Wreningham Parish Council
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 10th March 2026
Margaret Preston Room, Wreningham Village Hall, 7:30pm

In Attendance: Cllr M Hill (Chair), Cllr H Glaves, Cllr K Morris, Cllr A Tancred, Cllr N Wilson.
Parish Clerk: Tina Higlett.
Seven members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr Lambert had sent her apologies. Council accepted. Cllr Tancred had advised she would be in attendance later.

2. Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest.

3. Approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th January and 27th February 2026. These were unanimously approved, with no changes.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes
    1. IT policy still to be reviewed by Chair. **Action MH**
    2. Saffron Housing have trimmed their hedging on Church Road as scheduled.
    3. Cllr Morris has asked three companies to quote on maintenance of land owned by council. To be discussed at 9.2.
    4. Play equipment cleaning. Cllr Morris to organise a working party. **Action KM**

5. Open Forum, including reports from District & County Councillors.
    1. Pubic In attendance
       Village Hall representative asked for the parish council to provide the Mardle grant of £200 (covering 2025 and 2026) to assist with costs. Clerk will arrange for payment on receipt of completion of grant application form. Council were advised that the priest-in-charge has reduced coverage in the benefice leaving Wreningham Church without clergy cover for the time being. **Action Clerk**
    2. District Councillor.
       District report had been forwarded just before the meeting see Appendix 1.
       Cllr Spratt advised Members Ward grants have increased from £1,000 to £2,000.
       Local Government Reform, county election will be carried out on the 7th May 2026.
       The food waste collection service has been delayed as South Norfolk have yet to received the vehicles.

6. Responding to and working with other bodies
    1. Planning
        a) No new applications received since council held extraordinary meeting to discuss planning applications on the 27th February 2026.
        b) Applications commented on between meetings
           None.
        c) Planning decisions
           None.
        d) Tree Preservation Order.
           Parish Council has applied for a Tree Preservation Order for a selection of trees along Wymondham Road which date from 1830 – 1880 and have grown in their natural form, whereas most trees have been subject to harsh pruning. The large group of old trees, oaks and ash provide a large part of the wildlife network between Long's Wood and Lower Wood.
    2. Highways
        a) Report to NCC Highways regarding the deterioration of bridge 1665 on Ashwellthorpe Road.
           It had been noted that there is a crack in the middle of the bridge wall.

Highways are aware of the defect and are maintaining a two-year monitoring schedule of inspections.

b) Placement objects grass verges.
Chair advised that placing obstructions (posts, logs, stone, etc.) on the roadside verge of the public highway, intending to protect them from vehicular damage, do so at their own risk. Should an obstruction cause an accident or damage, then the landowners could be in legal jeopardy. NCC Highways guidance can be found on parish council website.

c) Member of the public advised that roundabout construction near Hethel Engineering is reported to require road closure for 3 months. Had the council been informed? Nothing has been received but Clerk will make contact with Highways.

3. Projects
   a) South Norfolk Litterpick 2026
   This will take place on the 29th March 2026 at 14:00. Equipment will be supplied and refreshments available at the village hall. Parish Council will contribute £100 towards the refreshments.

7. Finance
   1. Council's current financial standing £27,931.37
   2. To approve payments
      a) T Higlett Feb/March salary £490.08
      b) HMRC Months 11 & 12 £117.40
      c) H Glaves £24.97
      d) B Jarvis – website £26.39
      e) Norfolk PTS – cllr. training £62.40
      f) Autela Payroll Services £102.00
      g) J Heath – drainage work £450.00
   3. Payments made between meetings
      None.
   4. Receipts
      NCC bus shelter grant £473.37
   5. Community Infrastructure Levy submission to SNC
      No spend for 2025/26.

Cllr Tancred joined meeting.

8. Village Organisations
   1. Village Hall solar panel project. Cllr Tancred advised she needs to speak to the village Hall committee before going any further. **Action AT**
   2. Defibrillator Training. Date has been set for 11th May 2026.
   3. Maintenance of village hall and surrounds. Planting to take place from the fence down to the stream. Request to include the cutting of the grass by the village hall and car park with the maintenance of the Reading Room and playing field. Clerk to contact our contractor, G. Lake. **Action Clerk**

9. Asset Management
   1. Playing field
      a) Councillors to carry out play area checks following training with Community Action Norfolk. Cllr Morris volunteered to attend training. Clerk will forward training details to Cllr Morris. **Action Clerk / KM**
      b) Play equipment replacement including update on funding.
      Cllr Morris has spoken to school children regarding equipment for the playing field. For the under 11's a balance beam, 2 seat swing, climbing frame, monkey

bars and basketball net. Cllr Morris will also speak to school staff for their input to requirements. A grant can be obtained from the football association for new football nets. Clerk will contact SNC about holding over time expired CIL for this project. **Action Clerk**
Discussion followed on setting up a maintenance working party.

c) Moles on playing field.
The problem is being dealt with in an humane way.

