

Wickhambrook Parish Council

Minutes

Of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 15 January 2026

- Present:** K Grimes, M Karunaratne, L Smith, T Turner (Chairing)
Hilary Workman, Clerk; SC Cllr Bobby Bennett, WS Cllr Sarah Pugh, Sarah Harward (WS Families & Communities Team), Robert Cash (WOBC)
- 26.01.01 **Noted:** Apologies for absence to be noted or approved:
- Cllr A Grimes – Business Commitment
 - Cllr Mike Lavelle – personal commitment
- Cllr Mike Lavelle not being present, Cllr Tracey Turner as vice-chair was appointed to preside at the meeting (SO 10(a)v)
- 26.01.02 **Noted:** That when invited, there were no
- 2.1 Members' Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and/or other registerable interest
 - 2.2 Declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda their nature, including gifts of hospitality exceeding £25
 - 2.3 Requests for dispensations
 - 2.4 Additions and/or deletions to the Council's Register of Interests.
- 26.01.03 **3.1 Resolved:**
That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th November and the Extraordinary meeting on 9th December 2025, as tabled, be agreed as a true record.
- 26.01.04 **Noted:** When invited, the following reports from Representatives of the Council on External bodies, Ward Members and other external bodies as appropriate.
- 4.1 **Cllr Mrs Bobby Bennett**, Suffolk County Council
An oral update that:
 - A meeting last Friday looked at the speed limit policy. The criteria has been widened to remove barriers and hopefully make it easier for parishes to apply for reductions in speed limits (particularly 20mph)
 - On Monday the council met to talk about its capacity for Local Government Reorganisation. The government is to decide whether they go ahead with local elections.
 - Budget scrutiny – SCC did not do so well from Fairer Funding – the draft budget will go to Full Council in next few weeks. There is ongoing pressure from Childrens' services and Adult Social Care, in part arising from looking after children with very complex needs.
 - A national document has been published rating Suffolk Highways as red – SCC has challenged this, believing that responses to carry over of funding across financial years has not been considered. A press release circulated.
 - Locally, it is now pot hole season. Residents and parishes are asked to please report all pot holes. The Dragon patcher is again in use this year. Cllr Grimes reported that Stradishall Crossroad pot holes had been filled on three occasions and failed again at the weekend.
 - She would chase for a further update on Byeway 31.
 - The new team at Wickhambrook Stores had now taken over the Postoffice, which was again open for business.
 - Locality funding was available and asked that the pc consider submitting an application.
 - 4.2 **Cllr Mrs Sarah Pugh**, West Suffolk Council
An oral update that:
 - She had met with officers of West Suffolk Council, the parish council and local residents at The Meadows on Tuesday morning to consider WS's proposal to coppice the ancient hedge, which was considered to be in decline. As a result,

Signed: M P Lavelle

Dated: 19/02/2026

a compromise had been reached with all parties, namely, the coppicing of one third at the southern end of the hedge to demonstrate what coppicing achieve, with the remainder to be coppiced in subsequent years.

- She had met with Planning Officers (Savannah Cobbold, Case Officer and Penny Mills, Service Planning Manager) to discuss Land West of Bunters Road (DC/25/1736/HYB). Once they have received all comments from statutory bodies they will schedule an onsite meeting and she has asked that parish council be included.
- A complaint had been raised with her with respect to previous planning application (where the complainant considers that the drainage work has not completed) alleging that planning conditions had not been not enforced.
- West Suffolk having printed and published a leaflet for distribution to residents (Thriving West Suffolk), she asked how many living in Wickhambrook had received a copy (none of the councillors had received one).
- Hawkedon had recently funded a First Aid course (it being a very isolated and rural parish) and asked if the parish would like to sign up for any spaces if available.
- The recent application for locality funding (£1000 for parish notice boards) had been approved (for which the clerk recorded the parish council's appreciation and thanks). Parishes can work to split funding across a group of parishes for larger projects.

4.3 Sarah Harward – West Suffolk Council Families and Communities Officer

Sarah introduced herself as the Locality officer for Cllr Pugh. The budget had been finalised today, with a new one to be released in April. Please contact her with any queries.

