

**WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday**  
**26th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. R Ling, County Cllr. Harvey.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the meeting** held on Monday 24th November 2025 were signed as correct.
4. **Correspondence:**
  - a) The offer of a commemorative blossom tree and plaque to honour community volunteers and remember those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic: This was discussed and agreed that we accept the offer. The tree will be planted on the recreation field.

**5. Planning:**

<i>Reference</i>	<i>applicant</i>	<i>address</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>SCDC Status</i>
25/03677/FUL	Mrs V Henderson	111 High St	Erection of 2x4bed self-build houses	5/10/25	Approved

Regarding the approval given by SCDC for 2 4-bedroomed ‘self-build’ houses, Cllr. Sargeant spoke of his disappointment at the fact that despite the Neighbourhood Plan which stipulates that smaller houses should be recommended was given insufficient weight to influence the application. Cllr. Copas said they also went against comments made by residents. The Chairman thought a letter should be written to our local MP about this decision.

a) *Streetly Hall Biodigester:* Chris Covey told the Council that due to delays on scheduled work and the archeology investigation taking longer, the work will not start until July 2026 but the work on the access road is progressing and it is hoped to be finished in 2027.

b) *Kingsway Solar Farm:* Regarding the targeted consultation, running between 7 Jan - 4 Feb.2026, Cllr. Copas had sent to all councillors her notes on the latest consultation. She spoke about how even more acreage under solar panels is proposed and some of the ecological areas have been removed. She is concerned about the reasoning behind this as nothing as it seems as if even more land is being used.

Cllr. Sargeant spoke about the KSCA Parish Liaison he had attended on the 20th January. KSCA is waiting to see how Kingsway will proceed given that they have failed to receive NESO ‘Gate 2’ status and thus have not secured a grid connection. Cllr McNeillie asked who funded the cost of connecting to the grid and was told it was funded by the developers. Regarding the approval of KSCA Legal Steering Committee to act on behalf of West Wickham Parish Council in the Planning Inspectorate Examination, a letter will be sent to the parish clerk regarding representation. KSCA are hoping that parish councils will make some contributions towards the legal costs. The Chairman said any money contributed would have to come from the S137 funding or reserves. It might be possible to contribute something towards the end of 2026 but it was agreed to wait and see how the Planning Inspectorate submission progresses.

## 6. Finance:

### a) *Authorised payments:*

- £464.40 Clerks Dec./Jan salary -
- 174.60 HMRC PAYE by 19/1/26 for 3rd qrt. of 2025
- 58.00 E&E Plumridge Inv 5078 - BACS paid 4/12/25
- 58.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 5172
- 36.00 Parish On-line Inv. 12UGO95-0010

### b) *Monies received:* None

c) *Budget for 2026/2027 to be set and Precept for 2026 agreed:* Cllr. Sargeant had looked at this year's tax base and suggested a Precept increase of 4.5%, making money received £14,325. There was the possibility of having a Parish Council election in May so must take into account the cost which could be £600. The Parish Council agreed to the Precept increase of 4.5%. The Chairman will do a budget for April/May to plan our spending commitments.

d) *Auditor for 2025/6:* It was agreed to ask “RunningTotal” (Jackie Dockerill) if she would do this year’s audit.

## 7. Traffic & Parking issues:

### a) *Potholes, flooding and footpaths:*

473753	Church Corner - <b><i>Ditches have been cut from the road so no problem at present.</i></b>
509459	Webbs Road, Streetly End - <b><i>Update re Colin Smith’s email to Cllr Harvey &amp; successful LHI application 2025/2026 6 months before work is carried out.</i></b>
509460	Horseheath Road, Streetly End - <b><i>Asked Cllr Batchelor to check this.</i></b>
19624	Opposite The Old Chapel (29 High St.) <b><i>This has been repaired.</i></b>
19640	Between 3 & 9 High St., (White Horse & Rose Cottage) <b><i>Follow up with Cllr Batchelor.</i></b>
20147	Missing broken 30mph sign (previous reports 492135 & 499915) <b><i>Follow up with Cllr Batchelor - this has been outstanding for many months.</i></b>
16743 17143	Pothole near 30mph sign on entrance to Burton End (previous report 17182) <b><i>This has been repaired but due to the poor workmanship it is very likely to soon need repairing again.</i></b>

Cllr. Batchelor, who was present at the meeting, was asked if he would look into the repairs 509460 Horseheath Road, Streetly End, 19640 between 3 & 9 High Street and No.20147, the broken 30mph sign.

- b) *Speedwatch* readings. Jan 2026 - Burton End facing East: 1 @ 48mph. Total 3259.  
Streetly End facing East: 1 @ 43mph; 22 at 35mph (1.35%)  
Total 1629.

- c) *Speedwatch* training 13 Dec: 11 people attended for initial training and two groups were formed. The first, led by Nick Salter, would run SpeedWatch Sessions in West Wickham while the second, led by Rob Giles, would run sessions in Streetly End. The new MVAC is working well and the Parish Council were given a second hand-held by the police. Cllr Temple showed the Council some 'Speedwatch Area' signs and it was agreed to purchase 3 for £250 which included the mounts.

#### **8. Maintenance:**

- a) *Footpaths*: Cllr Temple said he had not walked the footpaths recently due to the health of his dog. The Footpaths 6 & 5 sign post had been sheared off during hedge cutting. The cost of replacing it would be £10 and it was agreed to replace it and contact Marcus Cornish about this requesting more care with the flayer in future.
- b) *Six free trees offer* - It was agreed that we should order 6 Silver Birch trees, 2 for each entrance to the village. The Clerk will return the form having been signed by the Chairman.

#### **9. Village Hall & Recreation Ground:**

- a. *Repairs to play equipment, broken fencing etc.*: The Chairman had met with Tom Licence and went through what needed repairing and putting up the 3 bollards in the back car park. It would be good to get the work done this financial year and the Clerk will contact Mr Licence.
- b. *Five-a-side project*: The playing field is now a verified organisation with the FA which is a funding body. Applications can be made for additional funding with agreed suppliers for goal posts, grass equipment, maintenance and storage. It is also possible to find funding for pitch implementation costs. The Chairman had spoken to Tom Burley who was willing to donate some of his time in preparing the field. One of his suppliers may donate enough dressing to cover 10mm of the field and another may provide all or part of the grass seed. The area designated for football needs de-thatching with Tony and Sarah Humphrey approached to assist in this regard when the field dries, after which the field can be dressed and seeded. It will then take approximately 3 months for the grass to be established enough for football to be played on the field. This information will be put into the Village Voice.
- c. *The "Strowger" bench*: Cllr. Mulley-Richards reported that the bench should be in place at the end of March. There was discussion about adding more benches and improving the area so that it can be used by larger groups of people to meet and enjoy the view. The area which has been cleared needs attention. Grants are available from SCDC to help with such work. Another idea was to make a pond opposite Cobwebs where there was once a pond, again with grant money.

- 10. LHI Grant:** Cllr. McNeillie - MVAS unit is up and running.

- 11. Meetings attended by councillors:** Cllr. Sargeant attended the KSCA Parish Liaison meeting.
- 12. Reports by District Cllr Harvey & County Cllr. Batchelor** (Dec/Jan. reports on website).  
Cllr Batchelor commented on the January report, particularly regarding the major development of up to 6000 houses called Grange Farm near Little Abington. A public meeting is being held on Wed. 28th January in Abington. Local government elections will be held in May this year.
- 13. Any other Business:**  
The Chairman reported that a pigeon had been found in the garden of 111 High Street which was thought to have been wounded by an air rifle, causing distress to the owner who then had to find someone to properly dispatch the bird. Cllr. Copas also had reports of residents shooting at pigeons with air rifles from their properties. Cllr. Sargeant noted that it is illegal for air rifle pellets to leave a resident's property boundary when shot and will draft a piece for the Village Voice. Cllr. Mulley-Richards will raise the issue on what can be done to inhibit this behaviour at the Police meetings she attends.

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 23rd March 2026**

**Signed:**