

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Minutes for the meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 28th September 2026 at 7.30pm, held in West Wickham Village Hall, CB21 4SB . Present: Alex Schuilenburg, Nick Salter, Amelia Midwood, Graham McNeillie, Julie Copas, Dave Sargeant, Jenny Richards (Clerk), and Jess Ashbridge (Clerk). County Cllr Henry Batchelor, District Cllr Geoff Harvey, one Parishioner.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Caroline Mulley-Richards **P: Cllr Salter, S: Cllr Schuilenburg, All in fav.**
2. **Declaration of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the meeting** held on Monday 27th July 2026 were signed as correct. **P: Cllr Schuilenburg, S: Cllr Sargeant, All in fav.**
4. **Correspondence:** Clear Insurance with change of registered address.
5. **Planning:**

<i>Reference</i>	<i>applicant</i>	<i>address</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>PC</i>	<i>SCDC</i>
26/022581/LBC	B. Upton	31 Burton End	LBC on chimney works	15/6/26		Approved

Development of one dwelling at The Meadow, comments not made, due to a lack of quorum.

- a) **Streetly Hall Biodigester:** No update, surveying for access road was being carried out. It was advised that no works would be happening before the middle of next year.
- b) **Grange Farm new town proposal:** Comments were submitted before the deadline on 25th September. Concerns were raised re loss of agricultural land, water, transport, and deliverance of C-Set infrastructure.

6. Finance:

a) *Authorised payments:*

£ 28. 25 Clerk's exp (re July agenda) **paid**
£ 464.60 Clerks Aug/Sept salary
£ 58. 00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 5670 (Aug. print) **paid**
£ 58. 00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 5716 (Sept. print)**paid**
£ 51. 22 R.Temple re expenses (Petrol, parts etc.) **paid**
£ 28. 00 Horseheath P.C. -half cost of Grange Farm SAVE fliers.**paid**
£1731.60 Bradley Goss Paddo - groundwork on Village Hall frontage. **paid**
£ 20. 00 West Wickham Gardening Club - loan of projector for SAVE meeting. **paid**

- b) *Monies received:* Allotments payments had been received by 4 parties. It was requested that they paid via BACs in the new year.

7. Traffic & Parking issues:

- a) *Potholes, flooding and footpaths*: Concerns were raised about tickets being closed before work had been carried out.

509460	Horseheath Road, Streetly End - No longer on reporting map. Had been completed
96135 (10/06) 96745 (15/06) 100363 (21/07)	Overhanging trees at 43 Streetly End and NE triangle. Had been carried out by land owners
27555 (03/02) 80190 (17/02) 97193 (18/06) 97194 (18/06)	Potholes between Ivy Todd Farm and Footpath to NE. Some marked 'Not at intervention level' others 'Works Already Programmed' <i>Ordered '21 Day Priority'</i>
84545 (02/03)	Potholes on Maypole Croft - Open.
96744 (15/06)	Overhanging Trees opposite 19-19a - Open.
100252	Missing 30mph sign LHS entering from Balsham (also 00492135,00499915,20147) Ticket closed, should be completed within 90 days.
100376 (21/07) 100377 (21/07) 100378 (21/07)	Overgrown Hedges or grass/weed verge onto pavement obstructing pedestrian and wheelchair access. 65-71 High Street, 51 High Street. <i>Request sent to Highways to attend to this as their responsibility.</i> Highways report required.

- b) *MVAS/Speedwatch* speed readings - The Clerk was asked to find out who the supplier was for MVAS from Highways, as software was not compatible, and contact was needed with the manufacturers. The camera would be alternated between West Wickham and Streetly End, between Cllr Salter, and Cllr McNeillie.

- c) Burton End Facing East W/E 09.09.26 Vehicle numbers:

Under 30mph	35-39mph	40-44mph	45-49mph	50-54mph	Speeding over 35mph	Total
1862	433	120	22	3	578	2449

White Gables Facing West W/E 22.08.26:

Under 30mph	35-39mph	40-44mph	45-49mph	50-54mph	Speeding over 35mph	Total
3599	46	1	1	-	46	3645

- d) *TMC Incident Report*: None reported in the area.

8. Maintenance:

- a) *Footpaths*: Footpath 29 had been cut back. Signpost from footpath 29 had been reinstated.
- b) *Hedges and pavements*: Update following request to Highways, see above.
- c) *Risk assessment review* - Work had started on the playground, digging out concrete for zip wire, works were taking longer than anticipated.

9. Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

- a) *Repairs to play equipment, broken fencing etc:* Volunteers were required to restore the MUGA netting, tying with rope.
- b) *Grass restoration at front of Village Hall* - Completed and in good condition. A drain had been found which had been cleared. The upper car park was leased to the Village Hall Management Committee, it had been discussed about placing the shed in the top car park, for storing the mower, which would be in view of the CCTV for the Village Hall. Shed and base would be approximately £1,000 ex VAT.
- c) *Allotments:* Thanks were offered to the allotment holders for clearing the styre area.
- d) *Strowger bench:* Waiting to be installed, the family would be removing the old bench.

10. Parish Clerk change-over: Handover was in process. Filing cabinet would be placed into storage in the Village Hall.

11. 5-a-side :

- a) *Update Equipment* had all been delivered. Proposal that the PC purchased 2 large bags of pea shingle/rounded gravel and top soil, over the drainage moles, for repairs to occur. It was suggested requesting a working party via the Village Voice/village Whatsapp group. Estimates would be sought. Field Compost would be approached for top soil.
- b) *Storage shed for mower in upper car park* - Above.
- c) *Volunteers:* Requests had been made in the Village Voice, no one had come forward. An organiser was required to marshall people into action.

12. Meetings attended by councillors: S.A.V.E. Meeting on 17th August, GCP Planning forum on 19th August, Grange Farm in Abington.

13. Reports by District Cllr Harvey & County Cllr. Batchelor - Reports appended. Kingsway were expected to resubmit their plans at the end of October. The level of engagement with the public had been criticised. Community funding was raised, it was advised, although the scheme was not wanted, to discuss community funding - there was government guidance on the figures that should be available soon, which should be considerable. The funding would not influence the Planning Inspectorate's views. Views could be expressed on the details sent by West Wrating Parish Council.

14. Items for next Agenda: Policies, Kingsway, Village Voice, and fire risk assessment through Cambridge Fire and Rescue.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 23rd November 2026.

Chairman closed the meeting at 20.54.

District and County Councillor's Report – September 2026

Local Plan

We are now at a very key time in the process for the District Council's Local Plan (the blueprint outlining where to build houses, public amenities and employment space over the next 20 years), we have entered the final round of public consultation that is being undertaken before the plan will be submitted to government for examination. This is very important as it's the last opportunity for us to comment on the proposals before the council can choose to make any final adjustments before submitting. The comments made at this stage will be seen by the planning inspector, who is the one that will make the final judgement on whether the Local Plan is deemed to be 'sound', or not.

The big-ticket item in our area is the Grange Farm new town proposal. Initially it was proposed to build a new 6000 house development to the north of Abington. There were over 1000 representations received via the first public consultation in January this year, on the Grange Farm proposal alone, so thank you to all those who engaged with the process. Following this the council has made some changes – the main two being the number of houses has been reduced from 6000 to 4500 giving a density of circa 45-60 houses per hectare. They have also increased the landscape buffer between the Roman Road, which is classed as a historic monument, and the nearest house. The other big issue is water supply – where will it come from? Given the scale of the proposal at Grange Farm, the proposed plan is to not begin construction of the site until 2034, when a new pipeline from Graham Water is installed and operational. There is also a new reservoir being built in Fenland that will service our area, due around the same time. Whatever the final proposal is, please do use this opportunity to comment on it – positively or negatively – as Grange Farm would be the largest settlement in our area, if taken forward. You can submit your views on the Council's website

<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/proposed-submission-greater-cambridge-localplan>

There are also a raft of public events that the Council are running around the area, where you can go and ask the team questions directly, get the actual facts about the proposals and get help submitting comments, if needed. The events being held locally have all occurred but the full schedule of the public events can be seen here -

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-and-neighbourhood-planning/emergingplans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan-the-20-year-plan-for-the-greater-cambridge-area>

Local Government Reorganisation

The government's plan to turn all local authorities in the country into 'Unitary Authorities' has hit yet another stumbling block. We were originally expecting an announcement from the minister on what the new geographies of the new councils would be back in July. This announcement was then postponed until October this year. We then heard in early September that the entire plan for Cambridgeshire was being paused until further notice, which came as a surprise to a lot of us given the amount of time, effort and money the local authorities have put into facilitating the request. This means that the timetable we had previously reported on, has changed – we now definitely won't have local elections for the new unitary council in 2027, with the earliest date 2028 and said council coming into being in 2029. A bit of a mess to say the least.

Other Planning Matters

You may have also seen that the planning situation in the Greater Cambridge area is to become more complicated. We already knew that we are to have a Development Corporation implemented in our area, which will make all of the decision on 'Strategic Sites' in the South Cambs and Cambridge City areas. This can be anything from a site of 250 houses and higher. We now also have the added complication of Mayors being given more planning powers by central government than they already have, which is essentially only transport planning. They will soon have the power to veto any planning decision made by any of the local councils in the county.

Food Waste Collection

The roll out of separate food waste collections are slowly moving forward. The next tranche of food bins are being delivered in the first week of September. Our part of the District is the last to get the new bins and is currently on schedule to start in October this year