26.01.05 **Public Forum – (Open Session)**¹. 19:14

That when comments or questions on any Agenda item or matter of concern were invited, an oral update from Robert Cash, of Wickhambrook Outdoor Bowls Club that:

- Sadly, the club had now closed, the current membership not being viable
- A list of the club assets to be transferred to the parish council had been sent to the clerk, and included:
 - Club Shed (combination lock no's notified)
 - Ransomes 51 Marquis cylinder mower. Needs full service plus repair of starter cord.
 - Hayter Harrier 48 rotary mower. In good working order.
 - Sisis aerator complete with spare tines. In good working order.
 - BM 35. Scarifier. In working order
 - Cyclone CB3000 lawn sand spreader.
 - Irrigation system self propelled. Needs servicing.
 - Manual irrigation system
 - Lawn strimmer
 - Bowls scoreboards
 - Six sets of adult bowls
- The club had asked whether, if practicable, some of the gardening equipment might be loaned out to residents of the parish – the meeting asked the clerk to investigate this
- The remaining funds (£415.85) had been transferred to the parish, and the club asked that where possible, these be used for the benefit of other clubs/organisations in the parish.

The parish council formally thanked Robert Cash and the Wickhambrook Outdoor Bowls Club for their kind donation of assets and funds (see agenda item 26.01.09 and report **WPC.26.01.05**).

Session Closed 19:19

¹ The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.

- 26.01.06 **Noted:**
The meeting considered correspondence to this meeting not dealt with as an Agenda item or in the Clerk's report (previously circulated as report **WPC.26.01.01**) and identified no further actions.
- 26.01.07 **Noted:** Reports and requests to this meeting relating to Councillors' Portfolios
- 7.1 **Highways/VAS reporting** Cllr Kevin Grimes
An oral update that:
- VAS data collection was going well still. The most recent report from Nunnery Green and Boyden end showed that on average, speeds were good, but that there had been some shocking speeds on a single lane road too (e.g. on 23rd 12 20:10 60mph)
 - Data collection from the Hargrave end of Ashfield Green also demonstrated some worryingly high speeds (at well over 50mph)
 - The two cameras are not holding their battery power. Following enquiries with Westcotec (the supplier) and discussion with the clerk, it had been agreed that he would deliver (for which mileage would be paid) the units to Westcotec for new batteries to be fitted and an interim check to be undertaken (@£45 each). The clerk had agreed with Lidgate PC that they would contribute to half of any costs incurred in respect of the shared unit.
 - Lidgate PC had helpfully shared information on a source of new 30mph signage for display in the vicinity of the units. The meeting asked the clerk to add this to the February agenda
- 7.2 **Emergency Planning** Cllr Mike Lavelle
- 7.3 **Neighbourhood Plan** Cllr Tracey Turner
- The meeting considered an update on the Neighbourhood Plan (previously circulated as WPC.26.01.02), which had been made at West Suffolk Council's meeting on 16th December, and looked specifically at the Community Actions 1 – 9 identified in Wickhambrook Neighbourhood Plan (set out at Appendix B of report WPC.26.01.02). The meeting agreed the following actions:
1. Plan this next financial year for funding activities in FY 2027-28
 2. **Community Action 1:** Community Land Trust
it was unlikely the parish council would have time to set up and recruit volunteers – no further action
 3. **Community Action 2:** Wildlife and Conservation
Ongoing work with WI to develop the wildlife area to the South of the Tennis Courts.
 4. **Community Action 3:** Historic Assets
Noting that (as had been identified in surveys and responses to consultations throughout the preparation of the plan), the look and feel of the parish is really important to people, and that Wickhambrook Local History Society still had the detailed historical records from its Millenium project recording the history of many properties in the parish:
 - a. consider a review of the original work identifying historic assets in the parish carried out by the NP Working Group, leading into a wider audit with historical summary of key assets to be included on the website as an initial project
 - b. Recruit volunteers from the parish for this role (possible approach to Historical Society and Village Recorder to increase engagement)
 - c. The clerk to contact the History Society, with Cllr Tracey Turner to contact some of the members of the NP group to see if they would be willing to help.
 5. **Community Action 4:** Activities and opportunities
Audit of existing activities and social opportunities in the parish and where residents feel there are gaps/missed opportunities (paper survey)
 6. **Community Action 5:** Allotments and Community Gardens
 - a) Ask question of Developers of Land West of Bunters Road with respect to allotments or community growing spaces

- b) Identify through survey the actual demand for gardening space
 c) Investigate further volunteering and buddying up – can residents without access to gardening space support more elderly residents
7. **Community Action 6:** Tidy Village
 Keep under review – already many volunteer groups covering the majority of actions identified
8. **Community Action 7:** Footpaths and Bridleways
 Keep under review – already covering the majority of actions identified
9. **Community Action 8:** Highways and Maintenance
 No actions identified
10. **Community Action 9:** Traffic Management
 Increased publication and dissemination of VAS data and ongoing recruitment to Community Speed Watch
- 7.4 **Road Safety Working Group** Cllr Mel Karunaratne
 An oral update that:
- A meeting had been held in the run up to Christmas to say thank you to everyone and identify any other actions – the group asked that if possible the work of the CSW be published to the website
 - the group had had a break over Christmas and the New year. A new rota has been prepared, with plans to start up again in February with improved weather. The first day had been planned to coincide with Warm Winter Wednesday and the group were adding in Saturdays moving forwards
 - He had contacted the Safety Camera Team to establish whether they wanted VAS data sent over to them. They had advised that they do not need full data sets, but that wish to be informed of particular locations and instances of high speed. Up until now the Safety Camera Team had only had one location from which they could operate in Wickhambrook, but two further locations have now been cleared. They had advised that they would be in the parish once a month.
 - The formal request for the reduction in the speed limit on the A143 Wickham Street had been submitted early December. The parish council had paid for the report, and Highways Community Liaison Officer Matthew Fox has acknowledged receipt of the report, but the parish council has not yet received a formal response from Highways.
- It was suggested that the parish council consider working with Wickhambrook Primary Academy again to deliver a further speed poster campaign competition.
- 7.5 **Cemetery Records Project** Cllr Andrea Grimes
 Cllr K Grimes reported on behalf of Cllr A Grimes advising that there was some recording in the old south section to complete, which was scheduled for the spring as the weather improves. The clerk advised that she was still working to incorporate the recording that Cllr Grimes had completed.
- 7.6 **SALC & Social Media** Cllr Linda Smith
 Nothing to report
- 26.01.08 **Noted:** Clerk's report
- 8.1 VAT Claims for the months of November and December have been submitted in the sums of £300.46 and £388.27 (received).
- 8.2 The meeting considered a reviewed Risk Management Policy and supporting draft Risk Assessment (previously circulated as **WPC.26.01.03**) and
Resolved
To adopt the reviewed Risk Management Policy and supporting Risk Assessment attached as Appendices A & B respectively to report WPC.26.01.03.
- 8.3 PRoW, working to identify a solution to the flooding running down from Byeway 31 which is further degrading the surface of the highway (track) below it, have now received two quotes from suppliers to undertake ditch work, re-grading and laying of type 1 road planings on the first 50m of the Byeway. Additionally, Cllr Bobby

- Bennett has kindly agreed to fund £500 from her locality budget towards the laying and rolling of road planings on the track below the byeway.
- 8.4 The clerk applied to West Suffolk Council for funding through the Locality Fund and heard in December that the amount applied for (£1000) has been awarded for the purchase two new parish noticeboards. This is match funding and the parish council will fund any shortfall together with the cost of installation and install. A full report will be submitted to the February Estates Committee.
- 8.5 Note correction of dates for April meetings from Thursday 23rd April to **Thursday 30th April 2026**.
- 8.6 Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) has increased its deposit protection limit from £85k - £120k per eligible person
- 8.7 The meeting noted an update on progress towards SAAAP Assertion 10 compliance (previously circulated as **WPC.26.01.04**).
- 8.8 A recent concern had been raised by a resident of the Meadows with respect to West Suffolk Council's proposal to coppice an ancient hedge. Cllr Sarah Pugh had arranged an on-site meeting to discuss prior to any further action being taken (see Minute 26.01.4.2)
- 8.9 West Suffolk Council was undertaking a **Community Governance Review** of parish and town councils. Full details, including the [Terms of Reference](#), have been made available on its website: [Community Governance Review West Suffolk Council 2025-2026](#).
- The review considers:
- Names and styles of existing parish/town councils
 - Number of councillors
 - Grouping arrangements or mergers
 - Warding arrangements, including ward names and councillor numbers
- The clerk had not identified any proposals to submit.
- 8.10 The meeting noted the RFO's intention to move all accounting to Scribe Accounts in the next financial year (the software already being in use for Cemeteries).

26.01.09 Noted:

The meeting considered an update on Wickhambrook Outdoor Bowls Club (previously circulated as **WPC.26.01.05**) and the oral report from Mr Robert Cash, reported under Public Forum and minuted at 26.01.05) and

Resolved

The parish council make a nominal payment of £1 to Wickhambrook Outdoor Bowls Club in respect of the Wickhambrook Outdoor Bowls Club Shed and its contents (listed at Appendix B) and accept them as assets of the parish council.

