

Great & Little Whelnetham Parish Council
 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7.30pm at Great Whelnetham Community Centre

Present	Councillors Peter Royce, PR, John Hepworth, JH, Paul Wallace, PW, Lucy Allen, LA, Bill Atkins, BA, Tim Webber, TW, Elaine Gorman, EG, Clerk.																									
1. Opening meeting	The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.																									
2. Apologies	None																									
3. Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests	None declared																									
4. Minutes	Minutes of the previous meeting held 12 November (minutes as detailed on website), approved by BA and seconded by JH																									
5. Public Forum	The Chair's report, the County and District Cllr Karen Soons' latest newsletter and the Clerk's report were all circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk had received one email from a member of the public and the Chair is responding. Correspondence including NHW crime stats for Oct 2025, WS Housing Supplementary Planning Document 2026 Consultation, WS Chair's Civic Invite, Play Inspection Reports for Nov & Dec 2025, Sustainable Suffolk Newsletter, Delay to Mayoral Elections, Consultation from Cliff Waterman re options for LG reorganisation, Devolution info from SALC, Lighthouse report, SARS report, SW Citizens Advice report, WSC Consultation on Local Validation Requirements, Latest Parish & Town Council Forum info, SALC subscription fees, HAF programme in WS for families were circulated prior to the meeting.																									
6. Statutory Business	a) Risk Management Strategy was considered and reviewed. No changes to be made.																									
7. Planning Applications decided by PC since last meeting	- DC/25/1270/TPO – Re-consultation in respect of planning proposal, TPO 111(1970) tree preservation order – one Oak (T004 on plan, within A1 on order) remove diseased stem; one Oak (T005 on plan, within area A1 on order) reduce height by up to five metres, Location: Acorns, Stanningfield RD, Gt W'ham, IP30 0TL. Council asked a question of the planning officer and await reply.																									
8. Finance	<p>a) Council received and noted payments and receipts since last meeting and approved the bank reconciliation</p> <p>b) Bi-monthly statement received and approved. The current balance in the bank is £4456.88 less the following payments to be issued</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="513 1525 1449 1787"> <thead> <tr> <th>Detail</th> <th>Chq No</th> <th>Net of VAT</th> <th>VAT</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>973</td> <td>2.00</td> <td></td> <td>2.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aubergine 262 Ltd</td> <td>974</td> <td>559.00</td> <td>111.80</td> <td>670.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E. Gorman, exps</td> <td>975</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>275.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>947.87</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>c) Council received and considered the budget for 2025/26 and the proposed budget for 2026/27. Council approved the proposed budget.</p> <p>d) Council considered the precept and unanimously resolved to request an increase in the precept of £6,000 on the previous year's</p>	Detail	Chq No	Net of VAT	VAT	Total	HMRC	973	2.00		2.00	Aubergine 262 Ltd	974	559.00	111.80	670.80	E. Gorman, exps	975			275.07	Total				947.87
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	<p>precept to cover the cost of the work needed for the Railway Walk and to maintain the children’s play area.</p> <p>e) Council approved the Clerk applying for the Communities Capital Grant Funding to be done by 3rd March 2026.</p>
9. Website	The Clerk reported that Aubergine 262 Ltd had started work on the new website. Council should forward any photos, drone shots of the area that could be included. Cllr LA will devise a logo.
10. Railway Walk	Council agreed 16 May as the Railway Walk event day, with meeting scheduled 4 weeks prior (22 April) to make final plans. It was also agreed to reschedule March meeting to 18 March.
11. Traffic, Parking & Speeding	<p>Cllr PR: Following complaints from residents and a minor collision between two vehicles, West Suffolk Parking Enforcement team visited Raynsford Rd and issued 1 PCN and identified several Road Traffic Act offences regarding parked vehicles which they have forwarded details of to Suffolk Police. Parish Council have identified missing ‘No parking signs’ to Suffolk County Council, concerned about requirements for yellow lines, it seems the presence of yellow lines is adequate notice of parking restrictions. The enforcement team were also concerned with parked vehicles obstructing footpaths and access to them, as well as causing unnecessary hazards and delay for emergency response vehicles such as ambulances and Fire appliances not only on this area of Raynsford Rd but also the turning circle and junctions to the Garage access road, as they would not be able to turn around – the concerns have been notified to the Police for potential enforcement action.</p> <p>Speeding: Continues to be a concern on the A134, excessively high speeds are being recorded and reported and despite action being promised to monitor speeds at locations other than the layby opposite the Post Office [where lower speeds are expected due to the road layout, bus stops and junctions] there is a reluctance for Police Traffic Officers to monitor speeds at other locations due to health and safety concerns in respect of the narrow footpath, despite the point being made that the footpath near the VAS sign is of significant width [2 mtrs or more] It does appear that they are reluctant to use their handheld speed cameras and are almost endorsing the excessively high speeds that are being recorded. Emails sent to PCC Tim Passmore remain unanswered.</p>
12. Matters for consideration at next meeting	<p>a) Consider and approve new Model Fin. Regs</p> <p>b) Review Standing Orders</p>
13. Close of Meeting	9.05pm
14. Date of next meeting	Wednesday 18 March at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....