

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday
18th May 2026 at 7:45pm in the Village Hall

Those present were: Councillor A. Schuilenburg, Cllr. D.Sargeant, Cllrs.,C. Mulley-Richards, J Copas, G McNeillie, A. Cornish , N. Salter, the Parish Clerk and 3 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 seconds. Cllr Sargeant proposed Alexander (Alex) Schuilenburg to be Chairman, seconded by C. Mulley-Richards and accepted by Cllr Schuilenburg. Cllr. Schuilenburg proposed Cllr. Sargeant to be Vice Chairperson, seconded by Cllr. N. Salter and accepted by Cllr. Sargeant. Cllrs. Mulley-Richards and Alex Schuilenburg were happy to continue as representatives of the Parish Council on the VHMC. The Council agreed to both proposals. As this was a newly re-elected Council, with two new Councillors, Amelia Cornish and Nick Salter, the Declaration of Acceptance forms were signed by everyone. The Financial Interest forms were also signed by A. Cornish and N. Salter as the clerk advised that re-elected Cllrs did not have to complete new FinancialInterest forms. Not all Cllrs had received election spending return forms, although all Cllrs declared they had NIL expenses, so Cllr Sargeant offered to provide a copy of his return form as a template.

2. Apologies: County Cllr.Batchelor & Dist. Cllr. Harvey would be arriving late due to other meetings.

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

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd March 2026 were signed as correct.

5. Correspondence: Letter of resignation from the Parish Clerk and the introduction of the new Parish Clerk, Jess Ashbridge, as from November 2026.

6. Planning:

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>PC Response</i>	<i>Status</i>
26/01367/873	Mrs Churcher	70 Annexe High St	S73 to vary condition 3	14/4/26	Support	

Streety Hall Biodigester plant – Chris Covey told the Parish Council that there would be a 6 month delay before building begins and the plans for the access road are still not complete. The archeological survey is still ongoing.

Kingsway Solar Park - The PINS submission to the government has been delayed twice and was anticipated to be submitted by Kingsway in June . KSCA will issue guidelines to people who wish to respond to PINS.

Forest City application: Cllrs. Copas and Sargeant will attend a meeting on 18th June to learn more about this proposal. Cllr Sargeant said this is a plan for a city much larger than Cambridge to be built in an area between Newmarket and Six Mile Bottom and thought it highly unlikely that permission would be granted.

7. Finance: Accounts spreadsheet distributed to councillors.

a. End of Year accounts 2025/2026: The end of year accounts and bank reconciliation had previously been distributed. These were accepted and signed prior to being submitted to the internal auditor. The AGAR Governance Statement was read and AGAR forms signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk.

b. Authorised payments:

£464.60 Clerks April/May salary

£ 9.00 Exp. photocopy paper.
 £700.00 West Wickham Parochial Church - contribution to churchyard maintenance
 £315.00 Age UK (Mobile Warden scheme)
 £285.77 CPALC Inv. 5970 membership fee.
 £543.19 Clear Insurance Management Ltd. Inv. LCO00815
 £133.20 RoSPA (Playsafety Ltd.) Inv.96996-annual play equipment inspection.
 £ 36.00 CPRE annual subscription
 £ 84.00 E&E Plumridge Inv.5437 (May VV).
 £ 62.88 A. Schuilenburg (Unlimited Web Hosting)

c. *Monies received:*

£14,325.00 SCDC 2025 Precept payment
 £ £93.54 UK Power Networks Wayleave payment.

8. Traffic & Parking issues:

a) *Potholes & Flooding:*

509460	Horseheath Road, Streetly End
20147	Missing 30mph sign & broken post (previous reports 492135 & 499915) ordered
27555 80190 24145 87818 84545 84743 86712 19640	County Cllr Batchelor was asked to look into the ref.nos. Reported as shown in Col.1 Drain cover Potholes by Church Grating
20147 81642 81648 93501	Pothles b the Church Pothole repair incompleated Pothole Faded 30mph signs.

County Cllr. Batchelor, who arrived late due to other meetings, was asked to again press Highways Maintenance to repair the listed potholes and replace the broken signs. Cllr. McNeillie reported that the large hole on the road to Streetly End had been partly filled in but was now a pothole again. Cllr. Batchelor said there was a dispute with the farmer about responsibility. Cllr. Sargeant intends to re-report the holes supposed to have been repaired.

Speedwatch readings: The new speedwatch teams for West Wickham and Streetly End are now up and running. West Wickham had held a session in April and Streetly End in May. Around 100 cars were monitored at each session with around 10% exceeding 30mph. For the Streetly End session out of 80 vehicles, nine exceeded 30mph, four exceeded 35mph and two were recorded at 37 mph including a learner motorcyclist who seemed completely oblivious to the multitude of high-viz jackets watching his progress.

It was agreed that point forward, the PC leave the Speed monitor in place, moving the monitor between West Wickham and Streetly End each month, with Rob Gile and Cllr. Nick Salter continuing with their sessions on a monthly basis. It was agreed that a support bracket or the monitor would be placed on the 30 mph sign post coming into West Wickham from Balsham.

9. **Maintenance:**

- a. *Footpaths:* The Chairman asked for someone to take over the job of looking after the footpaths as Cllr Temple was no longer on the Council. As no-one offered to take this up the PC will remind those using the paths that they can report issues online at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/countryside-access/rights-of-way> and to the PC.
- b. *Dog incident on the High St. West Wickham:* Several reports and concerns have been received from residents regarding anti-social dogs who are not under control when walked. This has resulted in injury to other walkers and their dogs, as well as incidents without injury including to the Chair and his dog. The Chair has contacted the Dog Warden who advised that: (a) should a person get bitten by a dog the police must be contacted immediately on 999; and (b) should another animal be bitten by a dog, the dog warden must be informed. In the latter case, the owners will be served with a Community Protection Warning, followed by a Community Protection Notice on the second report and criminal proceedings on the third report.

After the incident with the chair, the owner walking the dogs assured him the dogs would in future only be walked on a short lead within West Wickham. The Chair will confirm the most recent report to the PC has been submitted to the dog warden, and write an article for the village voice.

Residents are to be advised through the Village Voice the Parish Council has no authority over such matters and incidents involving dog attacks must be reported to the police, in the event of an attack on a human, and to the Dog Warden at the County Council needs to log reports such attacks to be able to deal with them appropriately.

- c. *ABC Tree notice:* Rob Giles gave notice that this season would be his last for cutting the grass on the recreation ground, playground and around the village hall. Cllr Sargeant asked if he would continue to look after the hedging or weed-killing but this was unknown. A replacement for ABC Tree would therefore need to be found.
- d. *Ride-on-mower:* The Council has been offered by Cllr. Copas a sit-on mower to help to keep the 5-aside area grass cut.
- e. *5-a-side football field:* Storage is going to be necessary for safekeeping the 5-aside equipment and the mower. The Chairman would like to purchase a damp-proofed storage container at a cost of £1800 plus £500 for delivery, with additional costs such as siting and insurance to be determined, as a contribution towards the scheme, although the possibility of acquiring a suitable container through the FA was to be further re-investigated by former Cllr Ronnie Temple. The Council agreed in principle and the Parish Clerk was asked to check with our Insurance Company what the extra cost would be to insure this should the PC pursue this alone.

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

- a. *Repairs to play equipment, broken fencing etc.:* The RoSPA reported mostly minor faults but a wooden post of the Zip-Line equipment needs replacing. The Zip-line seat has been removed to prevent further use of the Zip-Line, with the remaining posts tested. Tom Licence would be approached for a quote to replace the posts with a suitable long lasting replacement, and to check on the condition of the other posts. Should he be unavailable the Chairman thought Cambridge Fencing would be able to do the job.
- b. *Five-aside project:* Discussed purchase of storage earlier. However, the location of such storage equipment needs to be discussed. The Chairman had shown on a map two suitable locations. One on the tarmac in the back car park and the second on the grass nearer the five-aside area. This was discussed and the final decision was to locate it on the grass as it would be nearer to the 5-aside area so less distance to carry equipment after games, also out of the public eye. It will of course need to be placed on stone blocks or adjustable jacks.
- c. *The "Strowger" bench:* The Parish Clerk had been told that the bench was ordered and the old bench would be shortly cleared away and the new bench put in place.
- d. *Allotment vacant plot:* The Parish Clerk had been in touch with Mrs Vera Donert regarding the items still needing to be removed. Cllr Mulley-Richards said she would get in touch with her requesting she visit the site to see what exactly needs clearing away.

- e. *Defibrillator: AED batteries:* There is a world-wide shortage of replacement batteries. We have been on an estimated 9 month waiting list since March 2026. Checks of the machine will have to be done more regularly to determine the unit still holds a suitable charge for correct operation.
- 11. Meetings attended by councillors:** Cllr. Sargeant had attended the Cambridge Development Co. Website and also attended the Kingsway Solar Liaison Group. Cllr Mulley-Richards and Chairman Alex Schuilenburg attended a Police Community Emergency Services meeting, held every quarter, which details their activity over the quarter and what they do. The Chairman spoke at the meeting to the Police about recent hare coursing activity and was told to report any active coursing immediately to 999.
- 12. Reports by County Cllr Batchelor & Dist.Cllr Harvey.** (Mar/April. reports on website).
County Cllr Batchelor had already been asked about the pothole situation. He reported Dist.Cllr Harvey's re-election at the local council recent elections. The Lib.Dems have won a very high majority of seats. Cllr Batchelor explained that as the two councils are being made one there will be further elections next year.
District Cllr. Harvey spoke about the local plan regarding Grange Farm development at Abington which is being discussed. A lot depends on the transport structure etc. He also mentioned the Forest City proposal which seems most unlikely.
- 13. Any Other Business:**
- a. Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Report - Cllr. Sargeant will upload details to the website.
 - b. Sharon Spittle from Age UK will talk to the Council at the next meeting, 27th July.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 27th July 2026.