

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday
19th May 2025 at 7:45pm in the Village Hall

Those present were: Councillor A. Schuilenburg (Chairman), Cllr D.Sargeant (Vice Chair), Cllrs., C. Mulley-Richards, R. Temple, A Hazelhurst, G McNeillie, R. Ling. Dist. Cllr. Harvey , the Parish Clerk and 10 members of the public.

1. Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and appointment of two councillors to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.

The Parish Clerk asked for proposals and seconders. Cllr Sargeant proposed Alexander Schuilenburg to be Chairman, seconded by R. Ling and accepted by Cllr Schuilenburg. Cllr Schuilenburg proposed Cllr. Sargeant to be Vice Chairperson, seconded by Cllr Mulley-Richards and accepted by Cllr Sargeant. The Chairman & Vice Chairman then both signed the Declaration of Acceptance forms. Cllrs. Mulley-Richards and Ling were happy to continue as representatives of the Parish Council on the VHMC.

2. Apologies: County Cllr.Batchelor due to other meetings.

3. Declaration of Interest: Cllr A Schuilenburg under item 7b Finance.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th March 2025 were signed as correct.

5. Correspondence:

6. Planning:

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>PC Response</i>	<i>Status</i>
24/03435/PRIOR	W Stone	The Meadow, Streety End	Change of use from agric.bldg. to dwel.hse.	17/2/25	no action	refused
25/01701/PRIOR	“	“	“ “	2/5/25	“	

Streety Hall Biodigester plant – Chris Covey told the Parish Council that the next investigation will be archaeology which will be quite a lengthy process. Cllr McNeillie asked what the time scale was likely to be for the construction plan but Chris Covey was unable to answer this other than possibly a further 18 months.

Kingsway Solar Park - Neither the Chairman or Vice Chairman had heard any further news. Dist.Cllr. Harvey said that residents in Weston Colville had been contacted by Kingsway requesting access to their properties in a heavy-handed way, which is concerning and was distressing for the residents. It is doubtful that all the proposed sites will be used so the situation is still very fluid.

7. Finance: Accounts spreadsheet distributed to councillors.

- a. End of Year accounts 2024/2025:** Acceptance of the years accounts and bank reconciliation to be agreed and signed prior to being submitted to the internal auditor. The reading of the AGAR Governance Statement and signing of the AGAR forms and Accounts Spreadsheet also for the internal auditor, The End of Year, already distributed, were signed as being correct, as was the bank reconciliation. The Chairman read out the AGAR Governance and he and the Parish Clerk signed the necessary statements.

b. *Authorised payments:*

£ 45.60 Crystal HR re payslip etc. - BACS 4/4/25
 £ 58.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 4510 - BACS 4/4/25
 £ 37.95 Cheap Rope Inv. 57252 - BACS 15/5/25
 £ 20.00 Squarespace Ltd. Inv. 176832500 - BACS 15/5/25
 £ 59.88 Unlimited Web Hosting Inv 988096071 - BACS 15/5/25
 £315.00 Age UK (Mobile Warden Scheme) - BACS payment 15/5/25
 £ 36.00 CPRE annual subscription - BACS
 £518.12 Clear Insurance Management Ltd. cover - BACS 15/5/25
 £134.40 RoSPA (Playsafety Ltd.) Inv. 87601 - BACS 15/5/25
 £ 58.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 4587 - BACS 15/5/25
 £464.60 J.Richards April/May salary - BACS
Monies received:
 £13,650.00 SCDC 2025 Precept payment
 £ 86.42 Eastern Power Networks Wayleave payment.

c. *Purchase of new computer for Parish Clerk:* The present computer is old and slow and should be replaced. This was agreed and the Chairman will look into the purchase of a replacement. The cost would be approx. £200-£300.