26.01.10 Noted:

10.1 The following income received

Voucher	Date	Ref.	Description	Supplier / customer	Supplier ref.	Account name	Total	
1508	25/11/2025		cheque	IntermentWC/NEW/P367/	BURY ST EDMUNDS FUNERAL SERVICES LTD	#22	Interments	£ 310.00
1513	01/12/2025	WC/NEW/M343	Transfer ERB M343	Bereaved Family			Exclusive Right of Burial	£ 65.00
1530	10/12/2025	WC/NEW/CR/Na26	Certified Copy ERB Deed	Bereaved Family	#23		Other Cemeteries Fees	£ 32.50
1531	11/12/2025	WC/NEW/P370	Exclusive Right of Burial	Dignity Funerals Ltd	#25		Exclusive Right of Burial	£ 310.00
1532	11/12/2025	WC/NEW/P370	IntermentWC/NEW/P370/	Dignity Funerals Ltd	#26		Interments	£ 310.00
1537	31/12/2025	Credit Interest	Q3 Credit Interest	Unity Trust Bank	Q3 Credit Interest		Bank Interest	£ 45.04
1538	08/01/2026		VAT refund from HMRC				VAT Repayments	£ 388.27
1539	06/01/2026		VAT refund from HMRC				VAT Repayments	£ 300.46
								£1,761.27

10.2 The payments to be made as listed below:

Voucher	Date	Ref.	Description	Supplier / customer	Supplier ref.	Account name	Total
1541	16/01/2026	WPC.26.01.10.2	Clerk Refund on Stationery	Ryman Limited	Clerk Refund on Stationery	Office Supplies	£ 28.99
1542	16/01/2026	WPC.26.01.10.2	Q3 Mileage	Hilary Workman	Q3 Mileage	Clerk/RFO Mileage and Subsistence	£ 76.92
1543	16/01/2026	WPC.26.01.10.2	Clerk Homeworking Q3	Hilary Workman	Q3 Mileage	Clerk/RFO Mileage and Subsistence	£ 76.00

10.3 Resolved

That the payments to be made, listed above at 10.2 be authorised.

