

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllrs D Harris (Chair), Cllr O Brown (Vice Chair), Cllrs G Battye, J Border, D Finnigan and P Fuller attended in person. D Hattrell (Clerk), County Cllr J Finch, District Cllr I Reece and Jeremy Robbins – District Council attended in person. L Brooks and 2 attended by Video link.

**Before Commencement of the Meeting**

a. **Public Forum:** Items raised included complaints regarding parking on the pavements in Stoke Road and delays to the preparation needed for the new central government led refuse arrangements.

**b. District Council Report**

District Cllr Isabelle Reece attended and had sent a report outlining: -

**Council and Cabinet Meetings:**

- o Babergh District Council **BDC** Full Council Meeting on 20th January discussed the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and supported motions on Ipswich's City of Culture 2029 bid and sewage sludge regulations.
- o BDC Cabinet voted to increase parking charges by 20% on 6th January. Next Cabinet Meeting was on 10th February, and Full Council on 24th February.

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee:**

- o On 29th January, Cllr Paul Clover and Cllr Isabelle Reece challenged the parking charge increase, citing lack of proportionality and consultation. The Committee upheld the decision, which will be implemented immediately.

**Sewage Sludge Regulations:**

- o Concerns raised over unsafe ammonia levels at a sewage sludge processing site near Wattisham air base. Suffolk County Council **SCC** issued stop notices, and the Environment Agency found breaches. BDC will urge Defra to strengthen regulations and warn farmers about risks of using sludge from water company contractors.

**Ipswich City of Culture 2029 Bid:**

- o BDC supports Ipswich's bid for City of Culture 2029. The deadline for submission was 8th February 2026, with potential government funding of £10 million for the winning bid. Public support was encouraged via [www.ipswich2029.com](http://www.ipswich2029.com).

**Changes to Waste Bins:**

- o Residents will soon receive information packs about new waste and recycling systems to be implemented later this year.

**Boxted Bridge:**

- o Concerns raised over the uncertainty surrounding the future of Boxted Bridge. Cllr John Ward, Cllr Isabelle Reece, and others, including MP James Cartledge, are advocating for clarity on the issue. For more details on this and all the items listed, visit the BDC website: [baberghmidsuffolk.com](http://baberghmidsuffolk.com).

On local matters Cllr Reece updated the meeting that inspections were carried out of all closed burial grounds. At Nayland they planned to clear vegetation from the wall before March to allow a full structural survey to be undertaken. She will continue to monitor developments. In relation to the common room at Parkers Way, details will be provided on the estimated costs of running the facility to enable the Parish to consider the next steps. The BDC Community Officer is working on the matter.

**c. County Council Report**

County Cllr J Finch attended, and his report issued in advance covered:

**2026/27 Budget Plans**

- SCC proposes an £850 million budget aimed at protecting frontline services and investing in the future, despite financial pressures.
- Key budget themes include £46.5 million in savings through service efficiencies, a £32.2 million increase in costs due to rising demand for social care, and a one-off use of reserves to address a £5.9 million funding gap.
- A proposed 4.99% rise in Council Tax, including a 2% increase for adult care, is expected to generate an additional £27.4 million, impacting Band B and Band D properties with weekly increases of £1.23 and £1.58, respectively.

**Youth Engagement in Public Health**

- Suffolk's 2025 Annual Public Health Report, primarily video-based, highlights youth involvement in identifying community health issues through hackathon events.
  - The report emphasizes the importance of youth social action in improving health and reducing inequalities, with a focus on implementing recommendations based on young people's feedback.
- SEND Services Improvement**
- The Department for Education acknowledges progress in Suffolk's SEND services, praising governance and multi-agency collaboration while recommending further enhancements.
  - Plans for new provision for children with complex needs have been approved, securing £1.4 million in funding to reduce reliance on costly private placements.
- Fostering Initiatives**
- A documentary featuring Adam Buxton highlights the need for more foster carers in Suffolk, showcasing the experiences of local families.
  - Fostering offers flexible opportunities, providing essential support for children in care, with resources available for those interested in fostering or adopting.

