

**MINUTES OF WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 7th April, 2026 AT 7.30PM
WOULDHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Miles, Cllr Church, Cllr Marr, Cllr Collier-Ward, Cllr Yard, and BCllr Dalton T. Miles (Clerk)
4 Members of Public

Action

ALL?

Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence** BCllr Davis BCllr McDermott Cllr Timothy,
2. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd March 2026 were proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Yard. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters arising from the Minutes** - None
4. **To receive Declarations of Interest** - None
5. **External Reports** BCllr Dalton advised that at the last meeting a MOP queried about rubbish at the Community Centre, there is now fencing with a padlock to deter hall users from leaving their rubbish there. BCllr Dalton also confirmed that the Old Church Road planning permission has been accepted to be called in to the Area 3 Planning Committee. Cllr Marr asked if there had been any update on Trenport Holdings being in administration. BCllr Dalton said that they have gone into administration owing 680 million, but little detail is available at the moment. The Clerk noted that Peters Village had already been sold, but the difficulty will be with unsold land such as the allotments/Eccles etc and could impact the Local Plan. BCllr Dalton reported that another issue with the Local Plan is that SE Water cannot supply water for the number of houses demanded. This has been raised at Government level, to try to get the numbers of houses reduced for the borough.
6. Cllr Miles advised that with the 2% reduction in the Parish part of the Council Tax, Wouldham now has the 2nd lowest council tax in the whole of Tonbridge and Malling area.
7. **Community Safety**
 - 7.1 **Speedwatch/Road Surveys:** Chair asked Speedwatch for a verbal report. The Co-ordinator advised that there had been no traffic surveys or Speedwatch sessions during the month due to illness. However, they hope to re-start shortly. Cllr Miles advised that we have now received the footage back from the camera which is being processed. However, it is a long process and may take a while and asked for support to filter the information. Clerk noted that initial findings show that whilst there were 14 vehicles came through between 8.30 and 9.30am, only 3 came through from 9.30 to 12.30 for one of the days analysed. However, a far greater number followed the correct route. This also indicates that there seem to be certain times that cause a problem, but the system is still working
 - 7.2 **Neighbourhood Watch/Police**
 - a) Waterman Way - 25/3/26 somebody stole a recently delivered parcel from a doorstep
Crime Report No. 46/48038/26
 - b) High Street - 26/3 somebody stole a recently delivered parcel from the doorstep
Crime Report No. 46/51654/26
 - c) Laker Road 30/3 somebody had broken onto a site and stole unknown items *Crime Report No. 46/51065/26*
 - 7.3 Cllr Miles noted that there needs to be more reporting as she is aware of ASB around the Community Centre and theft from Gores Farm. She felt it would be nice to see police occasionally at PC meetings. BCllr Dalton suggested that the Clerk contact Des Keers who is the member for community safety who may be able to help if given specific concerns. Cllr Yard noted that the local Police Officer had suggested actions such as a speed van to be positioned on Knowle Road and patrolling the car park to identify drink drivers, but nothing seems to be progressed.
8. **Administrative and Finance Matters**
 - 8.1 **Payment request and reconciliation:** Were reviewed by members and approved. Signed by Cllrs Marr and Cllr Church
 - 8.2 **Review of budget and accounts:** Chair explained that the accounts show an underspend for the year of around 18k which means that we have spent around 85% of our budget. This can now be transferred to reserves to contribute to other projects. There has been an overpayment for the Litter Pickers which meant that this cost centre was over budget. However, the Clerk is in discussions with the payroll company to agree a repayment plan. Cllr Marr asked for an explanation as to why the Recreation Ground and Allotment cost centres were so much over budget. Clerk explained that there had been additional purchases for the Rec such as wet-pour, special spanners, consumables etc

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which were needed to address the findings of the ROSPA report. These could be reclaimed from TMBC, but as there is only a limited amount left in their pot, it may be better to keep this for equipment repairs. Clerk also explained that the Allotments will always be over budget as we only account for the rent. Costs are recharged to the sublets and are shown on the income line. So, income was £1426 against an expenditure of £1592. This effectively means that the cost to the Council was £166 against a budget of £660. The difference is for future maintenance. Cllr Marr suggested this is ringfenced in future.

- 8.3 **Review/Reallocation of Reserves:** Chair explained that the Clerk had circulated a proposal for the reserves which needs to balance for AGAR purposes. In addition to the Special Project budget, the reserves are more general i.e. Village Hall refurb could include landscaping/Men's Shed, boundary wall and legal. Clerk explained that we will not hear about the funding bid for the Village Hall until the end of April, but could support the disabled access if successful, allowing more funds for the back garden refurb. All agreed

9. Planning Applications:

- 9.1 Planning Consent Issued/Approved: NONE
 9.2 Planning applications refused/withdrawn: NONE
 9.3 Other Planning Issues:

10. Roads, Footpaths & Lighting

- 10.1 **Updates:** Cllr Collier-Ward reported that the HGV sign on roundabout keeps moving needs tightening Cllr Miles agreed to see if she could tighten it. Cllr Collier-Ward also reported that the new 20mph sign on Knowle Road is too small and in the wrong place and many people take no notice of the painted markings on the road. All agreed to purchase a large 20mph sign to go onto the pole by the pinch point. Cllr Miles reported that the 'Welcome to Wouldham' sign had been replaced at the top gateway on Knowle Road and there is another one to be put on the gateway at Peters Village. Cllr Miles also noted that the fallen sign at the top of Knowle Road needs removing. Finally, she would like to thank Ann-Marie for organising the Big Spring Clean and well done to those that took part. Although most were the same faces, there were a few new volunteers, which were very welcome. A total of 13 bags were collected from different areas in addition to the great work that the Litter Pickers do on a regular basis.
- 10.2 Cllr Miles advised that Cllr Yard and the Clerk are due to attend a Road Safety Seminar at County Hall on 21st April. So, if anyone has any additional concern that they may be able to put forward, to let them know.

