

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council meeting held Monday 2 June 2025, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett.

Present: Cllr D Howard, Mrs E Aldred, Mrs L Drury, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech and Mrs J Weir
County and District Cllr A Stringer, two members of the public.

1. **Apologies and Consent to absence** – apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs K van Zy, T Alston, S Alderton and N Lingard. Members unanimously accepted and approved the apologies.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **Reports**
 1. Police available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk> – no queries were raised.
 2. County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). No queries were raised.
 3. District Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). A query was raised as to why the proposed White Elm Solar Farm had been withdrawn. Cllr Stringer understood the application had been poorly planned and had included a large amount of grade 2 agricultural land
 4. Footpaths - Cllr Mrs Aldred reported a number of footpaths were overgrown and due to be cut by Suffolk CC. A copy of the cutting schedule would be requested.
A number of footpaths were also suffering from dog fouling, particularly from the Church to Wetheringsett Manor, Pitman's Corner and The Sidings/Hall Lane. A note reminding dog owners to pick up and make use of the dog bins would be included in the parish magazine.
 5. Trees – a branch had fallen off an oak tree at Low Road Farm, Mendlesham Road, it was situated on the verge and appeared to be in need of attention. Cllr Mrs Aldred stated she would be attending the Tree Warden's AGM at Butley on 13 June, this would include a walk to view ancient trees.
6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

A Wetherup Street resident gave an update on the flooding problem surrounding the village pond and across the road to the coal yard. Surrounding ditches were in need of clearance, a drainage pipe into the pond appeared to be blocked and the pipe under the road from the coal yard to the pond blocked. Water was not getting away from the pond. County Cllr Stringer stated these works were included in the s.19 flood report. There was a need to identify the individual responsibility for the works. This was being investigated. The Chairman thanked the parishioner for the updated report.
6. **To consider for approval Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held 12 May 2025**

Cllr Mrs Weir proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech – proposal carried with one abstention.
7. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
8. **To consider co-option to fill Parish Council vacancy**

Mr Stephen Dodgson was in attendance at the meeting having observed the previous meeting and having expressed an interest in joining the council. Mr Dodgson stated he was new to the village and keen to become involved in the community. He had previously worked in the insurance industry and had a knowledge of IT. The Chair thanked Mr Dodgson for putting himself forward for the role and proposed he was co-opted to join the council, seconded Cllr Mrs Weir – proposal carried. The Chair welcomed Mr Dodgson to the Council.
9. **Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC** – none received
10. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC** – none received
11. **Planning correspondence**

MSDC: proposed revised Community Infrastructure Levy (Cil) Charging Schedule – six-week consultation 26 May – 9 July 2025 – circulated. Deferred to next meeting.
12. **Wetheringsett Flood s.19 report**
 1. Report on Wetherup Street remedial work. See item under Meeting Open to the Public above. Cllr Lacey stated there may be a cost to the Parish Council for the remedial work to the Parish Pond. Item deferred to next meeting pending report on landowner responsibilities from parishioner/Cllr Lacey.
 2. It was reported the A140 remedial flood work was due to commence during July. Cllr Stringer stated if landowners were not taking responsibility for remedial work this should be reported to the Suffolk CC flood team.
13. **Wetheringsett Emergency Plan** – report on distribution of plan to parishioners via Parish Magazine

The Emergency Plan would be delivered to each household with the June Parish Magazine. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Mrs van Zyl for her work on the Plan. Item could be removed from the agenda.

14. Wetheringsett Village Hall - no reports available. Deferred to next meeting.

1. Management Committee report
2. Report on School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease

13. Cemetery and Play Area Grasscutting report

The Chair reported the Manor School was currently cutting the Play Area. He would speak to them regarding the cost for the work.

There had been one cut of the cemetery. The Chair would obtain details of the contractor and a copy of his public liability insurance cover.

14. Play Area report – no report.

15. VAS and Solar Speed Camera Report

The speed data for the solar camera at Brockford Street had been circulated and would be sent to Suffolk Police on a monthly basis.

