

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs David Barker (Chairman), Steve Caley, Steve Christian, Ian Cotgrove, Diane Gladders, Robin Lambert, Richard Brown

IN ATTENDANCE: District and County Cllr Andy Mellen, 25 members of the public and Ginny O’Hegarty (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES and approval of absences. None received.
2. MINUTES of the previous Annual Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 21 May 2024 had been approved and signed by Cllr David Barker (Chairman) 17 September 2024.
3. ANNUAL REPORT of the Parish Council Chairman. Please see attached. The Chairman presented the report thanking the previous Clerk for his work, and the Councillors and Cllr Mellen for attending Parish Council meetings.
4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS Cllr Mellen provided information on Neighbourhood Plans, a statutory process and a tool for parishes in guiding future building development in their area to meet the Government’s national policy on the building of additional homes.
5. SUFFOLK COUNTY Councillor Annual Report. Please see attached. Cllr Mellen presented the report.
6. BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK Councillor Annual Report. Please see attached. Cllr Mellen presented the report. Cllr Mellen also noted a survey (<https://midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/have-your-say-suffolk>) being run by Suffolk’s district and borough councils inviting residents, businesses and communities to give their views on local government reorganisation in the county.
7. WESTHORPE TRUST Report. Please see attached. The report was presented by Cllr Christian, Chairman of the Trust. It was noted that any resident could apply for support from the Trust.
8. VILLAGE HALL Committee Report. Please see attached. Paul Weston presented the report.
9. WESTHORPE PARISH CHURCH Report. Please see attached. Cllr Barker presented the report.
10. OPEN FORUM. The Chairman took a straw poll of residents in attendance which was almost unanimous in favour of moving forward with a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman was also asked to write to Angela Rayner’s department to express the concerns of residents on several issues.

So signed and approved at a meeting of 23 September 2025