

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14th JANUARY 2026, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllr D Harris (Chair following her election), Cllr O Brown (Vice Chair following the resolution), Cllrs J Border and D Finnigan attended in person. D Hattrell (Clerk), County Cllr J Finch and District Cllr I Reece attended in person. L Brooks and 2 residents attended by Video link.

The out-going Chair, Laura Erith chaired the items ahead of the Meeting.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** L Brooks asked for further communication from Cllr O Brown in relation to the thermal imaging publicity. This was agreed.

b. **District Council Report**

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

Council and Cabinet Meetings:

- o No Council Meeting in December; next meeting on 20th January to set the 2026-27 Budget.
- o Babergh Cabinet proposed increased parking charges, including Sunday charges, at the 6th of January meeting. Opposition to this move due to potential negative impact on local businesses.

Local Government Reorganisation Consultation:

- o Statutory consultation on Suffolk's local government reorganisation closed on 11th January.
- o Two proposals: three new unitary councils or a single council for Suffolk.

Norwich to Tilbury Statutory Consultation:

- o Updates on various infrastructure projects, including Norwich to Tilbury, Progress Power, EcoPower, EA3, and 5 Estuaries.
- o Support sessions and webinars are available for participation in the examination process.

Free Home Energy Upgrades:

- o Suffolk residents in energy-inefficient homes may qualify for free upgrades (e.g., insulation, solar panels) through Warm Homes Suffolk.
- o £1.38 million funding secured; applications must be submitted by March 2026.
- o Eligibility depends on income, benefits, or postcode area. More information at www.warmhomessuffolk.org or 03456 037 686.

For more details, visit the Babergh District Council website.

Cllr Reece explained that parking charges are set to increase, a decision which is being challenged. New waste collection details are being circulated, and individual exceptions are being considered. She reminded the meeting that the new arrangements are bringing uniformity nationwide. She is chasing progress with the damaged boundary wall to the old burial ground. She has facilitated discussions in relation to the common room at Parkers Way.

c. **County Council Report**

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

Suffolk Bus Funding: Suffolk County Council (SCC) secured over £26 million in Government funding (2026-2029) to improve bus services, ticketing, and infrastructure, including real-time passenger information, upgraded bus stops, and accessibility enhancements. He asked for feedback from users and potential users of the bus service to suggest improvements. L Brooks agreed to publicise for information.

Disability Project Grant: A £139k grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund will support the "Beyond Labels" project, celebrate disability and promote inclusion through personal stories, workshops, and community activities.

Firefighter Recruitment: Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service saw a 32% increase in applications and a 38% rise in female representation in the recruitment pool compared to last year.

Sunnica Infrastructure Concerns: Sunnica Ltd proposed changes to planning permissions for future developments, raising concerns about large infrastructure projects. However, they later announced they would not proceed with the controversial changes.

One Suffolk Proposal: Veteran journalist Paul Geater supports the idea of replacing Suffolk's six councils with one unified authority, citing financial and identity benefits.

Primary School Applications: Parents were to apply for primary school places by 15 January 2026 for children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022.

Following his report, the Clerk asked for confirmation that SCC Highways Public Liability insurance still covers Parish Volunteers for clearing snow and applying grit provided their names are supplied to the Parish Council Clerk and records are kept. He confirmed that it does, however, was not able to verify the detail in this respect and whether anything has changed.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Election of Chair:** Laura Erith had resigned from the Parish Council just ahead of the Meeting. Cllr O Brown proposed Cllr Dawn Harris to take the Chair. This was seconded by Cllr D Finnigan and unanimously carried. Cllr Dawn Harris therefore signed the Declaration of Acceptance and took the Chair of the PC. Cllr Owen Brown was then elected Vice Chair.
2. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllr K Sheath, Cllr G Battye, Cllr P Fuller, and Cllr C Thompson. The Vacancy due to the resignation of Laura Erith was being duly processed. This will leave one further Vacancy for a Parish Councillor.
3. **Approval of Minutes of 10th December Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record.
4. **Declaration of Interest by Councillors:** Cllrs D Finnigan and J Border both declared interests in discussions relating to Parkers Way as they both live there.
5. **Highways:** Concern was raised regarding the state of the road on Campion Hill in relation to rubble/gravel and widespread potholes. It was agreed to continue to use the Highways Reporting Tool (see link on our website) and County Cllr J Finch agreed to investigate further. County Cllr Finch shared the good news that Highways Officer – Melanie Hall - has returned to work following lengthy sickness absence. The meeting was pleased to hear the news and wished her well. The PC has received complaints of obstructive parking on Mill Street. It was agreed to ask the District Council Enforcement to investigate and keep the resident informed – **Action Clerk**. Some issues with Burial Ground parking have returned and it was agreed to monitor the situation.
6. **Finance Report:**
 - i) The Chair read from the bank balances as of 2nd January 2026 as £1000 in the Current Account, £28,209.61 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 **£53,474.22**. During December there were receipts of £40 for burials and £52 for allotments (*reminders were issued for the outstanding rent on 5 half plot, of which only 2 remain outstanding as at the month end – January 26).
 - ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the December period paid on or by 2nd January 2026: -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1694.18	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£498.60	Litter/sweeping
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£20.00	Hall hire – October
DD	Wave – Anglian Water	£119.20	Allotments water
December 25 – further agreed payment with another instalment to follow			
Funds Transfer	S Treharne	£302.66	Foodbank donation - charity
 - iii) **Precept for 2026/27 subject to final taxbase figures** - A Precept of £51,260 (4% increase) for 2026/27 year had been reported and approved at the December PC Meeting. The Precept Charging form was duly completed and signed.
 - v) **Third quarter budget review** – This had been issued between meetings and was noted. No questions were raised.
 - vi) **CCLA Mandate form** – this is outstanding, however, information regarding the new councillor trustees was duly gained following the meeting.
 - vii) **Any other urgent Finance matters.** A litter bin upgrade has been budgeted for and the Chair agreed to take this forward – **Action Chair**. The representative from the Conservation Society advised they may be able to contribute as they provided the original bin.

