

*Draft*

## WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday

**28th July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall .**

Those present were: Councillor A.Schuilenburg (Chairman), Cllr. D.Sargeant (Vice Chair), Cllrs.C.Mulley-Richards, G. McNeillie, R.Temple and District Councillor G Harvey, County Cllr. H Batchelor, the Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Ling.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Temple under item 7b Finance.
3. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2025 were signed as correct.
4. **Parish Council vacancy:** The Chairman proposed the candidate, Julie Copas, to take up the vacant position due to Cllr Hazelhurst's resignation, seconded by Cllr Mulley-Richards. Julie Copas duly signed the Declaration of Interest and Declaration of Acceptance witnessed by the Chairman and joined the Council.
5. **Correspondence:**
  - a) The bus which was being parked in the Village Hall car park is now being parked on the road.
  - b) Hill Farm notified provided notification they will be planting Rape Seed on their fields between the farm buildings and the High Street in August and have a Disposition to cut the hedges adjoining the fields out of season. The hedge cutting will commence 1 August.
6. **Planning:**

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>PC resp.</i>	<i>Status</i>
25/01701	W.Stone	The Meadow, Streetly End	Conversion of agric.bldg.	2/5/25	N/A	Prior app. given.
25/2433/PRIOR	Ms J.Miles	95 High St.	Demolition of wooden fronted stables	20/6/25	N/A	Prior app. given
25/0234/CL2PD	“	“	Siting of mobile home	20/6/25	N/A	Approved
25/02761/PRIOR	C Covey	Streetly Hall Farm	218Kw PV array on grainstore roof.*	14/6/25	N/A	no decision
25/0684/TCA	G Magin	24 High St.	Pollarding etc.**	10/7/25	Support.	“

\* 25/02761 PV array - this is for winter use.

\*\* 25/0684 Pollarding - The Chairman has looked at the trees and they are in need of pollarding.

6a. *Streetly Hall Biodigester:* Chris Covey said that it is hoped that building would start sometime next Spring, although this is subject to the results of the archaeological survey. He suggested that this information with a progress report could go into the local Parish reviews. Cllr McNeillie asked whether the access road would be built before the construction work begins but was told by Chris Covey that this would be unlikely as the procedure to start construction of the new junction with the A1307 was likely to be lengthy and out of his control. Cllr Schuilenburg asked if all the planning conditions have been met and signed off, the answer being yes but the archeology requirement still had to be done and he has not had official approval responses to all the conditions. He said he should be able to give an update on this at the next Parish Council meeting in September. If a further meeting was necessary to explain progress he would be happy to participate.

6b. *Kingsway Solar Park update:* Although we had requested Kingsway keep us informed we have heard nothing from them and the Parish Clerk was asked to write to them about this. Council is aware that there will be public meetings organised by Kingsway in Balsham on 14/8/25, Brinkley 11/8/25, Weston Colville on 6/8/25. These meetings will be explaining the technical information. Cllr Sargeant asked if the Council

should show very clearly that the parish is against this project. It was agreed that the consultation papers must be read and then have a special planning meeting to discuss. All agreed.

**7. Finance:** The Chairman said that all of the authorised payments will be paid by BACS.

- a) *Internal audit:* This has been carried out successfully and no external audit was required.
- b) *Authorised payments*
  - £ 36.00 CPRE annual subscription. BACS
  - £ 464.40 Mrs J Richards June/July salary less PAYE - BACS
  - £ 17.50 Expenses re audit for petrol (28 m@45p./m; 1 pack photocopy paper (£4.90).
  - £858.00 ABC Tree Surgery Inv. 1274. BACS
  - £ 65.00 J.Dockerill - carrying out the internal audit
  - £ 174.00 HMRC 1st qtr. PAYE BACS
  - £ 36.00 Crystal Payroll Service - 3 month charge BACS.
  - £ 58.00 EE Plumridge Inv.4717 (Village Voice). BACS.
  - £ 721.18 R.Temple - Big Garden expenses.. BACS .
- c) *Monies received:*
  - £617.87 VAT reclaim for 2024/25.

**8. Traffic & Parking issues:**

- a) *Potholes & flooding:*
  - 473753 Church Corner - *no progress*
  - 509459 Webbs Road - bottom of Webbs Farm large pot holes (new)
  - 509460 Streetly End - edge of road badly damaged opposite speed sign before bend (new).
- b) *Speedwatch readings:* Unavailable.
- c) *Tuesday evening parking at Village Hall:* Because the back car park is kept locked there is a continual problem with cars parking all over the place including parking spaces in Home Close on Tuesday evenings which is Karate Club night. Cllr Mulley-Richards has complained about this for 12 months and would like something done about it. The simple solution would be for someone to hold the key for opening and shutting the back car park on that night. The Parish Clerk was asked to write a formal letter from the Parish Council to the Village Hall Committee regarding this issue and requesting a solution.

