

WINFARTHING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 6 July 2026 at 7.30 pm at
Winfarthing Village Hall, Hall Road, Winfarthing IP22 2EJ

Councillors Present: Cllr Richard Steel (Chair), Cllr Lynne Rogers, Cllr David Rix, Cllr Peter Mackay, Cllr Eric Cole, Cllr Jono Smith, (1 vacancy)

In attendance: Karen Rix (Clerk)

Members of the Public (MOP): 3

1. **To receive and consider apologies for absence**
Apologies from Cllr Mackay were noted.
2. **To receive or update any declarations of pecuniary interest**
None received
3. **To approve minutes of previous meeting held on 1 June 2026**
Minutes proposed by Cllr Rogers, seconded by Cllr Cole, unanimously approved and signed as a correct record.
4. **To consider any matters arising from minutes (not covered by an agenda item)**
No matters arising.
5. **To receive an update on actions from previous minutes**
September 2025
 - **Item 14.4 - Clerk** to circulate an Emergency Plan template to all councillors – **deferred.**
 - **Item 14.5 - Clerk** to circulate an Action Plan template to all councillors – **deferred.****May 2026**
 - **Item 16.4 - Cllr Rix** to contact charity trustee David Mitchell to establish award parameters - **remains ongoing.**
 - **Item 16.5 - Clerk** to investigate a defibrillator training course for residents of the village – **course has been arranged for Saturday 10 October 2026 10.30 - 11.30 am.****June 2026**
 - **Item 7 - Clerk** to investigate at what stage CIL becomes payable and whether the council had received any payment – **Clerk confirmed no CIL was payable on this development as the new buildings did not exceed the area of the buildings they replaced.**

All other actions were completed or were set as an agenda item.

6. **To receive questions or comments from members of the public.**
None received
7. **To receive a report from County and District Councillors**
County Cllr Thomas submitted a report which can be found with these minutes.

Signed Chair

Date

Cllr Steel asked who paid for the judicial review. County Cllr Thomas advised the public would ultimately pay however this would be less than the cost of reorganisation. Cllr Easter reported that SNC had also submitted a judicial review, but this was being funded by SNC.

Cllr Cole commented on the appalling condition of Haugh Road before the Danbrigg crossroads adding it was as bad if not worse than before it had been repaired.

Cllr Cole advised that he had once again reported overgrown hedges and over hanging branches on local roads to NCC Highways. However, he always received response saying that the work does not meet current criteria. Cllr Cole asked County Cllr Thomas if she could find out what the criteria was for this work to be carried out.

District Cllr Easter submitted a report which can be found with these minutes. He also reported that SNC were hoping to deliver lectures on fraud and scams, how to avoid them and how to get your money back. A discussion ensued as to how best to communicate this to the Winfarthing community as not all were able to access the village Facebook page. A flyer was suggested and it was agreed to add this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Agenda item 10.4 was brought forward so it could be discussed before the County and District Cllr's left the meeting.

10.4 To receive and discuss any updates on the proposal for Mitchell's Yard

The parish council had been advised that Atlas Children's homes intended to submit a single planning application for change of use for all 5 properties, however this had not yet been submitted. Cllr Easter reported that he had informed the Police Beat Manager for this area of the proposal.

An MOP advised that if the proposal did go ahead they would be installing a fence between the development and the field at the rear of the properties.

County Cllr Thomas, District Cllr Easter and one MOP left the meeting after this agenda item.

8. To receive the Clerk's report and update on correspondence

- The Clerk advised that an email had been received from MP Adrian Ramsey's office asking for information about bus services in the region and what improvements could be made. Cllr's asked the Clerk to respond asking for a more regular service that allowed users more time to access facilities in Diss before having to return.
- The Clerk advised that the new backboard had been fitted into the village noticeboard and all the glass widows cleaned.

Action: Clerk to respond to Adrian Ramsey's email asking for a more regular bus service that allowed parishioners more time in Diss to use facilities.

Signed Chair

9. FINANCE

9.1. To approve payments (C)

Payment Type/ Cheque No	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT
100344	K Rix	June Salary	349.40	
100345	Westcotec Ltd	Speed Awareness Sign	5622.00	937.00
		Total	5971.40	937.00

Payments were unanimously approved.

9.2. Receipts (B)

DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DETAILS	AMOUNT
28/05/26	Norfolk County council	Parish Partnership grant	3342.50
		Total	3342.50

9.3. To receive a report from the Responsible Finance Officer

DETAILS	CR	DR	BALANCE
Cash book balance brought forward: A	8695.12		
Receipts in May 26 (listed above): B	3342.50		
Payments in May 26 (listed above): C		5971.40	
Cash book balance carried forward (A+B-C) Community Account Balance			6066.22

10. To comment on planning applications

10.1. To discuss application nos. 2026/1539

Application No: 2026/1539
Applicant: Mr Philip Eastaugh
Location: Boundary Farm, Long Lane, Winfarthing IP22 2EY
Proposal: Variation of condition 2 to revise access arrangements and amend elevation and roof design of permission 2025/3952 (which consented to change of use of agricultural building with extension into a single storey dwelling and erection of a detached 2 bay garage) Date of Decision 17/03/2026
Application type: Removal/variation of Condition (S73/S19)

Councillors had no comments.

