

WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Monday 20th July 2026 at 7pm

Present: **The Chairperson** – Cllr Ian Watson
Councillors – Cllr Steve Billington, Cllr Sue Child, Cllr Alison Evans, Cllr Simon Forder, Cllr David Fletcher, Cllr Gerda Gibbs, Cllr Lucinda Hutson, Cllr Paul Wren.
The Clerk – Mrs Frances Bullard
Suffolk County Council – Cllr John Matthews
East Suffolk Council – Cllr Paul Ashton
Members of Public – Six.

1.	LOCAL PLAN – SCOPING CONSULTATION	
	The Chairman gave feedback from the presentation he attended. This consultation is re the strategic side of the Local Plan – there will be further consultation going forwards about specific sites. Councillors feel that any additional housing requires additional infrastructure – Schools, Highways, Doctors, Dentists, Public Transport etc. It is also important to consider sufficient water supply and drainage to prevent flooding. Energy requirements need to be considered & green energy promoted, ie solar panels, EV chargers. <i>Meeting suspended to allow member of public to speak.</i> <i>Mr Pease spoke re the former Factory Shop site – this is a significant plot & he would like to see the PC liaise with the owners/developers re aspirations for the site, ie commercial or retail units.</i> <i>Meeting reconvened.</i> Cllr Ashton spoke re schools – need to look at the surrounding area as a whole, there could be potential for a school at Reydon & Wrentham. Cllr Child said a demographic review of school places across the area would be required and then base education provision on this. Cllr Ashton suggested that the issues at Potters Bridge and access to Southwold be considered – this could require large scale development at Reydon to fund a new road to Southwold. Discussion took place about issues in Wrentham – Chapel Road junction with the A12 Doctors surgery – lack of parking. Factory Shop site. Second home ownership – all new builds should be as main residences. It was noted that after 3 years there are still 5 plots unsold on the development at Jubilee Park. It is essential to maintain quick access to the A12 for Wrentham Fire Station – they have attended 76 calls year to date. The Clerk will draft a response to the consultation.	FB
2.	OPEN FORUM	
	Mr Reynolds spoke re fencing at the Jubilee Park play area – he is not in favour of a fence being installed – existing signage says that all children should be accompanied by adults. He does not see the need for the area to be completely fenced in & feels this would be unsightly and require maintenance. If the concern is purely re the road then a simple fence could be installed between the play area and the road until the newly planted hedge is established. The Chairman thanked him for his input and said a full risk assessment is needed before a final decision	

	is made, he encouraged the resident to go up to the Bonsey Gardens play area to see the kind of fence being considered. Mr Reynolds spoke re the need for more dog waste bins at Jubilee Park – The Clerk advised this has been requested and a decision is being chased from ESC. Mrs Scriven spoke re the flowerbed in front of the Chinese takeaway – the overgrown vegetation hampers visibility & makes it hard to exit Mill Lane safely. Cllr Forder advised that ESC have trimmed this back in the last few days but have done a very poor job and left it in a mess – Cllr Ashton will review. Mrs Scriven spoke re vegetation obstructing the path beside the A12 south of the Horse & Groom PH – The Chairman will visit the homeowner. Mrs Scriven spoke re overgrown trees/bushes on Chapel Road which are causing pedestrians to step into the road. The Chairman will review. Mr Richmond spoke re his planning application for a metal storage container at land off Guildhall Lane (DC/26/1641/FUL). He works as an Agricultural Contractor and needs secure storage for implements. He planted conifers some time ago which will screen the container from the road. He is aware of the Parish Council's concerns and an objection from a nearby property. The Chairman spoke re recent flooding in the area which was exacerbated by surface water from Falcon Inn Road - Mr Richmond said he does not own the ditches but does his best to maintain them. Cllr Forder suggested the gateway to the field could be built up so that surface water runs off into ditches rather than the road. Mr Richmond stated he does his best to minimise disruption to nearby properties especially when he starts early in the morning. Mr Pease introduced himself as being interested in being co-opted as a Parish Councillor – his application has already been shared with all. There were no questions.	PA IW IW
3.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mark Buxton, Cllr Sarah Hancock & Cllr Roger Middleditch.	
4.	PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS	
	All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall. Cllr Forder – item 12.9. Cllr Watson – item 12.9. Cllr Child – 12.9 (VH Website)	
8.	REPORT FROM CLLR JOHN MATTHEWS (SCC) - Brought Forward	
	- Cllr Matthews advised things are moving quickly under the new administration. - Highways - there seems to be a never-ending list, including the buckling of bitumen due to the extreme hot weather conditions, this is also exacerbated by Sizewell traffic. - Local Government Review – SCC have launched a Judicial Review - Norfolk & Essex have done the same. Business continues as usual in the meantime. - Flooding at Church Corner/Guildhall Lane – drains have now been cleared. - Jubilee Park play area – Cllr Matthews is supportive of signage to warn drivers they are approaching a play area and will chase this. - Cllr Forder spoke re Community Speedwatch – in one session at 7pm there were 29 vehicles recorded as speeding in one hour & the team receive lots of abuse from drivers. Cllr Matthews confirmed average speed cameras would not be possible in Wrentham – these were only installed at Wenhaston to mitigate the impact of Sizewell C. The Chairman suggested that additional ANPR visits be requested – The Clerk will seek support from ANPR Team and the local Police. - Cllr Billington spoke re introducing a weight limit on Chapel Road – there is no	JM FB