Signed: M P Lavelle

Dated: 19/02/2026

10.4 The following payments previously authorised.

Voucher Date	Ref.	Description	Supplier / customer	Supplier ref.	Account name	Total	
1505	27/11/2025	25.02.10 LODP	Clerk Salary period 8	Hilary Workman	Salary Period 8 2025.26	Clerk/RFO Salary	£ 1,275.47
1506	27/11/2025	25.02.10 LODP	Pension Contributions Period 8	Hilary Workman	Pension Contributions Pe	Pension Contributions	£ 64.72
1507	08/12/2025	25.02.10 LODP	TaxNI Period 8 2025.26 Contribu	Hilary Workman	Tax/NI Period 8 2025.26	HMRC/NI Contributions	£ 286.01
1510	05/12/2025	25.02.10 LODP	Q3 Website Updates	Mdsign	#2714	Website	£ 225.00
1511	05/12/2025	WPC.25.11.17	Firewall Security Plugin	Mdsign	#2713	Microsoft Office Subscriptions	£ 178.80
1512	22/12/2025	25.02.10 LODP &a	.gov.uk website service	Local Authority Technology CIC	#42UF076-0010	Website	£ 312.00
1514	04/12/2025	25.02.10 LODP	Grounds Contract October Cuts	R.H. Landscapes & Maintenance Services L	#003979	Grounds Contract	£ 1,488.60
1515	08/12/2025	25.02.11.2 DD	Microsoft Basic 05/12/2025 - 04/	Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd	G127614863	Microsoft Office Subscriptions	£ 46.37
1517	15/12/2025	25.02.07.3(b)	Wickham Street Speed Limit Repor	Suffolk County Council	#9565630	Highways - Road Safety	£ 750.00
1518	31/12/2025	25.02.11.2 DD	Bank Service Charge Nov'	Unity Trust Bank	SN 087	Bank Service Charge - Unity Trust	£ 6.00
1519	15/01/2026	25.02.11.2 DD	Clerk Mobile to 15/12/2025	3 Business Services, Hutchison 3G UK Ltd	#985101303056	Phone and Internet Services	£ 22.00
1520	31/12/2025	WPC.25.04.9.5	Domain migration support	Macs & PC's	#46456	Services and Supplies	£ 90.00
1521	15/01/2026	25.02.10 LODP	Grounds Contract November Cuts	R.H. Landscapes & Maintenance Services L	#004037	Grounds Contract	£ 1,373.40
1522	24/12/2025	25.02.10 LODP	Clerk Salary period 9	Hilary Workman	Salary Period 9 2025.26	Clerk/RFO Salary	£ 1,275.47
1523	07/01/2026	25.02.10 LODP	TaxNI Period 9 2025.26 Contribu	HMRC	Tax/NI Period 9 2025.26	HMRC/NI Contributions	£ 286.01
1524	29/12/2025	25.02.10 LODP	Pension Contributions Period 9	NEST Pensions	Pension Period 9 2025.26	Pension Contributions	£ 64.72
1525	22/11/2025	25.02.11.2 DD	Adobe Pro 22.11.2025 - 21.12.202	Adobe Systems Software Ireland Ltd	#IEN2025063424646	Other Software Subscriptions	£ 19.97
1526	22/12/2025	25.02.11.2 DD	Adobe Pro 22.12.2025 - 21.01.202	Adobe Systems Software Ireland Ltd	#IEN2025063424646	Other Software Subscriptions	£ 19.97
1527	02/12/2025	25.02.11.2 DD	Dec'25 Corporate Multip	Lloyds Bank PLC	Corporate Multipay 09	Corporate Multipay Service Charge	£ 3.00
1533	05/01/2026	25.02.10 LODP	MSC Room Hire - November Meeting	Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre	#1777	Meeting Room Hire	£ 40.00
1534	05/01/2026	25.02.10 LODP	MSC Room Hire - December Meeting	Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre	#1778	Meeting Room Hire	£ 20.00
1535	02/01/2026	25.02.11.2 DD	Jan'26 Corporate Multip	Lloyds Bank PLC	Corporate Multipay 10	Corporate Multipay Service Charge	£ 3.00
1536	02/01/2026	25.02.11.2 DD	Bank Service Charge Dec'	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Service Charge Stat	Bank Service Charge - Unity Trust	£ 6.00
1540	09/01/2026	WPC.25.11.17	1 Year annual hosting for e-mail	Mdsign	#2741	Website	£ 66.00

10.5 That there had been no actions to report under Clerk's Delegation since the last meeting.

10.6 The current account balances and reconciliation to 31 December 2025 and the Chairman's confirmation that they are supported by relevant bank balances.

10.7 The Chair's review of the internal control report (tabled and circulated as WPC.26.01.06) and noting that there were no proposed actions from the internal control report

10.8 The review of income and expenditure against budget and any proposed adjustments to the approved budget (previously circulated as WPC.26.01.07).

26.01.11 Resolved

12.1 That Council appoints Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) as Internal Auditors for the financial year 2025/2026; and

12.2 That Wickhambrook Parish Council confirms Hilary Workman to continue to act as the Responsible Financial Officer for the financial year 2026/27 and note that PKF Littlejohn LLP have been appointed by SAAA Ltd as external auditors.

26.01.12 Noted:

12.1 The meeting discussed the draft Budget for 2026/27 (previously circulated as WPC.26.01.08) and, noting the clerk's update at the November meeting that a recent SALC forum for clerks had advised that parish council's make provision for the likely impacts of Local Government Reorganisation (which could include devolved services to parish councils with associated costs) through an increase in their Precept, determined that Option A (Precept £65,910) gave the parish council the best opportunity to prepare for the possible future costs of Local Government Reorganisation whilst continuing to deliver on its existing commitments and projects identified under its agreed three year plan.

12.2 Resolved

That Wickhambrook Parish Council approve their chosen proposed budget option - Option A (Appendix A to report WPC 26.01.07), and

12.3 Resolved

That Wickhambrook Parish Council directs West Suffolk District Council to pay the sum of £65,910, being the Parish Council's total precept requirement for the financial year commencing 1st April 2026; and

12.4 withdrew the proposal (Option B) below:

That Wickhambrook Parish Council directs West Suffolk District Council to pay the sum of £62,610 being the Parish Council's total precept requirement for the financial year commencing 1st April 2026.

