



WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting of Wrabness Parish Council held at 7.15pm on
Wednesday 11th March 2026 at Wrabness Village Hall.

Present:	Cllrs Bowers, Cole, Francis, McGowan (Vice Chairman), Southall-Edwards.
In the Chair:	Cllr Colley
Clerk:	Mrs Marie Snell (absent)
Also present:	5 members of the public, 0 member of the press. Tendring District Councillor, Cllr Tanya Ferguson

The Chairman welcomed members of the council and public prior to starting the meeting and thanked them for attending. Cllr Colley mentioned that our parish clerk had organised the agenda and documentation but was absent from this meeting due to a commitment prior to her appointment to the post.

3649. Apologies for absence: Mrs Marie Snell.

3650. Members Declarations of Interests: None

3651. Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 Minutes)

A resident expressed concern about the implications of the Review Tendring District Local Plan for Wrabness. This led to a free ranging discussion about the proposals and infrastructure issues raised by the extraordinary scale of development proposed across the District, including Wrabness, as a result of national housebuilding targets. Residents were encouraged to participate in the current TDC public consultation about the Review Plan proposals which ends on 23 March.

3652. Approval of Minutes

Members received the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 18th February 2026 and **RESOLVED** to approve as a true record, to be signed by the Chairman.

3653. Matters Arising

Minute 3638. Parish Litter Pick. This event was successfully held on 7 March. The litter and rubbish collected from local verges, byways and footpaths will be taken away by TDC (Viola). Some 40 residents took part and were provided with a light lunch on their return to the Village Hall. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers and the event organisers.

Minute 3641. Wrabness Playing Field Association. A thank you letter was received from WPFA for the grant support provided by the parish council.

3654. Councillor Resignation

a. A letter of resignation was received from Councillor Graham Watkins in which Graham thanked the councillor team and the parish clerks for their support and help, and confirmed his intention to continue volunteering including the village green and doing verge cutting around the village. Members received the resignation with regret and **RESOLVED** to thank Graham Watkins for his contribution to the work of the parish council and for his intent to carry on practical volunteering.

b. It was noted that the parish clerk had formally advertised the resulting vacancy for one parish councillor and was in contact with the TDC election office. We will receive an update

at our next meeting regarding the filling of the vacancy.

3655. Wrabness Environment Award

The 2025 winner of the Wrabness Environment Award was Wrabness Youth Club. Three nominations were put forward for the award this year and a vote was taken. **RESOLVED:** The winners of the Environment Award 2026 are John and Julia Hockley of the Wrabness Playing Field Association. The award to be engraved and the winners invited to the Annual Meeting in May to receive the award.

3656. Grant Application

Members considered an application (*previously circulated*) from the Wrabness in Bloom project lead for a Section 137 grant of £60 to pay the fee to enter the Anglia in Bloom 2026 competition. The application was discussed and it was noted S137 grants are not available to individuals and the project does not have a bank account. The parish council had previously decided not to be the fund holder or take responsibility for this project and it was **RESOLVED** to refuse the application.

3657. Town Planning

Members noted no new applications had been received as advised by Tendring District Council.

Members received update about Tendring District Council processing of the following recent planning applications previously considered by the Parish Council:

<u>Application Ref</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Application</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>25/01577/FULHH</u>	Strandlands Rectory Road Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TX	Householder Planning Application - Alterations and additions to existing detached garage to form ground floor annex and first floor studio - Use ancillary to existing dwelling.	Planning permission granted 18.02.2026
<u>25/01876/LBC</u>	The Barn, Foxes Farm, Station Road, Wrabness CO11 2UF	Application for Listed Building Consent - Alterations and extensions, and erection of detached garden store, following demolition of existing outbuilding.	Ongoing
<u>25/01877/FULHH</u>	The Barn Foxes Farm Station Road Wrabness CO11 2UF	Householder Planning Application Alterations and extensions, and erection of detached garden store, following demolition of existing outbuilding.	Ongoing
<u>25/01878/FULHH</u>	Foxes Farm Station Road Wrabness	Householder Planning Application - Erection of cart lodge and installation of park rail fencing.	Ongoing

