WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES
of the Council Meeting of Wrabness Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 24th June 2026 at Wrabness Village Hall.

Present:	Cllrs Bowers, McGowan (Vice Chairman), Southall Edwards
In the Chair:	Cllr Colley
Clerk:	Mrs Marie Snell
Also present:	0members of the public, 0 member of the press. Cllr Murray, Essex County Council

3691. Apologies for absence
Members received apologies for Cllrs Cole, Francis and Totman.

3692. Members Declarations of Interests
None

3693. Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 Minutes)
Cllr Murray offered he is Chairman of Tendring Neighbourhood Watch that has come to work again, findings have shown that the signs are now older and Cllr Murray offered some signage to be placed on local waste bins. Further costings do come at a cost, but these can be offered at a lower rate. Cllr Colley offered these can be placed in the village noticeboard. Cllr Murray offered as a committee they can attend village fetes and expressed an interest in achieving better manning together with the recruitment of a co-ordinator. Cllr McGowan asked if NHW still offer the pens and Cllr Murray answered that these are still in existence and if any consideration to reinstate the scheme would be much appreciated.

3694. Approval of Minutes
Members received the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 20th May 2026 (*previously circulated)* and **RESOLVED** to approve them as a true record, signed by the Chairman during the meeting.

3695. Matters Arising from the Minutes
None

3696. Town Planning
Members received new applications had been received as advised by Tendring District Council.

None		

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

Application Ref	Address	Application	Status
None			

3697. Matters Received in the Post
Members received correspondence from Harwich Town Council regarding Greater Anglia train service and discussed the option of weekend specials. Cllr Bowers felt it could be that if the trains were to run late, people would use them. Cllr Colley expressed since the train line was nationalised, there has been local investment in the ticket machine and felt it is in the interest of the residents to utilise a later train

service. Cllr Southall-Edwards felt it was a worthwhile service to extend the service but there can be some safety concerns with later services. Members **RESOLVED** to agree to participate and support in actioning the request for additional train services on the Mayflower Line.

3698. Village Newsletter

Members considered arrangements for the printing of the village newsletter and deliberated on three quotations. Members **RESOLVED** to proceed with Entrac Printing and agreed associated costings of £185 per order, keeping the specification of 200 colour copies, 32pages and using 150gsm quality paper.

3699. Village Event

Members received update from Wrabness Village Hall Committee regarding event to be held on Saturday 15th August 2026. Cllr Colley advised at the last meeting, permission was granted for use of the area. Funding has been awarded by Wrabness Village Fete Committee to hold the event; there will be children's activities (run by the youth group) and other activities in the village hall. Cllr Bowers advised of meetings to be held in the organisation and many local interest gives hopes for this being a successful event. An update to be provided at the next meeting.

3700. Playground Inspections

Members received three quotations regarding ongoing inspections of the playground equipment and discussed. Members **RESOLVED** to proceed with Playquip at cost of £265 excl. VAT for periodic and annual inspection.

3701. Council Responsibilities

a) Cllr Colley offered with fewer council members present, it is tricky to cover what remains but Cllrs Cole and Francis have expressed they are content to continue their current roles.
Members reviewed Councillor Responsibilities and **RESOLVED** to appoint members to serve for the community at appointed areas of interest:

- Highways: Cllr Totman (to be offered)
- Wrabness Playing Field: Cllr Cole
- Station Master's Garden: Cllr Francis
- Village Green: Cllr Bowers
- Trees: Cllr Bowers
- Public Health: Cllr Southall-Edwards
- Transport: Cllr Colley
- Footpaths: Cllr McGowan
- Village Hall: Cllr Bowers
- Kiosk: Cllr Cole
- Foreshore: Cllr Bowers
- Website: Cllr Colley and Parish Clerk
- TDALC: Cllr Colley and Cllr Southall-Edwards

3702. Reports from Councillors

Members received updates from council members regarding the following topics:
Highways – No update currently. Cllr Colley offered that the village newsletter explains how to report defects to Essex Highways. Temporary road closures are in place this week for contractors.
Wrabness Playing Field – No update
Station Masters Garden – Cllr Francis reported (*submitted separately)* Station Garden is doing well considering the weather, beans planted and Herman has contributed tomatoes, chillies, courgettes and cucumbers along with marigolds all for the community.
Slow worms in the compost bin. Will be meeting on 21st July 12pm as a resident (not as a PC) when the judges are in the village for Wrabness in bloom.

Village Green – Cllr Bowers commented there was a recent viewing of the green being uneven, but that it will take time to get it into good condition. Question of if the top dressing is to take place, Cllr Colley asked if this could be delayed following the summer fete. The commitment being of two times a year and to be agreed at the next meeting for costing.
Trees – Cllr Bowers asked if the young oak tree can be moved within the village green when it is dormant in the winter, possibly closer to the corner.
Public Health – Cllr Bowers explained that the defibrillator was accessed recently, Cllr Colley advised the ambulance service initiates the access code but it is the responsibility of the person who borrowed it to return it.
Clerk's Report – The clerk advised of her recent work in financial matters, submitting the Annual Return to the External Auditor.
Transport – No update
Footpaths – Cllr Murray (ECC) offered he has ordered some 'way' signs for public footpaths, Cllr McGowan to liaise further. Cllr McGowan asked where the council stands with the new county councillor and what can happen with regards to the footpaths in the parish. Cllr Colley suggested that Cllr McGowan can email Cllr Murray (ECC) regarding issues to raise. Cllr Southall-Edwards was approached by a local farmer, the field to the south of Church Road, regarding village footpaths to raise awareness that their field should not be being walked on, with nesting birds often disturbed and that this is not a public right of way.
Village Hall – Cllr Francis reported *(submitted separately)* that she attended her first meeting, discussion on solar panels, cleaning of the chairs and further planning for village fete with a subcommittee that is meeting 25th June 2026 which she will be attending. Cllr Bowers expressed the subcommittee is keen to explore grant funding.
Kiosk – No update, Cllr Colley offered it is in good order and looks great.
Foreshore – No update from Cllr Bowers.
Website – Cllr Colley advised is all up to date. The Tarchon Consultation Update is to be published on the council website with details provided further.
TDALC –. Cllr Southall-Edwards spoke of a recent meeting and keen to ask newly elected Councillors to attend and Cllr Harris as Chairman of Essex County Council. St Osyth are looking to hold training for councillors, with the more people interested the cheaper the cost, to be provided by Council Wise. Clerk to explore further.
District and County Councillor Reports – Cllr Murray advised of the new administration within Essex County Council (ECC) with various action points, library fines are due to be stopped, the carbon zero on new properties due to cease. The government have legislated that building will take place and Wrabness has already seen development, Cllr Colley advised that Wrabness PC has put its stance forward to Tendring District Council (TDC). A pothole emergency has been declared with all potholes being graded from 1-4, with grade 4 needing to be rectified urgently. Works have taken place regarding the foster care service in offering greater funding opportunities. The union, St Georges and Armed Forces flags will be flown on the county council buildings. Cllr Murray gave a brief overview of his background and advised he is enjoying his role as Vice-Chairman of the council, attending the council office twice a week.

Cllr Ferguson advised the clerk prior to the meeting that she has given Cllr Murray a tour of local issues and would be happy to meet within him to walk around areas of concern, with Primrose Lane already covered. Cllr Ferguson has asked if she would be able to deliver a short presentation at next month's meeting on the Women's Safety Charter.

3703. Finance

- Members received financial reports and confirmed the account balances as at 17th June 2026:
  Current Account: £6080.55

Deposit Account: £7057.46

- Members received update regarding transfer banking arrangements to Unity Bank.
- Members **RESOLVED** to approve payment of invoices received in accordance with 2026-2027
- budget:

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	CQ No.
		Parish Clerk Salary (June)	£237.87	1348
		Autoprint (Newsletter – Summer 26)	£249.00	1350
		TDALC (Affiliation Fee)	£20.00	1351
		SLCC (Membership fee)	£84.33	1352
		Wrabness Village Hall (Meeting Venue Hire)	(May) £20.00 (June) £20.00	1353 1354

3704. Items for next Agenda

- Village Green Treatment
- Village Green oak tree movement
- Cllr Ferguson (TDC) – Women's Safety Charter Brief
- Clerk's End of Probation

3705. Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman confirmed that the next Parish Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 22nd July 2026 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm or at the rise of the Personnel Committee Meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

Signed **Date**