

Westley Parish Council Minutes

15th January 2026

Present: Cllrs Jim Sweetman (JS); Colin Clayton (CC); Paul Foreman (PF); Cllr Steve McClellan (SMc); Cllr Alan Green (AG); Cllr Mike Spenser-Morris (MS-M) Christine Mason, Clerk (CM), District Cllr Ian Houlder (IH)

109/2026 Apologies: County Cllr Karen Soons.

110/2026 To receive member's declarations of interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct regarding items on the agenda: None received.

111/2026 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th November 2025 : Unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

112//2026 Public participation: There were no members of the public present.

113/2026 To receive County & District Council reports: Cllr Karen Soons report was previously circulated and noted. Cllr Houlder reported that County Council elections have been postponed for a further year but parish and town councils in this area are not directly affected by these delays; the SCC budget for the forthcoming financial year was discussed at Scrutiny Committee on 13 January and will pass to Cabinet on 27 January, and to Council for approval on 12 February. It is proposed to increase Council Tax by the maximum allowable amount of 4.99%, which will yield an extra £26.9 million; no further applications for a locality budget award can be considered until the new financial year.

114/2026 Financial report: Expenditure Clerks salary £118.33, Bank service charge £4.25. Balance as of 16th December 2025 £3,349.91 – approved.

115/2026 Sang / Buffer zone feedback from meeting with Pigeon: JS, SMc, CA, MS-M attended the meeting with Pigeon who were very amenable to the tree planting plans put forward by the parish council for the area of land between the development and Westley; a concept plan to be submitted by the end of the month. For transparency purposes JS to contact Peter White.

116/2026 Sponsored tree planting programme: On the back burner at present but a group of trees sponsored by villagers and planted at the southern end of Burrell's Orchard, could be eligible for a £1500 locality budget award from IH. If planted next year the trees would have time to grow and settle in prior to any development works being carried out.

117/2026 Saxham Business Park lighting: PF expressed his concerns that the very bright lighting at the Business Park will be having an environmental impact on the surrounding area. The clerk to contact Risby parish council to determine whether there has been any issues raised by councillors and public. IH to enquire with internal departments regarding the rules associated with lighting at the Park.

118/2026 Road markings, signage and 20mph submission: Due to the inclement weather, it is expected to be March before the agreed road markings can be carried out; signage and posts have yet to be completed but should be in situ by April; 20mph zones could be implemented but still in the early legislative phase. To be monitored.

119/2026 Gateway food collection: A thank you to CA and SMC for their help with the collection of food stuffs for the Gateway Christmas appeal.

120/2026 A standing agenda item: To confirm meeting dates for 2026

March 12th

May 14th (Annual meeting and AGM)

July 16th

September 17th

November 19th

121/2026 To be noted only: West Suffolk Parish and Town Forum – Honington and Sapiston Village Hall 10 February 2026 at 6.45pm; Police & Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore has just launched a survey to gauge public opinion on his precept proposal to fund the Constabulary for the next financial year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.