

WACTON ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

7th May 2025 Minutes.

8 Members of Public

District Councillor Kim Carsok

1. Welcome
2. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting
These were agreed as a true record of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Parish
Proposed Kat Ireson Seconded Freddie Boone
3. To allow non-electors to speak at the meeting.
No comments raised
4. To receive any apologies
Alison Thomas sent her apologies
5. To receive reports from: -

- Norfolk County Council – Alison Thomas

A few updates from me about County Council activity over the last year
Bypass

Huge progress being made by our contactor Octavius. There will be scheduled weekend road closures for two dates in July (provisionally 4/5/6 and 25/26/27) These will be from 8pm on Fri to 6am on Mon. This will enable the roundabout at Church Lane St Michaels to be completed.

Then there will be a further weekend closure Aug 1/2/3 for the Southern tie in. It is then hoped that if all has gone to plan the road will be OPEN FOR TRAFFIC!! These dates may be subject to change so please wait until the advertised closures are published before putting onto printed briefings, but it is hoped that this will be the final push.

Additional work will continue after the road is open to traffic with some local road closures at Parkers Lane and near the northern compound to put in kerbing etc once the traffic volume has decreased.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation continue at pace with the County Council expected to make a firm decision on its preferred proposal for LGR once all the evidence is ready to justify that position. Final submissions go to Government in Sept with expected decision by year end.

Directly elected Mayor for Norfolk & Suffolk will proceed to election in May 2026 if the decision is taken by Norfolk & Suffolk Councils to proceed with the proposed devolution deal once the contents of the devolution offer is presented by Government.

Norfolk Highways team have taken the top spot for the second year in the National Highways Transport (NHT) survey on roads and transport.

People from across the County gave the Norfolk the highest score in satisfaction with the condition of the roads. So, whilst we might have some ongoing challenges with road repairs at times we are performing well against our peer authorities.

More than 5,300 potholes have been fixed across Norfolk in the last year with 99% repaired within the agreed response times by our contractors.

Norfolk County Council have committed over £1m to help residents keep warm over winter especially those impacted by the removal of the winter fuel allowance. This is in addition

to £3.6m to support given to families who are eligible for means tested free school meals with cost-of-living vouchers. We also allocate over £1m via the Norfolk assistance scheme to provide household items and emergency help to those in need. If you know of any residents in your community that need help, please refer them to the County Council for support

In addition to our regular footpath network, we have over 1,500 miles of Norfolk Trails which offer a rich and diverse network of walking, cycling and horse-riding routes. Further information can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42852/Norfolk-Trails There is a great interactive map available.

Lots more happening but this is a flavour of some of the work undertaken this year on your behalf.

- South Norfolk Council – Kim Carsok

Report detailed by Kim as **appendix A**

- Wacton Parish Council

The Parish Council have been approached by the community payback team to do local jobs at no expenses to the council and only us to provide the materials. They start on Friday and will be cleaning signs/ play equipment and planting the new planter. They will work all day with other dates and jobs to be arranged.

The noticeboard has been moved to the entrance to the village hall under the porch with a new letter box due any time.

The book exchange is very popular, and many people use it and is well treated. A new extra bookshelf is needed with one donated by a parishioner who will fit it also.

The CPR training will take place at a date to be arranged by qualified trainers in that.

The black's meadow area was not cut as agreed by everyone for No Mow May.

The vandalism in the parish is becoming a worry with the play area gates been vandalised three times. One of the baby swings has rotting posts which we will need repairing asap. The local signs on events that are put up have been removed by someone around promoting meetings and events.

The old noticeboard was agreed to reposition in black meadow, and it seems the old one is very heavy, and we will look at a lighter option moving forward.

- Wacton Community Woodland

Access has been limited to the removal of the bridge remnants and monies have been short until the new precept has come in to get the bridge rebuilt with lots of work to be undertaken asap.

- All Saints Church

James gave the following report attached as **appendix B**

- Wacton Village Hall

Attached as **appendix C**

- Social Club

No report received

- Dear councillors, please may Wacton Social Club have permission to have a fun day on the village green

What we are thinking of is BBQ, disco karaoke, bouncy castle, face painter ice cream coconut shy and a few more games.

We will of course have the usual insurances in place and the bouncy castle has a 5m public liability insurance of their own. We will also do a risk assessment and

Richard Moss has said he will take his roller and flatten any mole hills etc

Proposed date for this is Saturday 16th August starting around 2.30 pm and finishing at roughly 8pm

- Wacton Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings are going well and there were worries that no request from a report received but lots of people attending and great work from Caroline, but more men are needed for the men's table.

- Speed watch Group

No report Received

6. Any further reports

No report

7. Any other business

Comments made on dates in the sexton's wheel have been not correct and this is a worry.

We ask that you keep your reports brief as there is a lot to deal with, please

Thank you for attending

Meeting closed 6.02pm

KC

Kim Carsok <Kim.Carsok@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk>

Wed, 07 May 2025 5:45:58 PM +0100 •

To "clerk@wacton-pc.gov.uk (External)" <clerk@wacton-pc.gov.uk>

District Councillor Annual Report - Kim Carsok

Council Tax – The District Council has raised its share of Council Tax by £5 per Band D property, representing a consistent policy for several years now. Although the council remains committed to identifying structural savings that may allow for further freezes in the future.

Environment & Waste – The Government has mandated the rollout of food waste services from April 2026, to meet this deadline, South Norfolk is making significant investments into new fleet and depot infrastructure to support the new requirement.

Concurrently, the Council has launched a new campaign focused on fly-tipping, which has achieved a high media profile; the 'WTF' campaign (Where's the Fly Tip). The campaign has the goal of both encouraging people to report incidents of fly-tipping, whilst also making perpetrators more aware of the risks of prosecution.

The Council also launched a **new grant for the upcoming year** for nature recovery, which organisations can bid for grants of up to £10k to support projects that meet the goals of carbon sequestration, promoting biodiversity, and enhancing public access. Examples could be mini-forests, new pathways, or restoring ponds. Please get in touch directly if you want help applying.

The Council has also indicated its desire to identify one large scale project that meets the above requirements, and it is actively exploring opportunities across South Norfolk.

Economic Development – The Council continues its successful projects to promote SMEs, including its Business Builder programme. In addition, it has helped to joint fund the initial stages of a new lab facility at the Norwich Research Park alongside the County Council and private contractors. More information will be forthcoming over the coming year.

Planning, Housebuilding and Energy Infrastructure – You will be aware that last year the Greater Norwich Local Plan was passed, protecting the five year land supply in South Norfolk, the practical impact of this was to protect sites that had not been allocated for development from speculative planning applications. However, the government late last year made a number of changes to the planning system, and housing targets, which means this protection from speculative applications has now been lost. SNDC is currently exploring a range of options to tackle this, the most public of which has been the option to build a new town.

This is only one option, and to be clear, the advantages of it would be to avoid development of land in existing villages and towns where infrastructure is strained. A new town would allow us to focus development in one area, and ensure the correct infrastructure is installed from the start.

In parallel, South Norfolk is receiving vast amounts of interest for solar farm and energy infrastructure development. Whilst not opposing the development of renewable energy, the council feels these have to be channeled to the most appropriate sites, and that a strategic approach to their development needs to be taken. As such we will be publishing further guidance on this over the coming year and will continue to challenge the government on their approach.

Health and Leisure – Work continues on the new building for the Humbleyard practice in Hethersett, and we are hopeful of having workmen on site early next year. Existing facilities in

Cringleford and Mulbarton will remain, and the goal of the new development is to reduce pressure for doctors' appointments across all three villages.

In January, the Councils renovated swimming pool in Diss reopened, with average footfall levels now above pre-closing numbers. Work is now underway to create a new Community and Leisure Centre on the old John Grose site south of the Mere and public consultation is currently open for comments on the plans. It is proposed to include a gym, fitness studios for group exercise, a room for community hire, soft play, a café and outdoor seating area.

Local Government Re-organisation and Devolution – In November the government invited applications for applicants to enter the new Devolution Priority Programme. The goal of this is to devolve new powers around infrastructure, adult skills, and economic development to a Mayoral body that will sit across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Concurrently, the government has asked Councils in Norfolk to submit proposals for re-organizing local government on a single tier basis (creating new authorities that have the powers of both District and County Council). It is anticipated these will come into effect in 2028, with elections to there 'shadow' bodies in 2027. No proposal for what this would look like has yet been agreed.

However, the other six district councils are supporting plans for a three unitary proposal, which would include a 'Greater Norwich'. South Norfolk is opposing any proposal that breaks the Norwich Travel to Work area, fearing it would be an unsensible economic geography, not have the tax base to deliver social services, and would leave communities on the edge of Norwich in an authority where their concerns would play second fiddle to the urban core. As such, South Norfolk

is proposing an East-West Two Unitary model. The County Council is exploring options for both one and two unitaries.

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

**ALL SAINTS' WACTON
ANNUAL REPORT
4 MAY 2025**

Services

As parishioners will recall, Wacton joined the Pilgrim Benefice (Aslacton, Bunwell, Carleton Rode, Great Moulton and Tibenham), with a new rector having been appointed in Long Stratton. We have two services a month, with a loyal congregation, and we always offer coffee afterwards to hopefully extend a warm welcome to all.

Remembrance Sunday - Our annual Act of Remembrance, which commemorates the fallen of Wacton and those who served from the village was again appreciated by parishioners. We mark all the relevant graves with a wooden cross.

Christmas Carol Concert – We were gratified with the response from the village for the much-loved Wacton candle-lit Carol Concert, which filled the church.

Finally, our sincere thanks to our rector, John Madinda.

Finances

The day-to-day costs of running the church continue to rise. Whilst we are extremely grateful for all the support we receive, income remains quite limited in the face of ever-increasing costs, particularly electricity and insurance. The monthly coffee mornings are an essential fund-raising activity and the PCC would like to thank everyone who helps and attends.