3658. Tendring District Review Local Plan

Councillors considered their formal comments regarding the Review Local Plan which is currently the subject of public consultation until 23 March 2026. It was noted that two letters had been received from residents outlining their concerns. The parish council has previously publicised this consultation opportunity locally, in the Spring edition of the Wrabness Village newsletter, on our website, and arranged for a TDC planning officer to give a presentation to the well attended public meeting in Wrabness village hall on Wednesday 18th February. Today some councillors had attended a one day local plan exhibition at the Harwich 1912 Centre seeking further updates. Following lengthy debate it was **RESOLVED** to notify Tendring District Council of:

1. Our objection to the extraordinary scale of development proposed in the Tendring District Review Local Plan which is excessive in relation to recent housing trends and of a scale unsuited to the character of the coastal area.

2. Our concerns about the impact of the proposal to allocate land for 30 dwellings north of Rectory Road, Wrabness, which has not assessed on a local scale in the Review Plan or the published impact assessment. Our concerns include sustainability, access to services, public transport, highway issues and open space.

3. Wrabness Parish Council requests any housing development at Wrabness is proportionate to the size of the village, and subject to the prior improvement of the A120/Primrose Lane junction, a no street lights clause, Rectory Road Playing Field financial contributions and Rectory Road pavement upgrades.

3659. Reports from Councillors

To receive updates from council members regarding the following topics:

Highways – on behalf of the parish council Cllr Colley would report the worsening pot hole situation on Wheatsheaf Lane to ECC and advised members of the public to report highway problems direct to ECC Highways via the online portal.

Wrabness Playing Field – Cllr Cole – children are making regular use of this village amenity.

Station Masters Garden – Cllr Francis – Nothing to report. Cllr Colley had met the contractor on site about fencing repairs and the details of the new gate, work on these upgrades will commence shortly.

Village Green – as agreed since the last meeting Graham Watkins has planted seasonal bulbs to reinforce the informal wild flower areas. He has also met with the project lead for Wrabness in Bloom. A formal Wrabness in Bloom request has subsequently been received for volunteers to create and maintain two flower bed displays on the village green costing £97 - £115 to be paid by the parish council. Councillors reviewed the detailed project specification and decided the proposed formal flower beds would be out of keeping with the informal character of the village green and would impede its informal public use. It was **RESOLVED** to decline the formal request.

Public Health – Cllr Southall- Edwards – Nothing to report. Cllr Colley had obtained replacement defibrillator pads to keep the parish council public defibrillator in operational condition.

Transport – Cllr Colley – No change on the public transport front – still no scheduled bus service serving the village. Harwich Connexions is taking delivery of a new mini-bus this month to add to the community transport fleet serving the area.

Footpaths – Cllr McGowan – complained that the highway authority had not carried out planned resurfacing of the Harwich Road pavement despite assurances given over a 10 year period. It was noted by the meeting due to financial constraints this is not a current Tendring Local Highways Panel approved project and that no further projects are being entertained by TLHP during the run up to local government reorganisation.

Councillor Cole gave her apologies and left the meeting.

Foreshore – Cllr Bowers – there are reports of broken glass on the foreshore.

TDALC – Cllr Colley and Southall-Edwards – the next TDALC meeting is scheduled for 25 March 2026.

3660. Confirmation of Account Balances

Members received an update on the financial status of the council as at 2nd March 2026:
Current Account: £5,378.16p Deposit Account: £7,022.98p.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of invoices received in accordance with the 2025-2026 budget.

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	CQ No.
		Parish Clerk salary March26	£237.87	1338

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	CQ No.
		Auto Print – printing Spring edition Village Newsletter	£262.00	1339
		R.Colley reimbursement. WPC new defibrillator pads	£114.00	1340
		Wrabness Village Hall hire	£20.00	1341

3661. Internal Auditor 2025-26

Councillors reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit and **RESOLVED** to reappoint Gill Moffatt as Internal Auditor for the 2025-2026 financial year and completion of necessary documents in relation to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

3662. Items for next Agenda

- Casual Vacancy
- Review of special responsibilities

3663. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 in the Village Hall, to follow the Annual General Meeting which will begin at 7.00pm.

The Chairman thanked the councillors and the five members of the public still present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.