

Draft

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday

22nd September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall .

Those present were: Councillor A.Schuilenburg (Chairman), Cllr. D.Sargeant (Vice Chair), Cllrs. J. Copas, R. Ling, C. Mulley-Richards, G. McNeillie, R.Temple and County Cllr. H Batchelor, the Parish Clerk and 3 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Dist. County Cllr. Harvey.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Schuilenburg under item 6a Finance.
3. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2025 were agreed and signed as correct.
4. **Correspondence:**
 - a) Jack Bullimore, introducing himself as the Town & Parish Councils Liaison Officer.
 - b) Copy of Statement regarding the vandalism being carried out in the village.
5. **Planning:**

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>PC resp.</i>	<i>LPA Status</i>
25/2433/PRIOR	Ms J.Miles	95 High St.	Demolition of wooden fronted stables	20/6/25	N/A	Approved, prior approval not required.
25/02434/CL2PD	“	“	Siting of mobile home	20/6/25	N/A	Certificate Granted
25/02761/PRIOR	C Covey	Streetly Hall Farm	218Kw PV array on grainstore roof.	14/6/25	N/A	Approved, prior approval not required.
25/0684/TTCA	G Magin	24 High St.	Pollarding etc.**	10/7/25	Support.	Granted - no objection

5a. *Streetly Hall Biodigester*: Cllr. Copas spoke about the “Construction Management Plan” which she would distribute to the Council and publish an article in the October Village Voice to keep residents informed. Chris Covey told Council that the archeological investigations would begin in November and if no further investigation was needed construction would then begin.

5b. *Kingsway Solar Farm update*: The Chairman thanked Cllr. Copas for her report on the meeting she attended which had been distributed to the Council. Cllr. Simon Chandler (Chairman of West Wrattling Parish Council) who was present and wished to discuss ways to raise funds to the Kingsway Area Parish Council Alliance to help pay for resources to fight against the proposed solar farm. Cllr. Copas had delivered leaflets to all West Wickham parishioners and had spoken to them where possible about this proposal and felt that many were not aware of the scale of the solar farm. Cllr. Chandler said West Wrattling P.C. were putting forward a legal case costing possibly £150,000. It was hoped there would be donations from the public. The Chairman said that any promotion for funds could be published in the Village Voice and also would encourage residents to write in with their views of this proposed solar park. The Chairman also pointed out that any donation provided by the Parish Council would come out of limited S137 funds. It was also necessary for the Parish Council to formalise it’s support of or opposition to the current Kingsway Proposal. The suggestion was made to have a Special Parish Council meeting which was agreed and a date was fixed for Sunday 5th October at 4pm, which would follow from the Action Group meeting. The current consultation is the last opportunity for the general public to express their opinions on the scheme.

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

a) *Authorised payments*

£464.40 Mrs J Richards Aug./Sept salary less PAYE
£174.00 HMRC 2nd qtr. PAYE
£274.78 CAPALC annual subscription.
£ 81.00 E&E Plumridge Inv.4795.
£ 58.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 4862.
£ 18.00 Crystal Payroll Service Ref.18622.
£ 99.60 Nicki Trudgeon re expenses for TheBig Garden Party.
£198.90 A.Schuilenburg re MUGA Blackboard & table repair.

b) *Monies received:* None.

7. Traffic & Parking issues:

a) *Potholes & flooding:*

473753 Church Corner - *no progress*
509459 Webbs Road - bottom of Webbs Farm large pot holes
509460 Streetly End - edge of road badly damaged opposite speed sign before bend

Regarding Webbs Road repairs, Cllr. McNeillie had received an email regarding the repair of the pot holes but nothing about the road markings which were virtually invisible. County Cllr Batchelor was asked if he could get an update on the situation at Streetly End.

b) *Speedwatch readings:* Trevor Hall had taken these figures, read out by the Chairman:

Streetly End West, facing East 3-18/8/25.

Over 35mph - 748 (8.6%); Max speed - 1 @ 58mph. Total vehicles: 8694.

Trevor has stepped down from running Speed Watch and the Chairman suggested that Cllr. McNeillie and himself could share this responsibility, with Cllr. McNeillie as custodian of the equipment and the Chairman organising the volunteer group until a member from within the group stepped forward to assume that position. For the old speedwatch equipment, a replacement computer to download the readings would need to be sourced which the chairman agreed to do.

c) *Tuesday evening parking at Village Hall:* Cllr Mulley-Richards said that the situation was slightly better but if the back car park gate was unlocked but not open, drivers tended to park on the road which was totally unnecessary. The Chairman has spoken to the karate teacher suggesting he open the back car park gate and park his car in that car park to encourage others to also park there.

9. Maintenance:

a) *Footpaths* – Cllr Temple reported all footpaths were in order. However the Chairman noted footpath, No.29, was obstructed by falling growth due to the high winds. Cllr Temple said he would investigate. The chairman also received a complaint about overgrown hedges obstructing certain pavements and the chairman offered to speak to their owners.

b) *Weed infestation:* A complaint had been received concerning the re-wilding of fields with thistle and sunflowers. The Chairman had looked at this and it was not good and the owner of the field contacted. However, the owner is currently unable to address the issue as the field planting falls under a DEFRA scheme and so cannot be cut until November. This is not a matter the Parish Council has any authority over.

10. Village Hall & Recreation ground:

- a) *Repairs to play equipment:* The Chairman, having received a quote for £4,200 to repair the MUGA, decided he would carry out the repairs, replacement and painting of the basketball equipment on the MUGA, the cost of which was £198.90. It is now in order. The playground tables have also been repaired and cleaned up by the Chairman. There are still items which need to be looked at and Cllrs. Sargeant and Schuilenberg will draw up a list to get a quote from Tom Licence.
- b) *Five aside-project:* On Tuesday 23rd September volunteers, headed by Louise Salter and Di Licence are having a meeting to organise raising funds for equipment for the 5-aside project. They are also hoping for some funding from the FA and possibly Wadlow Windfarm Charity.
- c) *The "Strowger" bench:* The old bench is now in use again since the overgrown shrubbery has been removed. However it is in poor condition and the Parish Council gratefully accepted Mrs Hill's offer to replace it with a non-wood bench.
- d) *PA system for Village Hall:* Cllr. Temple said that the Hub Night had donated a PA system which he and the chairman installed along with Ian Trudgeon. It has already been successfully used at the Garden Club meeting with the speaker using a microphone and the use of a second microphone for any in the audience to ask questions.
- e) *Allotments:* Trevor Hall had sent Cllr. Mulley-Richards the allotments water usage costs for the year and she had passed this information on to the allotment holders as the rent collection is due on 11th October.

11. LHI Grant - MVAS unit

County Cllr. Batchelor said he had the unit in his car. Cllr. McNeillie was pleased at its arrival and said that the application for funding sent in a year ago had just been approved.

12. Meetings attended by councillors: Cllr. Mulley-Richards had attended the Police Community meeting.

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

Cllr. Batchelor spoke about the central government's wish to reorganise local government, merging District and County Councils into a Unitary Authority in order to save money. There are three options as shown in his report and the District Councils preference is Option B (joining South Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire City Councils). It was agreed that Cllr. Sargeant will respond to the consultation supporting Option B on the grounds that many council functions are already shared this way.

14. Any Other Business:

- a) Cllr Temple spoke of the need for some weeding around the village hall. It was agreed that Rob Giles should be asked if he could put down weed killer, probably twice a year, when cutting Home Close. The Parish Clerk will ask him.
- b) The Village Hall has received a £1,000 grant for security in and around the building with CCTV etc. to aid with security of the rear car park. There will also be some extra storage to allow longer retention of recordings.
- c) Cllr Copas asked about the ground that has been cleared along the Common Road by Home Brands and Jelly Warehouse. Nobody knew anything new about this land.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 24th November at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Chairman.....