Following the report, Cllr G Battye asked about the need to urgently fill potholes in Bear Street and other Parish locations. County Cllr J Finch explained that the continuous wet conditions are delaying the work as it needs to be drier for effective repair. He reminded everyone to ensure each pothole is reported on the reporting tool, to enable the work to be prioritised when conditions improve.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

- 1. Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllr K Sheath. Cllr C Thompson had sent his apologies, however, did attend via the video link. He was aware he could not take part in voting remotely.
- 2. Representative from Babergh District Council – Future of common room at Parkers Way.** Jeremy Robbins thanked the Parish Council (PC) for inviting him and explained he was new to BDC. He looks after 3 teams, one of which relates to Sheltered Housing. He explained BDC is moving away from sheltered housing. Funding and demand have declined and the cost of wardens and necessary changes to telephone alarm systems have led to the decision to withdraw the sheltered element of some schemes including Parkers Way. Since the decision was communicated, all the residents have decided to remain. Their service charge will go down as a result. If an official community group or the PC wanted to take over the management of the common room, this could be arranged. The building and grounds maintenance will remain with the BDC as before. Cllr D Finnigan confirmed he has further information to share with his fellow Councillors. It was noted that the right to buy option for residents of previously sheltered housing is being investigated.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> January Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record.
- 4. Declaration of Interest by Councillors:** Nothing was declared.
- 5. Councillor Vacancy:** It was noted that the official notice period has expired for our Councillor Vacancy, so the PC are able to co-opt to fill the Vacancy. It was agreed to publicise, make people aware and encourage enquiries and applications.
- 6. Highways:** Parking on pavements causing obstruction in both Stoke Road and Parkers Way was raised. Additionally, this leads to reduction in road space for emergency vehicles to get through. It was agreed to report to the District Council Enforcement team to ask them to investigate – **Action Clerk.** Problem parking during school pick up times was raised and it was agreed to observe further and monitor the situation. The report of damaged verges was discussed and the concerns of the resident shared with the meeting. The Chair agreed to observe the problems herself and photograph and put on the Highways Reporting Tool as required. She will also communicate with the resident – **Action Chair.**
- 7. Finance Report:**
  - i)The Chair read from the bank balances as of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 as £1000 in the Current Account, £25,970.09 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 **£51,234.70.** We are in the process of setting up a new

bank account to transfer funds from the out-of-date postal National Savings Account. The interest statement on that Account for last year has just been received. The funds have increased by £44.45 (interest) making the new total in the National Savings Account £4489.31.

ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the January period paid on or by 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026: -			
Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1724.22	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£517.80	Litter/Rec/Burial/Open Spaces
Funds Transfer	Suffolk. Cloud	£130.00	Domain & emails
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£16.00	Hall hire

Formal Approval of all the above payments was resolved.

iii) **Review of Reserves Policy** – this was completed and it was resolved that the Reserves Policy still meets our needs – **Action Clerk to update the review date on the document on the PC website.**

iv) **Woodland Corner Application** – An application for a funding contribution had been received between meetings towards acoustic rafts for Woodland Corner. Woodland Corner is privately run and is of great benefit to the Village. The PC were supportive of the principle of contributing subject to budget being found to allocate. One consideration is the PC's CIL monies, so it was agreed to seek clarification from the BDC CIL team that funds could be used in this respect – **Action Clerk**. This will continue to stay on the agenda until a suitable contribution is agreed – **Action Clerk**. The Clerk is to keep Woodlands Corner informed.

v) **Business One-drive** – The meeting was reminded that the internal auditor did approve the current arrangements of using the Clerk's personal one-drive for storage, however, suggested we secure a business one-drive in the name of the PC. The Clerk has researched and was unable to secure a free non-profit one-drive. It was agreed to order a bank debit card to pay for the monthly costs of this and zoom to avoid the Clerk paying from own funds and then being reimbursed – **Action Clerk**.

vi) **CCLA Mandate form** – this relates to the Walsh Prize Fund charity of which councillors are Trustees. This was signed following the meeting and has since been returned.

vii) **Any other urgent Finance matters.** – nothing was raised.

