

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13th MAY 2026, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllrs D Harris, O Brown, G Battye, J Border, and K Sheath attended in person. D Hattrell (Clerk) attended in person. L Brooks and 1 other attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** Nothing was raised.

b. **District Council Report**

District Cllr Isabelle Reece had sent her apologies; however, the general District Council report included the following: -

1. Suffolk County Council Elections (7th May 2026):

Recent elections were affected by County Division boundary changes, temporarily splitting the Ward. Nayland and Stoke by Nayland were in Constable Division; Bures St Mary remained in Stour Valley Division.

2. Babergh District Council AGM (12th May 2026):

The AGM focused on appointing committee members and chairs, and representatives to outside bodies. Cllr Reece will continue to serve on the Planning Committee.

The next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for 9th June.

3. Local Government Reorganisation & Extraordinary Meeting (19th May 2026):

Central Government is implementing a proposal for three Unitary Councils in Suffolk.

An extraordinary meeting will discuss appointing Voluntary Joint Committees ahead of statutory changes.

The Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan timetable and consultation will also be discussed.

4. Changes to Waste Bins & Recycling:

Most new bins and caddies have been delivered, with updated collection schedules provided.

Cllr Reece will address waste collection changes at the Nayland with Wissington Annual Parish Assembly (20th May).

Pink bins for small electric items have been temporarily removed due to a fire at the Thetford recycling facility; they will return when the facility is operational.

5. National Landscape Involvement:

Cllr Reece remains on the Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley Project Joint Advisory Committee and Partnership.

The next meeting is on 2nd July.

c. **County Council Report**

Our newly elected County Cllr is Cllr Darius Laws was invited to attend PC Meetings and the Annual Parish Assembly. No report was provided, however, he had introduced himself to local PC Chairs and invited them to an introductory evening. Cllr Owen Brown was attending.

Parish Council Meeting

1. Election of Chair and Declaration of Acceptance of Office: Cllr Dawn Harris was elected for the coming year, and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

2. Apologies: were received and accepted from Cllr Tricia Fuller and Cllr David Finnigan. District Cllr Isabelle Reece had also sent her apologies.

3. Approval of Minutes of 15th April Meeting: These were accepted as a true record.

4. Declarations of Interest by Councillors: Nothing was declared.

5. Appointment of Vice Chair, Committee's, Working Groups and Representatives:

Vice Chair: Cllr Owen Brown will continue as Vice Chair.

The following were agreed: -

Finance Committee: Cllrs Harris, Finnigan, Fuller, Sheath and the RFO/Clerk.

Recreation Working Group: Cllrs Harris and Battye

Caley Green Working Group: Led by Cllr Sheath - Cllr Harris and joined by Friends of Caley Green – Sally Dalton

Allotments Working Group: Cllrs Harris and Brown joined by Ruth Beverley

Burial Ground representative: Cllr Brown
Planning: All Cllrs
Trees: All Cllrs – main contact Cllr Sheath
Village Hall representative: Cllr Harris
Community Council representatives: Cllrs Border and Finnigan
Bus Representative: Cllr Border
Parish Tree Warden: Terry Bannister
Parish Footpath Warden: Nigel Beverley – our new volunteer

- 6. Highways:** Between meetings a Nayland Mobility Scooter was observed obstructing the slip road off A134 to Walsh Rise. This was resolved and led to a request for hedges to be cut back from Harpers Hill to Bear Street. Cllr K Sheath has reported. Cllr G Batty reported a huge verge side pothole on Stoke Road. He will report. It was also noted the HGV has not been observed in the Horkesley Road layby for some time.

7. Finance Report:

i) The Chair read from the **bank balances as of 29th April 2026** as £1000 in the Current Account, £55,607.73 in the linked Account and £15,113.39 in the Capital Investment Account, £4,489.31 in the National Savings Account making a total of £76,210.43. The largest receipt during April period was the first instalment of the Precept at £25,630, the VAT reclaim came to £5221.36, PC CIL as confirmed at the previous meeting of £3165.48.

ii) **List of pre-agreed payments for the April period paid on 1st May 2026:** -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1627.19	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£1132.80	Litter/Grass and Allotment
Funds Transfer	Woodland Corner	£500.00	Donation – acoustic project
Funds Transfer	SALC	£484.65	Subscription
Funds Transfer	Village Hall	£32.00	Hire
Funds Transfer	Suffolk Preservation Society	£30.00	Membership
DD card paymt	Zoom	£15.59	Monthly subscription

iii) **Signing of Financial Documents Agreed at the April 26 Meeting**

The financial documents approved at the previous meeting were signed.

iv) **Update on National Savings Account**

The Account has been closed and funds transferred together with the interest balance to our new bank account.

v) **Update on Annual Audit**

All the general documents and links have been provided to SALC, our internal auditors. All financial documents are available for viewing on our website.

vi) **Any other urgent Finance Matters:** - Cllr G Batty reported on the Walsh Trust and confirmed he would provide a report for the Annual Parish Assembly. He confirmed the Charity objectives and the financial position and support to the Parish Hardship and Pantry Fund.

