

# Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Rachael Salt, Cllr Paul Luke, Cllr Andrew Miller, Cllr Paul Turnill, Cllr David Fisher, Cllr Matt Benson

In attendance: Christine Mason (Clerk to the Council), District Councillor Susan Glossop, and five members of the public.

### 1. Apologies

Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger.

### 2. Declaration of Interests

- a. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature – none.
- b. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda, and their nature –none.

### 3. Minutes

Proposed and seconded that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and the Planning Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record – all in favour.

### 4. County & District Councillor Reports

District Cllr Susan Glossop's report: The first of a quarterly community magazine has been sent to householders by WSC; new recycling bins, including a food bin, will be delivered to all households commencing in June.

County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger's report was read out by Cllr Glossop. Andy Moore has cleared up the debris from around Rats Hall Corner plus the junction further up; the damaged finger post is on the list for replacement; the order to replace the white lining at Rats Hall Corner has been placed and should be completed, weather dependent, in mid-February. If not done by then a sign will be put up saying 'white lines worn' to warn people; SCC recognises there are presently a lot of potholes and are putting extra teams on the roads to repair them.

### 5. Public Forum

Concerns focused on the multiple accidents at Rats Hall Corner, there have been 5 collisions reported since the 4 December, the need for a speed assessment and the unwillingness of the Community Policing Team to attend a parish council meeting. To move this forward, Cllrs proposed an open meeting should be organised to include the Portfolio Holder for Highways, a representative from the CPT and Cllr Hopfensperger. Other issues included the number of potholes still not fixed and the overall substandard of the work, who is responsible for quality control of road repairs, blocked gullies and drains, HGV's coming through Culford, almost non-existent white lines at junctions.

### 6. Rolling Action Log update

A progress spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting. Action points - Cllr Glossop to forward the contact name she has for the police, email to be sent, copy to Cllr Salt; no response from the email sent to Culford School in November concerning the school lights on the hockey pitch being left on after 9.00pm, to be followed up, a speed control group to be set up, to be posted on the community groups to see if there was any interest.

## **7. Planning and Environment**

An explanation was given by the clerk as to why comments made by the parish council relating to planning application DC/25/1754/LB differentiated to those on the planning portal. Noted.  
DC/26/0073/TCA Proposal: Trees in a conservation area notification - a. group of Yew, Crab apple, Holly and Buddleia (T1 on plan) reduce height by 2.5 metres b. one Cherry (T2 on plan) overall crown reduction by 1.5 metres. Location: Culford Cottage The Street Culford Suffolk  
To be advised by the Tree Officer.

## **8. Finance**

- a. Due to a typo error, the bank reconciliation to December 2025 to be amended and signed at the next meeting. The payments schedule was approved.
- b. Grant applications received from the Village Hall, Culford Church and West Stow Church were considered and the sum of £700 is to be given to each applicant – all in favour.
- c. Cllr Salt and Cllr Fisher to liaise concerning setting up online banking.

## **9. Precept 2026-2027**

Following full and detailed discussion, it was agreed to set the precept for the next financial year at £13,054 which equates to a percentage increase of 9.82% and a Parish Band D Council Tax of £47.08 per annum – all in favour.

## **10. Traffic calming measures**

Quotations received from Andy Moore in relation to traffic calming measures were unanimously approved.

- a. The Street Culford: Dragon's teeth and a slow marking and refreshing the roundels, at each end of the 30 mph terminal signs, and two new 30mph roundels at the centre of the street £2,405.45.
- b. Icklingham Road West Stow: Dragon's teeth and a slow marking 30mph roundel £1,254.48. Furthermore, a quotation of £470 plus vat received from Westcotec for new parts for the West Stow speed camera was approved – all in favour.

## **11. Accidents at Rats Hall Corner**

Further suggestions included the offer from Cllr Hopfensperger of a solar powered speed camera; repositioning of 'Not suitable for HGVs' signage at the entrance of West Stow/Rats Hall Corner, recommendation only and not enforceable; as evidence, photos of accidents to be sent to local newspapers and news networks; to set up a volunteer led speed control; Nick Timothy MP to be invited to the open meeting.

## **12. Councillors' reports and items for future meetings**

From 1<sup>st</sup> February parish councillors to use their gov.uk emails.  
Culford School hockey pitch lights still left on after 9.00pm – a follow up email to be sent.  
Lights on the iron gates at the school entrance – enforcement to be contacted.

### **Agenda items for the next parish council meeting:**

A volunteer led speed control, to ascertain interest details to be posted on WhatsApp.  
Strategic Lorry Route and lack of appropriate signage.  
Date of the next meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026