

WESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 August 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs David Barker (Chair), Martin Brown, Steve Christian, Diane Gladders and Robin Lambert. Also in attendance: Ginny O'Hegarty (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies and approval of absences. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Steve Caley and Richard Brown.
2. Declarations of interest with regards to items on the Agenda and dispensation considerations. Cllr Barker declared an interest in Agenda item 3a as his family were former owners. Cllr Barker was granted a dispensation to participate in the discussion.
3. Planning
 - a. Council considered the following application:
DC/26/03309 Application for Listed Building Consent - Proposed removal of existing internal walls (following areas exposed to reveal underlying fabric). Installation of new partitions and replacement of new internal doors. Installation of new ground floor underfloor heating and first, second floor radiators. Installation of air source heat pumps and removal of existing porch. Location: Westhorpe Hall, The Green, Westhorpe IP14 4SS

The Parish Council unanimously supported the application and look forward to the property being brought back to a family home and seeing the removal of many of the current inappropriate internal works.

- b. Council agreed to submit a response to the Shepherds Grove, Stanton and Hepworth Hybrid Planning Application Public Consultation noting that the development would provide increased employment opportunities in the area.

Council raised objections to the application on the grounds that the proposed development could increase the use of roads towards Walsham le Willows from Finningham, Westhorpe and Badwell Ash potentially resulting in these routes becoming used regularly by employees and delivery vehicles. Traffic, including lorries, already passes through Walsham le Willows causing delays on the narrow roads. Existing businesses in the village are also experiencing delays when two HGVs are unable to pass each other and block the road. Consideration should therefore be given to introducing a weight restriction through Walsham le Willows, similar to that in Norton, with an exemption for vehicles delivering to local commercial sites.

Council also raised concerns regarding the proposed new roundabout on the A143, south-west of the existing junction with Sumner Road as it was considered that the roundabout may slow traffic on what is currently a single-lane carriageway. Traffic along Sumner Road is increasing, mainly due to regular road closures with drivers using it as a shortcut, new housing in surrounding villages and increased use of GPS/satellite navigation.

4. Date of next meeting Tuesday, 22nd September 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.
5. Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

So signed and approved at a meeting of 22 September 2026