



WALSHAM le WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th July 2026 commencing at 7.00 p.m.
in the Memorial Hall.

[Informally approved. Formal approval, at the next meeting with any corrections]

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs. Batholomew, Belson, Brookes, Mecrow, Roberts and Winch.

ALSO PRESENT: District Cllr. Winch & County Cllr. Bains

1. OPENING STATEMENT (if any required) & MEMBER'S APOLOGIES a. Cllr Tuck. b. Consents were granted.	
2. DECLARATIONS of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests a. Cllrs. Belson, Mecrow, Winch re 10b – Wild Wood. Cllrs Bartholomew & Roberts re 10 b - Community Council donation. Cllr Mecrow Sports Club b. No dispensations were needed.	
3. MINUTES - To Receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings (as previously circulated) a. Minutes of the meeting on 10 th June 2026 were approved as true and accurate record of the meeting. b. There were no outstanding actions from last meeting that were not in hand. Cllr. Mecrow will follow up with Sport Club re the availability of on-site toilets.	NM
4. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM (POF) – To receive questions and matters of concern from members of the public in attendance with regard to items on the agenda and any other matters. Two members of the public were present. Spoke passionately about the increasing traffic volumes, speed, driver behaviour towards other road users and pedestrians on the Finningham Road. Cllr. Janette Winch spoke at length and gave a detailed summary of all aspects of the traffic calming proposals and the current status. The point was made that the Parish Council has to work within Highways guidelines and seeks to implement what can be achieved within those guidelines rather than holding out for more at this stage and potentially jeopardising the whole project. Both members of the public were encouraged to respond to the call for Community Speedwatch Group members to collect data which may then lead to more police involvement. Cllr Belson made it clear that the Council as a body shares all the concerns raised which is why the traffic working group has spent the last couple of years laboriously gathering evidence in support of calming measures. In light of the recent diversions in place, Cllr. Mecrow asked the Clerk if SID data for Summer Road could be downloaded for analysis. Clerk will refer to Cllr Tuck who now deals with this as a member of the traffic group.	NT
5. DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS FOR INFORMATION & QUESTIONS a. County Councillor Bains Cllr Bartholomew raised the question of the financial impact that the solar panel switch off on school premises (due to a fire in which these may have	

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been implicated), will have on school budgets as they will receive less income from feeding back into the grid and paying more for the extra power taken from the grid. Cllr Bains said he would feed this back. b. District Councillor Winch • DC Winch asked if there were any issues with the new recycling/refuse arrangements. Cllr Bartholomew noted that the revised schedules for business premises did not now align with residential and this was not communicated well.	
6. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS & ACTION LOG REVIEWS a. Traffic Group - To note any update/report and consider any proposals. <i>Cllr Belson suggested a iii was taken first.</i> i. Cllr Winch proposed that, subject to relevant budgetary information about the other project costs having been confirmed, that the Parish Council comes to a decision on the number of speed indicator devices to be purchased, whilst also noting that in the meantime, funding for an additional SID on Summer Road could be sought from the walking and cycling infrastructure project. This was all deferred in the light of discussion of agenda item 6a iii. But County Cllr Bains did say that at the appropriate time he could consider a grant from his locality budget. Cllr J Winch suggested that a budget review to ensure that the Council is making best use of available grant funding to relieve budget pressures. Clerk to put on next agenda. Cllr J Winch also advised that two business people in the village are prepared to front a village fundraiser and suggested that this should be pursued. Cllr J Winch to follow up. ii. Cllr Winch noted the village gates are in production, delivery date yet to be advised. Clerk advised these would be delivered direct to Ashwells. Clerk to advise this is imminent. iii. Council received an update from County Cllr Bains about authorisation of speed reduction proposals and associated costs. A discussion with Highways contact was still only able to give a ballpark minimum figure of £15k (the top end of the range originally given as estimate). In addition, there were further delays due to the induction of a new cabinet member who will be making the decision. It is hoped that this is imminent. He will follow this up and will also make enquiries re the possibility of tweaking the proposals to push the 30mph limit out on the Finningham Road which may in turn allow for an extension of the 20mph limit as originally requested by the Parish Council. He agreed that the 30-20-30 flow did not make any sense, particularly having been out on site this evening with Cllr J Winch so as to understand the proposals put forward and their reasoning. Cllr Mecrow did make the point that the Parish Council had paid SCC in advance some months ago now for the calming works on Summer Road which were started and have not yet been finished. Cllr Bains said he will follow up but he knew that first the heavy rain then the extreme heat had	Clerk JW Clerk

caused backlogs. District Cllr Winch made the point that if any changes were likely to hold things up then he would advise against making these given the local government reorganisation that is about to commence and which will be another bottleneck until things settle down. b. CEP Group i. The updated Community Emergency Plan was approved for publication. Clerk to await receipt of the redacted copy for publication to website. c. Flood Mitigation Group – Nothing to note. No report.	Clerk
7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, LICENCING, ENFORCEMENT & RELATED MATTERS a. Standing item to consider changes to neighbourhood plan to be documented for next review in light of recently published 'Call for sites' consultation. No information yet received so no action required. b. APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/26/01944 Proposal: Householder Application - Installation of solar panels Location: Clive Cottage, The Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AZ THE PARISH COUNCIL MADE NO COMMENT c. Information about the structure of the West Suffolk local plan consultation was considered and Cllr Mecrow was asked to respond.	NM
9. PLANNING OUTCOMES (decided by Mid Suffolk District Council, Planning Authority – to be noted) a. APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/26/01743 Proposal: Householder Application - Retention of a log cabin annexe, A replacement pump house and a gazebo Location: Botany Farm, Crownland Road, Walsham Le Willows, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4TB MSDC GRANTED PERMISSION b. APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/26/01879 Proposal: Householder Application - Extension and alteration of dwellinghouse and demolition of outbuildings replaced with new double garage, and associated works. Location: Crownland House, Crownland Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BU MSDC GRANTED PERMISSION c. APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/26/02407 Proposal: Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - (T1) American Oak - To remove 2 low hanging limbs Location: The Beeches, Grove Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AD MSDC RAISED NO OBJECTION	
10. FINANCE & AUDIT & COUNCIL ADMIN a. Bank statements & reconciliation for period ending 30th June 2026 were approved for signature. b. Accounts awaiting payment summary and invoices for payment were approved for authorisation. (Appendix 1). c. It was noted that transparency notices and variance report have been published to end June.	

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11. CLERK ACTION LOG, COUNCILLOR REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE (if not dealt with elsewhere) a. Work that should have been done to rear of closed churchyard winter 2025/26 was considered after Cllr Tuck's query in previous meeting. It was decided to wait until Cllr Tuck is back and ask him to report back. In meantime Clerk will ask contractors to confirm that this has indeed been done with the May or June visits. b. The response from PCC to proposal from Parish Council re assistance with close churchyard maintenance was considered. It was decided not to pursue any further and continue with grounds maintenance contract on reduced number of visits per annum and to review next spring. c. Cllr Belson did note that the changes to the surfacing of the footpaths from Sport Club (Wattisfield Road) to entrance opposite Clerks on The Street had thrown up some potential maintenance issues. It was agreed that Cllr Mecrow would discuss with the tenant to work out what is practical and possible.	NT, Clerk NM
12. OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN/NOTE FOR NEXT AGENDA a. Next Parish Council meeting - 12th August 2026 7pm – Memorial Hall b. Clerk noted a number of things that did not make it onto agenda. • Locality Award for bridge repairs delayed as more information required. Clerk suggested maybe going back to MSDC to explain situation to see if the proposal as submitted could be accepted without further evidence. DC Winch agreed to follow up. • Correspondence from resident re Premier Store. No action needed. Clerk to acknowledge. • Streetlighting repairs required and notified by SCC. Clerk to follow up to ask of probable cause and when these posts were installed. • Play area benches very well repaired by volunteer Gareth Rees. The Parish Council were very appreciative. The Clerk had already thanked Gareth for his excellent work. • Correspondence from caseworker to Adrian Ramsey MP re any issue with bus services. Clerk had replied and DC Winch had also confirmed position with some additional information. This was noted. • Cllr Bartholomew noted correspondence from resident asking why the Parish Council does not support the Rickinghall and District Community Bus. To be added to next agenda for discussion and consideration. c. Meeting Closed at 20:26	DCW Clerk Clerk Clerk

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APPENDIX 1

Payments for Approval JULY 2026

#	Payments & Transfers OUT	Amount	Description
1	Starboard Systems t/a Scribe Accounts	37.20	Accounting software subscription
2	Parish Council employee	904.09	Salaries
3	Memorial Village Hall	27.00	Hall hire for meetings
4	Unity Trust Bank	553.51	PAYE/NI
5	Nurture Landscapes	499.25	Grounds Maintenance
6	Suffolk Accident & Rescue Service	100.00	Annual Donation s137
7	Headway Suffolk	100.00	Annual Donation s137
8	East Anglian Air Ambulance	100.00	Annual Donation s137
9	East Anglia Children's Hospice	100.00	Annual Donation s137
10	Walsham Wild Wood	750.00	Annual Donation s137
11	Community Council	200.00	Annual Donation s137
12	MidSuffolk CAB	100.00	Annual Donations Other powers
13	Suffolk West CAB	100.00	Annual Donations Other powers
14	Unity Trust Bank	7.00	Bank Service Charges
15	GB Pollard	46.50	1st Footpaths Cut
16	P Dryden	48.06	1st Footpaths Cut
17	M Hawes	74.88	1st Footpaths Cut
18	Martineau Farms LLP	185.04	1st Footpaths Cut
19	Hugh Reeve	202.22	1st Footpaths Cut
20	Team Blue Internet Services	26.38	1 month extension of hosting and backup
	TOTAL	4,161.13	

#	Payments & Transfers IN	Amount	Description
1	MSDC	556.70	Footpaths Grant 1 st Cut
2	MSDC	822.50	MSDC Locality Grant – footpath and no cycling signage
	TOTAL	1,379.20	

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