

**Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held Monday 1 September 2025, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett**

Present: Cllrs D Howard (Chairman), T Alston, S Dodgson, Mrs L Drury, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech and N Lingard

1. **Apologies and Consent to absence** – apologies were received from Cllrs S Alderton, Mrs K van Zyl and Mrs J Weir. Councillors gave consent to absence.
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 went through his written report (copy attached to the Minutes).
  3. District Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his District report (copy attached to the Minutes).

Cllr Stringer added grants could be available for the remedial work required to the drainage system at the village hall. Cllr Stringer raised the water not getting away from the road in Wetherup Street. Cllr Lacey reported work was in hand by residents for adjoining ditches to be cleared by a contractor, hedges would be cut back and gulley's in the pond area would be cleared. Following that drainage into the pond would be monitored and if necessary the pipes draining into the pond would be cleared.
  4. Footpaths – Cllr Mrs Drury stated there were no issues to report.
  5. Trees – no report.
  6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – none.
4. **To consider for approval Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 4 August 2025**

Cllr Lingard proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Drury – unanimously agreed.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
6. **Report on Parish Council Vacancy**

It was reported a resident of Wetherup Street had expressed interest in joining the Council. Co-option to fill the vacancy would be included on the next agenda.
7. **To consider for approval, appointment of Mrs E Aldred to Wetheringsett cum Brockford PC Tree Officer**

With her long experience of monitoring trees and supplying saplings to the village Cllr Alston proposed Mrs Aldred was appointed the parish Tree Warden, seconded Cllr Lingard – unanimously agreed. Thanks were recorded to Mrs Aldred for continuing with the role.
8. **Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC**
  1. Appeal: AP/25/00057: The Caravan Park, Mendlesham Road, Wetheringsett - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity including those in breach of a Planning Condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) – Continued use of land as a residential caravan site (21 caravans and bungalow) without compliance with Condition No 1 of Planning Permission 121/85 – no comment from the Parish Council was unanimously agreed.

Applications received since agenda issued

  2. Appeal: APP/W3520/C/25/3370692: The Bungalow / Dunroamin, Mendlesham Road, Wetheringsett Cum Brockford, Suffolk, IP14 5NU. Appeal against Enforcement Notice. No comment from the Parish Council was unanimously agreed.
9. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC** – none received
10. **Planning correspondence** – notification of the National Grid's development consent application for the Norwich to Tilbury pylon project had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
11. **Wetheringsett s.19 Flood report**
  1. Brockford Street and Wetherup Street remedial work  
The Brockford Street works were due to commence mid-September. Wetherup Street – see Cllr Stringer report above.
12. **Wetheringsett Village Hall**
  1. Management Committee report  
Cllr Lingard reported the Management Committee would like a separate meeting with the Parish Council to discuss a formal set of terms for the management of the hall.  
Some remedial work had taken place, the blind winding systems had new fixings and the electrical earth system was due for replacement. Cllr Dodgson was working on a new website specifically for the Village Hall.
  2. Report on School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease – this was progressing slowly.
13. **Cemetery and Play Area Grasscutting report** – the play area grass was being cut regularly and the cemetery

in line with the agreed arrangement with the grasscutter.

#### **14. Play Area report**

Cllr Lacey reported the bin had been emptied. It was understood the grant application was being progressed.

#### **15 Speed Equipment Report**

The latest data report had been forwarded to Suffolk Police, this showed excessive speeds particularly at Brockford Street.

The Chairman stated he would speed to the Manor School regarding its offer of two permanent solar speed Signs. It was suggested these could be installed at Wetherup Street and Park Green/Town Lane to replace use of the mobile equipment.

#### **16. Proposed gov.uk Parish Council/Community Website report**

Cllr Dodgson stated the new website should be up and running before the end of October, some community information was still to be finalized. It was agreed the speed equipment data should be uploaded to the website for information of parishioners plus the monthly newsletter. Councillors had no objections to their telephone numbers being included on the Councillors page. The Onesuffolk website hosting would need to be cancelled, this was proposed by Cllr Lingard, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Dodgson stated the annual domain and hosting expenditure would total no more than £150, the expenditure was proposed by Cllr Mrs Leech, seconded Cllr Mrs Drury and unanimously agreed.

