

WRESTLINGWORTH AND COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council Meeting held at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall on 2nd July 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Vice-chair Cllr M Wilson, Cllr L Chapman, Cllr A Ewens, Cllr T Nicholson, Cllr W Merry, C Dear (clerk) & 4 members of the public

Apologies: Chair Cllr J Kirkpatrick, CBC Cllr A Zerny & CBC Cllr T Wye

Open Forum: None

Cllr Wilson chaired the meeting and welcomed Cllr Merry as a new member of the Parish Council. Cllr Merry will take the Highways portfolio.

Ethics and Standards Code: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th May 2026, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report

1. Attended a meeting at Tree Nursery Gardens with Tracey Wye, Richard Farrow and Alison Knox to discuss proposed allotment site access. Feedback only from Richard Farrow (Housing) so far indicating that Housing will not be paying for any access provision, and basically putting forward many obstacles
2. With Marc, interviewed Bill Merry for the vacant councillor position which he has now filled. Bill will take on the vacant Highways portfolio for the time being
3. Attended a meeting with Billy of CPM playgrounds in the play area to discuss ROSPA report on potentially dangerous equipment. Subsequently decided to remove the agility trail, which has now been done. Timbers kept, currently in my garage for possible re-use as bollards
4. Requested Billy (CPM) to quote for replacement of bollards at High St end of Braggs Lane using agility trail timbers
5. Discussed via WhatsApp the account details for the Memorial Hall, to enable the Chequers to make a donation as a thank-you for using the utility field for their upcoming beer festival

Clerk's Report

1. Forwarded relevant emails including parish crime statistics to Parish Councillors and dealt with general queries.
2. Completed agenda, budget and financial statement for July's meeting.
3. Reconciled bank statement with income and expenditure and transferred £4,500 to cover July & August's outgoings.
4. SAGE – transactions added to end of June
5. Updated parish website with copy of draft minutes and agenda
6. Completed weekly checks of defibrillator/housing in Wrestlingworth with no issues to date

7. Sent planning applications to Councillors
8. Sent Annual Governance and Accountability Return to external auditor, Mazars
9. Organised a tree surgeon to visit the children's play area to remove a large part of a tree which fallen into the school field
10. Completed VAT return Feb – April
11. Rearranged September's meeting and confirmed with Memorial Hall
12. Informed editor of Village Link of additions from the PC for the next issue
13. Replied to query regarding long grass on Church Lane
14. Sent photograph and location details of drugs found to PC David Lace - no response to date
15. Liaised with Geoffrey Coan (Goodwill fund) and David Granger (grass contractor) regarding issues at the Amenity Field
16. Contacted Jo Hoy regarding poor quality repairs to fence at burial ground – no response to date. Clerk asked to contact Mick Bister, PCC regarding this issue **ACTION CD**
17. Removed tyre at play area and stored in garage
18. Photographed contents of garage for PC re insurance which contains tables owned by the Goodwill Fund
19. Queried overpayment of fees for SLCC and asked for refund – received.
20. Informed CBC of new councillor details
21. Updated Memorial Hall details on website
22. Asked BATPC for new Councillor Training course for Cllr Merry

PLAY AREA – Cllr Chapman informed the Council that she had:

1. Inspected the playground and emptied bins on a regular basis;
2. Notified PC of gates not closing properly and damaged post;
3. General overview of the play equipment and area;
4. Considered RoSPA initial report for urgent repairs;
5. Obtained quote for initial repairs from CPM Playgrounds and advising Parish Council of quote and approval of costs;
6. Liaised with CPM Playgrounds and arranged urgent repairs/removal of equipment;
7. Meeting with CPM Playgrounds on site;
8. Considered full RoSPA report.
9. Followed up with CPM Playgrounds following up and requesting a quote for replacement wooden bollards at entrance to Braggs Lane;
10. Forwarded quote to PC officers;
11. Requested a quote for a playground inspection from The Playground Inspection Co. (details provided by Chair), starting 2027.

The Council concluded that the first item to be fixed is the gate. Cllr Chapman to ask Billy to fix the gate. **ACTION LC**

It was also agreed that a survey would be included in the Village Link requesting suggestions for new items for the play area. **ACTION MW**

A member of the public informed the council that there is a large tree which has grown up over various pieces of play equipment. Cllr Nicholson said he would take a look and prune if possible.

ACTION TN

It was noted that there is now a gap (big enough to catch a child's shoe) between the rubber matting and the wooden surrounds to some of the play equipment. It was suggested that the wooden surrounds be removed. Cllr Chapman agreed to include this issue in the quote from Billy. **ACTION LC**

MILLENNIUM GARDEN AND BROOK MAINTENANCE

On-going issue with tree in Dyason field. **ACTION JK**

Contact made with Charlie Gysin regarding the Millennium Garden who advised he had submitted untraceable invoice.