Cllr Mrs Weir stated the post for the proposed solar camera at Hockey Hill had yet to be installed. This was likely to be during July. There was no update regarding the application for funding for the two solar devices. Cllr Stringer would investigate. The Chair would contact the Manor School regarding its offer to fund the two solar cameras.

Cllr Mrs Drury and Cllr Lacey offered to take over the data download and circulation of the mobile VAS data.

16. Proposed new Parish Council/Community Website report – deferred to next meeting.

17. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none.
2. Accounts for payments
Clerk – sal/expen May 2025 £346.80
Cllr Mrs Leech proposed payment of the above, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred – proposal carried.
3. Finance report – documents for the annual internal audit had been forwarded to the SALC auditor.

18. To consider for adoption the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020

Deferred to next meeting.

19. Clerk's report/correspondence

MSDC – Listed Building Consultation – 26 May – 11 July 2025. The consultation documents had been circulated. Councillors supported the proposals.

Local Government Re-organisation – survey inviting residents to help shape the future of Suffolk. Details would be included in the Parish Magazine.

Suffolk CC – funding for bus stop improvements – noted.

SALC – Mid Suffolk Area Forum Thursday 26 June 2025 – noted.

Proposed White Elm Solar Farm – withdrawn indefinitely – noted.

MSDC – Review of Licensing Policy consultation 20 May – 11 July – noted.

20. Chair's Report

The chair reported he had been invited to the opening of the extended railway line at the Middy.

21. Any other business for information exchange/future agenda requests

Defibrillator – Cllr Mrs Leech reported the defibrillator batteries would need to be changed in the near future, these would cost in the region of £250. In the meantime they were being monitored via the fortnightly checks.

22. Date of next meeting: Monday 7 July 2025, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall

Meeting closed 7.45pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – June 2025

Care Market Strategy On Tuesday 13 May, Cabinet approved the council's new five-year Care Market Strategy, which replaces the previous strategy from 2021-2024. The strategy sets out how the council will work with care providers

in the county and other voluntary and community organizations to ensure there is enough care accommodation and workforce to meet adult social care need. The council has a legal duty to do this and care purchasing is one of the largest costs faced by the council – over £380m in the 2024-25 financial year, with demand forecast to keep growing. The strategy was developed in partnership with care providers, NHS Integrated Care Boards and Healthwatch Suffolk, with a focus on supporting people with higher additional needs such as dementia, neurological illness and autism, promoting independence where possible and providing better support for unpaid carers.

You can read the new strategy here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/suffolk-care-market-strategy-2025-2030.pdf>

Council Objections to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects The Cabinet meeting on 13 May also agreed that the council should object to the proposals for the Sea Link Grid Reinforcement, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) creating an undersea link between Kent and Suffolk, making landfall near Thorpeness and including a converter station being built at Saxmundham. The council acknowledged that the infrastructure was important for connecting low carbon energy developments, but that they had concerns about a number of issues, including the proposed bridge across the River Fromus which was felt would have significant adverse effects on the local landscape and character, and the inclusion of 7am to 5pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays in the working hours, as this would not give local residents any respite from the construction works. The council also reiterated the lack of coordination with other energy projects in the county, particularly National Grid Ventures' Lion Link project which is due to make landfall further up the coast at Walberswick. The council has also objected to the plans for Eco Power's new large solar farm in north Suffolk, based on several factors including the loss of good quality agricultural land, the impact on communities and the local landscape and damage from cable corridors. A statutory consultation on the plans is expected later in the year.

Consultation launched on Developer Contributions Suffolk County Council has launched a consultation so Suffolk residents can give their views on the contributions which can be sought from developers proposing major planning applications. In 2011, the council published the "Developers Guide to Infrastructure Contributions to make developers aware of what they should consider, and the financial contributions they should take into account to mitigate for the impact of new developments such as housing estates. The guide has been updated periodically since it was launched, and has now been reviewed and is out for consultation focusing on early years childcare settings, education costs, libraries, and waste infrastructure contributions. Developers need to provide funding to the county council to absorb the impact of extra housing to enable it to provide council services, and the consultation asks for public feedback on how this should be calculated. The consultation is open until 9 June and you can find it here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/developers-guide-to-infrastructure-contributions-in-suffolk>

Council Annual General Meeting On Thursday 22 May, all three motions tabled were passed by the council, these included a motion against the government's proposed changes to public consultation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) like Sizewell C, Sea Link and Lion Link and solar farm applications. The council also agreed motions proposing a ban on live animals being used as prizes on council land, and to support the campaign for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to be eligible for the 20 year long service medal which is currently for warranted police officers only. The meeting was the council's AGM (Annual General Meeting), and a new Chair, Cllr Jessica Fleming, and new Vice Chair, David Roach, were sworn in during the meeting.

Local Government Reorganization – Engagement Meetings Suffolk County Council is currently arranging meetings with town and parish councils to engage with them about the coming changes in local government which will see Suffolk's two-tier system (districts/boroughs and county council) move to unitary councils/mayoral model which will undertake all services. As the administration's position is that one council would be best for Suffolk, it is likely that they will be promoting this at the meetings. County councillors have not been invited to the meetings but as your representatives, we would very much like to be there – if you are attending one of these meetings, please make contact with your local county councillor to find out if they are coming. The meetings are being organized by the council's communications team and will be around the county in the next couple of months.

Nominations sought for Suffolk Community Awards 2025 Nominations are now open for the Suffolk Community Awards 2025, which is organized by Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. The awards

ceremony will showcase the excellent work and achievements of individuals, groups and local councils across Suffolk with 18 awards, including a new one for a local council's efforts respond to climate change. Other award categories cover youth participation and young person of the year, community building, contribution to volunteering, most active community and council, councillor, young councillor and clerk of the year. Nominations are now open and must be made by Sunday 13 July at www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk

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Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Mid Suffolk District Councillor's Parish Council Report June 2025

Annual Council Meeting	The annual council meeting for Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) took place on the 15 th May, and confirmed new appointments for the council. This included the appointment of Cllr Keith Scarff as Chair of the council, and Cllr Lorraine Baker as Vice Chair.
Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden by-election	The date for the Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden by-election is confirmed as the 12 th June, with three candidates taking part (Conservative, Labour, and Green).
Devolution and local government re-organisation update	<p>Mid Suffolk council has received a response from central government regarding its proposed plans for council re-organisation – which envisages there being more than one unitary council for Suffolk.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council has advised Government of its preference for a single unitary covering the whole county. In contrast, MSDC – together with the other Suffolk districts and borough – believe that 2 or 3 smaller and more localised unitaries would be more responsive to local communities. Suffolk's District and Borough Councils are working together to research options.</p> <p>Although this will be a Government-level decision, the views of our residents are important to Mid Suffolk and will inform our final submission to government. Accordingly, an MSDC survey is now available, asking residents for their views and priorities. This survey can be completed on paper or online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The online version can be found here: https://midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-gb/projects/have-your-say-suffolk - Paper copies can be requested by ringing 0300 1234000. <p><u>The closing date for completing the survey is July 25th:</u></p>
Solar Battery Storage News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EcoPower Suffolk is a proposal to install 250mw of solar and battery storage, on circa 600 acres around Gislingham, Stuston, Yaxley, Eye and Occold.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EcoPower Suffolk has announced that they have pushed back their timeline. The statutory consultation is now planned to begin in spring 2026 (rather than Autumn 2025), when more detailed plans will be shared. • EcoPower has confirmed they plan to start regular community liaison meetings, although there is no start date as yet. • White Elm Solar the 600+ acre solar farm and battery store in Mendlesham/Wickham Skeith/Thwaite has been indefinitely paused with immediate effect. • All public consultations etc have now been cancelled.
Tree for Life scheme	<p>The council's Tree for Life scheme offers families a free tree to commemorate the arrival of a new child in the family. Orders are being taken now for trees for winter 2025/26. A range of trees are available, including some suitable to be grown in pots.</p> <p>For details and to apply, see: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/tree-for-life</p>

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For updates: www.facebook.com/CllrLucy

Mid Suffolk District Council services: see www.midsuffolk.gov.uk or phone **0300 123 4**