

Great & Little Whelnetham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Wednesday 25 March 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, PR 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 14 January 2026 (minutes as detailed on website), approved by JH and seconded by PW
5. Public Forum	The Chair's report, the County & District Cllr Karen Soons' latest newsletter and the Clerk's report were all circulated prior to the meeting. There were no members of the public present. One email was received and is listed under item 8c below. Correspondence circulated prior to the meeting included Bury Stray Cat Fund planning application, Play Inspection Report Jan 2026, Planning Reforms, SALC news on Road Safety changes.
6. Statutory Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Council approved the statutory legal power s137(4)(a) of the LGA 1972, expenditure limit for 2026-2027 of £11.60 x 1064 (per head of population = £12,342.40 for Gt &amp; Lt W'ham.</li> <li>b) Council reviewed and approved the following policies: Grant awarding, Filming &amp; Lone Worker.</li> <li>c) Council received the SALC Internal Audit engagement letter and approved SALC as auditor for period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.</li> <li>d) Council reviewed and approved updated the Standing Orders.</li> <li>e) Council reviewed and approved the Financial Regulations.</li> <li>f) Council received and adopted the IT policy.</li> <li>g) Council received and approved the revised Website Accessibility Statement.</li> <li>h) Council received and approved the updated Data Protection Policy which has been renamed the General Data Protection Regs and Information Management Policy.</li> <li>i) Council received and approved the updated Privacy Policy</li> </ul>
7. Planning applications decided by PC since last meeting	<p>-DC/26/0093/TCA - Trees in a conservation area notification - one cherry and one hazel (marked 1 and 2 on plan) coppice and the removal of ivy from one hawthorn LOCATION Post Office House Bury Road Sicklesmere Suffolk, unanimous support.</p> <p>- DC/25/1972/FUL Proposal Planning application - a. replacement cat pens and installation of isolation pen b. change of use of bungalow to reception/offices c. cladding to all elevations d. insertion of door on rear elevation of existing bungalow e. installation of covered walkway f. alterations to existing access and parking Location Friars Orchard, Bury Stray Cats Home Bury Road Little Whelnetham Suffolk IP30 0UH Applicant Chair Louise Purnell, Bury's Stray Cat Fund, unanimous support.</p> <p>-DC/26/0229/HH Householder planning application - a. one detached cart lodge b. alterations to front porch c. cladding and render added to all elevations d. single storey front extension e. single storey side extension</p>

	with replacement roof to utility f. alterations to windows and doors on rear and side elevations g. replacement roof to existing conservatory including two roof lights to conservatory roof Location Oak House Bury Road Stanningfield Suffolk IP29 4RX Applicant Mr and Mrs Coe, support - Planning Application DC/25/02730 – Babergh/Mid Suffolk – Valley Farm Solar Farm north of Gedding, 15Km southeast of BSE, objected.																									
8. Finance	<p>7.45pm Cllr Karen Soons joined the meeting at this point. She reported on the day's news announcement of the 3 unity authorities for Suffolk. Re WSC KS reported on the new bin recycling system and the possibility of a 20mph speed limit by the school. PR reported on the situation with speeding in the village and the Hopkins Homes development. KS left the meeting at 8pm</p> <p>a) Council received and noted the payments and receipts since last meeting.</p> <p>b) The Bi-monthly statement was received and approved. The current balance in the bank is £1219.41. Council has moved to online banking and the following payments are for approval to be paid 26.03.26.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Detail</th> <th>Net (of VAT)</th> <th>VAT</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Reference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>E. Gorman, exps</td> <td>160.07</td> <td></td> <td>160.07</td> <td>0001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SALC, payroll</td> <td>45.00</td> <td>9.00</td> <td>54.00</td> <td>A/c 6024, Inv 31002</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>214.07</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>c) Council considered a request for a grant for grass cutting by the Lt &amp; Gt W'ham churches and the Clerk has been instructed to email a grant application form to the applicant.</p>	Detail	Net (of VAT)	VAT	Total	Reference	E. Gorman, exps	160.07		160.07	0001	SALC, payroll	45.00	9.00	54.00	A/c 6024, Inv 31002						Total			214.07	
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9. Council to consider	<p>a) The Service Level Agreement with WSC was considered and approved. PR reported that the Clerk had responded to WSC with some questions about the standards being used that we're out of date but had not received a reply as yet.</p> <p>b) The Clerk advised that Council have been awarded a grant from the Communities Capital Fund of £2187 for the play equipment. Payment will be made first week in April.</p> <p>c) Council considered the new email footer and it was agreed to include the logo. The Clerk will be discussing more with Aubergine Ltd when training starts on the new website in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>d) The Clerk advised that Tim Outlaw of the Suffolk CC Ecology Team will lead the 'Walk &amp; Talk' on the Railway Walk on Sat 16 May. The Clerk to source printed flyers.</p> <p>e) Council considered the Call to Sites from WSC</p>																									
10.	RW Bridge - PR reported on the recent planning application and the lack of knowledge by the PC about this application and the Highways section of Suffolk CC.																									
11. Matters for consideration at next meeting	<p>i) Adoption of Volunteer Policy</p> <p>ii) Playground Inspections – courses available</p>																									
12. Close of meeting	The meeting closed at 9.15pm																									

13. Date of next meeting	Wednesday 13 May 2026
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Signed.....

Date.....