

Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

Thursday 31st July 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Fisher (Chair), Cllr Paul Luke, Cllr Andrew Miller, Cllr Paul Turnill, Cllr Matt Benson

In attendance: Christine Mason (Clerk to the Council), District Councillor Susan Glossop, Andy Moore, Suffolk Highways representing County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger.

1. Apologies

Cllr Rachel Salt due to illness.

2. Declaration of Interests

- a. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature – none.
- b. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda, and their nature – none.

3. Minutes

Proposed and seconded that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 29th May 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record – all in favour.

4. County & District Councillor Reports

Andy Moore, SCC Highways spoke on a recent speed survey carried out in Culford, when received, information on traffic numbers and HGV's coming through the village to be forwarded to the clerk. With the parish council considering funding certain traffic calming measures, it was pointed out by Andy Moore that the width of the road is unsuitable for certain structures i.e a small island, chicanes, white lines. Other matters to be addressed include the need to replace the faded 30mph roundel stickers, a 7.5 ton weight limit sign by the bridge at Flempton but no sign on the West Stow side, to mitigate noise from HGV lorries, the Culford road surface requires resurfacing (specific areas to be identified and sent to AM).

District Cllr Susan Glossop reported Forest Lodge are not happy with the Forestry Commission as they are to install a portable loo for workmen, WSDC are currently dealing with the matter and it is envisaged it will be screened by bushes; as it is private land sold by Culford School, the District & SCC cannot enforce the massive amount of topsoil deposited on the triangle of woodland near to St Mary's Church. To stop litter being dumped, the owner intends to level the soil to form a bund wall around the site and then sow wildflower seeds, further matters reported include the damaged flint wall at West Stow, Cllr Luke confirmed quotations are to be sought, availability of Community Grants now available from WSDC, regarding devolution, business plans from both SCC and DC are to be received by Central Government by 21st September 2025.

5. Public Forum

A member of the public commented on the noise generated as HGVs drive over gratings.

6. Clerk's Report & Administrative Business

A progress spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting. An updated report to be appended to the minutes.

7. Planning and Environment

DC/25/0989/HH : Proposal Householder planning application - detached outbuilding

Location 6 Ingham Road West Stow Suffolk IP28 6EX

No comments received

DC/25/0928/HH: Proposal Planning application - detached double garage

Location Southdene 7 The Drift Culford Bury St Edmunds Suffolk

No objections

DC/25/1057/HH: Proposal Householder planning application – replace all windows to all elevations

Location Welham Cottage Ingham Roda Culford Suffolk

No objections

8. Finance

- a. The schedule of income and expenditure was considered and payments approved.
- b. The income and against expenditure to 30th June 2025 was approved.
- c. The quotation of £890 received for cleaning the Culford war memorial was approved.

9. Traffic calming measures

With prohibitive costs for traffic calming measures, further funding sources are to be investigated.

For advice on viable options, a daytime site visit from Highways Technical Officer Matthew Fox to be arranged.

10. Pride in your village cleaning day

Councillors to arrange a date for a Saturday litter picking day between July and November in Culford and West Stow. Volunteers to be sought via WhatsApp, village magazine and notice boards. WSC to be contacted to check whether litter pickers, high viz vests and collection of rubbish bags are still provided.

11. New notice board

A future agenda item.

12. Training

Cllr Benson and Cllr Turnill expressed an interest to attend the 'New Councillor' training day.

Availability to be confirmed by SALC.

13. Councillors' reports and items for future meetings

Cllr Fisher attended a) the meeting with SCC regarding their views on becoming a One Suffolk Unitary Authority b) an on line meeting with National Highways who will be carrying out resurfacing and drainage renewal works on a section of the A14 between junction 36 and 42.

Diversions will be in place from September to the end of the year but may only affect Culford for approximately two weeks.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm