Wreningham Parish Council
Meeting Minutes

Annual Parish Council meeting held Tuesday 13th May 2025
Margaret Preston Room, Wreningham Village Hall, 7:30pm

In Attendance: M Hill (Chair), Cllr K Morris, Cllr J Lambourne, Cllr A Tancred, H Glaves
5 members of the public
Parish Clerk: Tina Higlett

1 To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year and receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office.
Michael Hill was elected unopposed and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2 To elect a Vice Chairman. Members decided to leave this as an action for each meeting when the chair was absent.

3 Apologies for absence. Apologies received from District Councillors Bob McClenning and Jim Webber.

4 Consider Co-option to the council. No candidate available

5 Declarations of Interest. None

6 Open Forum

1. Public in attendance. Member of the public advised that parcels of land north of (and including parts of) Longs Wood are for sale and asked if the council would be interested in purchasing. There is a farm on site but this is not for sale. Chair advised council are not in a financial position to make the purchase. Discussion followed on whether this may affect the permissive footpath. Propose contact with the owners to see if there is any caveat.
2. Broadband Fibre for the Village - Chair advised that after the last meeting he had contacted Broadband for Norfolk regarding Wreningham but he had no response. Cllr Spratt advised public to contact their provider. Asked if there is a body which might act for those affected, Chair suggested contacting the local MP, Ben Goldsborough.
3. District councillor had forwarded a report prior to the meeting. Appendix 1.
Cllr Tancred advised village play equipment is becoming dated and asked if council could apply for a Community Action Fund Grant. Cllr Spratt advised that any grant would have to be match funded by the parish council. There are other organisations which council could apply to such as the National Lottery. Community Action Norfolk regularly sends out details of grant funding. **Action Cllr Tancred**.
Chair used this time to advise members of the spate of burglaries that have taken place in the village and encouraged people to report to the police. A meeting was held recently between the police and the community and the police requested people contact them if they have any concerns. Representative of the village hall has offered to act as a liaison to assist with communication. Editorial will be included in the Mardle. **Action Chair**
Chair asked public if they were in receipt of any communication regarding the BT change over to Digital. Some people have already moved over to the digital VoiP service. Question as to how will this affect those that do not have wi-fi. Member of public advised that the provider supplies equipment to assist.
Chair advised the Defibrillator had been used and the patient was in hospital. Discussion followed about defibrillator training for the community. Cllr Tancred advised that Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (NARS) can carry out training in exchange for a donation and will details to pass details to Chair. **Action Cllr Tancred**

7 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th March 2025.
These were approved, with no changes.
Cllr Morris advised that the repairs to the youth shelter will be included with playing field maintenance. Play equipment inspection is booked for the end of May 2025.

8 Matters arising from the minutes.

1 New Town Proposal. Parish council has sent a letter regarding their concerns for a new town in South Norfolk to Daniel Elmer Leader of South Norfolk Council, Ben Goldsborough MP for South Norfolk and District Councillors. Clerk advised to date no acknowledgement has been received.

9 Planning

1. Applications received
   a. **2025/0806** Location: Land West of Wymondham Road Bracon Ash Norfolk Proposal: The installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) including associated infrastructure and landscaping. Parish council comments to the planning application. Appendix 2.
   b. **2024/3816** Location: Land East of High Road Ashwellthorpe. Proposal: Series of 13 ponds designed to intercept surface water flows and designed to be part of work to create off-site biodiversity units. .Application Type: Full Planning Permission. Comments by 28th May 2025. Council advised they stood by their original comments of 18th February 2025.

10 Administrative Issues

1 Standing Orders – Council reviewed and approved.
2 Financial Regulations – Council reviewed and approved
3 Insurance Renewal – Council agreed to renew on a one year term with AJG Community Schemes Insurers. Premium for 2025/26 £998.00
4 Adopting the General Power of Competence – Council unanimously agreed to adopt as criteria is met.