#### **17. Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none.

2. Notification and consideration for approval NALC agreed clerk pay awards 2025-26 and to consider review of spinal column. The NALC/SLCC pay award for clerks/rfo 2025/26 had totalled an increase of 3.2% backdated to 1.4.25. Cllr Mrs Leech proposed agreement to the increase, seconded Cllr Mrs Drury – unanimously agreed.

Review of the clerk's Spinal Column Point had been suggested at the last meeting, this had not been reviewed for a number of years. Cllr Alston proposed this was increased from SCP 21 to SCP 22 with effect from 1.4.25, seconded Cllr Lingard and unanimously agreed.

5.(brought forward)

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council – Insurance renewal. To consider for approval insurance renewal documents 2025-26

The insurance renewal documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. The renewal premium was £627.64, 1.10.2025 being the first year of the 3 year long term agreement with the insurers, a group Policy for parish councils. The up to date asset register had been forwarded to the insurers. No amendments to the content of the policy were suggested by Councillors. Cllr Alston proposed renewal of the policy, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech – unanimously agreed.

3. Accounts for payments

|                                                                             |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| MSDC – waste and dog bin emptying 2025-26                                   | 410.86 |
| Cloud Next – website hosting annual fee                                     | 59.989 |
| Clou Next – website annual domain fee                                       | 60.00  |
| Clerk sal-expen Aug 2025                                                    | 406.88 |
| Business Services at Comm Action Suffolk – annual insurance Premium 2025-26 | 627.64 |

Cllr Alston proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Lingard – unanimously agreed.

4. Finance report – the current account bank balance at 19.8.25 stood at £17,428.43.

#### **18. To consider for adoption Parish Council Risk Assessment document**

The Asset document had been circulated prior to the meeting. No amendments were suggested other than to note inspections of the following items:

Play Equipment – Cllrs Alderton and Lacey – fortnightly

Defibrillator – Cllr Mrs Leech and Mr M Pease – fortnightly

War Memorial – to be agreed

Hockey Hill Solar speed equipment – Cllr Howard

Brockford Street Solar speed equipment – Cllr Mrs Weir

Mobile VAS equipment – Cllrs Lacey and Mrs Drury

Yellow Bag contents – Cllr Mrs van Zyl

#### **19. Clerk's report/correspondence**

Parish Notice Board – Wetherup Street. The surrounding hedge had engulfed the notice board making it

difficult to access. Cllr Lacey offered to speak to the owner of the hedge.

**20. Chair's Report** – The Chair stated he would progress purchase of the solar equipment by the Manor School.

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

War Memorial – Cllr Mrs Leech stated a parishioner had offered to clear the weeds surrounding the Memorial and to tidy the area. This would be within the surrounding fencing. Members recorded their thanks to the parishioner.

**22. Date of next meeting:** **Monday 6 October 2025, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall**

County Councillor report - Cllr Andrew Stringer, Upper Gipping

Broadway House, Broad Road, Cotton, Stowmarket, IP14 4ND 07774 199061 -

andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk

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### **Guidance and information on 20mph speed limits**

As you may remember from last month's report, my group tabled a motion at July's council meeting to make it easier for communities to obtain a 20mph limit where there is clear local support for it. We argued that the currently process with SCC Highways is lengthy and unnecessarily complex at a time when 20mph limits have increasing public support. This motion was rejected by the Conservative administration on the grounds that they were already planning a review of this process. 20's Plenty, a UK organisation that promotes lower speed limits, has some helpful guidance and a draft motion for parish and town councils who are considering a 20mph speed limit, with lots of supporting information including data from the 20mph trial in Wales which showed that lower speed limits significantly reduced accidents, deaths and serious injuries with no impact on journey times. Please see link below if this is something you may be interested in pursuing: [https://www.20splenty.org/parish\\_council\\_motion](https://www.20splenty.org/parish_council_motion)

### **Review of Suffolk Transport Infrastructure**

Following the passing of a motion at July's council meeting which acknowledged that intervention was necessary to reduce the reliance on the Orwell Bridge, the council's administration have announced a review of transport infrastructure for Suffolk and requested funding from the government to make improvements. The review will examine what is needed and where, examining areas such as the Orwell Bridge and the A14 corridor, Port of Felixstowe, the Sizewell power stations, and the need to upgrade the Ely/Haughley rail junction, which the government recently announced there would be no money for. The review will also take into account housing needs and the role of the future Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk, who will have responsibility for strategic transport. The council has sent an open letter to the Transport Secretary, Heidi Alexander MP, calling for talks about the need for strategic investment in Suffolk's transport infrastructure, which you can read here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/SCC-response-to-Heidi-Alexander-MP-1.pdf>

### **New Environmental Charity for Suffolk**

A new environmental charity jointly established by Sizewell C, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council has pledged to spend at least £78m on boosting biodiversity in Suffolk. The charity, named East Suffolk Trust (EaST), will distribute funds to local organizations through a grants scheme to improve biodiversity and protect natural landscapes. Governed by a Board of independent Trustees, the new charity could help to set out how future major infrastructure projects can help deliver local nature recovery across the country. Sizewell C has pledged at least £78m over the next 70 years, and in addition, the charity will seek funding from other local businesses and organisations to invest in nature. Trustees of the charity include Julian Roughton, former CEO of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Heather Broughton MBE, former trustee of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and James Alexander MBE, former trustee of RSPB and former Chair of trustees at Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

## **All Suffolk Food Waste to be Processed in the County**

As part of the new 'Simpler Recycling' laws brought in by the previous Conservative government, councils will have to collect and deal with food waste from all Suffolk households from 2026. The council has set up a four-year contract with Bio Capital to process this food waste locally at a recently approved anaerobic digestion plant at the Adnams Distribution Centre in Reydon near Southwold. Around 31,000 tonnes of household food waste could be sent to the new facility each year, which will be processed to generate green fuel (biomethane), and turned into soil fertiliser, which means Suffolk's food waste will be put to good use.

## **Awards for Suffolk's Junior Road Safety Officers**

The council recently played host to pupils and school staff at the first in-person Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) Awards event since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The awards ceremony is to recognise the dedication and creativity shown by schools and pupils in promoting road safety and encouraging active travel within their communities. The Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) scheme has been running for more than 20 years and gives pupils in Years 4 to 6 (ages 9–11) the opportunity to get involved in road safety work at their schools, delivering sessions to peers and taking on initiatives in their wider communities. The scheme is an excellent way to engage with children, parents and carers and expand the reach of the council's road safety education team, with 61 participating schools over the last 12 months.

For more information about the Junior Road Safety Officer scheme, see the Suffolk County Council website:

<https://suffolkroadsafe.com/education-home/junior-road-safety-officer/>

## **Update on Homes for Ukraine Scheme**

As of 31 March 2025, Suffolk has welcomed 1,747 Ukrainian refugees under the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, supported by a special team in the Public Health & Communities directorate. The government has introduced the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme (UPES), which allows people currently living in the UK under an existing Ukraine Visa scheme to apply to extend their stay in the UK for a further 18 months when their valid Ukrainian visa expires. Here is some guidance below for hosts and guests

- It is important that guests actively apply to extend their visa - the visas will NOT be extended automatically
- Guests should submit an application when they have 28 days or less left on their current permission. If they apply too early, their application may be rejected and they would then need to re-apply later
- If the guest doesn't know the date when their current leave to remain ends, they can sign into their UKVI account ([www.gov.uk/evisa/update-ukvi-account](https://www.gov.uk/evisa/update-ukvi-account)) to find out, or they can refer to their permission letter which will detail their visa's expiry date
- Applications can only be submitted while the guests are physically present in the UK

To get more information about how to apply for an extension, follow the instructions provided on the official UK government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/applying-to-the-ukraine-permission-extension-scheme>

The government pays Homes for Ukraine hosts a 'thank you' payment of £350 per month, and in Suffolk this is supplemented by an additional £25 per month by the council. You can find further information about the scheme here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/becoming-a-sponsor-homes-for-ukraine>

Finally, Suffolk County Council is offering a one-off Independent Living Payment (ILP) of £2,000 to Homes for Ukraine guests who are leaving their host accommodation and moving into their own home. To issue this payment certain criteria must be met, and Suffolk County Council will ask to see a copy of a valid, signed and dated (by both parties) legal tenancy agreement in the guest's name. The funding can be used for purchasing items to support the move to independent accommodation. The new accommodation can be either furnished or unfurnished, and can be situated outside of Suffolk.

Guest(s) can apply for the Independent Living Payment by downloading a form from the council's website, which is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian. To access this form and details of other support for Ukrainian guests in Suffolk, please use this link to the council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests>

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Instagram – [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/)

Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

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

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6> Benefits advice

and support: <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-flood>

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/risk-advice/flooding/>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

## Mid Suffolk District Council Report for Mendlesham Ward – September 2025

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| <b>Local government reform - three unitaries proposed</b> | <p>At the Mid Suffolk District Council meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup>, it was agreed to work on a proposal for three unitary councils for Suffolk. This followed months of joint work by Suffolk's district and borough councils: all have now agreed to continue work on a business case for three unitaries. The proposal will be reviewed by Council, before being submitted to the Government in September.</p> <p>This is part of the ongoing reforms to local government. (Last year the government required all 'two-tier' councils to put forward proposals for replacing the current system of District and County Councils, with single 'unitary' councils).</p> <p>Further information, including proposed maps, and a timeline for these local government reforms, can be found at: <a href="https://threecouncilsforSuffolk.org/">https://threecouncilsforSuffolk.org/</a></p> |
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| <b>Investment in Mid Suffolk sports and heritage facilities</b> | <p>The July Council meeting also approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendments and funding to the Stowmarket SHELF project: funding for Phase 2 has been agreed. This will include building the new sports pavilion (which already has planning permission) and improvements to visitor parking.</li> <li>• Underwriting part of the Stowmarket Food Museum's Branching Out programme. This includes several capital projects aimed at further increasing visitor numbers, restoring buildings, and making the site more accessible. The Food Museum is seeking funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, alongside investment of £1m from the District Council (plus an agreement to underwrite a potential loan if needed to secure match funding.)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Tour of Britain cycle race comes to Eye and Occold</b>       | <p>Suffolk will host two stages of the UK's largest professional cycle race (The Tour of Britain) in September. On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September the stage will begin and finish in Stowmarket, with the route passing through Eye and past Occold. The route will run through other parts of both Mid Suffolk and Babergh. The tour is expected to bring a large number of visitors to the region, and local businesses and groups are encouraged to support the race.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>New electrical recycling bin in Eye and Stowmarket</b>       | <p>Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have installed new recycling bins for electrical items in a number of locations throughout the District – including Buckshorn Lane car park in Eye. Residents can now more easily recycle things like coffee machines, kettles, mobile phones, tablets - anything with a plug, battery or cable that's smaller than a 4-slice toaster. This will make it easier to recycle these items.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>New grant for rural businesses</b>                           | <p>Over £246k has been granted to support rural businesses in Mid Suffolk, through the Rural Business Growth Fund. This money can go towards projects that contribute to areas such as Net Zero, farm diversification, and the tourism sector. For details please see: <a href="https://heartofsuffolk.co.uk/invest/business-support/grants-and-funding/rural-england-prosperity-fund-2/">https://heartofsuffolk.co.uk/invest/business-support/grants-and-funding/rural-england-prosperity-fund-2/</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Other grants</b>                                             | <p>A range of other grants are available to community groups and organisations. For more information please see: <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding</a></p> <p>You can also email <a href="mailto:BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk">BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk</a> for information and advice on funding options.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

Cllr Andrew Stringer [andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk) or 07774 199061

Mid Suffolk District Council services: see [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) or phone **0300 123 4000**

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Clerk 27 August 2025