

## WIGGENHALL ST GERMANS PARISH

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th MAY 2025 at 7.00PM, CONVENED IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, WIGGENHALL ST GERMANS.

**Present:**

Parish Councillors: David Rust (Chair), Robert Ward, Scilla Ash, Tony Park, David Johnson, David Harrison, Ben Taylor-Wright.

Parish Clerk: Mike Inder.

Borough & County Councillors: None.

Apologies: Cllrs Paul Bridges, Julie Massen and Bob Rawlings.

Public: 2.

1. **Introduction and Welcome:** Cllr Rust welcomed everyone present.
2. **Selection of Chairman:** Cllr Rust, invited nominations to Chair the Meeting, there were no nominations or volunteers, so he offered to continue as Chair, and it was agreed.
3. **Apologies** were received as noted above with reports submitted in advance.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 13 May 2024 were reviewed and Cllr Park proposed them as true reflection, seconded by Cllr Ash. Those present at the previous meeting agreed.
5. **Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council:**

**Acknowledgements** My deepest gratitude goes to the following individuals and businesses: My fellow Parish Councillors for their time, effort and dedication, as individuals, and as a team. Mike Inder, our Parish Clerk, another year through which Mike has guided and advised the Council keeping us on the straight and narrow. Gemma, Claire, Emma and Chloe for their sterling work and support on the Play Park Steering Group together and the generous donations from local businesses and individuals. Borough Councillor Brian Long for his support and advice on a number of matters Parishioners who've attended our meetings providing valuable feedback.

**Progress reports** Our hope is that 2025 will see a number of projects completed during the year, below is a list of the current activities. Highways, Road Safety and Public Rights of Way You will have noticed that the SAM2 speed monitoring unit was absent during part of last year. The unit has now been repaired and is back collecting data from various locations within the villages. Councillor Paul Bridges has volunteered to take on the task of moving the system around and downloading the data collected. The latest summary of the data can be found on the Parish Council's website under the tab "Speed Awareness" The application for funding for the "White Gates" to be installed on Eau Brink Road and Lynn Road has been successful, we await a response from Norfolk County Council Highways with regard to the underground services at both sites which is required before installation can proceed. A contractor has been organised to complete this ground works and once the information is received, we can commence the project The Parish Council has worked with stakeholders to enable a sustainable method to keep the overgrown vegetation on the trod between Wiggenhall St. Germans and Wiggenhall St. Mary under control. The Council continues to work with Borough Councillors and Norfolk County Council Highways to obtain signage to alert drivers to the dangers of the junction of Lynn Road, School Road and Fitton Road. The Council has worked with Councillor Long and Norfolk County Council Highways to organise the installation of bollards and barriers at the junctions of Lynn Road and School Road, School Road and Sluice Road to prevent anti-social driving in these areas.

**Play Park Project** The Play Park Steering Group have finalised the contract for the proposed equipment and the application for funding has been submitted to the FCC Communities Foundation, we anticipate a decision during June, if this is favourable, we would expect to see the installation started during the summer. Following Another generous donation from a local business, to cover the increased cost of the project, we now have all the remaining monies in place.

**Environment and Biodiversity** Councillors prepared a small trial area for the Wildflower Project on the entrance to Edinburgh Place. The ground was made ready and the sample of seed supplied sown

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in accordance with the supplier's instructions. Unfortunately, a few days after the sowing, the water main in the area sprang a leak and flooded the trial plot. Regrettably this trail appears to have failed a much larger plot is now being sought and will be prepared with the help of a local landowner The Wiggshall Woodland Creation Scheme would appear to have stalled due to a difficulty with the funding of the project however Norfolk County Council are hopeful the project will start sometime during the end of this year which is the ideal time for planting saplings. The Parish Council continue to support and offer local knowledge to the team which has resulted in a number of minor changes to the scheme. The Council have commissioned a survey of all the trees which come within its responsibility. An initial phase of work, considered urgent, has been completed with further work due to be completed later this year. Moles would appear to be a considerable problem this year, and the Council have engaged the services of a professional mole control expert to help resolve the issue both at the Memorial Hall Playing Field and the Leonard Towler Football Field, this would appear to be an ongoing problem, and the situation will be monitored as to how to proceed for the coming months.

6. **Reports from County and Borough Councillors:** none received.
7. **Reports from Local Organisations:** None.
8. **Public Forum:** An issue with speeding on Orchard Road was voiced with a call for it to be reduced to a 20mph speed limit. The main culprits being a couple of residents but mostly couriers. The Cllrs and the Clerk whilst sympathetic and sharing the concerns explained that a 20mph would be unlikely to be supported by NCC and the cost would be in excess of £10k to the community. Physical speed calming was also discussed and dismissed as causing excessive noise in the location as vehicles brake and accelerate again in addition to the noise of suspension and particular vans' load as they bump over speed humps. It was also highlighted that without enforcement that a speed limit reduction would be fairly ineffective, especially with couriers who are under immense time pressures from their companies with unrealistic delivery expectations. It was also agreed to identify a potential SAM2 site.
9. **Meeting Closed** at 7.18pm

Signature: .....

Chairman .....

Date .....

Prepared by Mike Inder, Clerk to Wiggshall St Germans Parish Council.

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