11 Finance

1 To consider the Internal Auditors report for year ending 31 March 2025
Recommendations were duly noted. Council will ensure statutory documentation is published on the parish website. It was also noted that the budget had not been approved ahead of the precept being set. Clerk explained this was due to a request from a councillor to review ear-marked reserves for highways improvements and subsequently unable to attend parish meeting.

2 To consider and authorise exemption from external audit 2024/25
It was noted the Council's income and expenditure for the year was under £25,000 and met the criteria to exempt. Council unanimously agreed to exempt and the Chair and Clerk were authorised to sign the Certificate of Exemption.

3 To consider and authorise the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25
This was considered, the form completed and the Chair and Clerk were authorised to sign on behalf of the Council.

4 To consider, approve and authorise the Accounting Statements 2024/25
This was considered and the Chair and Clerk were authorised to sign on behalf of the Council.

5 To note council's standing at end of financial year 2024/25.
Bank statement as at 31st March 2025 - £27,324.86

6 Payments

a.	£47.00	Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) – annual fee
b.	£459.32	T Higlett clerk's salary April/May 2025
c.	£109.80	HMRC
d.	£111.66	Norfolk PTS subscription
e.	£998.00	Insurance renewal
f.	£50.00	L Trueman Audit
g.	£76.74	Community Heartbeat – replacement defibrillator pads

7 Receipts

a.	£194.19	South Norfolk CIL payment
b.	£5583.00	South Norfolk 1st half precept

12 The Farthings

Chairman advised the working party had met on the 17th April. On the 2nd May a meeting was held with FWP to go through the COL Specification and other documentation relating to the S106 agreement and the commuted sum. Council have yet to meet with the solicitor who is representing the council. Once this meeting has taken place council will be able to update the community. FWP would like to commence with the development asap. FWP will complete the Farthings first. Builders will work solely on their site with no overspill onto the Farthings. Concerns around the removal of water on the site. Advised that the contours of the land will enable this to happen. If the pond is full this should overflow into the ditches. There is a further pond adjacent to Hethel Road to be constructed by FWP. Spoil from the site will be included in the Farthings and working party will advise on where it should be placed.

13 Village maintenance and Highways

1 Speed calming In the centre of the village – concerns raised with regards to railway sleepers that have been placed on land in Church Road and hedging cut back too. Drivers could accidentally collide with these and cause serious damage to their vehicles. Verges should be kept clear for pedestrians and vehicles. Chair to include editorial on this subject on parish website. **Action Chair**

21:00 Cllr Tancred left the meeting

2 Siting of benches around the village – Chair spoke of possible sites around the village including top of Wymondham Road, Church Road near the Bird In Hand Public House, Hethel Road to Penny Green, Ashwellthorpe Road. Cost implications benches average £500 with additional costs for anchorage kits and fitting. NCC Highways and landowners will need to be contacted regarding permission.

3 New Funding Initiative to support Bus Shelter Installations across Norfolk – Council noted information received but declined the uptake.

4 Wymondham Road/FP16 tree maintenance – NCC Highways advised council a hanging branch has now been removed due to safety reasons.

5 Maintenance of playing field equipment – Cllr Moore advised that the trees need cutting back in the vicinity of the shelter along with the neighbouring hedge. Quotes will be obtained to carry out vegetation cut back from the east side of the field from the swings. **Action Clerk**

Chair advised he had received a quote for £254.00 for the replacement of the cradle seat for a baby swing. Clerk will order one. **Action Clerk**

14 Consultations

1 South Norfolk Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Public Space Protection Order (Dog Fouling & Dog Control). Closing date 10 June 2025.

2 The Norfolk and Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Closing date 11 June 2025

15 Correspondence

1 West Norfolk Community Transport

2 Request for gravel footpath – Footpath along the field edge from Church Road to Wreningham School. Chair advised he had spoken to landowners regarding this request as the route was not on parish land, but there was no interest. Council have enquired in the past with NCC Highways, the installation of a Trod path as a safe route for children to use and at the time 100 metre pathway was said to have cost £30,000.

