

Great & Little Whelnetham Parish Council Minutes of the **Extraordinary Parish Council**
meeting held **Wednesday 27 August 2025** at 7.30pm at Great Whelnetham Community Centre

Present	Councillors Peter Royce, PR, John Hepworth, JH, Paul Wallace, PW, Lucy Allen, LA, Elaine Gorman, Clerk.
1. Opening meeting	The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.
2. Apologies	Received from Cllr Bill Atkins. Council agreed to consent to accept apologies.
3. Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests	None declared.
4. To consider future development and activity connected to the Railway Walk	<p>Council discussed a proposal/draft plan of action put forward by Cllr LA. Working through the plan, Council agreed some activity had already been achieved which included the maintenance undertaken in October 2024 plus the installation of the bat and bird boxes in March and April 2025. Cllr JH reported that the Suffolk Owl sanctuary and centre had offered to install a couple of owl boxes and this would be in situ in the new year. Cllr JH confirmed he will be starting the installation of the benches and noticeboards in the next couple of months.</p> <p>Council agreed a 3-month short term plan of action. This will be evaluated at the November meeting when Council considers the next phase of action alongside the precept for 2026-27. Action involves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cllr LA devising an A5 flyer for printing and to be distributed to all properties in the parishes informing local residents about what is happening with the R/Walk. Copies to be posted on all noticeboards including main board outside the post office. 2) Cllr JH to liaise with maintenance contractor on dates when 2nd year of work can commence. Potentially 3 days possibly in September followed by another 3 days in October. 3) Cllr TW to enquire about sourcing posts/stakes from West Stow and make and drill brackets for attaching benches to concrete pads. 4) Clerk, EG contact West Suffolk Council re any upcoming funding opportunities and source bluebell bulbs for community planting in October 2025.
5. Close of meeting	9.00pm
6. Date of next meeting	Wednesday 10 September 2025 at 7.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....