

Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 30 October 2025 - 8pm at Waresley Village Hall

Present : Councillors Richard Jerman, Eleanor Jack & Josh Morris-Lowe

Also present were: District Councillor James Catmur, David Taine, Craig Safford & Martin Prescott.

- 1. Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Jon Hutton & Laurence Denny**
- 2. Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests. None received.**
- 3. The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 8 September 2025 had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed as a true & correct record by the Chairman.**
- 4. Matters arising not on the agenda. Councillor Jack noted that the Planning in Principle application for Long Furlong Farm has been approved through tilted balance – it was already valid as agricultural tie. Mr B Jones had contacted the Parish council regarding the letter he has sent to the Trustees of the Village Hall. Again, it was confirmed there was no further action the Parish Council could take at this point.**
- 5. Update on Co-Opting New Parish Councillor : Hunts District Council said they are unable to give the go ahead to co-opt a new councillor until close of play tomorrow when the deadline has expired. If nobody has come forward, we can co-opt at the next meeting.**
- 6. Reports from District & County Councillors**

County Councillor Sarah Caine was not present tonight – District Councillor James Catmur gave his report. –

- Local Government Reform - Cambs County Council voted for Option A option where Hunts would go in with Peterborough & Fenland. He thinks Peterborough to take half of Hunts (Option D) Hunts DC wanted Option c but are also proposing Option E (Hunts on its own). All submissions are to be in by next month – the national government is to decide by mid-March 2026 if local government elections are to go ahead as planned. No businesses cases for any of the options A->E, and while there will be some consultation with statutory consultees (including Parish Councils) the final decision will be made by central government**
- HDC has decided to continue to develop a local plan, while some districts have not chosen to do so given LGR HDC thinks it is prudent to continue the process.**

- Local Plan Update is approaching the next stage of public engagement – this will take the form of a consultation, scheduled to take place between 5th November to 17th December (6 weeks).
- 2026 elections - These are still going ahead & Councillor Catmur will not stand for re-election at the end of his term in May 2026.
- He congratulated the village on the approval of the 20MPH speed limit & the successful LHI grant for a new MVAS sign.

7. Planning: Proposal: Single Storey Side & Rear Extensions:1 West Close, Waresley 25/01585/HHFUL

- Councillors Jerman & Morris-Lowe met with the applicant, Mr Laurence Denny at the site. It is in the conservation area – mature hedges all around the bungalow. The plans looked sensible to them. One tree needs to be moved – the applicant agreed to do that in line with the arboriculture report. Councillor Jack noted that the tree report makes it clear he needs to apply to the District Council. The applicant told Councillor Jerman that a dead tree had already been removed. The councillors voted to approve the application by three votes to nil with one absent.

8. Donation to Welcome Booklet: The Bluebell villages welcome book is now out of print. There has been a request for a donation to go towards reprinting it. The councillors agreed to donate £50 – the clerk will find out to whom the cheque is to be made.

9. Highways Matters.

- Rotation of MVAS Sign – Councillor Jerman is keeping an eye on the rota – this will change when we get the additional sign.
- Confirmation of 20 MPH limit: The County Council confirmed that we have been successful in our bid for 20MPH speed limit – more details are to follow but it will not be in place until Summer 2026 at the earliest. District Councillor Catmur said the speed limit works best when combined with chicanes & gates.
- Confirmation of Successful LHI Bid: The Village has also been successful in its LHI bid for another MVAS sign. It is possible this could be within the current financial year but more details are to be sent regarding this soon.
- A new Highways Officer has been appointed by Cambs CC – Councillors Jerman & Jack are due to meet them on 7 November to look at the current issues in the Village. Councillor Morris-Lowe mentioned speeding traffic along Drove Road & Tetworth Hill – this will need to be considered in our next LHI bid. District Councillor Catmur said we should be thinking about the traffic post completion of the new A421. It is hoped that there will be an improvement with less traffic and heavy lorries using the village as a shortcut. Works are due to begin on Gransden Road on 3 November – hopefully to fix the ditches.

- County Councillor Caine & Councillor Hutton are in contact regarding Google maps & sat nav issues and how to avoid the B1040 being included as a short cut.

10. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – This was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Information has been circulated around the parish and the Council responded to the initial consultation saying we did not want option A & preferred Option C.

11. Update regarding event at Waresley Park 11 July: Councillor Jack met with the owner Ben Griggs and explained the concerns put forward by residents and the council were genuine. Ian Jack accompanied her and explained about how the sounds travel through the contours of the valley affect different areas of the village, especially at the top of Manor Farm Road and along the section of Gamlingay Road near Groat Lane. Ben Griggs agreed to place a noise recorder opposite the Gatehouse and will experiment with others around the park. Ian Jack volunteered to help with this.

Ben agreed he would give us better warning of events on the Waresley Crier email list rather than just on Facebook. He didn't commit to reduce the bass or the noise but did commit to monitor it. Councillor Jack reported that WPE would consider turning the noise down. The manager, Jo Bell is in contact with the Crier and will reach out when appropriate. Councillor Jerman asked if WPE had made a commitment (at the meeting) to reduce or mask the amount of noise and base, and councillor Jack said no, not specifically. Councillor Jerman said he sincerely hoped that Councillor Jack's meeting with WPE means that the PC will not get further complaints in the future that will mean the PC have to revisit this.

12. Parish Noticeboard – a new noticeboard is needed – the owners of the Duncombe Arms tried to renovate the old one but it was beyond repair. The new one will still be wooden, roughly the same size with one access door and the Parish Council name engraved at the top. It was thought desirable to have it locked to prevent unsolicited posters & to keep it tidy. The clerk will get quotes as soon as possible, so we can hopefully use it to publicise the next meeting – we need a one sooner rather than later to enable the Council to display statutory notices. A budget of between £1000 & £1500 was provisionally agreed. Martin Prescott from Nutwood Pubs said he felt a certain responsibility towards the restoration of the board and offered to help with the purchase. The councillors thanked him for his generous offer but felt the cost of his should be borne by the Parish Council alone as the old board was already on its last legs. There was discussion over the parking sign that was in the noticeboard advising people they could park on the pub forecourt even if they were not customers. This was done to prevent walkers & visitors parking along Vicarage Road. Mr Prescott noted that the forecourt is treacherous with people using it as a roundabout.

13. Jubilee Monument – Update The work has been completed. The final bill is larger than the original estimate due to the extra work that needed to be done but we can claim back a good amount of VAT. Councillor Jack has advised Hunts District Council that the work has now been done. – District Councillor Catmur was thanked for his help with obtaining the grant towards the cost. Steve Scurfield tried to clean the lamp but could only reach the outside of it – the clerk will contact K&M Lighting to see if they can use their cherry picker to reach inside (and also repair streetlight number 8). Steve was thanked for his efforts. David Taine said the Church may have a cherry picker in February. Councillor Jack was thanked for all her efforts over the years - it was agreed the lamp looks very good now.

14. Consider Precept for 2026/27- The councillors referred to the spreadsheet prepared by the clerk and discussed the amount needed for the next financial year. There will not be a village hall donation this year as £1000 was paid last year. Provision must be made to cover potential election costs and the PC contribution towards the LHI project. It was agreed to request a Precept of £6900.00 – an increase of £300 from last year.

15. Finance: Update on Bank Account – David Taine the new RFO has been doing some work on this – we could remain with Barclays or pay £10 per month for more things. He has improved communication with Barclays for the Church and thinks he can do the same for the PC. Councillor Jack finds it very difficult to change personnel or amend any details. It was agreed to persevere with Barclays & see if David can get them to make the necessary changes. Many parish councils now use Unity Trust – they charge between £8 to £12 per month. The clerk will meet up with David Taine to give him more information.

- **Payments: Clerks Salary for October 2025 £60.00**
 - **PAYE for October 2025 £15.00**
 - **Donation to Welcome Booklet £50**
 - **Manage my Domain – Website renewal £30.00 (To R Kerr-paid online by him)**
 - **Confirm final Bill for Jubilee Monument Restoration £5841.60.**
 - **To Cllr R Jerman for M Gordon Gift £38.18**
 - **Annual Streetlighting Maintenance Fee to K&M £349.04**

Approval of these payments was proposed by Councillor Jerman, seconded Josh Morris-Lowe.

16. AOB & Date of Next Meeting

The Village Website is currently down – it seems we may have exceeded our allocated space. The clerk, Councillor Jack & Andy Ottley are looking into this.

It was agreed to resume publishing PC reports in the Roundabout Magazine.

Martin Prescott from Nutwood gave an update following the reopening of the Duncombe Arms. He runs it as a community organisation & like to have feedback and will act on any requests. The mangers, Ian & Karen have left & Gavin will be overseeing the pub for the time being. They are keen to open 7 days a week and hope to in November – staffing in the kitchen is the main issue delaying this. The pub will be shut on Boxing Day & open for lunchtime drinks on Christmas Day. The November newsletter is coming out soon. It was commented that the loyalty card is a good idea.

There have been a few negative reviews on Tripadvisor – some connected with teething problems with the new serving staff. A free community Christmas lunch will be held and people can be nominated to attend.

The date of the next meeting was provisionally arranged for Thursday 4 December at 8pm unless the new councillor can be co-opted without a formal meeting – HDC will advise if this is possible.

The meeting was declared closed at 21.27.