



WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting of Wrabness Parish Council held at 8.41pm on
Wednesday 18th February 2026 at Wrabness Village Hall.

Present:	Cllrs Bowers, Cole, Francis, McGowan (Vice Chairman), Southall-Edwards and Watkins
In the Chair:	Cllr Colley
Clerk:	Mrs Marie Snell
Also present:	13 members of the public, 0 member of the press. Tendring District Councillor, Cllr Tanya Ferguson

The chairman welcomed members of the council and public to the meeting prior to starting the meeting and thanked them for attending. Cllr Colley welcomed Cllr Francis to her first meeting having been recently co-opted. Cllr Colley thanked Mrs Snell as the proposed newly appointed parish clerk.

3632. Apologies for absence

None

3633. Appointment of Parish Clerk

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the position of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer be held by Marie Snell.

3634. Members Declarations of Interests

None

3635. Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 Minutes)

Point raised from a resident regarding her proposals submitted to the parish council for Neighbourhood Plan and Wrabness in Bloom, wished to ask the council if they are willing to support such proposals and take relevant procedural steps to explore the points.

Another resident raised query regarding the area around the Village Shop is not looking great and is a very much visited area of the village.

3636. Approval of Minutes

Members received the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 7th January 2026 and **RESOLVED** to approve as a true record, signed by the Chairman.

3637. Matters Arising

None.

3638. Wrabness Spring Litter Pick

Members confirmed that Wrabness litter pick to be held on Saturday 7th March 2026 commencing at 10.30am, in partnership with the Wrabness Village Hall Committee.

3639. Wrabness Playing Field:

- a. Members considered request to train a puppy guide dog on playing field as exception to 'no dogs' rule (*correspondence previously circulated*). The Playing Field Association (PFA) has been approached by Cllr Colley who have no objections. Cllr Southall-Edwards queried if this would set a precedent. Cllr Colley advised that the PFA have offered that the trainer could wear a recognition jacket. Cllr Colley offered this is just for a couple of weeks. Members **RESOLVED** to permit this on a one-off exception basis. Cllr Southall-Edwards abstained. Two members of the public left at 8.55pm.
- b. Wrabness Playing Field Association management agreement. Members received financial

information and considered the request for payment of annual management fee together with considering the fundraising this organisation has carried out. Members **RESOLVED** to agree the cost of £2000 be paid to WPFA in association with the 2025-2026 approved budget. (*previously circulated*). A member of the public left the meeting at 8.57pm.

- c. Members **RESOLVED** to agree Payment of 2026 annual rent for the Playing Field at cost of £1.00.

3640. Station Masters Garden

Members considered proposal for a gate to be installed at length and **RESOLVED** to accept quotation for the repair of fencing at Station Masters Garden. Members **FURTHER RESOLVED** to install a gate at the Station Masters Garden (to be open and closed if required). Cllr Southall-Edwards abstained. Total cost to be £320.00. A member of the public left the meeting at 9.07pm.

3641. Grant Application

Members considered application from the Wrabness Playing Field Association for £87.00, to cover the cost of hiring Wrabness Village Hall and newspaper advert for the fundraising Spring Jumble Sale. (*previously circulated*). Members **RESOLVED** to award the grant in full.

3642. Britain in Bloom

Members considered a proposal by a resident for a Wrabness in Bloom project with participation by the parish council. (*previously circulated*). Cllr Bowers thought it was a good idea, and considered the potential of bulbs around the wildlife garden within the village green. Cllr Colley expressed such a project can only feature within the landowners' discretion and that the first year would be experimental as to whether people will take part. Cllr Cole liked the ideas and felt this will encourage community spirit. Cllr Colley offered that the parish council can participate both financially and in terms of land owned but raised concerns regarding holding funds for and on behalf of the project but could be involved and would be against council's Financial Regulations. There is a suggestion that planters will become an asset owned by the parish council and this is not likely something that can be facilitated. A member of the council can volunteer within such a project. Cllr Ferguson (TDC) offered that Harwich Secret Gardens started small and advised that the proposer of this concept approach HSG in pursuance of such a project.

Members **RESOLVED** to agree that they felt this project was something they could support and participate but would not take the full responsibility of such a project.

