

WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: **The Chairman** – Cllr Ian Watson
Councillors – Cllr Steve Billington, Cllr Mark Buxton, Cllr Simon Forder, Cllr Gerda Gibbs, Cllr Sarah Hancock, Cllr Lucinda Hutson, Cllr Paul Wren.
The Clerk – Mrs Frances Bullard
Suffolk County Council – Cllr Annette Dunning
East Suffolk Council – Cllr Paul Ashton
Members of Public – One (observing)

1	OPEN FORUM	
	There were no matters raised.	
2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Sue Child, Cllr Alison Evans, Cllr David Fletcher & Cllr Roger Middleditch.	
3	PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS	
	All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall. Item 9.1 – Cllr Billington Item 10.5 – Cllr Watson Item 10.6 – Cllr Hutson	
4	TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PC MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2026	
	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 th February 2026, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Buxton & seconded by Cllr Gibbs - All in favour – The Chairman signed a copy.	
5	MATTERS ARISING	
5.1	Maintenance Work at Wrentham Old Cemetery – ESC have undertaken work on the boundary hedges – further work is needed on the Yew/Brambles - Cllr Ashton will progress a working party in the next month – ESC will support and remove waste. Once a date is confirmed The Chairman will seek volunteers & lead the work under Community Self Help. A bird survey will be undertaken to ensure no nests are disturbed.	PA/IW
5.2	Benacre & Kessingland Flood Management Project – Work is ongoing – wheel washers are in place. Potholes have been repaired.	
5.3	Jubilee Park – Waste Bins/Play Area – The Play Area will not open until the site is handed over to a Management Company – Cripps Developments advise they hope this will be by Easter. The Chairman said it should not be opened whilst there is no fence between the play area and the road – there is also no signage to warn drivers they are approaching a play area. The Chairman has taken photos and shared with Cllr Ashton who will go back to Planning and see what can be done. If the developers are not willing to erect a fence then the PC will consider other options. The Clerk confirmed she has submitted a request for a dog waste bin at the entrance to Jubilee Park.	PA
5.4	Additional Dog Waste Bins – Chapel Road end of footpath to The Lane, verge opposite Horse & Groom PH, Chapel Road near to Village Pound – The Clerk has submitted the request to ESC and awaits a decision.	
5.5	SCC Revised 20mph Speed Limit Policy – Cllr Dunning suggested reading the policy document and arranging meetings with a Highways Engineer if any areas are to be put forwards as 20mph zones.	

5.6	Any other Matters Arising –	
5.6.1	Allotments – work has begun today on the additional deer fencing.	
6	REPORT FROM CLLR ANNETTE DUNNING (SCC)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Dunning thanked the PC for it's support over the last 5 years – County Council Elections will take place on 7th May 2026 and due to boundary changes Wrentham will fall under Blyth Valley rather than Halesworth going forwards. The Chairman thanked Cllr Dunning for her support and wished her well. 	
7	REPORT FROM CLLR PAUL ASHTON (ESC)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plan – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for Sites has now ended – 503 sites have been put forward across Suffolk – these will be assessed by ESC – consultation with Parish Councils and Public will take place over the Summer. Details of proposed sites will be shared in due course – at present these are just sites that have been put forward – residents need to be reassured there will be consultation before anything further happens. Councillor Ashton is trying to get Planners to look at Wrentham, Wangford, Reydon & Southwold as a whole. Potters Bridge – Natural England funded a second temporary outfall on the Benacre side of the marshes & this is working well but is not a permanent solution. The road surface at Potters Bridge is in poor condition. Cllr Dunning advised SCC have amended the diversion route to Blythburgh. ESC are exploring options to find a more sustainable route for the future – potentially a large number of houses could be built to fund this & Cllr Ashton will push for a Primary School in Wrentham should this happen. This will all be covered in the Local Plan. Cllr Ashton is also pushing for improvements to the junction of Norfolk Road, Wangford and the A12. Cllr Ashton spoke re correspondence from a resident of Babergh in relation to the proposed dog exercise area in Wrentham West End – this has been discussed with Planners who have reverified the application & await new plans before reconsultation. The Chairman asked that Cllr Ashton feed back to planning that plans are often in a format that is impossible to read online – not just in this case but in general. Cllr Ashton & Cllr Bevan are setting up an 'on demand' bus service which will begin in the Summer. The Chairman advised the Bonsey Garden play area is being well used & asked that signage be reviewed – there is no signage at the end of Bonsey Gardens. Cllr Ashton will review – he would also like to improve the entrance. The Chairman spoke regarding a previous sewage leak on the boundary of gardens in Bonsey Gardens & the play area – Cllr Ashton advised the issue was caused by roots blocking & damaging pipes & this has now been resolved. Cllr Wren asked about signage for High St layby – Cllr Buxton advised an Enforcement Officer was outside the Village Stores today & he advised them of the issue. Cllr Wren will send email to Cllr Ashton & Cllr Dunning. 	<p>PA</p> <p>PA</p> <p>PW</p>
8	UPDATES RE HIGHWAYS MATTERS INC SID/VAS SIGNS	
8.1	VAS – New Westcotec sign has been ordered. North A12 VAS & solar panel are back in position – Cllr Buxton will monitor how well the battery lasts.	
8.2	Any other Highways Matters –	
8.2.1	An email was received from the office of Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP asking what the PC are doing to address speeding following concerns being raised by a resident – The Clerk has drafted a response which was shared & amendments made. The Clerk will respond and seek support from the MP to get more enforcement & calming measures to support the fight against speeding vehicles.	FB

9	PLANNING	
9.1	DC/26/0493/FUL – 98 Southwold Road – Installation of a Summer House – Plans were shared and discussed – The Chairman proposed there be no objections – seconded by Cllr Hancock – All in favour (Cllr Billington abstained due to a declared interest). The Clerk will update ESC.	FB
9.2	Any further Planning Applications/Matters – DC/26/0851/FUL – 52 Southwold Road – Single Storey Rear Extension – plans were shared and discussed – The Chairman proposed that there be no objections but the PC ask that consideration be given to site access and that works vehicles are not parked on Southwold Road, seconded by Cllr Hutson, All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.	FB
10	FINANCE	
10.1	Balances at Bank – The Clerk advised bank balances total £111,936.90. £55,096 of this is ringfenced CIL monies of which £17,500 is ringfenced for the Village Sign & VAS. The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements & this has been verified by The Chairman & Cllr Hutson.	
10.2	Clerk's salary & Expenses of £41.82 (Mileage, SAGE)	
10.3	Quarterly HMRC payment (Jan, April, July, October) – Nil	
10.4	Invoice from CAS for Village Hall insurance - £1613.44	
10.5	Litter Pick Expenses – Ian Watson - £33.55	
10.6	Invoice from Benacre Co – Allotment Rent - £50.00	
10.7	Invoice from Clerks & Councils Magazine - £46.50	
10.8	Any other accounts received – None.	
10.8	Above payments 10.2 to 10.7 were proposed by Cllr Hancock, seconded by Cllr Forder, All in favour. The Clerk has raised online payments & these will now be approved.	IW/LH
11	REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES/STANDING ORDERS	
11.1	IT Policy – having previously been shared with all, subject to one amendment to clarify that this relates to purchases of hardware/software for PC equipment and not personal use, adoption was proposed by The Chairman & seconded by Cllr Hancock – All in Favour. The Clerk will make amendment and publish on the PC Website.	FB
11.2	Equal Opportunities Policy – carried to next meeting.	
12	CORRESPONDENCE	
12.1	Letter from Boggis Electrical re Test & Inspection of the Defibrillator – The Clerk will progress.	FB
12.2	Email from Adam Burrows, Natural England re Easton Valley Emergency Outfall – noted.	
12.3	Email from Cllr Wren re Village Pound Gate – Cllr Fletcher has agreed to look at the issue.	
12.4	Any Further Correspondence – Email re Article 4 Direction Consultation – Article 4 Direction already in place – this consultation is on proposed amendments. Cllr Gibbs offered to review.	GG
13	MATTERS FOR NEXT AGENDA	
13.1	The Annual Parish Meeting will be held ahead of next month's PC Meeting – anyone attending will be welcome to give their report – all reports will be added to minutes and website.	
14	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 20th April 2026 – 7:30pm – preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6:30pm.	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:15pm