



WALSHAM le WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th August 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, Tuck (from 19:42) and Winch.

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

1. OPENING STATEMENT (if any required) & MEMBER'S APOLOGIES	
a. None received	
b. No consents required	
2. DECLARATIONS of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests	
a. None received.	
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 8 th July 2026 were approved as true and accurate record of the meeting.	
b. Outstanding actions from last meeting:	
• Cllr Mecrow has established that availability of sports club on-site toilets depends on managers opening them, which they normally do, when activities are taking place.	
• Cllr Mecrow had responded to the West Suffolk Local Plan consultation.	
• Cllr Mecrow had followed up on the footpaths (Wattisfield Road to The Street), and he will kindly take a strimmer down there to tidy them up.	
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. No members of the public were present.	
5. DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS FOR INFORMATION & QUESTIONS	
a. County Councillor Bains	
• Cllr Bartholomew asked for a definition of 'minimal cost impacts' in report about the recent shutting down of solar panels on school roofs due to possible fire risk. Cllr Bartholomew felt very strongly that the assessment of £35 loss per week was totally inaccurate and that based on the costing he had done on figures for a local school, the loss on electricity generation back to the grid would be much more material and in the region of £1,000 to £2,000 in June and July, plus the loss of use of electricity from the grid, so more like £3,000. Cllr Bartholomew asked that this be fed back to Suffolk County Council who will ask if there is an emergency budget for schools in such circumstances. He was also able to confirm that there is still no proof that the fire that triggered this response was caused by the batteries of solar panels but that this is being actively investigated in the school estate across Suffolk.	

CC Bain

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 9th September 2026

Proposal 2

Cllr Cllr Bain to follow up the decision specifically on Wattisfield Road where it is thought the criteria for 30mph is met and request an explanation of the rejection of 40 mph on West Street given the positive response in the officers' comments in the report.

County Cllr Bain was able to report that he had been promised a review of all the decisions. He will follow this up in meetings with Highways.

CCB

Proposal 3

That council asks the Traffic Group should begin developing a response to the decision based on evidence and policies with regard to rejection of 30 and 40 mph decision.

It was decided to wait until County Cllr Bain has reported back (proposal 2)

Proposal 4

That council requests locality funding from District Cllr Winch to fund a speed detector for Finningham Road/Summer Road on a temporary rotation until we are in a position to fund additional SIDs as per objectives.

It was agreed that the Clerk to make the application.

Clerk

Proposal 5

That council request a funding commitment from County Cllr Bain to support implementation of 20mph.

County Cllr Bain was able to confirm that he will be able to contribute but at this stage cannot commit until the final costing have been advised.

Proposal 6

That council meet SCC engineer to look at West Street signage options and reconsider Finningham Road options

It was decided to wait until County Cllr Bain has reported back (proposal 2)

Proposal 7

That the traffic group now focus on exploring other options for Finningham Road (gates and road markings) as the next step in the project.

This was agreed.

Council also noted the Lorry Watch summary in the report after the proposals.

Cllr Belson asked about the Community Speedwatch group. Cllr J Winch was able to confirm that a number of volunteers had been recruited and there would be more publicity to try to recruit some more from among those who have expressed concerns. Information sessions are planned for potential volunteers on 24th September.

iii. To response from Sophie Farrington re the completion of lining works etc was noted and this was reinforced by County Cllr Bain. The works will be completed as ordered. b. Community Emergency Plan Group – It was noted that the updated plan had been submitted to MSDC and Cllr Brookes hope to have a redacted copy for publication for approval at next meeting. In addition dates are being planned for more Rest Centre training in October or November. i. The email from resident about fire risks and reply by Cllr Brookes was noted and the Clerk was asked to send the reply as drafted. c. Flood Mitigation Group – Nothing to note, other than Clerk had advised local landowner that bridge repairs could commence as grant had been received.	Clerk
8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, LICENCING, ENFORCEMENT & RELATED MATTERS a. Standing item to consider changes to neighbourhood plan to be documented for next review. Cllr Belson asked District Cllr Winch to confirm that the Parish Council is to expect a report from MSDC in December, following on from the call for sites. This was confirmed. b. Council considered the email invitation to participate in consultation on Jaynic development proposals for Shepherds Grove site. This is to take place on Wednesday 19th August at 19:30 in the Stanton Village Hall. Cllrs Belson and Roberts to attend. Cllr Brookes hopes to attend. c. It was noted that the Clerk has completed the short survey from NALC on position with our Neighbourhood Plan.	RB, TR, AB
9. PLANNING OUTCOMES (decided by Mid Suffolk District Council, Planning Authority) for noting only (additional notices TBA by email before the meeting) a. APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT - DC/26/01978 Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent. Removal of existing failed render. Survey for any signs of decay to the timber frame and repair where necessary with similar timber type. Install breathable insulation if possible such as cork or sheep's wool. Install sawn larch laths and apply a three-coat lime putty render. Decorate in lime wash. Location: Deyes Cooperage, The Street, Walsham Le Willows, IP31 3AA MSDC GRANTED LISED BUILDING CONSENT b. APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) -DC/26/02047 Proposal: Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act for DC/23/01951 (2no dwellings) for the variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans and documents) - revised plans submitted for approval. Location: Maltings, Palmer Street, Walsham Le Willows, IP31 3BZ MSDC GRANTED CONDITIONS VARIATION c. APPLICATION DC/26/02523 Proposal: Discharge of Conditions for DC/25/00609 - Condition 3 (Building Recording) Location: Walsham Town Farm, West Hall Road, Walsham Le Willows, Diss Suffolk IP22 1LY MSDC GRANTED DISCHARGE d. DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 DC/26/03451 Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/26/01978	