New quote to be sought for maintenance of the Millennium Garden – **ACTION LC**

HIGHWAYS – Cllr Merry informed the meeting that:

I need to better understand the criteria CBC used for deeming potholes in the High Street between Butchers Lane and Church Lane not qualifying as a priority repair. I suspect it uses a matrix of damage severity, road speed, Traffic volume, location and pothole depth.

Should I attend the Local Transport Plan Consultation – online topic session on 7th July 2026?

Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall update - Five new trustees in place, Chair – Sean McConkey, Vice Chair - Bill Merry, Treasurer – Elaine Graham, Secretary – Kim Lowndes and Booking Secretary – Julie Dix. Website updated, and new bank account in place to reflect the current trustees

The building work started on Wednesday 24 July. Circa £14.5k, covered by the subsidence insurance claim.

My declarations of interest have been reviewed and accepted CBC

Received email from member of the public received regarding signs on Potton Road and other issues.

SUSTAINABILITY & GREEN ISSUES – Cllr Ewens informed the Council of his report -

1. Bedfordshire Energy Together (BET) and River Ivel Community Energy (RICE). I have signed up for their newsletters. Nothing further to report at this time.
2. The CBC Carbon Literacy Training scheduled for 22 to 26 June was cancelled due to insufficient delegates, I am registered for the next course, if it happens. If other councillors or anyone from the village is interested in this course let me know and I'll put them in touch with CBC contact.
3. EV Charging, no update.

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS -

1. Various posts made on Village Website & Facebook page as required, including.
 - a. Planning update next to Nursery Tree Gardens
 - b. Road Closures
2. Provide update for Village Link communications
3. Met with Bill & James in relation to the open councillor position

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE – Cllr Nicholson informed the Council that he had:

1. Requested traffic calming measure results from the raised table. Waiting on CBC.
2. Followed up with CBC regarding Allotment site with a potential meeting on the 9th of May (Time TBC)
3. Removed plastic bag from ditch as per the request during the previous meeting
4. Completed Bedfordshire and Luton community monitoring grant interim update.

It was suggested that access to the allotment site could be funded by the grant already donated to the Council. Cllr Nicholson said he would get a quote for the work. **ACTION TN**

Planning

The current Planning applications were discussed. (**Appendix C**)

Finance

1. Councillors approved the payment of invoices (**Appendix A**)
2. The Financial statement (**Appendix B**) was reviewed

Any Other Business

- HGVs – Cllr Wilson offered to message Adam to find out the details and timeline of the proposal. **ACTION MW**
- Bollards – It was agreed that the wood taken from the children's play area would be used to replace the rotten bollards at the junction of High Street and Braggs Lane. Cllr Chapman agreed to arrange this work with Billy once public liability certificate submitted. **ACTION LC**

Articles for the Village Link

- New Councillor Bill Merry
- Play Area survey

ACTION MW

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.30pm at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall

Appendix A

Payments for approval – July 2026

The following accounts are to be paid and the clerk requested the council's endorsement.

June	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		580.13
July	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		580.13
May & June	Clerk's expenses (Telephone, Internet, Stamps, stationery & printing and use of home as office)		140.00
May	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit – UK-01941033		70.80
June	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit – UK-02061894		70.80
June	Memorial Hall Hire - 779		34.00
May	Lloyds Bank charges		4.25
June	Lloyds Bank charges		4.25
June	SLCC Affiliation fee - refund	158.00	
June	CPM Playgrounds Ltd - 5758		384.00
June	D J Granger Grass cutting – INV-027112		58.80
June	Playsafety Ltd – rospa playground inspection		138.00
May	Npower D/Debit – IN15478678		330.94
June	D J Granger Grass cutting – INV-027167		800.65
June	D J Granger Grass cutting – INV-027225		800.65
June	Wilkinson Tree Surgeon - 742		210.00
June	Npower D/Debit – IN15677066		286.30
June	Geoffrey Coan – internal auditor		160.00
June	Terry Seymour – electrical maintenance - 13199		64.50
June	D J Granger Grass cutting – INV-027278		800.65

Appendix B**FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 30 June 2026 with budget to March 2027**

	<u>Year to 31 March</u> <u>2027</u>		Actual 2025/26	Budget for 2026/27	
	Actual to 30 June 2026	Expected outturn			
Income					
Precept	15,865.00	31,730.00	30,219.00	31,730.00	1
Interest	165.72	400.00	586.00	500.00	
Grants received - Allotments			10,000.00		
SLCC refund	158.00				
Grass Cutting Contribution		403.15	806.30	403.15	
Insurance Claim					
VAT refund to March 2025	313.65	313.65	363.32		
Total Income	16,502.37	32,846.80	41,974.62	32,633.15	
Operational Expenses					
Accountants' fees & Sage	177.00	900.00	946.00	970.00	2
Affiliation Fees	119.00	400.00	377.00	402.00	
Amenity Field lease				120.00	
Bank Charges	12.75	51.00	51.00	51.00	
British Legion		20.00	20.00	20.00	
Church Clock Maintenance		400.00	377.00	400.00	
Churchyard Maintenance		300.00	395.00	300.00	
Clerk's expenses	30.00	300.00	290.00	300.00	
Clerk's salary	1,740.39	7000.00	6,892.00	7,000.00	
Defibrillator maintenance		300.00	300.00	300.00	
Election expenses				2,000.00	
Electricity - street lighting	987.40	5000.00	4,555.00	5,000.00	
Electricity/lighting - maint	353.75	1000.00	815.00	2,000.00	
General Maintenance		1200.00	0.00	1,200.00	
GDPR Data Protection		47.00	47.00	47.00	
Grants (see below)	565.00	565.00	800.00	1,500.00	
Normal Grass and Hedge cutting	2,527.24	7750.00	7,712.00	9,000.00	
Other grounds & tree work		500.00	300.00	1,000.00	
Insurance	1,106.72	1107.00	869.00	1,400.00	
Memorial Hall Hire	34.00	180.00	192.00	204.00	
Millennium Garden		100.00	63.00	500.00	
Parish Tidy Up		600.00	590.00	600.00	
Playing field Maintenance		550.00	522.00	1,500.00	3
Playing field lease				360.00	
Training expenses		70.00	35.00	100.00	

Web site		445.00	445.00	360.00
Vat expensed and not yet recovered	629.18			
Total Operational Expenses	8,282.43	28,785.00	26,593.00	36,634.00

Operating surplus/deficit	8,219.94	4,061.80	15,381.62	-4,000.85
----------------------------------	----------	----------	-----------	------------------

Projects & rent arrears

Allotment lease and set up
Amenity lease arrears
Play Area maintenance
Playing field lease arrears

	10,000.00	
	1,000.00	
	5,000.00	
Net Project costs	0.00	16,000.00
		0.00
Overall surplus/deficit	8,219.94	-11,938.20
		15,381.62

4

RESERVES

Bank brought forward
(Deficit)/Surplus for period
Bank carried forward
VAT refund due
Total

43,073.65		29,982.50
8,219.94	-11,938.20	15,381.62
51,293.59	-11,938.20	45,364.12
		458.65
51,293.59	-11,938.20	45,822.77

GRANTS PAID IN YEAR

Village Link
Magpas
Ladies Group
Scouts
PWWG

	250.00	250.00	250.00
		200.00	200.00
	165.00		165.00
	150.00		150.00
		150.00	
	565.00	600.00	765.00

Bank balances

Current account - 30/06/2026
32-day notice a/c - 30/06/2026
Deposit account -30/06/2026

1,072.40	31/03/2026	1,672.00
31,383.74	31/03/2026	31,239.29
18,837.45	31/03/2026	2,386.61
51,293.59		35,297.90

NOTES TO BUDGET

1 - 5% (band D 5.3%) increase for 2026/27

2 - Lease expired September 2016 with annual rent of £120. Yet to be renewed by CBC and no rent paid.

3 - Lease expired March 2011 with annual rent of £360. Yet to be renewed by CBC and no rent paid. The last email from CBC dated 19 Nov 2018, refusing our request for a reduction and time to pay. No invoice from CBC to date.

4 - Estimated costs

Appendix C

Application Ref	Date Submitted	Location	Works Proposed	PC Comment	Target Decision Date	Status	Date Granted / Refused
CB/26/00223/OUT	29/04/2026	Amber Lodge, Hatley Road, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2EH	Outline Application: Erection of two serviced plots for self build /custom dwellings with matters reserved except for access	Objected some aspects	04/06/2026	Consultation Period	
CB/26/01178/EPD	10/04/2026	7 Water End, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, SG19 2HA	Electricity Works Permitted Development: To rectify an existing safety compliance issue with the current low voltage overhead service to the property No 7 Water End, SG19 2HA. The proposal is to install a new intermediate pole and install new underground cable. The existing low voltage overhead service will then be removed.			Granted	
CB/26/01133/PIP	07/05/2026	Land South of Potton Road, adjacent to Tree Nursery Gardens, Wrestlingworth	Permission in Principle: Residential development of up to two dwellinghouses	Objected		Refused	