

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8th JULY 2026, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllr O Brown (Chaired the Meeting), Cllrs G Battye, D Finnigan, P Fuller, and K Sheath attended in person. County Cllr D Laws, D Hattrell (Clerk), and 1 member of the public attended in person. L Brooks and 1 other attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** A resident explained her concerns regarding the management of the Allotment field for hay and grazing. She was concerned that if the farmer mows too early, she explained before 1st August, the skylarks and other wildlife are affected. She explained general guidance including from the RSPB supports the later mowing. She added this also helps butterflies and wildflowers. She would therefore like the PC to officially agree with the farmer mowing on or after 1st August each year. Cllr G Battye explained the history of the field which was arable prior to its current use. Cllr O Brown explained we will next discuss with the farmer before considering this further – **Action Chair**. L Brooks then asked about the bus timetable changes. Cllr D Finnigan explained that he joined the online meeting of the Enhanced Partnership Passenger Group, and it was anticipated an update will be provided at the next meeting. The representative from Friends of Caley Green asked the PC to write to the Head Teacher of the School to thank them for all the care taken to leave Caley Green tidy and take their rubbish with them at the recent summer picnic/sports day. This was agreed – **Action Clerk**.

b. District Council Report

District Cllr Isabelle Reece had sent apologies and a general report outlining: -
Waste Bins & Food Waste Collection Updates:

- Food waste collection achieved a 99.8% same-day completion rate recently.
- Residents awaiting new bins/caddies should email recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk or call the council if they have not received them and continue using existing bins until the new ones arrive.
- Continue to sort recyclables and food waste as per the current system until the new bins are delivered.
- Missed bins should be reported at the end of the day; food waste missed collections are prioritized for the next collection.

Full Council Meeting (23rd June):

- Babergh District Council established a Conservation Area for part of Sproughton.
- The Conservation Area Appraisal was also adopted.
- The next council meeting was scheduled for 21st July.

Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Scoping Consultation:

- A public consultation is open until 31st July 2026, inviting residents, businesses, and stakeholders to provide input on key issues and opportunities for the new Joint Local Plan.
- This is an early-stage consultation, focusing on gathering views rather than making decisions about specific development sites.
- The consultation also seeks feedback on how councils should engage with communities during the planning process.
- Participation details are available on the Mid Suffolk Council website.

Suffolk Wine Trail Campaign:

- A new Suffolk Wine Trail has been launched to promote local vineyards and boost wine tourism, supported by Babergh, Mid, and West Suffolk District Councils.
- The trail features over 13 vineyards, with eight highlighted on the Visit Suffolk website, offering tastings, tours, and dining experiences.
- The campaign coincides with English Wine Week (20th–28th June).

c. County Council Report

County Cllr D Laws attended and his report covered:

Water Safety

- Current State: Increased use of rivers and coastline during warmer weather has raised water safety concerns, especially at the River Stour.
- Risks: Recent serious injury at Dedham due to concealed hazards in the river.
- Actions: Investigation into river hazards, consideration of additional warning signage, and discussions about physical measures to discourage bridge jumping.
- Recommendation: Ongoing support for water safety awareness and accident prevention. Cllr Darius Laws discussed his actions in this respect.

Speeding and Traffic Management

- Current State: Speeding and increased traffic volumes are frequent concerns among residents.
- Community Actions: Use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and Community Speedwatch groups to promote safer driving.
- Requests: Calls for lower speed limits and Quiet Lane designations.
- Recommendation: Residents should discuss speed limit reviews or Quiet Lane proposals with parish councils.

Quiet Lanes

- Purpose: Encourage respect for pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders on rural roads.
- Update: Quiet Lane status is now considered in official diversion route planning to prevent unsuitable use during roadworks.

Highways Maintenance

- Current State: Potholes and highway defects are major resident concerns.
- Reporting: Residents should report defects via the Suffolk Highways website.
- Policy Suggestion: Proposal for more flexible repair criteria, allowing councillors to recommend repairs for problematic defects not meeting standard intervention thresholds.
- Example: Successful advocacy for preventative repairs outside a school before repainting lines.

Surface Dressing Programme

- Scope: Annual programme treating about 759,000 square metres of road.
- Benefits: Extends road life, improves safety, and reduces future costs.
- Improvements: Use of Variable Message Signs and trial of 'Lockchip' to reduce loose chippings.
- Resident Role: Move vehicles and exercise caution during works.

Local Government Reorganisation

- Change: Suffolk will transition to three unitary councils.
- Concerns: The report's author disagrees with the decision and criticizes the council's legal challenge as a poor use of resources.
- Priority: Focus on maintaining good services during the transition.

Democratic Accountability

- Issue: Recent restriction on councillors to one question per agenda item limits scrutiny.
- Recommendation: Councillors should retain the ability to fully examine proposals and represent residents.

Adult Social Care

- Positive News: Suffolk's Adult Social Care service rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission.
- Importance: Recognizes staff efforts and the significance of supporting vulnerable residents.

On local matters Cllr Darius Laws is pursuing the surfacing of Bear Street and delaying re-applying the lining until the surfacing has been done.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllr D Harris (Chair).
Members were sorry to hear of a Councillor Resignation – Cllr Joan Border. The Clerk will now formally process the resignation, and a further Vacancy will result in due course – **Action Clerk.**

2. **Approval of Minutes of 10th June PC Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record.

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

4. **Highways:** Cllr D Finnigan agreed to take over the investigation into the buses and stops from Joan Border due to her resignation from the PC. Cllr K Sheath confirmed the reported tree work along Horkesley Road is being scheduled by SCC Property.

