

MINUTES OF WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 6th May, 2025 AT 7.30PM

WOULDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Bell, Cllr Marr, Cllr Yard, Cllr Miles, Cllr Collier-Ward Cllr Church, BCllr Davis, BCllr Dalton T. Miles (Clerk/RFO) **3** Members of Public

1.	APOLOGIES: None	ACTION												
2.	MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 st April, 2025 were proposed by Cllr Yard and seconded by Cllr Miles. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman													
3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES - None													
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None													
5.	EXTERNAL REPORTS													
5.1	Borough Council: BCllr Davis advised that he had submitted the Borough Councillors' annual report and there is little else to add. He noted that there is an industrial development which is planned for the land by St Mary's Church, this could generate additional traffic on New Court Road, but the major item will be the Reg 18 consultation in October, as this is the last time to consult. Also, Enforcement is dealing with some land on Common Road as an ongoing issue. Cllr Miles asked if there had been any progress with the other area along Common/Hill Road. Cllr Bell noted that the TMBC element of council tax for has increased by 3%. However, the special projects element, which also goes to TMBC, has an increase of 27% and asked why this was so high. Cllr Yard advised that a piece of marshland is for sale in Wouldham and asked if TMBC knew anything about it.													
5.2	BCllr Davis advised that nothing else has been submitted for Common/Hill Road and would need photos/what-3-words to request action. BCllr Dalton asked if the area in question was the horse's field opposite Keepers Lodge. Cllr Miles advised that there seemed to be someone living in a caravan and land works (possibly drainage) further down, but unsure if it was a horse's field. BCllrs Davis and Dalton knew nothing about the marsh for sale, but advised caution of a collective purchase due to the individual liabilities that may be incurred. Cllr Miles asked if there was any update on enforcement query sent last month. BCllr Davis apologised as this had not been progressed yet.													
6.	Community Safety													
6.1	Police: Report received. Included in Parish Reports													
6.2	Neighbourhood Watch: Keepers Cottage Lane , 14/4/25 Somebody vandalised a derelict residential property. Rectory Close 6-7/4/25 Somebody stole a recently delivered parcel from a garden. Worrall Drive 5-6/4/25 Somebody broke into a Volkswagen T-roc parked in the road, stealing numerous items.													
6.3	Speedwatch: A summary of SpeedWatch sessions for the past month are as follows: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Site</th> <th>Total No. Of cars</th> <th>No. Speeding</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>24 Apr</td> <td>Knowle Road (20mph)</td> <td>154</td> <td>45 29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29 Apr</td> <td>Knowle Road (20mph)</td> <td>234</td> <td>45 19%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of cars speeding on the 20mph section of Knowle Road remains high and unacceptable. In fact, for the hour session on 24 April the number of speeders represented 10% of the whole of Kent for that week. • Despite discussing measures to address this issue on multiple occasions with multiple people in the police, TMBC, Kent County Council and the local MP, nothing has been done. • There was a post by Medway Council on Facebook at the end of April asking for SpeedWatch recruits. In the comments, The RT Hon Tris Osborne made a joke about the activity and later on posted that being caught speeding by SpeedWatch leads to a letter and no penalty. Having been part of the team for 2 years I feel it's time I stepped back from the group. I'm happy to train anyone to take over as Coordinator. Ian Hosking - Speedwatch Co-ordinator.	Date	Site	Total No. Of cars	No. Speeding	24 Apr	Knowle Road (20mph)	154	45 29%	29 Apr	Knowle Road (20mph)	234	45 19%	
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Signed _____

