

WENDLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
WENDLING METHODIST CHURCH
ON THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present:- Cllr S Warwick, Cllr M Olley, Cllr C Foster and Cllr D Kemble

Others Present:- 6 electors, Dist. Cllrs R Atterwill, Dist. Cllrs R Duffield,
County Cllr M Kiddle-Morris and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence.

Cllr Warwick welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Knight and these were accepted.

2. To declare any Interests re items on the agenda.

There were no Interests declared.

3. To confirm and accept minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2024

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Warwick proposed the minutes of November 28th be accepted as true and accurate records of the meetings, seconded by Cllr Foster and carried.

4. To discuss any matters from the minutes of November (not on the agenda).

There were no matters to discuss.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

Cllr Kiddle-Morris had sent a report to the Clerk and it will be attached to the minutes. The report commented on the Government's proposals for devolution across the country. Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils are proposing to make a submission to government requesting consideration for an MCA to be formed containing both counties at the earliest opportunity. Should the MCA for Suffolk and Norfolk go ahead in the first tranche, the mayoral elections will take place in May 2026. The new mayor will be given extensive powers with regards to housing, strategic planning, transport, infrastructure, skills and employment.

Cllr Kiddle-Morris also spoke about the Local Government Review. He said that the government has indicated that areas within an MCA should contain only unitary authorities, so in Norfolk all district, borough and the city and county councils will be abolished and replaced by a number of unitary councils. The suggested population level for each unitary council is proposed at 500,000 and there could be 2 unitary councils within Norfolk. Elections for councillors to the new authorities will probably take place in May 2027, when the term of office of current district councillors expires. There is a possibility that the county council elections due to be held in May 2025 will be postponed for 2 years. Currently there are 399 county, district, borough and city councillors. He said, within my Launditch division, which covers 80 square miles of Norfolk, there are a total of 7 Breckland councillors who carry out valuable detailed work, which will in future have to be carried out by the local unitary councillor, as well as the current duties of a county councillor.

Cllr Atterwill reported that the Local Plan has been paused but will commence again in March. The increase in the housing numbers will be taken into effect. In two years' time the four authorities may combine into one.

There was discussion regarding the High Grove Solar Farm proposed by the company RWE. Cllr Olley is of the opinion that many of the residents are against it. A statutory consultation will be happening soon. Cllr Atterwill explained that the planning application will only be refused if the planning applications reasons are against planning rules. Cllr Kiddle-Morris advised those against it to register themselves so they could make comments. He suggested they look at the National Policy Framework to see reasons to object. There will be events taking place soon, where the public can make comments. A group, which is separate from the Parish Council, needs to be formed. So, in time, a group, which is against it, will be formed.

5. To discuss any necessary Correspondence.

There was no correspondence to discuss.

6. To discuss any Planning Issues.

3PL/2024/0866/FMIN Land off Station Road, new tractor shed.

The Parish Council decided not to support this planning application because it will cause a dangerous situation because of agricultural traffic.

7. To discuss any Highways Matters.

The sign at Hulver Street still has not been fixed. Cllr Warwick has received an acknowledgement to state the situation is being looked into. The pot holes at Abbey Close are quite bad now. Abbey Close leads to a residential area. The Clerk will report the situation to Highways.

8. To receive a progress report on the Solar Farm Project.

This subject was discussed under the Public Participation Period.

9. To receive an update on the installation of the Dog Bin, Litter Bin and notice board

The placing of the litter bin, dog bin and moving the notice board have all been dealt with. Breckland will be reminded to empty the dog bin, which is placed on Swaffham Road. The village sign needs to be repainted so Cllr Olley will get a quote.

10. To authorise financial payments.

Cllr Olley proposed the following financial payments be authorised, seconded by Cllr Foster and carried.

Clerk's net salary £253.60 HMRC tax £63.20 Clerk's expenses Dec./ Jan. £78.39
The Community Heartbeat Trust £162.00 M. Olley (brick and patio cleaner) £16.80

11. To receive a financial update from the Clerk.

The financial update had been circulated and no one had any questions regarding the document.

12. To receive an update on the cleaning of Wendling Church of St. Peter and St. Paul.

A resident has volunteered to clean the church and she will obtain the key from Cllr Warwick. When it is cleaner than it is at the moment, then Cllr Warwick can ask the Church Authorities for some financial help. Eventually it can be checked out to make sure the electrics are in order and an offer was made, to do this, free of charge.

13. To discuss the proposed Easter Events in the village.

Cllr Foster proposes to organise an Easter Event starting Friday 18th April and finishing Sunday 20th April. The Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 19th April. The Clerk will organise collecting the equipment from Breckland Council on Thursday 17th April. The rubbish will be left at the Methodist Church and the equipment will be returned on Tuesday 22nd April.

14. To receive items for the next agenda.

- Donation of £30.00 to Wendling Methodist Church.
- To discuss the Village Pond.
- To discuss the Wendling Church.
- To discuss the Easter Events.
- To discuss the clothing and paper bins.

15. To set dates, times and venues of the meetings for the remainder of 2025.

These will be set at the next meeting.

16. To confirm date, time and venue of the March 2025 meeting.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 27th March 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Wendling Methodist Church.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date