5. Finance Report:

i) The bank balances as of 30th June 2026 are £1000 in the Current Account, £45,474.11 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 **£69,257.18.**

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

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1656.10	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£1275.60	Litter/Grass/allotmts/highways

Funds Transfer	SALC	£502.80	Internal Audit Fee
Funds Transfer	A. Griffiths	£75.00	Horsewatering
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£16.00	Hall hire
DD - card	Zoom	£15.59	Monthly subscription

Formal Approval of all the above payments was resolved.

iii) First quarter budget review – this was circulated ahead of the meeting. Members confirmed safe receipt and no questions were raised.

iv) Audit updates – the Internal Audit Report confirmed all matters compliant with some recommendations for the future. The full report can be viewed on the PC website. The External Audit documents were submitted ahead of time and have been acknowledged. Assuming all matters are complete, the findings will form an agenda item to consider at the September PC Meeting – **Action Clerk**. Members took the opportunity to thank the Clerk for her hard work in preparing for and engaging with the Audit.

6. Planning:

i. Decisions from the Planning Authority: -

The Planning Authority raised No Objections to the felling of ash at 13 Court Street – **DC/26/02036**.

ii. 20 Fen Street – Householder Application – Installation of an above ground spa within the rear courtyard garden - **DC/26/02761**.

The PC Objected in view of limited information provided as it was not possible to properly assess the application. A detailed plan is needed with the pool model/type and a clear drawing of any associated paths and structural base required. Consideration needs to be given to the frequency of emptying and disposal of the contents to avoid pollution. Finally, information is needed to assess the impact on neighbour amenity due to noise from pumps, jets, music, and additional lighting for night-time use. This PC awaits the further information and were surprised the application progressed without these details being provided.

iii. Any other urgent Planning matters.

Cllr O Brown shared information about 2 pilots with AI technology being used for planning. One relates to the merging of paper-based documents and the other is to review consultee documents for Planning Officers. AI scans the documents and produces recommended decision and summary.

7. Street Lighting: There is nothing to report currently. Cllr O Brown will continue to review the streetlight provision on Bear Street when the evenings become darker again.

8. Housing Needs Survey: Cllr O Brown is attending a further workshop in relation to the Local Plan. He will shortly provide information to the PC on options of Housing Needs Survey or Housing Survey – **Action Cllr O Brown**. The CIL money has been ringfenced pending a resolution of whether to proceed with a survey. It was agreed to move the amount set aside and the remaining PC CIL into Earmarked Reserves – **Action Clerk**. There should also be a further update on the potential Alms houses for Plough Lane in September. The Clerk added a Housing Survey of some description may assist towards evidencing the need for the housing being proposed.

9. Recreation and Open Spaces:

Caley Green

Revetment - Update from Concertus: -

The planning application responses are being actioned by Concertus. These include: -

- objection from the Environment Agency EA – to the kedel wood. This could be changed to oak; however, the lifespan would be affected.
 - Comments on the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements
 - Objections from the National Landscape team to the visuals.
- Concertus are in discussion with Planning and (at the time of the meeting) await their view before formally responding.

Encouragingly the EA has not objected to anything other than the timber type.

The EA permit application is in hand with Matthew Lee, SCC Property.

The contract documents are being created with a plan to tender around the middle of the month

Caley Green Signs

Some of the “Keep off Caley Green” signs are getting worn where they have been used by visitors not in the intended way. Cllr K Sheath is monitoring the situation. The Friends of Caley Green do have some spares if required.

Bin capacity in peak season

The bin emptying when the Dalton’s move away from next season was discussed. Various solutions were discussed; however, it was agreed firstly to investigate options with Public Realms, BDC –

Action Clerk. Cllr K Sheath agreed to discuss with our Grounds Maintenance Contractors to see if it was possible to add to their schedule – **Action Cllr Sheath.** Alternatively, we could consider further or bigger bins to increase capacity. A solution needs to be agreed prior to budget, so the funds are set aside for increased expenditure from April 2027.

Tree Survey

SCC Property had done the tree survey on Caley Green, and the report had been circulated to the PC.

Open Spaces

Cllr Sheath had noticed pallets at the side of the Village Hall which he had reported to the VH Committee and had volunteered to re-position himself following the meeting – **Action Cllr Sheath.** Pop’s Piece hedge was cut as agreed and the PC was pleased with the standard.

10. **Village Hall:** The Minutes of the Village Hall Meeting had recently been shared. The PC is likely to be approached regarding the kitchen improvements and a fallen tree on Webbs Meadow. It was agreed to attend to the fallen tree between meetings subject to liaison between Chair and Clerk when approached.
11. **Community Council:** The Chair attended the last Meeting and the Agenda and Minutes are regularly circulated.
12. **Allotments:** Allotment Association Terms of Reference progress report - Representatives are making enquiries regarding insurance and further discussions are due to take place in relation to a potential allotment association. The Chair put new numbers on the allotment plots ahead of the competition which was praised. The judging took place and the prize cheques were signed. The Chair will follow up with the farmer regarding the suggested later mowing regime and report back to Council – **Action Chair.**
13. **Burial Ground:** Burial requests and memorial applications continue to be considered and sympathetically addressed according to our regulations between meetings. The daughter in respect of the grave which sadly had a dead tree growing has approached the Clerk. She doesn’t live in the area now. She would very much like to be involved in the decision over a replacement tree. The Clerk had explained the PC were looking to plant a replacement tree in the vicinity, however, this has yet to be arranged. The Tree Surgeon will contact us towards the end of September with some potential options for consideration.
14. **Footpaths:** There was nothing to report.
15. **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items. The new bench on Caley Green in memory of Eva Rolfe was praised. The advert will continue publicising the need for new Parish Councillors.
16. Next PC Meeting is scheduled for **9th September 2026.**

The meeting closed at **8.48 pm.**