**9. Maintenance:**

- a) *Footpaths* – Cllr Temple had been reading an email on the Public Roads Hierarchy regarding numbers of footpaths and their condition. He responded asking how they made these decisions and their answer was through pro-active inspections.
- b) Having spoken to Mr Duncan Henry regarding the state of No. 18 footpath, this has now been cleared.
- c) Chris Covey spoke from the floor about the Roman Road and the “Friends of the Roman Road” of which he was a member, who would like to get people interested in helping to keep the road clear and repaired. Cllr Temple said West Wickham Parish included a very small area of the Roman Road from Dean Road which was designated as a footpath and pointed out that the County Council were supposed to maintain this. There had been consultation about what needed to be done and the question about footpaths was added on. However the parish footpaths are kept in good condition but they are saying the paths are fine but there are holes and other damage which need dealing with..

**10. Village Hall & Recreation ground:**

- a) *Repairs to play equipment following RoSPA report:* Parts of the MUGA had serious problems which RoSPA only reported as “minor”. This is being dealt with and will be put in place shortly with the help of Cllrs Sargeant & Temple and the Chairman. There are minor repairs to be carried out which Tom Licence will be asked to do, subject to a suitable quote for which a list is being prepared.
- b) *Five aside-project:* Due to the very dry weather it has not been possible to roller or scarify the area which Yen Hall kindly said they would do. There has been an additional development as a cricket club has asked if they could hire the field, which they would also prepare and maintain. The Chairman and Cllr Temple

would determine whether the 5-a-side could co-exist with the cricket, or if the cricket team were just looking for a “nets practice area”, and in the meantime the project would be put on hold.

- c) *Post Office van visits*: No progress so abandoning the idea.
- d) *PA system for Village Hall*: A request from the VHMC, various clubs and residents for a PA system to be installed in the Hall was discussed and the Parish Council would certainly be in favour of it.

**11. Big Garden Party:** Cllr Temple reported that as the weather was good more people attended and £700 was raised for the Church and £500 for the Village Hall less expenses. Cllr Copas asked if the financial details would be reported in the Village Voice as those who had supported it would wish to know how much was raised and what the money would be spent on. This was discussed and it was agreed that the primary purposes of the event is to raise community awareness of what goes on in the village, raise the profiles of the clubs and organisations within and extend their reach, energise the volunteers, and that this was a fun way to do it. Fundraising also plays an important role for many of the clubs and organisations at these events, allowing them to survive, although it is up to the clubs and organisations themselves how they will allocate the funds they raise.

**12. LHI Grant - MVAS unit:** Cllr McNeillie reported that he had been in touch with Morelock, who told him they were expecting delivery of one of the units today. County Cllr Batchelor said he could possibly pick up the necessary paperwork from the Cambridge County Council Office which might quicken things up.

**13. Reports by Council Cllr. Batchelor and District Cllr Harvey:** Distributed to all Cllrs and put on the website.

**Cllr Harvey:**

- a) *Postal Votes*: The arrangements for this have been changed and now must be requested every 4 years.
- b) *Kingsway Solar Park*: There had been criticism of how Kingsway had dealt with the public and residents who might be affected by this proposed solar application. The statutory consultation will not be until Sept/Oct. and the documentation would be sent out to the Parish Councils in advance of the meeting. The County Council has only received a draft version so far. He suggested that councils who are interested could have a briefing on this consultation which will be available on-line.

**Cllr Batchelor:**

- a) *Acorn Biodigester application*: This application has been refused but they are likely to appeal.

**14. Meetings attended by councillors:** Cllr Sargeant attended South Cambs Parish Council forum on 28th May regarding new planning and an infrastructure bill.

**15. Any Other Business:**

- a) Mrs Hill (daughter of the late Mr Strowger) had asked if the bench given by the Strowger family in memory of her father could be moved from the front grass area onto the recreation ground where it might have better use than where it is at present, as nobody uses it. The Chairman acknowledges this was previously the case, although the area in front of the bench had recently been cleared to restore the views from the bench making it a prominent feature and encouraging its use as originally envisaged. He said that while its relocation would be possible, some thought would have to be given as to alternative locations where it could safely be moved in the context of the somewhat fluid plans of the recreation ground. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- b) The Parish Council is shocked and deeply saddened by reports of the apparent poisoning and tragic death of a dog, and by repeated acts of vandalism to vehicles belonging to residents of The Old Chapel. These distressing incidents appear to be targeted attacks on members of our community. Such behaviour has no place in our parish, and we stand united in condemning it. We urge anyone who may have seen or heard anything, no matter how small, to come forward and help ensure those responsible are brought to justice..

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 22nd September at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.**

**Chairman** .....