

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3 November 2025, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett.

Present: Cllrs D Howard, T Alston, S Alderton, S Dodgson, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech, Mrs J Weir, Mrs K van Zyl and S Wyse. County and District Cllr A Stringer and two members of the public

1. **Apologies and Consent to absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs L Drury and N Lingard.

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). Regarding the Brockford Street flood remedial work, this was complete but would be monitored.

3. District Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to the Minutes)

4. Footpaths - no report.

5. Trees – a report from the Tree Officer stated young sapling trees would be available to parishioners mid November.

6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Oak Trees, Hockey Hill – a parishioner referred to the article in the November 2025 parish magazine regarding the ten oak trees on Hockey Hill, the potential storm damage, damage to telephone/electricity wires, falling onto a vehicle. Two options were put forward in the article, fell the trees or do nothing. The parishioner put forward a third option of maintenance. One tree in particular had a branch overhanging the road on Hockey Hill in need of maintenance. To preserve trees in the village the parishioner urged landowners to take responsibility for their trees and act on advice from an arborologist and added the concern over the safety of trees, in particular those on Hockey Hill, having been put into print could impact upon insurance cover. The parishioner stated residents of Hockey Hill did not want to see the oak trees felled but maintained for the benefit of all residents and future residents. The Chair thanked the parishioner for his comments adding the Parish Council supported the view trees in the village should be preserved where possible. The parishioner stated he would provide a response in the next parish magazine and also thanked the parish councillor responsible for the work carried out to update the parish website.

Wetherup Street – a parishioner followed up on his report at the last meeting of anti-social behaviour in Wetherup Street. Suffolk Police, after some eight weeks, had hopefully resolved the problem. The parishioner expressed disappointment it had taken so long for the police to take action.

The Chair thanked the parishioner for the update and was pleased to note the action taken. The Chair also recorded thanks to the District Councillor for taking up with the issue with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Wetherup Street – the parishioner also raised the problem of continued speeding on Wetherup Street, it appeared to have become worse, vehicles travelling at 45 – 50mph. The Chair stated a fourth solar powered speed camera had been purchased for the village, it was proposed this be located south Park Green (Mickfield Road), subject to Highways approval. Data from the cameras was forwarded to Suffolk Police. Brockford Street was a permanent enforcement site and it was understood Suffolk Police were still carrying out regular checks at Wetherup Street/Park Green. This would be checked.

4. **Report on Cllr Stringer meeting with PCC T Passmore** – see public session above

Cllr Stringer left the meeting at 7.30pm

5. **To consider for approval Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 6 October 2025**

Cllr Mrs van Zyl proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Weir – unanimously agreed.

6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.

7. **Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC** – none received

8. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC** – none received

9. **Planning correspondence**

1. National Grid - Norwich to Tilbury Electricity Transmission

Notice of Acceptance of an Application for a Development Consent Order by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero) under Section 56 of The Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act'). Councillors Noted

2. MSDC Consultations: Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Call for Sites 2025 – Councillors Noted
Babergh and Mid Suffolk Draft Five-Year Housing Land Supply Position
Statements – Councillors Noted

10. **Wetheringsett s.19 Flood report**

1. Brockford Street – see Cllr Stringer report above.
2. Wetherup Street – it was reported some 90% of the ditches in the flood area had been cleared, the contractor would be returning towards the end of November to complete the remaining work. This would allow water to feed into the parish pond. There were some issues with the collapsed inlet at the rear of the pond. The contractor had looked at the work required and had quoted £1700 plus vat for the remedial work. Cllrs Lacey and Wyse stated they would be able to carry out some of the work. The following action was agreed:
Obtain revised quote and obtain a second quote.
3. Suffolk CC Flood Investigation Team: request for update on parish works – the above report on current work would be forwarded to the Suffolk CC Flood Team.

