

Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

Thursday 26th March 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Rachael Salt, Cllr Paul Luke, Cllr Andrew Miller, Cllr Paul Turnill, Cllr David Fisher,
In attendance: Christine Mason (Clerk to the Council), District Councillor Susan Glossop, and
Five members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger, Cllr Matt Benson.

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 23rd January 2026 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: Topics covered included the letter relating to the new recycling scheme due to commence in June; regarding the lack of response from the police to attend a parish council meeting to discuss the accidents at Rat's Hall Corner, Cllr Glossop suggested Police & Crime Commissionaire Tim Passmore be made aware of the ongoing situation; SCC elections are going ahead on the 7th May; the next Local Plan has started and needs to be completed in thirty months with an increase of 56% of new houses to be built; a call for sites has been issued but has a strict criteria prior to inclusion.

5. Public Forum

Concerns raised included the lack of response from Highways to numerous emails relating to the lack of road markings at Rat's Hall junction and warning signage agreed if the works are not carried out by mid- February; speeding vehicles, in particular HGVs bypassing the main route and coming the village at night; potholes. All issues raised will be discussed at the proposed public meeting.

6. Rolling Action Log update

A progress spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting. Action points – a quotation for a new speed sign plus poles to be sought; potential volunteers for a Lorry Watch scheme has been positive; ongoing actions still in progress – planning application to prune the cherry tree at the front village hall grass area, online banking, blocked drains at West Stow, war memorial brass plaques, public meeting with Highways and Police, Andy Moore for sticky roundels, notice board to be assessed to see whether it is salvageable.

7. Planning and Environment

DC/26/0337/HH

Proposal: Replace side elevation window with door and side lights.

Location: Park Cottage, The Street, Culford, IP28 6DS

No objections.

8. Finance

- a. The bank reconciliation deferred from the previous meeting was approved.
- b. The bank reconciliation as of 3rd February 2026 and the payments schedule were approved. ICO registration details to be checked and posted on the website.

9. Rat's Hall Corner

Despite emails being sent to both the Police and the Portfolio Holder to attend a public Meeting, there has been no response from either parties. Cllr Salt to draft a letter to Tim Passmore, the clerk to forward emails to Cllr Salt showing dates when emails were sent.

11. Agenda items agreed at the last meeting

- a. A volunteer led speed control – the clerk to investigate what is required to set up a speed control scheme in Culford and West Stow.
- b. Strategic Lorry Route and lack of appropriate signage – to be flagged up with National Highways that signage on the A11 is inadequate as lorries are not turning onto the A134 but following their sat nav and coming off at Elveden.
- c. 20mph speed limit – to be brought up at the multi-agency public meeting.
A preliminary agenda to be prepared prior to the public meeting plus the setting up of a nominated working party. Cllr Salt and Cllr Luke volunteered to take it forward. Cllr Benson to be contacted to see whether he will be able to be part of the working party.

10. Approval of Financial Management and Governance Policies

- a. Internal Control Statement
- b. Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control
- c. Risk assessment and Financial risk assessment
- d. Revised Standing Orders
- e. Revised Financial Regulations
- f. Code of Conduct
- g. Data protection & Information management
- h. IT policy
- i. Freedom of Information

The Financial Management and Governance Policies were unanimously approved en-bloc.

12. Councillor's reports and items for future agendas

No reports or future agenda items to be added.

13. Date of next meeting

Confirmed as Thursday 28th May 2026. The Annual Parish Meeting to commence at 7.00pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.