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- Conditions 3 (Underlying fabric repairs), 4 (Wall insulation and render backing) and 5 (Render mix and finish) Location: Deyes Cooperage, The Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AA MSDC APPROVED CONDITIONS 3, 4 and 5 e. 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 MSDC GRANTED PERMISSION	
10. FINANCE & AUDIT & COUNCIL ADMIN a. Bank statements & reconciliation for period ending 31st July 2026 for approved for signature. b. Accounts awaiting payment summary and invoices were approved for payment. (Appendix 1). c. Advice from SALC re uprated mileage allowances was noted and approved. Cllr Mecrow made the point that the last mileage claim by the Clerk was some 4-5 years ago. d. It was noted that the required repair to streetlamp on Palmer Street is not considered to be impact damage but age-related deterioration. It is unlikely that an insurance claim could be made in any case. Cost to Parish Council (£1,758) will be invoiced when the work has been completed. e. Cllr Winch has suggested a review of budget specifically to identify any items that could be grant funded under schemes such as Prine in Your Place. It was agreed that councillors bring suggestions to next meeting. Clerk to add to agenda.	Clerk
11. CLERK ACTION LOG, COUNCILLOR REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE (if not dealt with elsewhere) a. Consultation for EcoPower Suffolk Solar –the PC decided that a response from Walsham le Willows would not add anything useful to the consultation. b. Covered under agenda item 5. County Cllr Bains was asked to take forward a suggestion from resident for roadworks signage. c. Correspondence from resident about traffic on Finningham Road and Cllr Winchs' response were noted. d. The question of funding for the Rickinghall Community Bus Funding had been raised by a resident. It was decided that before coming to any decision that the Clerk should write to ask for more information on the structure and ownership of the bus service. e. To note the agenda item in error f. Work to rear of closed churchyard that should have been completed in winter 2025/26 and was confirmed last month as completed. Further correspondence about more cutting being needed has been received. Cllr Belson noted a recent accident in the vicinity. The Clerk referred to emails that had been circulated about the cutting contract in heatwave conditions when there is nothing to cut. The Clerk asked if Council wished to engage the contractor for	Clerk

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an end of August visit for clearing and tidying just before gardens weekend, and also to include another cut to tree canopy and hedge. g. It was noted that the Clerk has booked RoSPA report for Play Area at reduced rate for early booking, as usual. h. Correspondence from Rvd. Catriona Brinkley re the siting of new bench in the closed churchyard was noted. Clerk to clarify that insurance for such furniture would be responsibility of the PCC.	Clerk
12. OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN/NOTE FOR NEXT AGENDA a. Next Parish Council meeting is on 9th September 2026 @ 7pm – Memorial Hall Meeting Close @ 20:19	Clerk

APPENDIX 1

Payments for Approval AUGUST 2026

#	Payments & Transfers OUT	Amount	Description
1	Starboard Systems t/a Scribe Accounts	37.20	Accounting software subscription
2	Parish Council Employee	714.41	Salaries
3	Memorial Village Hall	27.00	Hall hire for meetings
4	Nurture Landscapes	499.25	Grounds Maintenance
5	Mid-Suffolk District Council (MSDC)	1,112.40	Dog & Litter Bin Emptying
6	Suffolk County Council (SCC HO Coll A/C)	555.00	Signage installation – Wattisfield Rd – The Street footpaths
7	Unity Trust Bank	7.00	DDR – Service Charge
	TOTAL	2,952.26	

#	Payments & Transfers IN	Amount	Description
1	SCC	2620.00	Streetworks traffic calming
	TOTAL	2,620.00	

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