3 South Norfolk Community Awards.

4 South Norfolk Nature Conservation Fund – Expressions of Interest – Consideration for the future.

16 Date of next meeting: 8th July 2025

Meeting closed at 21:25

Appendix 1.

Member Ward Grants

Member Ward Grants for 2025/26 are now available. Requests for support with small projects (typically up to £1,000 per project) to benefit the local community can be made to your District Councillors.

Community Action Fund Grants

Applications for grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 can be made via a District Councillor. The closing date for applications is 30th June. Successful projects are likely to have matched funding in place, be able to complete within 12 months of the grant and be able to demonstrate considerable community benefit and community support.

Devolution & Local Government Reform

The Government has provided advisory feedback on the initial plans for local government reform submitted by the Norfolk County and District Councils. Further feedback will be delivered individually to each of the councils. Key points include:

- Final proposals from each Council must cover the whole of the area (Norfolk).
- The rationale for a population materially different to 500,000 per unitary authority (UA) must be explained.
- Efficiencies for a UA must be assessed relative to a benchmark population of 500,000.
- Detail on how disaggregation of key services (Children's Services, Social Care) would be managed is needed.
- Detail is required to show that there are sensible population sizes across the constituent councils of the Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Strategic Authority.

The feedback also requests "detail on your plans for neighbourhood-based governance, the impact on parish councils, and the thoughts about formal neighbourhood partnerships and area committees".

Norfolk County Council has an online consultation and is inviting individuals and companies "to share your thoughts and shape the future of local government in Norfolk". The high-level consultation closes on May 20th.
https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/public-engagement/lgrfeedback/

Daniel Elmer, Leader of South Norfolk Council, has written to town and parish councils in the area asking for initial thoughts on priorities and concerns over Local Government Reform.

South Norfolk and Broadland Design Code

The draft Design Code for new housing in the area is now available online for review. Feedback can be given through the online consultation which closes on 23rd June.
https://southnorfolkandbroadland.placechangers.co.uk/page

South Norfolk Community Awards

These awards celebrate the extraordinary individuals and groups who give their time, energy, and passion to make South Norfolk a better place to live, work, and visit. This could be through organising community events, supporting vulnerable people, or helping to protect the environment. Nominations close on 30th May.
https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/south-norfolk-community-awards

New Town Proposal

South Norfolk Council has expressed interest in being considered as a site for a new town as part of the Government's new town initiative, subject to certain conditions. It is understood that this is seen as a way of meeting higher local housing targets, rather than seeking even more growth locally.
It is worth noting that South Norfolk is currently unable to demonstrate a 5-year land supply meaning that the area is more at risk from speculative planning applications and reapplications from sites already rejected from the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The National Grid application for a Development Consent Order is expected later this year.

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to campaign against the pylon proposals. For further information visit https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions

Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber

Appendix 2.
Planning application 2025/0806
Is the necessary ancillary infrastructure equipment to support the new line of pylons and assist with the additional supply to the country? Will this be a permanent or temporary site and going forward what are the maintenance requirements and once commissioned how busy will the site be.

We can see no indication of how the site is connected to the grid. Are there additional power lines/pylons connecting to the (new) line of pylons. These may need to cross the road.

Construction phase down this narrow but busy lane could be a problem. Therefore what are the requirements for vehicular access and how regular.

Will the site be subject to landscaping as it will be very visible from a nearby public footpath. Would benefit from high dense planting.

Security fencing needs to fit in with the surrounding area.

We are aware that batteries bring their own hazards and would expect to see appropriate safety measures in place to manage chemicals, spills, explosions, fire etc.

Installation looks to be sited on hard surfaces how will the surface water drainage be managed in and around the site.

As this is a relatively dark area we feel it should remain so and therefore no permanent lights on.

Is this the best place, there seems to be a lot being inflicted on the South Norfolk countryside lately.