Churchyard

Dakota Sillett cuts the churchyard on a regular basis and the PCC is very grateful to Robert Maidstone and Maurice Read who have given many hours of their time doing various other jobs in the churchyard. We know that more people visit the churchyard (and indeed the church), which is excellent, however the maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard is inevitably costing us more. In this regard, the PCC is very grateful to the Parish Council for its valuable contribution.

Lottery Bid

As parishioners are no doubt aware, we have submitted a bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund. There are three stages to this application; stage 1 was accepted during 2024, on the back of which we have submitted a much more detailed document at stage 2 and should hear the result by the end of June.

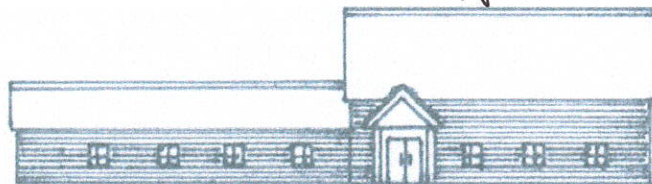
Finally, the PCC is currently short on numbers and we are very grateful to Katrina who has recently agreed to join. We would very much welcome anyone else who wishes to join us.

James Warren
Treasurer, All Saints PCC
5th May 2025

Appendix C

WACTON VILLAGE HALL

Registered charity number 304099



Wacton Village Hall
Hall Lane
Wacton
NR15 2UH

Date: 07 May 2025

Annual General Meeting Trustee Report

Since the new committee was formed in 2023 due to the resignation of the previous trustees, we have managed to keep the village hall continuously open. This has not been easy due to the day-to-day commitments of the new committee members and I would like to thank them for their time and commitment.

During this time, we have upgraded the heating system and carried out various other maintenance projects to keep the hall in good working order. Unfortunately, the outside of the hall is in desperate need of repairs and painting, ideally, we need a team of local volunteers to help achieve this project.

If you are willing and able to help, please contact any member of the committee so we can form a project team, food and drink will be provided each day. We would also like to provide a BBQ for all involved at the end of the project.

We are in the process of fulfilling our duty to the residents by replacing and re-siting the notice boards. The Parish Council have installed their board in the new location and as agreed by the trustees and we have purchased our new board which will be installed in due course.

The hall bookings are good and we receive positive responses from all our users. There are several regular bookings throughout the course of the year help to support the village hall. Unfortunately, we recently lost one of our more lucrative hires due to them requiring a larger premises, they kindly sent us a nice donation as a thank you for use of the hall.

As you can appreciate it is not easy for such a small number of people to donate their time in running the village hall which is why I am enquiring once again if there is anyone willing to join the committee and take on some of the duties. Many of the tasks can be carried at home or on your smart device. Even as a booking clerk you don't have to be a trustee, alternatively you could be co-opted as a member only, the committee meets once every few months.

I have been chairman now for three years in total and have been involved with the village hall since my arrival 20 years ago. My main tasks initially were in the construction area and vice chairmen. I feel I have many positive achievements during this time and I am now looking for someone to replace me. I feel the running of the hall needs some new people with fresh ideas to maintain the future of the hall, so if anyone is interested, please get in touch.

For your information our Treasurer has prepared a simple breakdown of our 2024/2025 Accounts. As you see the costs of running the hall are greater than the current income creating a deficit. This has been the case for several years and at the next committee meeting on 16 May 2025 we will discuss increasing the hire fees, there has not been an increase for many years.

John Johnson
Chairman

For and on behalf of the Trustees of Wacton Village Hall

2024/2025 Accounts		
Actual Income and Expenditure		GBP
Income		
Hall Hire	Regulars	£5,499.00
Hall Hire	WSC	£450.00
Hall Hire	One Offs	£158.00
Hall Hire	Parties	£145.00
Hall Hire	Petty Cash	£323.00
Misc Income	Good Energy	£394.87
Misc Income	Other Income	£300.00
Grant Income	Grant Income	£0.00
Interest	Deposit Account	£552.95
Total Income		£7,822.82
Expenditure		
Maintenance	Building Maintenance	(£525.16)
Maintenance	Fire & Security	(£698.88)
Maintenance	Boiler	£0.00
Utilities	Electricity	(£1,764.53)
Utilities	Oil	(£629.48)
Utilities	Water	(£383.55)
Insurance	Insurance	(£1,385.44)
Cleaning	Building Cleaning	(£1,887.56)
Cleaning	Windows	(£66.00)
Rates	Rates	(£110.95)
Website	Website	(£290.00)
Broadband	Broadband	(£350.59)
Professional	Professional	(£36.00)
Capital Expenditure	Capital	£0.00
Misc Expenditure	Music Licence	(£158.40)
Misc Expenditure	Gifts	(£64.47)
Misc Expenditure	TV Licence	(£169.50)
Misc Expenditure	Other Expenditure	(£355.99)
Misc Expenditure	Petty Cash	(£198.10)
Grant Expenditure	Grant Expenditure	£0.00
Total Expenditure		(£9,074.60)
Deficit		(£1,251.78)