WEREHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 12 May 2026 6.45 PM

Community Room, Wereham Village Hall, Church Road

In Attendance:

Cllr Sandra Calvert (Chair of the Parish Council) (SC)
Cllr Stephen Bradsell (Vice-Chair of the Parish Council) (SB)
Cllr Jonathan Marsh
Cllr Bridget Slade
Public - Two
Also in Attendance:
Cllr Sue Lintern BCKLWN Borough Councillor

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Gail Koopowitz and Cllr Jo Wellington-Bruce were accepted.

2. Last Annual Parish Meeting Minutes 2025 & Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting May 2025 be approved. (All were in favour)

3. Chairs Report

Cllr Sandra Calvert – Chair of the Parish Council

I would firstly like to start by thanking the parish Councillors and our clerk Helen for all the work they do and their continued support. I am aware that not only are all the Parish councillors' volunteers, but some of us also have daytime jobs and in many cases are balancing other responsibilities, families and busy lives of our own. Helen does a fantastic job as our clerk and certainly makes my job a lot easier where a lot of work goes on behind the scenes keeping everything organised and compliant. so, thank you. I would also like to thank Martyn Storey our borough councillor and Sue Linton who has always given us clear guidance as well as dealing with the various bodies and after the local elections last week we obviously will be welcoming our new Borough councillor Mike Westman.

We will continue to serve the village by managing certain areas within the village like the playing field and play area, managing street lighting, looking after the cemetery and church grounds whilst trying to navigate what projects if any we can look at to improve the village. We do not control everything, far from it, with some of our residents not fully understand that. My main aim has and will continue to be, responsible spending and keeping our preset as low as possible for all our residence. The Parish Council's budget comes primarily from the parish precept, which forms a small part of our council tax. While everything around us is increasing at an alarming rate it was a good achievement in keeping it as low as possible with just an extra 17p per household per month for a typical house in Band D.

This year has seen us renovate the memorial at the springs, A solar speed light sign, on the A134, we have provided an extra dog bin and will be revisiting this issue at our next meeting, but I would like to point out to residence that our village has more dog bins than any other village and if these are full, then please can they take them home to put in their own black bins. We revised the ground maintenance contract to include further improvements within the village, we spent a lot of time dealing with trees this year, set up new websites and email addresses and finished off with a successful litter pick.

I think like most people's concern in our village is the road safety on the A134 along with the lighting which we continually hound Highways on. We have continued writing to them over the past year, without even an acknowledgement. Our frustration is that even when residents contact them direct they are fobbed off by stating that they need to speak with their parish council I would like to assure our residence that we will continue voicing our concerns on behalf of everyone and if there is one action that we would like our new Borough councillor Mike Westman to work on it is the implementation of new lights and reflectors and feel that this should be an agenda item until this matter is resolved.

As previous stated the council continues to manage the playing field and pond areas carefully supporting both biodiversity along with looking after the character of the village. I like to thank Gail and her volunteers for looking after the biodiversity garden this year which has become a place of beauty and tranquillity.

There will obviously be lot of changes in the next few years with the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government with the existing 8 councils being replaced by three. Sue Linton covered this area in her report, but us as a parish council will need to adjust and embrace these new changes.

It just leaves me to say thank you again and I look forward to your continued support in the next coming year.

4. Resident Concerns of Anything in Relation to the Parish of Wereham

There was none.

5. Date of Next Meeting – To be confirmed

To be confirmed.