3643. Town Planning

Members considered the below schedule of applications as issued by Tendring District Council and propose comment as necessary:

None

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

Application Ref	Address	Application	Status
<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.	Ongoing
<u>25/01855/LUEX</u>	Land at The Coign, Ash Street, Wrabness CO11 2TG	Application for Lawful Development Certificate to confirm lawful commencement of permission ref 25/01530/VOC.	Full Approval
<u>25/01878/FULHH</u>	The Barn, Foxes Farm, Station Road, Wrabness	Householder Planning Application - Erection of cart lodge and installation of park rail	Ongoing

	CO11 2UF	fencing.	
<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

3643. Tendring District Local Plan

Following Paul Woods public presentation regarding the Tendring District Council Local Plan on Wednesday 18th February 2026, members wished to formally thank Paul Woods for his detailed and professional presentation. Cllr Cole asked if public comments are anonymous, but Cllr Colley offered representations made will be made public in time, with a requirement for transparency. A member of the public left the meeting at 9.26pm. Members **RESOLVED** to agree to defer this agenda item to the council meeting on 11th March 2026 for members to approve their comments as part of the Public Consultation.

3644. Neighbourhood Plan

Members considered proposal submitted by a local resident regarding a Neighbourhood Plan adoption for Wrabness. Cllr Colley explained that locality grants of up to £10,000 have been stopped since June 2025 and as such would likely exceed the budget of the parish council and do not always work. Cllr Cole queried whether the parish council could work towards not having street lamps within a new development, as had been previously agreed within the Parish Plan reference the Nightingale development. Three members of the public left the meeting at 9.39pm. Members **RESOLVED** to not proceed with such a project at this time.

3645. Reports from Councillors

To receive updates from council members regarding the following topics:

Highways – Cllr Watkins – A few low road gulleys have been reported to Essex Highways on Harwich Road, some pot holes which have come up again. Cllr Colley advised members of the public to also report issues via the online portal.

Wrabness Playing Field – Cllr Cole – Nothing to report, the zipwire is still ok.

Station Masters Garden – Cllr Francis – This weekend hopes for starting work.

Village Green – Cllr Watkins – Works will start next months in hope for drier weather, with intentions of planting bulbs. The flags have been taken down at the Nightingale development.

Trees – Cllr Watkins – The tree from the village green has been replanted. Cllr Bowers offered two hedging plants at the side of the gate have also been moved. Cllr Colley offered the oak tree reduction at the entrance of the playing field has been actioned.

Public Health – Cllr Southall- Edwards – Nothing to report. Cllr Colley offered the defibrillator pads will have to be replaced soon and should be considered at the next meeting.

Transport – Cllr Colley – All positive to report with Harwich Connexions, many people without cars or access to transport are able to utilise this service.

Footpaths – Cllr McGowan – on the 5th Feb 26, notice erected that the road would be closed with hopes for repair of footpath but potholes had reportedly been filled. Cllr Colley offered that the King Charles III footpath will come along Wrabness and an inspector has considered representations regarding the length from Harwich to Manningtree and the other side to Shotley Gate with the route now clear, through the path of Wrabness it will follow the Essex Way. Four members of the public left the meeting at 9.51pm. Cllr Bowers expressed sign for

footpath 11 has been reported as not being in working order (fallen over).

Village Hall – Cllr Watkins – Three quotes for fire doors to be replaced, since booking secretary has retired there is a new lady taken over this role.

Kiosk – Cllr Cole – All in good order

Foreshore – Cllr Bowers – Nothing to report

TDALC – Cllr Colley and Southall-Edwards – Last meeting was interesting with lots of information about the TDC Local Plan which has been much appreciated with how much information has been published.

3646. Confirmation of Account Balances

- Members received information of the financial status of the council as at 9th February 2026:

Current Account: £5,663.01p Deposit Account: £7,014.10p.

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

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	CQ No.
Wrabness Hall Farm sponsorship for Spring edition Village Newsletter	£250.00	Village Hall Hire February Meeting	£20.00	1332
		Parish Clerk salary Feb 2026	£237.87	1333
		Woollard - Playing Field Rent	£1.00	1334
		Management Fee - Wrabness Playing Field Association	£2,000	1335
		Grant - Wrabness Playing Field Association	£87.00	1336
		Jones- Village Hall Committee (Chairman) Litter Picking equipment	£26.98	1337

3647. Items for the next agenda

- TDC Local Plan comment submission
- Defibrillator Pads

3648. Date of Next meeting

The Chairman confirmed the next Parish Council meeting to be held on **Wednesday 11th March 2026 in the Village Hall, to follow the Annual Parish Meeting which will begin at 7.00pm.**

The chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

Signed

Date