7.4	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 - Cllr Ashton will chase again.	PA
7.5	Village Pound Gate – The Clerk has received quotes from Matt Newstead, both for repair (£979) and replacement (£1180) of the gate. After discussion it was agreed replacement, utilising the original ironmongery, was the best option. The Clerk will establish whether Planning Permission or Listed Building Consent is required & whether there are any grants available.	FB
7.6	Village Website – Cllr Child gave the background to the Village Website – the Village Hall Management Committee spent £700 with a developer and then faced issues. Cllr Child has provided support and the website is now in a functional state and able to support village hall bookings – the cost of work to date is £144 and there will be ongoing costs of £39.20 per month inc VAT. Historically the PC have paid for the running costs of the website. The Chairman proposed that the PC pay the £144 set up cost & the ongoing monthly costs, seconded by Cllr Hutson, All in Favour (3 Councillors who are on VHMC abstained). The Clerk will check if the ongoing costs can be paid by direct debit. The website has been shared with all – please take a look and send any feedback to Cllr Child. The Chairman thanked Cllr Child for her work on this.	FB All
7.7	Applications for Co-option to Parish Councillor Vacancy – two residents have expressed an interest – Mr Pease was in attendance to observe the meeting – Co-option carried to September meeting.	
7.8	Any other Matters Arising –	
7.8.1	Village Sign – The Clerk has been in contact with The Village Sign People – they have a slight backlog and will advise an expected delivery date shortly. When a delivery date is known a contractor will be required to build a base/plinth for the sign – The Clerk will share suggested designs with all & check if any planning permission is required.	FB
7.8.2	Village Beacon – Rosie Carter has asked that this be reinstated & is trying to identify the original site. Discussion took place as to where it could be safely sited and it was agreed to consider this in conjunction with the new village sign and flagpole.	
10	UPDATES RE HIGHWAYS MATTERS INC SID/VAS SIGNS	
	No issues raised.	
11	PLANNING	
11.1	DC/26/1641/FUL - Provision of metal storage container for the purposes of agricultural storage – Land at Guildhall Lane – This is a reconsultation of the application discussed last month. Plans were shared and discussed – questions raised last month have now been answered – the building will be for storage of agricultural equipment, conifers are in place to screen the container from neighbours. Cllr Wren proposed there be no objections, seconded by Cllr Forder, All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.	FB
11.2	Any further Planning Applications/Matters –	
11.2.1	DC/26/2410/FUL – 1 Church Corner – Extensions, Annexe & Store – Meeting suspended to allow the applicant, Mr Gooch, to speak. Existing access to the property from the road will be unchanged – there will be no loss of parking & there is a pull in at the front of the house for 2 cars – plans in place to move existing gate & hedge to create additional space – Benacre Co are assisting by reducing the width of the boundary hedge & will also lower the height of the hedge in front of the churchyard to improve visibility. Benacre Co have agreed temporary use of their field to provide contractor parking whilst the work is undertaken. Meeting reconvened. The Chairman proposed there be no objections, seconded by Cllr Gibbs, All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.	FB

12	FINANCE	
12.1	Balances at Bank – The Clerk advised bank balances total £110,298.06 - £46,009.26 of this is ringfenced CIL monies of which £12,400 is ringfenced for the Village Sign & VAS. The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements & this has been verified with The Chairman & Cllr Hutson.	
12.2	Invoice from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55.00	
12.3	Clerk's salary	
12.4	Quarterly HMRC payment (Jan, April, July, October) – £188.91	
12.5	Invoice from Simon Forder for Village Hall Grass Cutting - £240.00	
12.6	Invoice from Pear Space (Suffolk.Cloud) for domain registration & mailbox - £60.00	
12.7	Invoice from WAVE for allotment water - £76.41	
12.8	August Payments – Clerks's Salary & Bus Shelter Cleaner	
12.9	Any other accounts received –	
12.9.1	Receipts from Ian Watson for Noticeboard lock - £43.80	
12.9.2	Receipt from Ian Watson for Storage box for litter pick equipment - £23.00	
12.9.3	Invoice from K Quigley – Village Website monthly fee - £39.20	
12.9.4	Invoice from K Quigley – Village website set up - £144.00	
12.9.5	Village Hall – Donation from PC for 40 th Anniversary Celebration - £1925.90	
	Above payments 12.2 to 12.9.5 were proposed by Cllr Hutson, seconded by Cllr Evans, All in favour (Cllrs Child, Watson & Forder abstained due to declared interests. The Clerk has raised online payments & these will now be approved.	
13	CORRESPONDENCE	
13.1	Email from Mrs Scriven re flower bed at Crossways junction – covered in Open Forum.	
13.2	Any Further Correspondence –	
13.2.1	Email from ESC Elections Team re Register of Interests – Councillors no longer need to have their home address published - The Clerk will share with all.	FB
13.2.2	Email from Cllr Hutson re Upgrade of Mobile Phone mast.	
13.2.3	Invoices from Village Hall Management Committee for 40 th Anniversary Celebrations – The Chairman thanked all who assisted and supported this event.	
14	MATTERS FOR NEXT AGENDA	
14.1	The Chairman spoke re the PC Noticeboard – this is very wobbly and gets damp inside – in need of a refurbishment – suggested a concrete base be built when the work is done on the village sign plinth. Cllr Fletcher has previously sealed the back of the cabinet but the boards now need replacing.	
15	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 21st September 2026 – 7:30pm	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:20pm