

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10th JUNE 2026, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllr O Brown (Chaired the Meeting), Cllrs G Battye, J Border, D Finnigan, and K Sheath attended in person. D Hattrell (Clerk), and 2 members of the public attended in person. County Cllr D Laws, District Cllr I Reece, L Brooks and 1 other attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** David Slater was unable to attend with our new Footpath Warden Nigel Beverley to discuss his concerns and potential equipment for our warden. See Finance Agenda item. The Clerk explained from time to time we receive the Suffolk County Council (SCC) Cutting Schedule for prioritisation. Nigel agreed to liaise with David Slater regarding his suggestions and for them both to attend a future PC Meeting. Sally Dalton from Friends of Caley Green asked the PC to write to the school in relation to their summer picnic on Caley Green/Sports Day. The additional rubbish this generates cannot be accommodated in the waste bins and bags of rubbish are left causing work for the Friends of Caley Green to clear. She suggested the school takes the rubbish back with them to dispose of – see item following County Council Report. Lorraine Brooks was encouraged that the Planning Application is now in progress for the riverbank improvement at Caley Green – see Planning item. She asked whether the Parish Council (PC) had organised the judging for the Best Kept allotments – see Allotment item.

b. **District Council Report:**

District Cllr Isabelle Reece attended via the video link and had sent a general report outlining: -

1. **Changes to Waste Bins & Food Waste Collection**

- Some residents have not yet received new bins and caddies; crews are working to clear the backlog.
- Residents without new bins should continue using their blue bin for paper/card and black bin for food waste.
- Food waste collection is ongoing, despite some delays. 90% of collections were completed on time the previous week. The contract with the Adnam's anaerobic digester was cancelled; temporary arrangements are in place.

2. **JLP Scoping Consultation**

- Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils have launched the first stage of consultation for a new Joint Local Plan JLP, open from 5 June to 31 July 2026.
- The plan will guide decisions on housing, jobs, infrastructure, environment, and more.
- The current consultation seeks input on key issues and opportunities, not specific development sites, and invites feedback on how the councils should engage with communities.

3. **Local Government Reorganisation**

- Central Government has decided to implement three Unitary Councils in Suffolk.
- Babergh District Council BDC has resolved to establish a voluntary joint committee for Western Suffolk.
- The next Full Council meeting is scheduled for 23 June.

4. **Dedham Vale National Landscape**

- Six new free visitor guides for Dedham Vale & Stour Valley are available for download, featuring walking routes and useful information.

On local matters Cllr Reece has been seeking resolution to the clogged drains on Harpers Hill and is escalating. She is also chasing the Old Burial Ground wall restoration. She noted highways concerns regarding the plans behind the Anchor, and she confirmed the application has not been decided yet and all comments are being taken into consideration. There will be a site visit at Down to Earth regarding an Enforcement matter. Cllr Finnigan asked why only 3 bins were dropped off at Parkers Way when several more were needed. Cllr Reece explained that most bins are in place and they are dealing with reports/queries in the order they arrive, so sadly this means a piecemeal response on occasions. She offered again to take queries from concerned residents on the subject.

c. **County Council Report:**

County Cllr D Laws attended via the video link, and his report covered:

He thanked those who put their faith in him at the Elections. He assured everyone that he lives in the area and wants the best for it and will work on behalf of us all. The results of the SCC election for Constable division* were as follows:

Candidate	Party	Votes
Darius Laws	Conservative	1,459 (elected)
Marc Peter Rowland	Reform UK	1,346
John Whyman	Liberal Democrats	1,059
Zunaid Saiyed	Green Party	743
Lindsay Francis	Labour Party	235

Turnout (high for local elections) 53%

* Bentley, Capel St Mary, East Bergholt, Higham, Holton St Mary, Polstead, Nayland, Shelley, Stoke-by-Nayland, Stratford St Mary and the Wenhams.

There is likely to be another set of local elections in 12 months (with the reorganisation of Local Government planned) so he intends to move quickly to get to know the people and processes at SCC, as well as the hardworking volunteers in our communities and Parish Councils.

Councillors' Locality Budget:

In 2026/27, Suffolk's county councillors have been given a locality budget of £6,000 to spend on community projects. Councillors can make recommendations about funding from this budget for local projects in their division, which should benefit the community. Last year groups and projects that benefitted included: village halls, sports and social clubs, and toddler groups. If you have a project that needs funding, please get in touch. In the case of Constable £6,000 spread across all the Parishes doesn't go far but I'm open minded on project ideas and am particularly keen on community initiatives where additional monies can be leveraged.

Local Highways Budget:

He has enquired about a pothole scheme like Essex where County Councillors can prioritise a select number of pothole repairs at important locations even if they do not meet the intervention criteria.

Miscellaneous & Contact details:

As well as day-to-day casework and signposting he has supported additional yellow lines for the approach road to Dedham because we simply cannot have a situation in which the road is blocked and emergency services can't get through. Tragically this year we've already seen double digit deaths of people getting in trouble in UK waters, which serves as a constant reminder to us all that even the gentlest of waterways carry risk to life. With an increasingly larger (and increased volume of) vehicles on our roads I remain concerned over the destruction of our ancient lanes and safety for all, hence I did not hesitate to support the introduction of a 7.5T weight restriction for certain roads in / around Bentley.

You can email me on darius.laws@suffolk.gov.uk and I use WhatsApp: 07786 007 560.

Cllr Laws offered to speak to the school, as a parent, regarding taking responsibility for their litter at the picnic event. This was agreed.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllr D Harris (Chair) and Cllr P Fuller.
2. **Approval of Minutes of 13th May Annual PC Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record.
3. **Declaration of Interest by Councillors:** Nothing was declared.
4. **Highways:** Cllr Sheath reported that the issues with trees on Horkesley Road were reported to M Lee – SCC Property. Mr Lee has confirmed that work is being organised. A white Audi has been repeatedly parked inconsiderately near the junction at Parkers Way. It was agreed for Cllr Finnigan to email full details to the Clerk to enable her to report to our local police – **Action Cllr Finnigan**. The meeting was closed briefly to allow L Brooks to update on the parking enforcement actions on Stoke Road.

5. **Finance Report:**

i) The bank balances as of 28th May 2026 were £1000 in the Current Account, £48,785.02 in the linked Account and £18,278.87 in the Capital Investment Account, £4,504.20 in the National Savings Account making a total of **£72,568.09**.

ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the May period paid on or by 2nd June 2026: -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1665.10	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£1230.00	Litter/Rec/Grass/allotmts
Funds Transfer	Cllr K Sheath	£142.42	Open Spaces
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£48.00	Hall hire
Funds Transfer	North Essex Window Cleaning	£30.00	Bus Shelter
DD – card	Zoom	£15.59	Monthly subscription

Formal Approval of all the above payments was resolved.

iii) **Any other urgent Finance matters:**

The potential contribution towards equipment for our Footpath Warden was deferred. No other financial items were raised.

6. **Planning:**

1. **Decisions from the Planning Authority:** -

Planning Permission was granted at 16 Paddock Grove for garage conversion and shed – **DC/26/00857**.

2. More plans for the rear of The Anchor Inn (small seasonal water sports business) – **DC/25/05611**.

The Parish Council continued to have **No Objections** providing suitable safeguards/conditions can be put in place.

3. Notification to fell 1 ash at 13 Court Street – **DC/26/02036**.

Both the PC and our Parish Tree Warden had **No Objections** between meetings.

4. Telecommunications application at land at Sewage Treatment Works, Stoke Road – **DC/26/01985**.

The PC had **No Objections** between meetings.

5. Notification of works to Conservation Area Trees at Fen Cottage, 15 Newlands Lane – **DC/26/02252**.

The PC and our Parish Tree Warden had **No Objections**.

6. Planning and Listed Building Application to improve accessibility at 5 Jane Walker Park – **DC/26/02200/02201**.

The PC had **No Objections** subject to assurances that no essential historic asset is being lost and a re-assurance that stringent conditions be imposed in relation to the building work.

7. **Any other urgent Planning matters:** Cllr Sheath was pleased to report that the Planning for erosion repairs at Caley Green riverbank was being progressed at Babergh Planning.

7. **Street Lighting:** No issues were reported. Cllr Finnigan enquired about the lights going off at night. The Clerk explained that the SCC and PC streetlights go off between midnight and 5am to save power costs. However, each light is programmable for variations when important exceptions are presented.

8. **Housing Needs Survey:** Cllr O Brown explained that he attended a Suffolk Preservation Society workshop on Neighbourhood Planning recently. He questioned the consultant after the workshop about the differences between a Housing Survey and Housing Needs Survey. Housing Needs Surveys were popular until funding was withdrawn and are stand-alone Surveys. Housing Surveys are more general and often used as an evidence base for a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Brown offered to do some further research and put a summary together of the next steps. A comments sheet was suggested and Cllr Brown agreed to work on one – **Action Cllr Brown**.

9. **Recreation and Open Spaces:** Including updates on Caley Green. Progress towards revetment and landscaping at the river. Caley Green Strimming and Crayfish permission request.

Update from Concertus re riverbank improvements: -

The planning application has now been made. The Environment Agency consent has been completed. The contract package is being assembled ready to tender. The PC has now received the Planning Consultation. Cllr K Sheath took the opportunity to thank Sally Dalton from Friends of Caley Green for all her efforts and knowledge in this area.

Further Caley Green items

In relation to the rubbish generated at the school summer picnic, County Cllr Darius Laws will informally discuss with the school as a parent.

Cllr Sheath confirmed that restored “keep off the grass” signs are back on Caley Green, and the situation is to be monitored. He has investigated the cutting of the reeds near the riverbank and is happy with the standard of cutting from our contractor and agrees we shouldn’t cut any closer to the bank for safety reasons. Cllr G Battye praised the appearance of Caley Green after a cut.

The opposite side of the river is being explored for the trapping of invasive crayfish. Friends of Caley Green have been clearing excess rubbish left near the bins on the Green. It was agreed for Cllr Sheath to investigate and liaise with our contractor about quoting for this to be added to our yearly contract. Cllr Battye reported that work has commenced in relation to the memorial seat in memory of Eva Rolfe.

Other matters

It was agreed for the Clerk to ask our contractors to cut Pop’s Piece hedge when bird nesting allows and to quote to restore the burial ground turning circle parking where deterioration has been reported – **Action Clerk.**

- 10. Village Hall:** The Minutes of the Village Hall **VH** Meeting had recently been shared. The District Council had raised concerns about fly tipping at the VH bins. They have carried out a one-off clear and passed the concerns to the VH Management Committee to follow up.
- 11. Community Council:** There was nothing to report.
- 12. Allotments:** Cllr O Brown confirmed he has met a key representative of the potential Allotment Association. He summarised that this Council has agreed the principle of exploring an Allotment Association. This could range from a single representative at the Allotments to a Community Interest Company leasing the land from the PC. The representative, Steve Hunter would chair the Association (if it proceeded) supported by Vice Chair/Secretary Ruth Beverley. They have a list of points, and their top issue is a perimeter fence. They feel a focused Association could move more quickly on projects and seek grant funding. Work on a Terms of Reference for an Allotment Association commences and Cllr O Brown intends to bring more information to the July PC Meeting – **Action Cllr Brown.** The PC is determined to find a judge for the Best Kept Allotments this year – **Action Clerk.** ****Update, this was successful and a suitable judging date arranged.**
- 13. Burial Ground:** Burial requests and memorial applications continue to be considered and sympathetically addressed according to our regulations between meetings.
- 14. Footpaths:** The PC was pleased our new warden was able to attend and introduce himself in the public forum.
- 15. Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items.
- 16. Annual Parish Assembly:** Matters arising. Some of the brickwork has been dislodged in the Burial Ground turning circle parking spaces. See action agreed under Recreation and Open Spaces. The question of a Village Sign was raised, and this was already being investigated by Cllr D Finnigan – **Action Cllr Finnigan.** Cllr G Battye agreed to investigate the request for a bench in the shade at the playpark – **Action Cllr Battye.** The Bus Timetable was raised, and Cllr Border is investigating – **Action Cllr Border.** It was noted the report from the Community Pantry is on our website. A final point to note was reference to Village Parking and the VH Car Park.
- 17. Next PC Meeting is scheduled for 8th July 2026.**

The meeting closed at **8.50 pm.**