8. Planning

1. Decisions from the Planning Authority: -

- a) The Planning Authority did not object to the following Tree applications: -
 - 18 Stoke Road – **DC/26/00977**
 - Longwood House, 31 Stoke Road – **DC/26/01009**
 - Stourfields, 42 Stoke Road – **DC/26/01036**
 b) Conditions were approved at 14 Church Lane for lighting and biodiversity – **DC/26/01412**
 c) Conditions were partially approved at Nags Corner in relation to contamination. Parts of the condition remain outstanding – **DC/26/01808**.

- 2.** Conservation Area Tree application at land to the west of Mill Street – **DC/26/01760**.
No Objections were agreed by the Parish Council **PC** which was also in accordance with the Parish Tree Warden's recommendations.

- 3. Any other urgent planning matters** – A consultation had just been received in relation to new documents for the Land to the rear of the Anchor application. This will be considered between meetings.
- 9. Street Lighting**: This is in progress. Cllrs Brown and Border are arranging a site meeting.
- 10. Housing Needs Survey**: This is in progress. Cllr Brown is attending a training workshop and is communicating with our contact.
- 11. Recreation and Open Spaces**: An item regarding the Horsewatering was agreed to be considered in Committee following the meeting.
 In relation to Caley Green, Cllr Sheath gave an update from Concertus: -
 “They should be getting the ecologist reports back today. These are going to justify the de-minimis exemption for BNG based on the BNG metric (very recently) undertaken. These will allow the applications to be made. It is then up to planning and the EA permitting team to review and (hopefully) approve the proposals via their due processes.”
 Two swings on the nature reserve have been removed and disposed of between meetings.
 It was noted finance may be needed for new signage on Caley Green going forward, however, the existing signs have been restored for now. In response to a concern regarding the mowing on Caley Green not extending to the reeds at the edge, Cllr Sheath has discussed with our contractors. They have now gone as close to the bank as they consider is possible for safety. There was a comment that it now looks great. Between meetings we have been approached regarding a proposal to remove invasive signal cray fish from the river. The resident has obtained a license from the Environment Agency, and it was agreed he will put a notice on Community Times explaining what he is doing. The PC had some concerns in relation to the necessity and timing for and of traps to be placed on Caley Green and elsewhere out of concerns for users of the river including children, adults, wildlife and pets. Cllr K Sheath agreed to seek further information from the resident – **Action Cllr K Sheath**.
 Cllr G Battye discussed with the family wanting to donate a memorial bench for the late Eva Rolfe. They are not deterred by the pending changes to the riverbank and would like to proceed with the location suggested. It was resolved this can proceed. The Play Park has now been jet-washed and is marginally better than before. A new upgraded litter bin has been agreed which will be donated by the Conservation Society on the High Street next to the bench and noticeboard. It was approved to order the new one subject to checking the locking mechanism with the District Council for emptying – **Action Clerk**. Thanks were expressed to the Conservation Society for this donation.
 A resident has sought permission to erect a fence on their land near the boundary with the Play park. The PC had No Objections and was thankful to the resident for bringing this to our attention – **Action Clerk**. The Chair raised some ongoing concerns with trees on SCC land adjoining Horkesley Road. Cllr K Sheath agreed to investigate with her and then take up with SCC Property – Matthew Lee – **Action Chair and Cllr Sheath**.
- 12. Village Hall**: The Minutes of the recent Meeting had been received and circulated. The roof has been signed off, and we are now in the 12-month snagging period.
- 13. Community Council**: The Minutes are regularly circulated. Cllr Border explained about the online ticketing. The Community Times are seeking more advertisers. They are considering providing equipment to our new Footpath Warden to trim the paths and would the PC contribute towards the cost. Cllr Border will seek further clarification on which organisation would own the equipment and safety/risk assessment matters surrounding the use and maintenance of the equipment should it be provided – **Action Cllr Border**. They are considering the provision of pick-up post boxes at the Village Hall.
- 14. Allotments**: Cllr Brown is arranging to meet key Allotment Holders to explore further an Allotment Association. All proposals coming out of that meeting will be considered by the full PC. Members agreed to assist the Clerk to find a suitable judge for our Best Kept Allotment Competition this year.
- 15. Burial Ground**: Site meeting to be arranged for the DC contractor’s arrangements to restore the old burial ground wall. Otherwise, it is business as usual in relation to enquiries.
- 16. Footpaths**: It was confirmed we have a new Parish Footpath Warden – Nigel Beverley. It was agreed to thank our previous warden for helping with the handover – **Action Clerk**.

- 17.** **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items.
- 18.** **Annual Parish Assembly: 20th May 8pm start.** The agenda was agreed for circulation the next day – **Action Clerk.**
- 19.** **The next PC Meeting is on 10th June at 7.30 pm.** Cllr Owen Brown agreed to chair the meeting.

The meeting closed at **9.20 pm.**