7. Planning:

1. Decisions from the Planning Authority: -

- a) Formal approval is not required at Newtons Farm, Wiston Hall Lane for farm building and track – **DC/25/05325**. The PC had No Objections between Meetings.
- b) Planning Permission is granted for timber boardwalk with dipping platform at Land and Pond adjacent to river Stour, Horkesley Road – **DC/25/04378**. This had been discussed at the November PC Meeting and there were No Objections subject to conditions.
- c) Planning Permission is granted for householder application at 7 Willow Grove – **DC/25/04595**. The PC had No Objections between Meetings provided an appropriate condition was included in relation to the siting of the bat box to meet guidance of the Bat Conservation Trust.

2. Consider the Re-consultation on Householder application at Bridge House, Horkesley Road – DC/25/05528 and Listed Building application DC/25/05529.

The PC had **No Objections – Action Clerk to respond.**

3. Any other urgent Planning matters: - A letter of support was agreed towards the boardwalk and dipping platform project, and Cllr G Battye had provided a draft. This was agreed – **Action Clerk.**

The recently received tree application to reduce walnut tree at **50 Gravel Hill** was discussed and it was agreed that both the **Parish Tree Warden, and the PC had No Objections – DC/26/00094 – Action Clerk to respond.**

- 8. **Street Lighting:** There were no issues to report in relation to the current lights. However, Cllr J Border explained that it is very dark on Bear Street between lights and the combination of potholes and lack of lighting is an issue outside the Church Hall. It was agreed to continue to report potholes on the Highways Reporting Tool and consider funding a new light under a future budget, if appropriate.
- 9. **Housing Needs Survey:** Cllr O Brown continues to ask Community Action Suffolk for a quote in respect of a Housing Needs Survey and will report the outcome to a future PC Meeting.
- 10. **Recreation and Open Spaces:** Updates on Caley Green. Updates had been received from Cllr K Sheath between meetings. Planning Permission will be required for revetment and soft reinforced pebble “beach” banks. This will be applied for at the same time as permit application to the Environment Agency. A swan death and discarded fishing tackle had been reported. Volunteers from the river community are helping investigate and clear to help prevent future problems.
- 11. **Village Hall:** The minutes of the Village Hall Meeting had recently been shared with the PC. There is some snagging to the roof still to be completed, however, the scaffolding is down.
- 12. **Community Council:** The recent minutes had been shared to the PC. The 60th Anniversary of the Community Council is coming up.
- 13. **Allotments:** At the time of the meeting the rent for 4 half plots remained outstanding the Clerk was chasing *2 further rents have been received by the end of Jan 26, 2 rents remain outstanding. The Chair asked for details of plots with outstanding rents to enable her to check the condition of those plots on the inspection records – **Action Clerk.** The Annual Meeting of the Allotment Holders and the PC is to be arranged, and the fencing project is to be discussed. Cllr D Finnigan commented that the Forestry Commission deer fencing requirements may be useful reference.
- 14. **Burial Ground:** It is business as usual at the Burial Ground, and it was noted the old burial ground wall is the responsibility of Babergh District Council and they were being chased by our District Cllr I Reece.
- 15. **Footpaths:** Nothing was reported.

16. **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Most items had been picked up under the various agenda items. We have been approached regarding the communal area in Parkers Way and consideration has been given to inviting the BDC Representative to the next PC Meeting. It was agreed to invite BDC Representative, Jez Robbins to the February PC Meeting starting at 7.00 pm if he can attend – **Action Clerk *this has since been confirmed.**
17. **Date for Annual Parish Assembly:** 5 Cllrs and Clerk can make 29th April as possible date, 1 cannot and 2 tbc. It was agreed that an alternative date of **Wednesday 20th May** was more appropriate, and this was agreed. The Clerk should make the booking to reserve the hall – **Action Clerk.**
18. Next PC Meeting is scheduled for **11th February 2026 *starting at 7pm.**

The meeting closed at **8.57 pm.**