Date _____

	Cllr Bell, noted that there would only be 2 members left and there needs to be at least 3 members to attend sites. Cllr Yard appreciated that there was now more police presence, but observed that there should be more at school times and evening rush hour, not mid-morning as seems a waste of resources.	
7.	Administrative and Finance	
7.1	Authorisation of payment request. Cllr Bell and Marr and Church signed the request.	
7.2	Clerk asked councillors to note the proposed dates for the Exercise of Public Rights as selected by the Council's Responsible Finance Officer. From Tuesday 10th June to Monday 21st July, 2025. Agreed	
7.3	Councillors reviewed and approved the Statement of Internal Control	
7.4	Councillors reviewed and noted the Investment Strategy	
	Members of the Public	
8.1	MOP1: Noted that the new bench in Hall Road needs some touch up paint as it has started to rust. Clerk to action	Clerk
8.2	MOP 2: Enquired whether the new bank account was ready to be passed on to contractors and hirers of the Hall. Clerk advised that currently they can be paid into the main account and will be transferred out when the new one is set up.	
8.3	MOP 3: Advised that the D ring on the swing has so needs fixing. Clerk to action	Clerk
9	Planning	
9.1	<u>Planning applications considered or commented upon by the Planning</u> 25/00654/PA PHASE 5 AREA 3C, Worrall Drive Details of condition 31 (materials) pursuant to planning permission TM/15/01485/OAEA (Grant of replacement planning permission for TM/05/00989/OAEA (Formation of development platforms and creation of new community including residential development, mixed use village centre (including A1, A3 and B1 use) community facilities and primary school and associated highway works) subject to a new time limit to allow a further period within which to submit applications for the approval of reserved matters.) 25/00655/PA PHASE 5 AREA 3C, Worrall Drive Details of condition 2 (materials) pursuant to planning permission TM/23/03547 (Approval of Reserved Matters relating to appearance, layout, landscaping and scale pursuant to Outline Permission 15/01485/OAEA for development of 10 homes (8 new) and re-orientation of 2 homes already approved under the 3B consent with associated parking and landscaping). 25/00610/PA 2, NIGHTINGALE DRIVE Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: Conversion of loft to habitable room incorporating rear dormer and 3 rooflight to front roof slope <u>Planning Consent Issued:</u> NONE <u>Planning applications refused/withdrawn:</u> NONE <u>Other Planning Issues:</u> Cllr Bell advised that the Infrastructure Plan update deadline 1 st June, so anyone with any further suggestions must let the Clerk know asap.	
10	<u>Roads, Footpaths & Lighting (RFL)</u>	
10.1	Cllr Bell noted that this is last time he will lead the topic.	
10.2	Clerk reported she had contacted KCC regarding the potholes in the High Street. Apparently, the SE Water had told KCC that they had been completed. She has forwarded photos again and it will be re-scheduled. She had also reported the overhanging brambles which have now been removed. Clerk has also reported the pothole near the Malthouse Joinery, which is over 1.5" deep with the metal edge exposed.	
10.3	She also advised that Hall Road will be closed shortly to repair the humps and renew the white lines and is till pushing to get Pilgrims Way resurfaced.	
11.	<u>Open Spaces (OS)</u>	
	<u>Updates:</u>	
11.1	Recreation Ground - Cllr Bell noted that there were still outstanding items which need to be done and we may need to consider using the remainder of the S106 money to fully replace the surfacing. Cllr Yard felt it was not worth spending a large amount of money as it is not respected. Cllr Miles advised that for H & S, it has to be maintained at least to a minimum standard.	

Signed _____

Date _____

11.2	Cllr Bell noted that the broken dog poo bin is next to the new bin. Clerk to chase TMBC for removal	CLERK
11.3	Cllr Yard noted that the matting is still in place and needs to be removed.	
11.4	Cllr Miles asked for a new bin along the path. Cllr Bell noted that one ½ way the field is not being used. Clerk to see if TMBC can relocate.	CLERK
11.5	Cllr Bell read a request for a bench in the recreation ground. He suggested that we could offer the installation of a new picnic bench, but not a single bench. Cllrs Yard and Miles advised caution to ensure we don't have too many ask for memorial benches without very clear connections to the parish. Cllr Church noted that if they were prepared to donate a picnic bench, this would be just replacing the one which was vandalised. Cllr Miles suggested a reply be sent stating that we have sufficient but would consider the installation of a picnic. Current Issues	CLERK
11.6	Allotments: Clerk reported that she had notification from the Association that there was low water pressure on the allotments. She has arranged for SE Water to come and inspect and has passed on Ashley Crowdey's (Chair) contact details for them to gain access. Cllr Miles advised that she had looked at the barb wire fence along the allotment footpath and it appears to have come out of the concrete post, so should be quite easy to re-instate. Ground Maintenance: Clerk advised that she had instructed the GM team to cut the saplings on the Common. However, there seems to be a lot of the BBQ blocks thrown into the area. These will need to be cleared before he can complete the task.	???
12.	Village Hall: Cllr Bell advised that most transactions had now been transferred to PC. Clerk asked to have a cupboard in the corridor where the hover and brooms could be kept. Cllr Miles will check width is allowable with Fire Regulations. If this is OK all agreed to install. Cllr Collier-Ward advised that she had got rid of a lot of garden rubbish from the working party and will continue to clear as the bin is emptied. Cllr Bell congratulated the group for their hard work.	JM CCW
13.	Health & Safety/Risk Management	
13.1	Defibrillators: Both have been checked and The Circuit updated. Cllr Miles noted that she had not checked the new one as she did not have the code. Clerk to pass on.	CLERK
13.2	Lifebuoys: All checked and form signed off.	
13.3	Risk assessments: The risk assessment for the VE Day event has been checked by the H & S team and venue owners with no issues.	
14.	General Village Business	
14.1	PPP Meeting: Cllr Bell reminded councillors to give him or Cllr Collier-Ward any questions to put forward	ALL
14.2	Project update: VE Day event: Clerk reported that around 100 tickets had been sold which should mean that the 1k contingency will not be needed and can be reallocated. Any profits will go to RBLI only as SAAFA did not respond.	
14.3	Items for the Newsletter: Any items for inclusion need to be with the Clerk by 12 th May.	ALL
15.	Correspondence: None	
16.	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: Tuesday 3th June , 2025. 7.30pm at the Village Hall	
17.	QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS, CHAIRPERSON AND CLERK: To be passed to Clerk 7 days before the next meeting	
18.	Meeting Closed: 9.45pm	

Signed _____

Date _____