11. Open Spaces

- 11.1 **Updates:** Cllr Church advised that there was little to report for March except the request to review donation requests to use the car park for business purposes. Clerk advised that funds from donations had already paid for the bollards and line marking which meant that the parish did not have to pay for them. All agreed that donations should be requested as this helps create funds for maintenance /improvements i.e. the disabled bays need to be relocated as they keep getting blocked and are difficult for disabled users to use.
- 11.2 Cllr Yard reported that a resident in Peters Village had approached her regarding a problem/overhanging tree which has a TPO on it. She had spoken to BCllr Dalton who confirmed that the application to pollard had been refused. Clerk advised that she had spoken to the company who put the application who advised that the application had been submitted in 2023, refused in 2025 and has gone to appeal, but nothing has been heard of since. So, she has contacted the Planning Inspector for an update - nothing received to date. The Grounds Maintenance company has passed the issue to Trenport to see if they can resolve it.
- 11.3 **Common** -Cllr Collier-Ward reported that it was sad that the Common was being so abused by bikes and quads and asked if the issue could be included in the email to Des Keers. Cllr Miles reported that there was more fly tipping on Hill Road but has given up reporting it as it never seems to get removed. She noted that BCllr McDermott was going to investigate the situation but has heard nothing yet.
- 11.4 **Allotments** – Chair advised that there had been a request from the Association to change the constitution to allow more committee members. Cllr Marr commented that it was great to see more people wanting to be involved. Proposed to accept the new constitution by Cllr Marr, seconded by Cllr Yard - All agreed.
- a) Chair also noted that the Association had asked for support to turn the allotments into a statutory body. Unfortunately, this can only be done by the landowner. However, the Clerk has forwarded

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details of how to register a Community Asset which may give a little protection. If the land is sold, first refusal is given to the holder. This may be something the PC can progress.

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Clerk

12. Village Hall

12.1 Updates: Cllr Marr advised that there is little to report other than all seems to be going well with the groups and we are still awaiting a final quote for works. Cllr Miles noted that she still had to get the freezer from the cabin but is a little concerned that as it is not PAT tested and it should not be turned on until this is done, also as an electrical item will be in the back room, it should have a fire alarm. Clerk noted that there is a spare one from when Cllr Marr replaced the one in the main hall. Cllr Marr agreed to put up the additional one.

AM

12.2 Chair advised that the Clerk has requested authorisation to spend S106 funds to continue Chair Exercise classes. Clerk advised that the class was very well attended with 21 registered and 18+ regularly attending alternate Mondays. Currently the sessions are free, but the tutor has been made redundant as Age UK are reducing their offer. However, the tutor has started her own company and would like to continue but needs to cover her costs. She has spoken to the group, who are prepared to pay £2-3 per session, but this leaves a shortfall of £85/session. With the hall hire, this will cost around 2.5 k pa, we have 10k left in the S106 education fund, but we seem to have no interest in other courses at the moment. Proposed by Cllr Collier-Ward, Seconded by Cllr Marr. All agreed.

Clerk

13. Health & Safety/Risk Management - Concerns Raised

13.1 Defibrillators Update – Cllrs Miles and Church have checked all 3 units.

13.2 Life Buoys – Cllr Miles checked.

13.3 Village Hall: grab rails still need to be put up.

13.4 Common - as previously mentioned, bikes and quads are causing a risk to walkers etc.

14. Members of the Public

MOP1 - Advised that she had reported car but told by police and TMBC they could do nothing. Clerk confirmed that she had reported it to DVLA following the report from MOP1's son at the last meeting and had advised him to do the same, but we have no contact details for the owner to go directly to them. Cllr Marr advised that the PC could apply to DVLA to find out who owns it as they have a legitimate reason. Clerk to find out more.

Clerk

MOP 2 Reported that she had put boxes up for poo bags which looks much neater, but 3 have already been pulled down. These have been replaced but will not be done so again. Cllr Yard thanked MOP2 for her efforts.

MOP2 also reported that a parent at All Saints school has complained about a car illegally parked every day to collect child, she has reported it and been asked to pass on details to the Beat Officer. Clerk reminded her to be mindful of any potential aggression.

MOP 3 Advised that he will be re-staining the bench at the top of the Rec and would appreciate it if he could use the councils stakes to tape off the area until it is dry. Clerk asked that he liaise with herself or Ann-Marie as both have keys to the container.

Clerk

MOP 3 and 4 reported that they knew local contractors who may be able to undertake the building works needed at the Hall and Rec. They will forward contact details so that the Clerk can invite them to quote.

ALL

15. General Village business

15.1 Discuss and approve items for the Community News: deadline for the next issue is 18th May.

15.2 Feedback from external meetings - KALC/PPP: nothing to report

15.3 Chair congratulated and thanked Cllr Marr for completing 14 years' service on the Parish Council and very much appreciates his wealth of knowledge about the village.

16. Correspondence Received - None

17. Date of Next Meeting **Tuesday 5th May, Annual Parish Meeting 7pm AGM 7.15 Full 7.30 at the Village Hall –**

18. Items from Councillors, Chairperson and Clerk for NEXT Agenda.

19. Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed:

Date: