MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, **14th OCTOBER 2026, AT 7.30 PM** AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllr D Harris (Chair), Cllrs O Brown, G Battye, and K Sheath attended in person. D Hattrell (Clerk), and 3 members of the public attended in person. L Brooks attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum**: N Beverley, the new Footpath Warden, reported that he is enjoying walking the paths and had good support from the previous Warden and the SCC Right of Way Officer, Callum Leslie. He inspected Star Alley, Footpath 21, and would like SCC to assess the railing requirement for the steps. The Clerk agreed to contact SCC to seek this additional review. It was agreed to put our Footpath Warden in touch with a neighbouring Footpath Warden to discuss matters of common interest – **Action Clerk**. A representative from the British Legion attended to ask whether the PC supported a sign to be placed on the old Burial Ground wall to point towards Commonwealth war graves. The PC confirmed the old Burial Ground wall is the responsibility of the District Council, however, following discussion later in the meeting the Clerk could pass on a request – **Action Clerk.**

b. **District Council Report**

District Cllr Isabelle Reece had sent apologies due to a work commitment. Her general report was circulated as follows: -

1. **LGR Withdrawal**

- Officers ceased work on LGR after government decision; no current proposal for Suffolk.
- Elections for Babergh District will proceed; no Shadow Unitary Authority elections.
- Government will review existing LGR proposals and provide further guidance.

2. **Planning Policy Changes**

- New NPPF alters definitions of Settlements, Neighbourhood Plans, and development outside Settlements.
- Director of Place will notify parish councils about these planning updates.

3. **Facilities and Community Updates**

- Sudbury swimming pool closed on 17th September; age and safety concerns driven rebuild needed.
- Other facilities at Kingfisher Leisure Centre remain open.

4. **Council and Partnership Activities**

- Full Council approved reports and frameworks; next meeting 20th October.
- Cabinet approved LDO development and monitoring reports; October meeting cancelled.
- Dedham Vale Partnership agreed to enhance environmental cooperation with parish councils.

c. **County Council Report**

County Cllr D Laws was unable to attend and his report covered:

1. **Local Government Reorganisation Uncertainty**

- The Government has withdrawn its previous plans for reorganising Suffolk's local government.
- The Conservative Group continues to argue for a single unitary council.
- This has created delay and uncertainty for councils, staff, residents and businesses.
- Appreciation is expressed for strong PCs supporting local communities.

2. **EcoPower Suffolk Solar Project – Conservative Response**

Suffolk Conservatives have formally responded to the Section 42 consultation, raising major concerns including loss of farmland, traffic and access issues and harm to landscape, heritage and the environment.

3. **Suffolk Highways – Surface Dressing Programme**

- 141 km of roads treated across 86 sites (over 750,000 m²).
- Surface dressing extends road life and reduces repair costs.
- Trials of:
    - Variable Message Signs for better communication.
    - Lockchip to reduce loose chippings.
- Programme ran June–August 2026.

Emergency road issues: 0345 606 6171 Report defects: suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue

4. **Warm Homes Suffolk Loan Scheme**

Low-interest loans (2.2% APR) available for homeowners to improve energy efficiency.

- Loans: £2,000–£15,000, repayable over up to 7 years, no early repayment penalty.
- Eligible improvements include:
    - Solar panels & batteries
    - Heat pumps
    - Insulation
    - Double/triple glazing
    - Solar thermal systems
- Aims to reduce bills, improve comfort and support winter wellbeing.

More info: lendology.org.uk/partner/suffolk-council/

5. **Suffolk in Motion Event – 10 October**

There was a free sustainable travel event at London Road (Copdock) Park & Ride.

Activities included:

- Balance bikes for children
- Free bike health checks
- E-bike trials
- EV displays & test drives
- Info on electric car clubs
- Prize draw (Ipswich Town FC shirt, afternoon tea)

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllr P Fuller and Cllr D Finnigan.

2. **Approval of Minutes of 9th September PC Meeting**: These were accepted as a true record.

3. **Declaration of Interest by Councillors**: Nothing was declared.

4. **Highways**: potential village entry signs and double yellow lines at Parkers Way. It was hoped Cllr D Finnigan could explain the requirements for Parkers Way, so it was agreed to postpone the item of yellow lines until the next meeting and also to ask Cllr Finnigan to seek feedback from residents on the proposal ahead of that meeting – **Action Cllr Finnigan and also the Clerk to include agenda item.** It was also agreed to postpone the discussion on potential village entry signs until the financial implications are understood. The Chair agreed to seek further information between meetings. It was agreed for the Clerk to include on the next agenda – **Action Clerk.**

5. **Finance Report:**

i)The bank balances as of 29th September 2026 are £1000 in the Current Account, £55,442.35 in the linked Account and £21,444.35 in the Capital Investment Account, £4,504.20 in the National Savings Account making a total of **£82,390.90.**

ii) List of pre-agreed **payments** for the September period paid on or by **1st October 2026**: -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1997.28	salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£870.00	litter/grass/open spaces
Funds Transfer	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£504.00	External Audit
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£16.00	hall hire
Funds Transfer	North Essex Window Cleaning	£30.00	bus shelter clean
DD - card	Zoom	£15.59	monthly subscription

The employment costs included the back-dated pay settlement for the Clerk to April 2026.

Formal Approval of all the above payments was resolved.

iii**) Conclusion of External Audit.** The External Audit was concluded with all matters approved and the Report and Conclusion Notice are displayed on the PC Website.

iv) **Any other urgent Finance matters –** Scribe Accounting access has been given to Cllr K Sheath to enable him to carry out quarterly reconciliation between the bank and Scribe as agreed. Cllr G Battye had been working on a table of responsibilities in respect of the Parish. All agreed this is helpful.

6. **Planning:**

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

a) Planning Permission was granted without compliance with conditions at Kingfishers, 108 Bear Str – **DC/26/02973.**
b) Planning Permission was granted for ground spa at 20 Fen Str – **DC/26/02761**.
c) The Planning Authority raised No Objections for tree notification at Lower Courtwood, 13a Court Str – **DC/26/03469.**
d) Revisions to Photo Voltaic Panels were approved at Nayland Village Hall – **DC/26/03750** and confirmation of compliance of conditions for **DC/22/01286**.
e) The Planning Authority raised No Objections to intended felling of pear tree at Hillside, 14 Stoke Rd – **DC/26/03841**.
f) Planning Permission was granted for oak framed shelter at Stourfields, 42 Stoke Rd – **DC/26/03355**.
g) The Planning Authority raised No Objections to proposed crown reduction of maple at 12 Bear Str – **DC/26/03951**.
h) Permission granted for householder application at 85 Bear Str **– DC/26/03951**.
i) Permission granted for householder application at 73 Bear Str – **DC/26/00860**.

2. Both the PC and our Parish Tree Warden had No Objections to notifications of tree works at the following: -
- Hillside, 14 Stoke Rd - **DC/26/03841**
- 12 Bear Str – **DC/26/03841**

3. 35 Bear Str – **DC/26/03917** – Listed Building Application
The PC had **No Objections.**

4. Stourview, 34 Stoke Rd – **DC/26/04110** – Application for works to protected trees
Both the PC and our Parish Tree Warden had **No Objections**.

5. **Any other urgent Planning matters –** The National Planning Policy Framework has recently updated – August 2026. The Clerk is attending training and will try to get some slides to share with Councillors.

7. **Street Lighting**: Cllr O Brown reported now the evenings are darker, he'll be able to review potential dark spots in the Parish where new lighting might be helpful. One request was on Bear Street near the Church Hall. Once that review has been done, the Clerk will try to organise a site meeting with an Engineer from SCC to establish feasibility of electricity supplies and costs of new lights to enable the full PC to consider and budget further – **Action Cllr O Brown and Clerk**.

8. **Housing Needs Survey**: It was resolved in view of the changes in relation to National Policy, targets and the review of the Local Plan, the consideration of a Housing Needs Survey or Neighbourhood Plan will be postponed. However, this item will remain on the agenda pending reports in relation to developments in this field.

9. **Recreation and Open Spaces**: Caley Green and decorative Village Sign.
Cllr K Sheath is seeking progress updates at Caley Green in relation to the revetment and river landscape improvements. Mr M Lee – SCC Property – has been asked to organise the painting of the culvert fence next to the bus stop. A meeting has been arranged with National Landscapes to seek ideas for the Allotment field. National Landscapes may also assist with signage etc for Caley Green. The Chair will investigate reports of garden waste in the vicinity of the Anchor Pub. It was agreed for the play park to be reviewed during the Annual Meeting with our Grounds Maintenance Contractors and if necessary, the Clerk will be asked to book our Annual Safety Inspection of the Play Park earlier in this financial year **– Action Chair, Cllr Battye and Clerk.**

10. **Village Hall**: The Minutes of the Village Hall Meeting had recently been shared. The Village Hall Management Committee are proposing to install EV charging points in the car park. The PC resolved to support this proposal.

11. **Community Council:** Cllr D Finnigan is due to attend the next Community Council Meeting at the end of October.

12. **Allotments**: The rents have just been requested. Cllr O Brown confirmed in relation to an Allotment Association Terms of Reference, it may be sensible to agree a working group or committee of the Parish Council as a first step. The meeting was closed for a representative of the Allotment Holders to speak. She felt on previous record the PC have not shown a pro-active approach, so didn't think a working group of the PC would necessarily allow the Allotment Association to manage projects such as the perimeter fencing and apply for loans. Parish Councillors expressed some initial views, however, the need for a proposal (including the risks and benefits) from the Allotment Holders was stressed. The representative stated she hoped the PC would help support the finances.

13. **Burial Ground**: The Commonwealth war graves sign proposal was supported, and it was agreed for the Clerk to confirm to the British Legion and the District Council who are responsible for the wall and old burial ground – **Action Clerk.** Cremation area improvements were briefly discussed and will be considered further. One idea is to install a path to the area. Seasonal Meeting with contractors was to be scheduled. The quote to supply and plant the memorial tree to replace the rowan that died was approved – **Action Clerk to instruct the work**.

14. **Footpaths:** Report from Parish Footpath Warden in the public forum was noted and members appreciated the Warden coming to the meeting. Between meetings, the County Council has been approached regarding the surface of Star Alley – Footpath 21. The Right of Way Officer is seeking an assessment and a response is awaited. It was agreed to also ask them to look at the railings from an access point of view – **Action Clerk.**

15. **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items.

16. Next PC Meeting is scheduled for **11th November 2026.**

The meeting closed at **9.25 pm.**