10.2. To discuss application no. 2025/0004 - Mill Road

No further updates.

10.3. To discuss application no. 2024/2476 - Hall Road

No further updates.

Signed Chair

11. To receive and discuss updates concerning parish infrastructure

11.1. Village Hall Governance

The Clerk reported that the Village Hall EGM took place on 30 June 2026 and the resolution to appoint Winfarthing Parish Council had been passed. The Clerk advised that as Sole Trustees the parish council should now compile a Terms of Reference document for the management committee. This would make clear their delegated authority along with reporting requirements. The Clerk agreed to draft the document for approval at the next parish council meeting.

Action: Clerk to draft Village Hall Management Committee Terms of Reference document for next parish council meeting.

The Clerk also advised that she would contact Zurich, the parish council's insurance company, to advise them of the new trustee status.

Action: Clerk to contact Zurich insurance to advise of the new trustee status of parish council.

The Clerk advised that now the village hall governance had been resolved the land could be registered with the land registry. Cllr Cole agreed to contact his solicitors for a quotation to carry out the formal registration.

Action: Cllr Cole to contact his solicitors for a quotation to carry out the registration of the village hall land.

11.2. Parish Footpaths

No updates reported

11.3. Installation of Speed Awareness Monitor

The Clerk reported that the monitor had been installed and was having an impact. The Clerk advised the location would be changed on 12 July 2026, Cllr's agreed the next location should be The Street.

11.4. Award parameters of Winfarthing Town Estate Charity

Action remains ongoing.

11.5. Councillor Cole's meeting with River Waveney Trust

Cllr Cole reported that the primary objective of the Trust was to slow down or hold back the water in the water courses. They propose to dig out ponds and will provide Cllr Cole with plans to install buffer strips on his land to support their objective.

11.6. Maintenance of glebe land hedge

Cllr Cole had previously sought permission from the Diocese to remove the mass of ivy and elder hedge and replant. It was agreed to remove the hedge on Sunday 12 July 2026. Cllr Cole offered the use of his Teleporter to pull out the hedge, Cllr's Rix and Steel agreed to support with the clear up and making good.

Signed Chair

Date

The Clerk suggested installing a footpath map on the land, Cllr Steel added that he had seen a 'relief map' at a park which was very effective. The Clerk agreed to investigate.

Action: Clerk to investigate the cost of installing a footpath map on the glebe land.

12. To receive items for the next Agenda and confirm date of next meeting

- To discuss the use of a 'Flyer' to communicate with parishioners
- To review draft Terms of Reference Document for village hall management committee.

Next Meeting: 24 August 2026

Meeting closed 21:57

Action List

September 2025

- **Item 14.4 - Clerk** to circulate an Emergency Plan template to all councillors – **deferred**.
- **Item 14.5 - Clerk** to circulate an Action Plan template to all councillors – **deferred**.

May 2026

- **Item 16.4 - Cllr Rix** to contact charity trustee David Mitchell to establish award parameters.

July 2026

- **Item 8 - Clerk** to respond to Adrian Ramsey's email asking for a more regular bus service that allowed parishioners more time in Diss to use facilities.
- **Item 11.1 - Clerk** to draft Village Hall Management Committee Terms of Reference document for next parish council meeting.
- **Item 11.1 - Clerk** to contact Zurich insurance to advise of the new trustee status of parish council.
- **Item 11.1 - Cllr Cole** to contact his solicitors for a quotation to carry out the registration of the village hall land.
- **Item 11.6 - Clerk** to investigate the cost of installing a footpath map on the glebe land.

Signed Chair

Date

Winfarthing

Report from Margaret Thomas
County Councillor for West Depwade
July 2026

Email: margaret.thomas.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk
Tel 01603-223834

Here's a brief update on some of the key issues and activity from the past month.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update

Local Government Reorganisation remains one of the most significant issues facing Norfolk. In March 2026, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Steve Reed, announced the Government's decision to replace the existing two-tier system (Norfolk County Council plus seven district, city, and borough councils) with three new unitary authorities: Greater Norwich Council, East Norfolk Council, and West Norfolk Council. This is subject to Parliamentary approval via a Structural Changes Order, with implementation targeted for April 2028.

The decision followed a consultation process and proposals from various councils. Norfolk County Council had advocated for a single county-wide unitary authority, while most district councils supported three unitaries. Concerns have been raised about the Minister's decision reportedly going against civil service advice regarding financial resilience, service delivery, and geography.

