

WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT for the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 20th April 2026

Ian Watson

Wrentham is a parish of around 1,050 people, 590 dwellings and has a precept of £20,978 (2025/26)

Community Support during the year included the following:

- **Play Park refurbishment** (Bonsey Gardens) – Was completed by East Suffolk Council at a cost of £80k. We contributed £20k to facilitate additional equipment.
- **Local groups – Allotments**, £4,520 was invested on deer fencing. **Football club** – we donated £3k to help refurbish their changing rooms. **Bowls club** – we donated £2,273 towards a spiking machine
- **Victory in Europe 80th anniversary** – In May, a BBQ, the Wrentham Band and a sunny day brought the village together to celebrate. We donated £1,025, but the biggest donation was time invested by volunteers.
- **Wren weed clearance** – In July a team of 12 volunteers cleared an overgrown stretch of the Wren between Chapel Rd bridge and the A12 bridge. Anglian Water also finally cleared an overgrown stretch adjacent to their pumping station.
- **Litter pick**- We hold litter picks on the last weekend in February and the second weekend in November. A big thank you to all volunteers, which now number in the mid-twenties.
- **Speeding traffic** – our biggest issue in the village is speeding traffic. We had 2 Visits by Automatic Number Plate Recognition team, to measure average speeds, resulting in 545 letters advisory letters issued during the latest visit. 1 new location for a Vehicle Activated Sign has been approved by Highways. Mark Buxton is our key lead who maintains and manages the Vehicle Activated Signs.

Finance – for year to 31st March 2026

- **Receipts were £29k and Payments £46k**
- **Village Hall** – The Parish Council donated £5k in 2026, including a VAT reclaim of £2.5k. We continue to provide additional support on a case-by-case basis.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy** – During the year we spent some £32k on community projects. The fund closed the year at £55k which is ring fenced, including £6k for replacing the village sign.

Councillors

- We have 13 seats and 1 vacancy.
- Lindsay Hanger retired after serving for over 5 years. Her contribution will be missed. We welcomed new councillor Gerda Gibbs to the team.

Conclusion and thanks

The work of the Parish Council is voluntary, and a team effort and I would like to thank all our councillors for putting something back into the community, our Vice Chair Lucinda Hutson for managing meetings when I am away, and our Parish Clerk Frances Bullard for supporting the team. I would also like to recognise the regular attendance and support from our district councillor Paul Ashton.