8. Traffic & Parking issues:

a) *Potholes & Flooding:*

474852*	Road into West Wickham from Streetly End, before bridge - <i>work carried out</i>
472555*	Road into West Wickham from Streetly End, after bridge - <i>work carried out</i>
473753*	Church Corner - <i>No progress</i>
Numerous 70+ reports	Potholes in Balsham on West Wickham Road as you exit the village - <i>no progress</i>
503331	Bridge on West Wrattling Footpath - <i>Repaired</i>
507876	Bridge on Footpath 14 - <i>Repaired</i>
507877	Bridge on Footpath 13 - <i>Repaired</i>

The Chairman reported that most of the potholes previously reported have now been repaired and the roads are in good order, with the exception of Balsham Hill which is still outstanding. He had spoken to Cllr Beckett, who oversees the department, regarding the clear issues reporting potholes and of communication between the various departments, who acknowledged the issues and apologised. He was assured that a new IT system was under development that would resolve the issues the community experiences regarding pothole reporting which should become live in July. Until then, the PC must keep its own records of reports and their reference numbers for possible damage claims by members of the community members and following up where no action has been taken. Cllr McNeillie said that the approach to West Wickham from Streetly End still had large pot holes. The Chairman urged everyone to keep up the pressure on the Highways Department to get all the work done.

b) *MVAS Unit.* The Chairman thanked Trevor Hall for the speeding results:

Week ending 4-5-25 Streetly End facing Horseheath

Over 35mph max speed total vehicles
 1184 (29.1%) 1 @58mph 4068

Week ending 11-5-25 Streetly End facing West Wickham

Over 35mph max speed total vehicles
 453 (10.3%) 53MPH 4399

The Chairman asked about the MVAS unit which will allow those who speed to be prosecuted and Trevor Hall said there have been continuous problems with the equipment and have been unable to get in touch with Alkenbury County Council to sort it out. He has spoken to County Cllr. Batchelor about this.

9. Maintenance:

- a. *Footpaths:* Cllr Temple reported that the bridge on West Wrattling Footpath 14 has been replaced and also the bridge on the footpath near Cobwebs has been repaired. The footpaths had also been cut with a ride-on mower by the County Council.

10. Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

- a. *RoSPA safety inspection:* None of the play equipment was categorised as “red” but the condition of some of the fence panels, gate and some of the play equipment was mentioned in the report. A rotten board on the MUGA needs repairing. The Chairman asked Di Licence if Tom Licence would still be interested in doing the necessary repairs to minor things. The Parish Clerk will contact Tom.
- b. *5-a-side project:* Due to the very dry weather the scarification of the grass has not yet been done. Cllr Temple said that possible funding could be available from the Football Association, which he would look into.
- c. *Wildflower Beds:* Unfortunately the County Council grass cutters came and cut this area but as the seeds were only just coming through they were unharmed. Posts and rope have been put up to protect them. The Hub Night organisers made a donation to cover the cost of the rope, while Cllr Schuilenburg donated the posts and erected the rope barrier
- d. *Front area outside the Village Hall (includes quote from ABC Tree Surgery for work required:* The quote received from Rob Giles was £280.00 to do selective work or £330 to carry out all the work required to tidy up the front area, cutting back shrubs etc. The Parish Council agreed to the quote of £330.00 and the Parish Clerk will reply accepting his quote.
- e. *Post Office van visits:* Cllr Mulley-Richards had spoken to the librarian van driver who is happy to stop at West Wickham for 15-30 minutes but there is no official permission as yet.

- 11. Big Garden Party:** Cllr Temple said he was still looking for volunteers and despite putting a notice in the Village Voice had had no offers. There will be a poster listing the various events going into June’s Village Voice.

- 12. LHI Grant:** Discussed earlier.

- 13. West Wickham Parish Council Biodiversity Policy:** Cllr Sargeant, who had drawn up the draft Biodiversity Policy gave a brief outline following the model set out by the 2006 Environmental Dept. concerning the management of land and assessing planning applications where biodiversity needs to be considered. The Policy will be available on the website. He was thanked for his work on this policy which was considerable.

- 14. Meetings attended by councillors:** None

- 15. Reports by County Cllr Batchelor & Dist.Cllr Harvey.** (Mar/April. reports on website).

16. Any Other Business:

- a. Cllr Temple asked about getting a grant for a bench. The Parish Clerk is looking into this..
- b. Cllr Hazelhurst regretfully handed in his resignation as a Parish Councillor due to personal reasons. The Chairman thanked him for his time and work whilst a councillor.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 28th July 2025.