11. Wetheringsett Village Hall

1. Management Committee report – a written report from Cllr Lingard had been circulated. Cllr Alston reported the VH chair had recently taken up the manhole covers surrounding the hall to map the drainage route to the road.
2. Report on progress and arrangements for Village Fete summer 2026 – a Village Fete committee had been established. The date for the fete had yet to be confirmed. Cllr Dodgson reported the committee would be looking to ask the parish council for a contribution to fund the event.
4. Report on School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease – negotiations continued with the school regarding the licence agreement.

11. Cemetery and Play Area Grasscutting report

Cllr Alderton reported the contractor had completed the last cut and strim of the year. It was agreed Cllr Alderton would ask the contractor whether he would continue with the work next year – 2026.

13. Play Area report

The replacement clamps for the climbing frame had arrived and Cllrs Alderton and Lacey would fit them. A site visit with the Play Company providing the swing was to be arranged but it was agreed installation be deferred until the spring so as not to damage the field surface by delivery and installation vehicles.

The grant for the new picnic bench was on its way.

14 Speed Equipment Report

Cllr Mrs Weir reported the issue with the Brockford Street north equipment had been resolved. Data continued to be sent to the Speed Camera Force. Cllr Mrs Weir had spoken with the Senior Enforcement Officer with regard to use of the data. Brockford Street has been confirmed as a permanent enforcement site and they would be looking at whether to include Hockey Hill. Inclusion of Wetherup Street would also be raised. It was agreed clarification on use of the data by the Speed Camera Force should be obtained from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

15. Gov.uk Parish Council Website report

Cllr Dodgson reported information on the play area grant/s, recycling and waste disposal and the Pizza Van visit dates (14 November, 21 November and 12 December) had been included on the website.

It was agreed this item could now be taken off the Agenda. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Dodgson for his work on the updated site, it had received many parishioner compliments.

16. To confirm Remembrance Service arrangements - Sunday 9 November 2025

The chair had obtained both wreaths from the Royal British Legion.

Cllr Mrs van Zyl would attend and lay the wreath at Mendlesham and Mrs E Aldred would attend and lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at Wetheringsett. Thanks were recorded to both representatives.

17. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

A funding request had been received from Mid Suffolk CAB. This was deferred until the next financial year.

2. Accounts for payments

Wetheringsett Church & Town Estate Charity – annual instalment re VH loan	£2108.67
Clerk – sal/expen Oct 2025	£366.55
Cllr D Howard - RBL Wreaths x 2	£39.98

3. Finance report

Bank balance as at 17 Oct 2025: £28,165.33

This sum included the Lottery Grant of £7514.00 for the new play equipment

18. Clerk's report/correspondence

MSDC – Notice of Community Governance Review consultation - noted

19. Chair's Report

Manor School funded Solar Speed Equipment – the Chair stated the School had suggested Cedars Hill as a possible site for the speed equipment and having discussed the siting with the School Head the Chair reported the school was agreeable to siting it at Park Green South, subject to Suffolk Highways approval.

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

Ducks Crossing Sign – Cllr Wyse enquired whether the Parish Council would support a Ducks Crossing sign in Wetherup Street and if so where this would be obtained and whether highway approval was required. Item to be included on next agenda.

Emergency Plan yellow bag – the meeting was informed this had been moved from the disabled wc's to the storeroom at the back of the Village Hall. The emergency radios were stored in the grey cupboard.

21. Date of next meeting: **Monday 1 December 2025, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall**

Meeting closed 8.20pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Cllr Andrew Stringer, Upper Gipping

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

andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk

Devolution and the new Mayoral Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk

At Council on 2 October, Suffolk County Council voted to give the government their consent to create the Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority, which will be led by a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. Both Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are involved in creating the new authority, which will have powers for the two counties including economic development, transport, skills and employment, public safety and housing and strategic planning. The authority will be led by the mayor, with four other members, two appointed by Suffolk County Council and two appointed by Norfolk County Council, and decisions will be made by majority, but the majority must include the vote of the mayor or the deputy mayor if the mayor is not present. The authority can also have associate members (for example, somebody from a local college or university) or a non-constituent member, for example from a district or borough council. As previously reported, the election of mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk will be held on Thursday 7 May 2026. So far, the candidates that have been announced are Caroline Topping (Green), who is currently the Leader of East Suffolk Council, and Tim Passmore (Conservative), who is currently the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk. The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner will be undertaken by the mayor after they are elected. It is likely that Labour, Liberal Democrat and Reform UK candidates will be announced in the next few months, plus any independent candidates who decide to stand.