Judicial Review Developments

On 25 June 2026, Norfolk County Council (under its new Reform UK administration) formally submitted a judicial review application to the High Court challenging the Government's decision-making process. This follows a pre-action protocol letter sent earlier in June. The Council has also instructed officers to pause non-essential work on implementing LGR pending the outcome.

South Norfolk Council has also pursued or signalled legal action, citing concerns over the process and the suitability of the three-unitary model. Similar challenges are being considered or pursued by councils in Suffolk and Essex.

The judicial review is at an early stage. The Court will first decide whether to grant permission for the case to proceed to a full hearing, where the lawfulness of the Government's decision-making (including consultation and criteria application) will be examined. Judicial reviews focus on process and legality rather than the policy merits of the decision itself.

The new Reform UK-led administration at County Hall has made clear its strong opposition to the reorganisation, describing it as unnecessary and costly, and is prioritising efforts to preserve the current two-tier structure where possible.

Next Steps and Implications

- The outcome of the judicial review could impact timelines significantly, potentially delaying or altering the reorganisation.
- Regardless of the legal process, I will continue to monitor developments closely and represent local residents' views.

• Residents should be aware that any changes would affect local services, planning, highways, and council tax over the coming years.

As more information emerges - particularly regarding the court's decision on permission - I will provide further updates.

Council Business

Recent council meetings have focused on a range of important topics, including council finances, service delivery and future priorities. I have continued to represent the interests of residents and ensure that local concerns are raised where appropriate.

Local Issues

I have continued to work on a range of local issues raised by residents, including highways, planning matters, environmental concerns and access to local services.

You asked me to look into the progress for resurfacing works along the B1077 and to ascertain why the work was not carried out to a satisfactory standard previously.

I have been communicating with the officer concerned with designing the scheme of proposed work. This extract is from his recent communication:

When the Engineer and designer turned up at the location to discuss these plans which was very early into the design process, and many months away from any planned start of works date, they found the road had been surfaced dressed already with no repair works carried out.

The contractor was doing similar work nearby and thought that they could surface dress this section of the B1077 at the same time. None of us are able to understand the thought process or why the contractor made that decision at that time. The scheme was in the very early stages of design and far from ready to start any work.

I have a meeting arranged soon with the Highway Engineer and new contractor to discuss a plan for the works and getting the road to the standard the people of Winfarthing expect. I will update you as soon as this meeting has been held and continue to update you on further discussions and future meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time please contact me and I will gladly help.

I met with representatives from National Grid on Friday 3rd to discuss the proposed enabling works for the proposed upgrade along with my colleague Karl Cathpole from Long Stratton division. During which we reaffirmed the widespread public opposition to this scheme and highlighted the concerns of local business and residents.

If you have an issue, you would like me to look into, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Community Engagement

It has been a pleasure to attend community events, meet with local organisations and speak with residents about the issues that matter most to them. These conversations are invaluable in helping shape the work I do on your behalf.

Resources

Norfolk Heating Oil Crisis Fund

I would like to remind residents on an income under £35k that they can apply for help with Heating Oil costs through the council's website at

www.norfolk.gov.uk/HeatingOil or Telephone 03448008020

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

This scheme provides free holiday activities for children 5-16 in Norfolk if children are in receipt of free school meals, apply at :

www.norfolk.gov.uk/bignorfolkholidayfun.

Keeping in Touch

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. Your feedback is always welcome, and I remain committed to representing the interests of everyone in our community.

Kind Regards

Margaret Thomas

Planning

Planning laws will change on 31st October 2026. You will still be able to comment on applications but I will no longer be able to call applications in for the Planning Committee hear and make decisions. In my opinion this is not very democratic as we are no longer able to question decisions made by a planning officer. I understand that planning officers are not happy either as they see the current system a check on them which they approve of. Not very many applications are called 'In' and of those most are approved and it is seen as a process that works. It maybe that in other parts of the Country numerous applications are called in and the planning committees are over whelmed. So the new rules are "one size fits all".

Greater Norwich Local Plan

The Greater Norwich authorities are preparing a new local plan.

This process is prompted by national planning reform and the governments new method for calculating housing need. In addition , the government has introduced na new plan-making system, which changes the way local plans are prepared.

In February this year the Greater Norwich authorities opened an initial "Call for Sites" and Landowners, developers and other interested parties were invited to submit sites that may be suitable for housing, employment and other uses.

There is now another opportunity to submit sites that may be suitable or uture development by opening the Call for Sites for any type of development can be submitted, but in particular.

Brownfield sites on Norwich City Centre locations

Gypsy and Traveller sites

The call will be open from 15-06-26 to 13-07-26

The submission of a sites does not guarantee it will be allocated. This will form the basis of a future public consultation. More details will follow.

Devolution

Following on to the Secretary of State's decision to make Norfolk into a 3 devolution County, SNC have made an application to get answers to how the decision was made, was it political or in the best interest of the residents? At present, although SNC have asked, no answers have been forth coming, which is why a Judicial Review has been made.

Diss Leisure Centre

Work has started this week to build the new leisure centre.