings would be provided, and he had written to Suffolk Constabulary to request manned equipment checks.

All voiced their concerns at the state of the village road surfaces.

#### **5. Finance Report:**

i) The Chair read from the bank balances as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 as £1000 in the Current Account, £16902.21 in the linked Account and £79,000 in the Capital Investment Account, £4,400.73 in the National Savings Account making a total of £101,302.94.

ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the March period paid on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025: -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1591.20	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£1400.4	Litter, Burial, Grass and Rec
Funds Transfer	Scott-Moncrieff	£1157.00	Legal Costs
Funds Transfer	Scribe Accounts	£489.60	Accounting Subs.
Funds Transfer	S J Williams	£225.00	Play Park Inspection
Funds Transfer	National Allotment Society	£84.00	Membership
Funds Transfer	A. Griffiths	£50.00	Horsewatering
Funds Transfer	Tree & Lawn Co	£48.00	Horsewatering
Funds Transfer	K Sheath	£35.00	Misc – Leaflets
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£42.50	Hall hire

It was resolved by all to agree (with abstention by Cllr. Kevin Sheath) to the above list of payments. Proposed by Cllr. Owen Brown and seconded by Cllr. Laura Erith

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

Cllr. Gerry Battye reported that a March meeting of the Walsh Trust had resolved to pass £300 income, from Charity Commission investments to the Community Pantry and Hardship Fund for use by individuals or families of Nayland & Wissington who had financial needs. Liaison between the Trust and the Hardship Fund continued and its financial report was imminent for release.

#### **6. Town and Country Planning**

i. **Decisions from the Planning Authority:** -

a) The Planning Authority raised No Objections to pruning of white mulberry tree and oak tree at Hillside, 14 Stoke Road – **DC/25/00656**.

b) Conditions were approved for biodiversity enhancement measures at 5 High Street – **DC/25/01114**.

c) The Planning Authority raised No Objections to Conservation Area tree work at Church of St James – **DC/25/00855**.

ii. **100 Bear Street – Application for works to protected trees – DC/25/01178.**

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

**iii. Consider the revised plans dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 25 at 2 Gravel Hill – DC/24/03691.**

Cllr. Brown judged that nothing significantly had changed with this amended plan, so he felt no need to change his mind following the Council's previous objections. The Council decided that the following facts were still relevant criteria for judgement: Whilst off street parking was desirable, falling levels of ground away from the application site, as well as the mass of the development itself, meant that there would be undue dominance of the buildings in the Conservation Area of Birch Street with also a possible impact on neighbours' amenity. Again, no lighting information had been submitted which was significant for judging on environmental grounds and neighbouring amenity. The dispute on levels, presented in the application needed to be judged on site. The Council agreed that a site visit by a planning officer, was the only way of determining this. For these reasons, the Council resolved to object to the application. Proposed by Cllr. O. Brown, seconded by Cllr. K. Sheath and resolved unanimously.

**iv. Planning for the Future – new housing targets for Nayland with Wissington from the District Council.**

Chair, Cllr. Erith reported on her attendance at a Sudbury Town Hall meeting organised by Babergh with J. Cartlidge M.P. in attendance. It was clear the clear message that each Parish should adopt its own Housing Needs and Neighbourhood Plan in order to better influence the judgement of Planning Applications for the Parish. National Housing Targets were driving the agenda. In Nayland, there could be prospective applications for 210 residential properties over the next 20 years. The construction and adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan had been urged. Details had been given of the successful creation of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan, where all current homes and businesses were leafleted and consulted. The main issue is to consider WHERE the Parish council would want new homes built within the Parish. It would obviously be a contentious issue, but attendees had been assured that the houses would certainly come somewhere within a parish.

The Council agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan would have to be a whole Village venture, involving everybody, with the Parish Council having its own views but feeding into the overall plan which would then have to be formally adopted and then presented by the Council. The process is clearly laid out. It is a process that will probably take a minimum of four years to complete. The Council agreed that this would become the main focus of the forthcoming Annual Parish Assembly at the Village Hall on Monday April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**v. Any other urgent planning matters –**

None

**7. Street Lighting:**

A new lamp and post (No. 24) had been constructed in Elm Grove, following the tanker incident. Mr. J. Finch was thanked for his involvement.

**8. Community Led Housing:**

Cllr. P. Fuller reported on the local search for housing sites by the Lady Anne Windsor Trust Charity. Land at Plough Lane, Leavenheath had already been identified. The Council and residents should inform the Trust of possible sites, also bearing in mind Item 6 (iv) above. The Trust would be making approaches to Babergh in May.

**9. Recreation and Open Spaces:**

**i. Tree Risk Assessment:**

Cllr. Kevin Sheath reported on his assessment, accompanied by both the Tree Warden and the independent contractor. Cllr. Sheath's Report had been circulated to Councillors. 11 tree locations had been identified as requiring work. A check on procedure would be made with Clerk. Two contractors would be approached for quotations to undertake the tree work as identified. Proposed by Cllr L. Erith Seconded by Cllr. P. Fuller and carried unanimously.

**ii. Play Park Inspection Report:**

Cllr. Gerry Battye reported on the annual independent Safety Inspection of the Fairfield Playpark and Playing Field, Bear Street. He felt that it had been a good report. No major defects had been identified. The inspector had commented on how well the area was maintained. The report had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr. Battye had drawn up an action plan based upon the report. This would include further spikes on equipment that showed pigeon damage. It was resolved that the Plan, should be the basis of a site meeting between the sub-committee and the Council contractor in eventually obtaining a quote for the work. The Clerk would check the process.

**iii. Caley Green**

The Chair would liaise with Cllr. James Finch and the Clerk concerning the Council's strong frustration in dealing with the Reed Bed situation. The Councillors expressed their growing frustration at the break down in information from Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency about progress. Cllr. James Finch had promised contact with the Council officer and Cllrs. G. Battye and P. Fuller asked that the Parish Council make its own contact with both parties so that information was available for the Parish Assembly. It was noted again that spring brought both the growing and the breeding season, so a further year had been wasted.

**10. Village Hall:**

The Village Hall Management and its Chairman were again congratulated on all the work, thought and time that had gone into the successful acquisition of funding for the replacement roof to the hall. It was a great achievement for a few people.

**11. Community Council:**

The Minutes are regularly circulated.

**12. Allotments:**

Councillors expressed their concern at the continuing very poor state of a minority of allotments. The Chair offered to check with the Clerk and then liaise with the sub-committee to draw up a standard termination of lease letter. It was agreed that by the May Council meeting, the matter would be resolved.

**13. Burial Ground:**

Between meetings, Cllr. Owen Brown had marked a grave that was needed.

**14. Footpaths:**

The overgrown condition of the Footpath adjacent to the Allotment Field was discussed. Clearance work was needed. Cllr. Erith would prompt or enquire about responsibilities and the work needed.

**15. Annual Parish Assembly arrangements:**

The date has been set for Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025, at the Village Hall with an 8 pm start.

The Chair is currently working on the agenda and asked Councillors for their participation in presentation. The main item would be A Village Plan with a Housing Focus. All agreed to participate. The Clerk would also be consulted.

**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 **8.48 pm**.