Get Suffolk Working Plan

On 2 October, Cabinet voted to approve the draft Get Suffolk Working plan which was prepared by the council's Skills team. This is the local version of the government's Get Britain Working initiative and aims to support people of working age who are not currently working to get into employment and address barriers they may face to employment, for example poor health, lack of transport, low qualifications and digital exclusion. Once the plan is approved by NHS partners in Suffolk and the Department of Work Pensions (DWP), a Get Suffolk Working Partnership Board will be created to oversee the work. The plan includes the launch of the Connect to Work programme, which will be funded by up to £9.5m from the DWP over five years (the amount of funding received depends on level of participation in the scheme). This programme is to provide tailored training, support and job placements and match people with suitable employers based on their preferences, strengths and previous work experience.

Get Britain Working plans will become the responsibility of the mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk and the mayoral authority once in place, so Suffolk County Council is working with Norfolk County Council to make sure their plans are aligned.

You can read more about the Connect to Work programme here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/support-finding-employment/connect-to-work>

Dental Services in Suffolk

At Health Scrutiny Committee on 8 October, colleagues from the NHS joined the meeting to update the committee on improving dental services in Suffolk. This is not a council service, and health partners from the two ICBs that cover the county (Suffolk and North East Essex, Norfolk and Waveney) ran through their progress to increase access to NHS dentists, increase the number of urgent appointments available and ensure that there are enough dental practices across the county. They are also undertaking outreach work on oral health and preventing issues with children and older adults. Both ICBs are reporting that they have managed to increase the number of adults and children seen by dentists, and they are working on changes to their contracts with dental providers to support a focus on highest priority patients. People who need a dentist appointment can contact NHS 111 to get one, as well as contacting dental practises directly.

There are a lot of changes coming up in the health service soon, including the NHS 10 Year Plan which was published earlier this year, and from 1 April 2026, Norfolk and Suffolk will have one ICB. This means that plans for dentistry in the region, like other services, may be subject to review.

Budget Survey

The council has launched its annual budget survey where it asks Suffolk residents their opinions and priorities for how it should spend money in the 2026-2027 financial year. The consultation tries to provide some context on its financial position as well as asking for feedback which will be included in the budget-setting process. The first look at the new budget will be early January 2026, with councillors voting on the proposed budget in its February full council meeting. The consultation has been open since 14 October and will close on Tuesday 25 November, and can be accessed using this link: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/budget-council-tax-and-finance/the-budget-for-suffolk>

Nature Recovery Strategy Map Now Online

County councils in Norfolk and Suffolk have launched their respective Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). These aim to address the region's decline in nature, identify ways to help it recover and deliver wider benefits such as reducing flood risk.

Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council have worked closely together, and formed the [Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership](#), to identify common themes to address the decline in nature and opportunities to enable it to recover.

The two authorities join 46 other responsible authorities in England, appointed by The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to lead on preparing a LNRS.

Together all these strategies will form a national 'nature network', proposing actions such as the creation of wetlands, restoration of peatlands, planting of trees and hedgerows, and more sustainable management of existing woodlands and other habitats like grasslands.

New Water Infrastructure Proposed

A new consultation on proposals from Essex and Suffolk Water for a new pipeline network and underground drinking water reservoirs, is reaching out to over 100 towns and parishes across north-east Suffolk.

The developing projects are designed to ensure future supplies of drinking water for the East of England, one of the driest regions in the UK. It will help to alleviate the shortage of water supply for new businesses and new homes in north-east Suffolk.

