

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

Present: Cllr D Harris (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 4 members of the public attended in person. L Brooks and 1 other attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** David Baker and Peter French attended from a local historical society who were concerned over the news of the closure of LSPN. Stoke by Nayland PC had issued a survey of their residents showing a demand for some continuation. They have investigated printing, editing, typesetting and distribution and were engaging with the four local Parish Councils. They are prepared to help; however, it may require an organisation such as Parish Council (PC), small charity or community interest company to front arrangements. They felt Box River News or our own Community Times are better examples of what could be provided in place of LSPN. The editor of Community Times joined the discussion via video link and agreed there has been a fall in advertising income and she was mindful of competition potentially being to the detriment of Community Times. The Chair and members thanked the speakers and asked to be kept informed of developments. Attention then turned to the Housing Needs Survey Agenda item and a resident questioned about the number of people on the Housing Register and the purpose of the Housing Needs Survey. She commented on the high cost of living in the Parish. Cllr G Battye spoke of the successful scheme at Wiston Road which arose from identifying local housing needs.

b. **District Council Report**

District Cllr Isabelle Reece attended and had sent a general Babergh District Council (BDC) report outlining: -

Their budget at 2.99% increase for their element of Council Tax, changes to waste provision which is causing concern regarding accommodation of bins and the 3-weekly collection of general waste, pylons – Norwich to Tilbury – which continue to be objected to, National Landscapes and the call to re-open Boxted bridge. Further information can be found on the BDC website.

In relation to the Parkers Way common room, Jeremy Robbins from BDC, has left their employ and the new officer is getting up to speed on the options and costs. Cllr Reece suggested the PC may wish to consider the principle of taking on the common room, to avoid unnecessary work on costings if a local organisation was not prepared to consider it. The PC did consider further information may influence that decision and that was how the matter was left previously.

The PC Chair, Cllr D Harris updated the meeting regarding the grass cutting at the Heycroft Way/Harpers bus shelter.

c. **County Council Report**

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

1. **New SEND School in Bury St Edmunds:** A new special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) school for students aged 14-19 will be built in Bury St Edmunds, funded by the Department for Education. It will also serve as a centre of excellence and hub for SEND guidance, offering outreach staff, specialist expertise, and training opportunities. This aligns with Suffolk County Council's SCC SEND sufficiency plans. Another SEND school for 126 students with severe learning difficulties will open in Saxmundham.
2. **SCC Chief Executive Resignation:** Nicola Beach, the council's chief executive, will step down at the end of March 2026 after eight years of service. The council will begin the process of appointing her successor.
3. **Joint Chief Executives Recommended:** Mark Ash and Andrew Cook have been recommended as SCC's first joint chief executives. Mark will focus on local government reorganization, devolution, and transformation, while Andrew will oversee public services, financial controls, and statutory duties. The decision was to be formally made on 19 March 2026.
4. **Suffolk Exhibition on Disability:** A new exhibition, "Beyond Labels," will explore themes of visibility, independent living, discrimination, and accessibility for disabled individuals. Co-curated by local community groups and Suffolk Archives, it highlights historical and present-day stories of disability and promotes awareness and equality.
5. **Driverless Shuttle Trial:** Suffolk residents were invited to test the ADAstra driverless shuttle prototype at events in Mildenhall (7 February 2026) and Lowestoft (28 February 2026). SCC aims to

assess public opinion and explore how autonomous shuttles can improve local transportation, especially in rural areas.

6. **Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions:** SCC is offering virtual sessions to provide information about fostering and adoption opportunities in the Stour Valley. Interested individuals can contact the team at 01473 264800.

Cllr Finch was reminded about potentially organising a speaker on Fostering for our Annual Parish Assembly. He agreed to investigate. He also gave the news that he will not be seeking re-election at the County Council elections after 17 years in the role. Members took the opportunity to thank Cllr Finch for all his attendance and support over the years. He will remain our County Cllr until 6<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllr K Sheath, Cllr O Brown and Cllr C Thompson.
2. **Approval of Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> February Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record.
3. **Declaration of Interest by Councillors:** Nothing was declared.
4. **Boxted Bridge Load Testing:** A request for funding support for load testing of the bridge for traffic had been received. Members discussed and felt they would want to further understand views from our residents in relation to this matter. It was agreed the PC has insufficient information currently to offer a contribution, especially as we have other pressing matters directly in the Parish. It was agreed to email the organisers wishing them success and asking to be kept informed – **Action Clerk.**
5. **Highways:** It was agreed to ask BDC for the cutting schedule for the old bus shelter – Heycroft/Harpers – **Action Clerk.** In relation to Stoke Road parking, Community Times are to run an article that reinforces pavement obstruction offenses and consequences. This will be followed up by action from local police. The Clerk explained that she contacted the District Council following last meeting and was advised that they cannot follow up as the vehicles were not parked on yellow lines. Obstruction is a Police matter, so is being correctly addressed by them.

### **6. Finance Report:**

i) The bank balances as of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were £1000 in the Current Account, £24,995.57 in the linked Account and £19,819.75 in the Capital Investment Account, £4,489.31 in the National Savings Account making a total of **£50,304.63.** We are in the process of setting up a new bank account for the National Savings funds.

ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the February period paid on or by 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026: -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1705.62	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£231.60	Litter
Funds Transfer	S J Williams	£240.00	Playpark Inspection
Funds Transfer	A. Griffiths	£75.00	Horsewatering
Funds Transfer	J. Freeman	£44.94	Horsewatering
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£32.00	Hall hire – Feb/March
Funds Transfer	Babergh District Council	£1.00	Bus Shelter rent

Formal Approval of all the above payments was resolved.

iii) **Bank Mandate and applications** were approved for signing after the Meeting.

iv) **Amendment to Financial Regulations – Debit Cards** – the addition was resolved in relation to debit cards restricted to the Clerk/RFO. This will enable card transactions for subscriptions such as Zoom and Microsoft business one-drive.

v) **Woodland Corner Acoustic Project Application.** The provisional end of year financial position had been provided ahead of the meeting. Following discussion, it was resolved to support this project by a donation of £500 – **Action Clerk to follow up.**

vi) **Housing Needs Survey Funding.** It was agreed to provisionally allocate all the PC CIL to the cost of a Housing Needs Survey. This amounts to £3165. This should cover the fixed and variable costs. It was agreed to discuss this topic again at the April PC Meeting as Cllr O Brown has been investigating. The principle of whether to go ahead is still to be resolved, however, funding is now in place should the resolution be made – **Action Clerk to put on April PC Agenda.**

vii) **Charities** – it was agreed to donate £100 to each of the following four charities: - Homestart, Sudbury Citizens Advice, Suffolk Accident Rescue and Nayland Community First Responders – **Action Clerk to organise payments.**

viii) **Finance Committee Terms of Reference** – As an audit recommendation for the future, it was agreed to include an Agenda item for the April PC Meeting – **Action Clerk and to provide a draft ahead of the meeting.**

ix) **Any other Finance matters** including re-allocation of reserves/budget. It was agreed to bring forward any underspend from recreation to the 2026/27 year as the signage project is to roll into next financial year.

## **7. Planning:**

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

- a) The Planning Authority raised No Objections to notified works to various trees along Horkesley Road – Nayland Meadow – **DC/26/00202.**
- b) Conditions were discharged in relation to Guard rail and Management Plan at Land and Pond Adj. River Stour, Horkesley Road – **DC/26/00460.**
- c) Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent were granted for external alterations to boundary wall, gate and retention of shed at Bridge House, Horkesley Road – **DC/25/05528/9.**

### **2. 16 Paddock Grove – Householder Application** – Conversion of existing garage to be repurposed as a home office and gym and erecting a wooden apex shed – **DC/26/00857.**

Whilst the PC had **No Objections**, the lack of application form uploaded was brought to the attention of the Planning Authority.

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

- 8. **Street Lighting:** The Annual power and maintenance inventory has been checked and approved between meetings. It is notable that the energy costs for older style lanterns along Bear Street are high in comparison with the LED lanterns. The Clerk has enquired regarding the cost of upgrading units to help plan for future projects and expenditure. It was agreed to circulate the information once received and to consider forming a working party to investigate at a future meeting – **Action Clerk.**
- 9. **Housing Needs Survey:** This was discussed under Finance and Cllr O Brown is to attend a study day about Neighbourhood Plans.
- 10. **Recreation and Open Spaces:** Updates had been received from Cllr K Sheath in relation to Caley Green between meetings – the civil engineer has been chased in relation to seeking permissions for the revetment and landscaping at the river. We have received information that Mr M Lee at SCC is also not getting any response from Concertus and is therefore checking the position. The Play Park Inspection took place, and the upkeep and condition of the equipment was praised. Cllr G Battye advised the Inspector has recommended the cleaning of certain equipment. It was resolved to ask our contractors for one-off cleans of the equipment as suggested – **Action Clerk.** The Chair agreed to investigate further the reports of litter to see if a one-off litter pick by our contractor would be appropriate. She has already reported to the landowner, SCC. Cllr D Finnigan is still to investigate a potential Village Sign and report back to the PC – **Action Cllr Finnigan.** A meeting with the family donating a memorial bench was to be attended shortly and details circulated. It was noted a bench survey would be useful to program some timely maintenance to the village seats. It was agreed in principle to increase slightly the width of path cutting on the river path. Cllr G Battye agreed to

provide some wording on the addition to the Clerk to instruct our contractor accurately – **Action Cllr G Battye.**

11. **Village Hall:** The Minutes of the Village Hall Meeting had recently been shared. The PC gardening working party had been arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> March. The PC had thanked the Village Hall Committee and their Chair for all their excellent work in delivering the roof project.
12. **Community Council:** There was nothing to report beyond the minutes regularly circulated.
13. **Allotments:** The Allotment Holders have been invited to the Annual Allotment Meeting arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Meeting Room. The Chair has organised an agenda which was to be circulated – **Action Clerk.** Approval of a shed has been communicated to the relevant tenant.
14. **Burial Ground:** The wet weather has led to some soil on a few graves sinking more than usual – it was agreed for Councillors to investigate, and we could potentially ask our contractor to quote to put some more topsoil on the few graves affected.  
Otherwise, burial requests and memorial applications continue to be considered and sympathetically addressed according to our regulations.
15. **Footpaths:** It was agreed to discuss a matter after the meeting in the public interest.
16. **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items. LSPN Closure was raised in the Public Form and various emails/proposals had been received and circulated between meetings. Grants from National Landscapes were to be considered between meetings.
17. **Annual Parish Assembly:** The date was set for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 8pm, the Village Hall has been booked and Save the Date notices issued in Community Times and on our website. We have asked our County Cllr to help organise a speaker on Fostering which was discussed after his report. Cllr J Finch will not be standing for re-election; however, he'll help organise a speaker, if possible.
18. Next PC Meeting is scheduled for **15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

The meeting closed at **9.37 pm.**