

Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on
Thursday 24th September 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Paul Luke, Cllr Andrew Miller, Cllr Paul Turnill, Cllr David Fisher, Cllr Katie Green, Cllr Grahame Sutton.

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

1. Election of Chair

Proposed and seconded that Cllr David Fisher be elected Chair for the remainder of his term of office, all in favour.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Proposed and seconded that Cllr Paul Luke be elected Chair for the remainder of his term of office, all in favour.

3. Apologies

County Cllr Tim Kent.

4. 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.

5. Minutes

Proposed and seconded that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record – all in favour.

6. Co-option

Following an application deferred from the previous meeting for co-option to the parish council, it was unanimously agreed that Christine Steed be accepted. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed. The Register of Interests paperwork to be sent separately.

7. County & District Council Reports

Topics in Cllr Glossop's report included the decision of the government to withdraw plans for the Local Government Reorganisation, meaning the District elections will now be held in May 2027; in preparation for the new Local Plan, submissions for sites have been published, a public consultation is to be held next Spring and a final decision will be made in 2028; the Planning system is to be changed in October, recommended training will be available to all parish councillors on 6th October 2026 18.30pm -20.00pm on Microsoft Teams.

County Cllr Kent's monthly report was previously circulated

8. Public Forum

Additional Issues raised by residents relating to Rat's Hall Corner to be sent to the clerk for forwarding to Andy Moore, SCC Technical Engineer. Other matters included speed checks being carried out at the wrong locations, articulated lorries speeding through West Stow and Culford ignoring specific lorry routes, variation of visibility measurements compared with those reported by AM. RS to send photos and details to the clerk.

9. Rolling Action Log update

An updated action log was previously circulated. Still outstanding and not listed on the agenda, blocked drains at West Stow and volunteer speed team..

10. Planning & Environment

DC/26/0735/LB Application for listed building consent - a. structural works to lounge, room chimney b. repair and refurbish floor in great hall c. addition of lime render to colonnade first floor elevations d structural stitch repairs to east elevation turret e. re point mortar joints on east

elevation turret and north elevation house f. ridge repair roof and gable tiles West Stow Hall
Icklingham Road West Stow Suffolk

No objections

DC/26/1201/TCA

Trees in a conservation area notification - one Oak, one Cherry and three Silver Birch (marked on plan) overall crown reduction by two metres and two Silver Birch (marked on plan) fell

Emery Down Icklingham Road West Stow Suffolk

To be advised by the Tree Office

DC/26/1356/TCA

Trees in a conservation area notification - two Silver Birch (marked T1 and T2 on plan) reduce Crown by 2.5 metres and reduce lateral crown spread by 1.5 metres, one Silver birch and one Gleditsia marked T3 and T4 on plan fell and three Laurel (marked G1 on plan) reduce crown and spread by one metre

Oakcroft The Street Culford Suffolk

To be advised by the Tree Officer

DC/26/1064/TPO

TPO 063(1980) tree preservation order - one Sycamore (marked on plan) crown lift to three metres above ground level

Pumping Station Icklingham Road West Stow Suffolk

To be advised by the Tree Officer

11. Finance

- a. The Receipts and Payments schedule and payments were approved - all in favour.
- b. The bank reconciliation as of 28th August 2026 was approved - all in favour.
- c. The quotation received for restoring the war memorial brass plaques was approved - all in favour.
- d. The quotations for additional safety measures at Rat's Hall Corner were approved - all in favour

12. Rat's Hall Corner

Following the detailed report and recommendations from Andy Moore, it was proposed a Stop sign, a Give Way sign and buffer speed limits to be requested. Additionally, visibility measurements to be challenged.

13. Notice Board

It was proposed the contractor currently building a notice board for St Mary's Church at West Stow at a cost of £667.00, be contacted to provide the same design as the Church but slightly smaller in width. A further donation towards the cost to be given by British Sugar.

14. Councillor's reports and items for future agendas

Sat Nav priorities at Rat's Hall Corner; cleaning /painting of white entry gates; damaged chevron at the grassed triangle bend; installation of the mobile phone mast.

Following her resignation, a vote of thanks was given to Rachael Salt for her many years of service as a Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Councillor.

15. Date of next meeting

Confirmed date 26th November 2026.

With no further business the meeting ended at 8.45pm.