## **8. Planning:**

### **1. Decisions from the Planning Authority: -**

a) Planning Permission was granted for replacement garage and store at 1 Fox Cottages, Bures Road – **DC/25/04974.**

b) The Planning Authority did not object to the notified reduction of walnut tree at 50 Gravel Hill – **DC/26/00094.**

### **2. Observations to works notification to various trees in Conservation Area at Nayland Meadow, Horkesley Road – DC/26/00202.**

Both the Parish Council and our Parish Tree Warden had **No Objections** to this notification.

### **3. Change of use of grassland to seasonal water sports business at the rear of the Anchor Inn – DC/25/05611.**

The following response was agreed: -

*“The Parish Council have **No Objection** subject to conditions as safeguards to prevent further expansion and to minimise the impact. The conditions are as follows: -*

- a) *No parking on the field or on Court Knoll track*
- b) *The number of crafts not to exceed those within this application*
- c) *No changes to the surface*
- d) *Full consultation with the Environment Agency*

*Provided approval is subject to these conditions, this Parish Council has No Objections.”*

### **4. Any other urgent Planning matters: - Nothing was raised.**

9. **Street Lighting:** There was nothing to report.
10. **Housing Needs Survey:** Cllr O Brown reported that he has now received the quote from Community Action Suffolk. There are fixed costs of £2000, however, the remainder is based on the households and return rate. Stationary is reimbursed at cost. It is therefore between £2500 and £3000. The Finance Meeting allocated some of the PC CIL at £2165, so further funds will need to be allocated to proceed. The Clerk/RFO will review the finances for this and the Woodland Corner application – **Action Clerk**. Cllr P Fuller then explained the progress regarding the proposed new almshouses for the benefit of Nayland residents under the charity objectives. The proposal is for Local Affordable homes at Plough Lane, Leavenheath with some market housing to support the funding. Housing Associations have been approached, and planning will involve rural exception site rules as the land is not within the Parish built up area.
11. **Recreation and Open Spaces:** Updates on Caley Green. Updates had been received from Cllr K Sheath between meetings in relation to Caley Green. The Concertus civil engineer has been chased in relation to seeking permissions for the revetment and landscaping at the river. No further updates have been forthcoming. Details of a proposed donated memorial bench and location were circulated between meetings. It would be necessary to consult residents near this location, which it was suggested could generate concerns. Another location near the river was suggested as potentially more suitable. It was agreed for the Chair and Cllr G Battye to liaise with the family about the location. If permissions are needed from the SCC what3words was suggested as an efficient method – **Action Chair and Cllr G Battye**. It was agreed for the Clerk to remind about the Playpark safety inspection – **Action Clerk**. The Chair and Cllr G Battye agreed to allocate time to the necessary signage for the recreation ground – **Action Chair/Cllr G Battye**.
12. **Village Hall:** The Minutes of the Village Hall Meeting had recently been shared. Congratulations were proposed to the Village Hall Committee, particularly the Chair, for the successful completion of the replacement roof project. Some snagging is on-going. The new floor along from the entrance to the hall was noted as a considerable improvement. The PC Chair, Cllr D Harris, confirmed new curtains are being donated and they are choosing from fabrics currently.
13. **Community Council:** The Minutes had been circulated. Preparations are being made to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community Council which coincides with the anniversary of the birth of John Constable. The recent quiz night went well.
14. **Allotments:** The Village Hall Meeting Room has been booked for the Allotment Meeting (9<sup>th</sup> April). It was agreed to invite the Allotment holders to attend – **Action Clerk**. The Chair will work on the agenda – **Action Chair**.
15. **Burial Ground:** The regular enquiries were on-going, however, there was nothing specific 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. On-going matters had been picked up under the various agenda items. It was agreed to thank our Parish Recorder on behalf of the PC – **Action Clerk**.
18. **Annual Parish Assembly:** The date has been set for the Annual Parish Assembly. The timing of the Assembly might coincide with the required publicity for the Housing Needs Survey. However, that will depend on progress towards a Housing Needs Survey. It was agreed to ask County Cllr J Finch if he could invite a representative to talk about fostering – **Action Clerk**.
19. Next PC Meeting is scheduled for **11<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.

The meeting closed at **9.31 pm**.