Essex and Suffolk Water's "Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage Project" is made up of two key elements, the development of a new Advanced Water Recycling Plant, north of Lowestoft, capable of producing 11 million

litres per day of purified recycled water, and strategic network enhancements that will support a more reliable and resilient water supply for the region.

A network of proposed pipelines, connecting existing infrastructure to proposed pipelines and buried reservoirs, will reach from Bungay down to Leiston and Saxmundham and as far west as Eye. The project includes two underground drinking water service reservoirs, located near Eye and Heveningham.

Norwich to Tilbury Grid Proposal

Suffolk County Council is finalising its objections to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury pylon project as official Examination of the scheme nears – and is encouraging parish councils and local communities to be registered to have their say.

At its Cabinet meeting on 4 November 2025, members will be asked to approve the county council's Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate during Examination – maintaining its long-held, staunch opposition to the scheme.

The Examination period, expected to take place early in the new year, is a chance for those affected by the scheme to share evidence, objections or support. The process is designed to be transparent and inclusive, allowing community voices to be heard.

The county council's objections primarily include:

- a clear preference for alternative options, in particular cable undergrounding, or possibly an offshore solution
- to formally and strongly request National Grid pausing the proposals, to enable the effective consideration of the alternatives

Social Media and Helpful Links

Follow us on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

Instagram – 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>

New 'call for sites' opens	Mid Suffolk District Council is developing its new Local Plan, which involves identifying sites for development as well as setting the policies used to determine planning permission (alongside national planning policies and Neighbourhood Plans.) This plan will set out a framework for guiding planning decisions to the mid-2040s. As part of this work, a 'Call for Sites' was opened on 20 October. This runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026. This call invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in the Local Plan - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes. It is important to note that the Call for Sites will not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for future development, and does not give it any planning status. All sites will need to be assessed further, and the overall strategy for the Local Plan will be informed by a range of evidence as well as feedback from consultations. More information about this process can be found here: https://www.babergh.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites
Green Skills Summit for schools	The second Schools Green Skills Summit was held on 10th October. Around 90 students from across 11 schools in Babergh and Mid Suffolk took part in an event to encourage a better understanding of how climate change can be addressed, and to learn about relevant careers. More details can be found online. https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-councils-schools-green-skills-summit
Upcoming changes to bin collections	Suffolk Recycles is currently running a social media campaign to prepare residents for the upcoming changes to bin collections in the area from 2026. It is important for us all to ensure that people get the correct information - please do direct residents to this website https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/recycling-composting/recycling-at-home/better-recycling where the facts are clearly laid out.
Purchase of new green space in Thorndon	Mid Suffolk District Council has purchased 62 acres of land in Thorndon. The site offers opportunities for increased public access to green space for the local area. It also has potential for natural flood management projects to help reduce flooding locally, as well as increasing biodiversity. Detailed plans are being developed alongside Parish Council.
Essex and Suffolk Water consultation on major new water projects for the Eye area	Essex and Suffolk Water has launched a consultation on its plans to build new reservoirs and treatment plants, and install new pipelines. The project is intended to tackle the growing water shortage in our area. One of the reservoirs is proposed to be located at Eye Airfield. Because of the scale, the decisions on these projects will be taken by the government, not the local planning authority. - The company is holding a drop-in event in Eye Community Centre on November 12th 1pm to 7.30pm, for residents to find out more. - The company has a consultation open until December 10th – see: suffolkwaternetnetwork.co.uk/ - They have a separate website for the reservoir project: https://northsuffolkreservoir.co.uk/#start
Council grants	For information on Mid Suffolk council grants available to support community projects and organisations, please see: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding or email BMSDCgrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk for advice on funding options.

Cllr Andrew Stringer or 07774 199061

Mid Suffolk District Council services: see www.midsuffolk.gov.uk, phone 0300 123 4000, or drop in to see Council staff at Eye Library, every Friday 9.30-12pm – no appointment is needed