

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th July 2026

Present: Cllr Duncan Perry, Cllr Richard Thurman, Cllr Andy Lewis,
District Cllr Dr Agnes Watson, District Cllr Janet Pearson, SCC Cllr Andrew
Stringer, Christine Mason (Clerk) and six members of the public

2026/016 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Stacey Lascelles, Cllr Stephanie Hensley, Cllr Nick Mitchell, Cllr Michael
Collings – apologies were accepted.

2026/017 **Declarations of Interests**

None declared.

2026/018 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of Monday 18th May 2026
were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2026/019 **District Councillor's Report**

Main topics included the challenge from the now Reform led Suffolk County
Council to the agreed 3 unitary councils for Suffolk; end of week 6 of Better
Recycling with the service moved from implementation onto normal
operational management; Joint Local Plan consultation now open; MSDC's
Stowmarket Innovation Gateway, a collaboration between Freeport East and
MSDC was officially opened on 14th July; Pride in your Place Grants
applications are now open for capitol projects that enable community
groups to enhance their local area and environment, explore local identity
and heritage and engage in activities such as community clean up.

2026/020 **County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Stringer's report: The Post-16 Travel Policy has been agreed for
2026-27; Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service have invested over three million in
eleven new fire engines across the county; the County Council has taken legal
action against the government in relation to Local Government Reform
proposals estimated cost up to £500,000; at a cost of £18,000 the new
Reform leader has agreed to the remodelling of the Councillor's office space
at Endeavour House.

Local Highways issues: The ad hoc laybys on the former A14 (45) have been
visited by Highways, looking at what could be possible to "limit" the use
of these, the various options all came at a significant costs which made
them non-starters, the officers came up with one workable suggestion, this
is to dig in plastic bollards to prevent access, this would be a low cost option
that could be installed by local volunteers.

With the new industrial sheds approved at Lawn Farm Woolpit, the issue was
raised at committee regarding the HGV's left turning in Haughley New Street
and Park Road and how it is unacceptable that Wetherden Parish Council
should be expected to pay for signage improvements to help regularise this
situation. The location of the new SID post in Stowmarket road has now been
agreed and will be installed asap.

The drainage at the bottom of Rectory hill, one of the gullies has been cleansed, but the others have been missed, one because the drain grate is cracked and the team did not want to lift it fearing it would break further and collapse, a further two drains were missed these have been re-reported.

2026/21

To receive the finance report and authorise payments

The finance report was agreed and payments as per the schedule were approved. Bank balance as of 13th July 2026 stands at £17,255.62.

Expenditure

Bank service charge	4.25
C Hawes	30.00
Clerk's salary May	467.94
PWLB	475.44
NGF Play	1274.40
Clerk's salary June	461.19
Bank service charge	4.25
Vertas Group	414.20
Blackthorn Landscapes	510.00
Litter picker	104.85
C Hawes	30.00
M Collings expenses	43.32
Litter picker	98.50
Glasdon UK	263.18
HMRC	383.67
Hall hire	60.00

Income

Locality Budget	1500.00
Refund from Richard Hartley	232.50
Wetherden Charities donation	1000.00

2026/22

Playground swing update

The deposit for a new swing has been made, delivery late summer A thank you to Cllr Stringer, Cllr Watson and the Wetherden Charities for their funding contributions towards the cost A date to be scheduled for clearing brambles and cutting back branches now overhanging the junior swings.

2026/23

Village sign replacement update

The Old village sign outside the church has been removed and an individual has been identified who can produce a new sign out of oak and carved to replace the previous one. Cllrs Collings and Hensley are in the process for applying for grants and are actively seeking quotations. Views have been expressed that rather replacing the sign at the church it is located in the middle of the village next to the bus stop. All options will be considered.

2026/24

Speed indicator device update

A quotation to replace the current battery device for one that is solar powered has been received, funding towards the purchase to be pursued.

Statistics for June and July show incoming vehicles per hour 39251 and outgoing vehicles 62655.

Data shows 80.86% of incoming vehicles are driving 30mph or less; 31-35mph 14.27%; 36-40mph 3.79%; 41-45mph 0.87%; 46-65mph 0.22%.

Outgoing data shows 64.25% of outgoing vehicles are driving 30mph or less; 31-35mph 27.99%; 36-40mph 6.38%; 41-45mph 1.12%; 46-65mph 0.26%. Data to be retained as proof of speeding when assistance is required from Highways / Police Safety Team.

2026/25 **To receive updates on common/playing fields/projects**

A request has been received for permission to plant a memorial tree on the Common; Joanna Ling from the Haughley & Wetherden Benefice would like to invite families to attend outside church services on the Common, Cllr Perry to progress both requests.

2026/26 **Public Participation**

The football club have treated and seeded the playing field; the Townlands Trust to be contracted regarding a suitable location for a 'Protecting Your Open Spaces' banner; rubbish/debris has been dumped in the ditch near the bridge; a request to move the small speed indicator device from Ashfield Road to the centre of village was agreed but must be removed when the ANPR device is due to be sited at that location. Cllr Lewis to send details of dates.

2026/27 **Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the council**

The Maypole is currently in contractual negotiations with a potential experienced landlord. No further information at present.

2026/28 **Date of next meeting**

21st September 2026.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.