Signed: M P Lavelle

Dated: 19/02/2026

- 26.01.13 **Noted:** Planning results as notified by West Suffolk summarised below
- 13.1 [DC/25/0086/FUL](#) - Planning application
a. detached cart lodge
b. removal of lean to at rear of dwelling
c. single storey extension to rear of dwelling
d. alterations to doors and windows of outbuilding
e. creation of new access
f. hardstanding g. addition of gate
h. insertion of 3no. rooflights
Giffords Hall Cottages Giffords Lane Wickhambrook Suffolk CB8 8PQ
WSC: Application Granted **WPC:** No Objections (Min. 25.04.17.1 refers)
- 13.2 [DC/25/0087/LB](#) - Application for listed building consent
a. detached cart lodge
b. removal of lean to at rear of dwelling
c. single storey extension to rear of dwelling
d. alterations to doors and windows of outbuilding
e. insertion of 3no. rooflights
Giffords Hall Cottages Giffords Lane Wickhambrook Suffolk CB8 8PQ
WSC: Application Granted **WPC:** No Objections (Min. 25.02.15.1 refers)
- 13.3 [DC/25/1545/HH](#) - Householder planning application
Single storey rear extension
3 Bury Road Wickhambrook Suffolk CB8 8PE
WSC: Application Granted **WPC:** No Objections (Min. EO.25.11.5.2 refers)
- 26.01.14 Noted:** Planning applications notified by West Suffolk Council for comment
- 14.1 [DC/25/1904/LB](#) - Application for listed building consent
a. removal of modern roof over former Vestry and replacement with roof structure (reinstating a historical roof pitch)
b. replacing ceiling structure over former Vestry with floor structure
Persephone Meeting Green Wickhambrook Suffolk CB8 8XS
See planning report WPC/26.01/DC/25/1904/LB
No objections
- 14.2 [DC/25/1914/VAR](#) - Variation of condition
Condition 2 of DC/24/1726/FUL to allow for use of amended plans for a. change of use from church (use class F1) to residential dwelling (use class C3) b. installation of flue to rear elevation c. cladding to modern brickwork
Persephone Meeting Green Wickhambrook Suffolk CB8 8XS
See planning report WPC/26.01/DC/25/1914/VAR
No objections
- 14.3 **Resolved**
That the Clerk make known the Council's comments on planning applications above to the Corporate Manager, Growth & Sustainable Planning at West Suffolk Council.
- 26.01.15 **Noted:** other Planning matters for information², to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda.
- 15.1 **DCON(A)/25/0874** - Application to discharge
Application to discharge conditions 4 (tree protection measures) and 5 (arboricultural method statement) of application DC/25/0874/HH
Clopton Hall Giffords Lane Wickhambrook Suffolk CB8 8PQ
- 15.2 **DCON(B)/23/1496** – Application to Discharge
Condition 11 (contamination) of DC/23/1496/P3QPA
Tile Hall Farley Green Wickhambrook Newmarket Suffolk CB8 8PX
West Suffolk Council does not consult with the parishes on these matters

² West Suffolk Council does not consult the parish council on these applications.

- 26.01.16 **Noted:**
The meeting considered the feasibility for additional committees previously circulated as **WPC.26.01.09**) and noting that:
1. the parish council currently has vacancies for two councillors, which impacts on its resilience; and
 2. planning applications are matters which are more likely to be engaged with by residents of the parish) where all councillors may represent their views (and those of residents who have approached them), thus ensuring that the process is more democratic
- planning continues to be a matter best considered by full council, and that there was no current capacity for the establishment of a staffing committee.

Cllr Bobby Bennett arrived.

In accordance with Standing Order 10(a)vi, Cllr Bobby Bennett reported under item 26.01.4.1 on the Agenda at this point (Minuted at 26.01.4.1).

Cllr Bobby Bennett left the meeting.

- 26.01.17 **Noted:**
The meeting considered nominations for the Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel Award (previously circulated as **WPC.26.01.10**) to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2026 and noting the number of nominations both in the current and previous years, and her huge contribution to Wickhambrook in a quiet way, and her sustained fundraising for MacMillan over many years, were unanimously in favour of awarding the Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel to:
Dierdre Smith
- 26.01.18 **Noted:** That when any other matters for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda were invited:
- Donation of £415.85 from Wickhambrook Outdoor Bowls Club
 - Arrangements for march.
- 26.01.19 **Noted:** That the scheduled date for the next meeting is **Thursday 19th February** beginning at 7:00pm at the Pavilion, Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre.
- 26.01.20 **Noted:** Close of meeting. 20:25