2. Grounds maintenance
   a) The council noted that two quotations had been received from interested parties. These ranged from £4,000 to £8,000. It was agreed that the current contractor would be retained on a rolling one-year contract.
   b) Ditch in Mill Lane
   Culvert under the playing field access has been rodded and cleared. Ditch water should now flow into the next section away from the playing field area.

10. The Farthings (Community Owned Land - COL)
The S106 has now been signed and council hold a copy. It is expected that equipment will come onto the site March/April 2026. Farthings Management Group (FMG) will ensure contractor conforms to the S106 specification. Chair proposed a meeting with contractors to discuss what is expected. It is anticipated that the handover of the COL will be in the Autumn. Parish council will receive £90,000 towards the 30 years of maintenance of COL; the majority of which be invested. Chair advised Cllr Wilson to oversee finance liaison with FMG. Until this sum is received Chair suggested the Parish Council support the working party financially but all requests for funds to be agreed in Council. A public meeting will be arranged. The Council Insurers have advised the FMG or any other volunteer groups working under the direct supervision / guidance of the council are covered by the Council's insurance but they must follow the same procedures of the PC. Otherwise they MUST arrange their own cover.
Action MH

11. Management of the Parish Council
    1. Annual Parish meeting will proceed the annual parish council meeting on the 12th May commencing at 19:00.

12. Date of next meeting – 12th May 2026.

Meeting closed at 20:45.

Appendix 1.

District Councillors' Report for Wreningham Parish Council – 10th March 2026

Member Ward Grants

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. Member Ward Grants for 2026/27 have been doubled to £2,000 per councillor, meaning that a total of £6,000 is available across Mulbarton & Stoke Holy Cross ward. Grants will be available from April.

Council Tax

The average rate of increase in Council Tax across the district will be 4.9%. The increase is driven by the County Council increase of 5%. The district council element, which accounts for about 7% of the Council Tax bill, increased 2.85% (£5 per month for a Band D property).

South Norfolk Grants for Towns, Parishes and Community Groups in 2026/27

For the forthcoming year, SNC has been able to fund grants of over £1 million to towns, villages and community groups. The key grants include:

- £500,000 for the Communities Action Fund (CAF) grants.
- £500,000 for a new Parish Facilities Grant.
- £100,000 for a Street Cleaners for Parishes grant to help fund new capital equipment that might be required in the larger towns and settlements.

In Bloom Grant

Applications can now be made by Parish Councils and other community organisations for an 'In Bloom' Grant. These are to help fund "projects that enhance the visual appeal of their communities, encourage the growing of produce, and promote wildlife and biodiversity. ". The total amount available per parish is limited to £1 per resident and application must have at least 50% matched funding. Applications can be made until Sunday 19th April 2026.

CAF Grants

For 2026/27 only, grant applications of up to £40,000 will be accepted. Grants of more than £15,000 will require an absolute minimum of 25% matched funding already secured. We understand that the definition of qualifying projects will be tightened this year, with the intention of focusing on genuinely new projects. Applications for the new fund are expected to open in April/May.
We have been told that the Community Facilities Grants will be available for improvements to existing facilities. The terms of this new grant are not yet known.

Local Government Reform and Devolution

There have been no new announcements regarding the timetable for LGR and devolution. The Government's decision on the shape of LGR in Norfolk is expected in March (i.e. 1, 2 or 3 new Unitary Authorities). Elections to the new shadow authorities are expected in May 2027.
Following a change of heart from Government, County Council elections are now back on for 7 May this year. If the LGR timetable is achieved, the next council will sit for only 2 years.

Food Waste Collection

There has been a delay in the planned delivery of food waste collections due to delays in the delivery

of the new collection trucks. More information will be available nearer the time.

South Norfolk Big Litter Pick

The 2026 big litter pick is now open. All participating organisations will receive a £50 thank you and 5 participating organisations, chosen at random, will receive £500. More information from: Big South Norfolk Litter Pick | Broadland and South Norfolk

South Norfolk Community Awards

Nominations can be made for these awards until 15 May 2026. Full details of the 9 different categories and the nomination form can be found at: South Norfolk Community Awards | Broadland and South Norfolk.

East Pye Solar Farm

The developer submitted its application for a Development Consent Order on March 5th. The decision on whether to accept the application for examination must be made by 3rd April. Once accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, interested parties must then register to have their say on the application during the formal inspection phase. Timetables for registration will be published if the application is accepted.

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The National Grid's Development Consent Order is now at the examination phase. This is scheduled to close on 10 August 2026, although an earlier close is possible. The initial public hearings have been completed and can be viewed online: Examination timetable - Norwich to Tilbury - Find a National Infrastructure Project. Further hearings may be required in April and June.

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

Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber