

Parish of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 21 May 2025

8pm, Waresley Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Richard Jerman, Eleanor Jack, Malcolm Gordon & Jon Hutton. Also present were County Councillor Sarah Caine, Nete Brogaard, Craig Safford, Wendy Phillips, Mark Ponder & Rod Kerr.

Apologies for absence. Councillor Josh Morris-Lowe & District Councillor James Catmur

- 1. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 22 May 2025 – Circulated read and signed by the Chairman, Richard Jerman.**
- 2. Matters arising - None**
- 3. Chair's report – see Appendix A**
- 4. County Councillor's report – Councillor Sarah Caine advised that she has been visiting villages and will attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible. Her key priorities are, Extra funding for potholes – wants to push this strongly. Speeding in villages – recognises it as a major issue and wants to be actively involved. She runs an international business but says she is available and committed to her role on the County Council. She explained the proposed local government reorganisation: Looking at a unitary authority model in the next 3–4 years. Aim: one authority covering both County Council (CC) and District Council (DC). CC councillors have been asked to start thinking about how this transition might work. County Council has Lib Dem–majority, and we also have a Lib-Dem MP, so hopes this will help “get things done”. RJ hoped this will put Waresley in a good position. EJ commented that grouping similar parishes together is positive — avoids being lumped into a large conurbation. Questions raised: What happens to Greater Cambridge Partnership? Will District Council elections still go ahead next year? Nete Brogaard asked whether residents will be consulted. Sarah said all options are still being explored but she hopes so.**
- 5. District Councillors' report – See appendix B**
- 6. Open Session - Craig Safford raised the ongoing speeding concerns. He noted that Brington PC use ANPR cameras mounted on poles; ANPR signs cost £700. Jon Hutton suggested we hold a dedicated meeting on speeding Wendy Phillips mentioned a 54 mph speeder recorded in the village. Councillor Jack said we have requested a new MVAS sign - not yet finalised. Speeding remains the most repeated agenda item. JH listed possible measures: chicanes, speed humps, etc. Nete**

Brogaard emphasised the need for a 20 mph limit — this has been applied for and we should know later this year. JH noted that some believe the A421 upgrade will reduce traffic, but Google Maps still routes drivers via the B1040 as the fastest option. Question raised: can the parish work with Google or mapping providers to remove the village from rat run routing? JH circulated a map illustrating the issue. EJ said Hilton Parish monitored traffic and contacted firms whose vehicles were cutting through. Councillor Caine noted that Abbotsley tried this too — contacting firms improved behaviour. Ian Sollom (MP) previously wrote to Stagecoach about inappropriate diversion routes. General point: once drivers learn shortcuts, they tend to keep using them. Jon Hutton & Councillor Caine will look at the Google Maps issue. Nete Brogaard said the pavements in the village are very narrow. Residents should be asked not to place bins on pavements, as they block the entire width. EJ: noted cutting back overgrown hedges would also help. These responsible will be asked to cut their hedges back & residents reminded to get their bins in ASAP. The paths around The Square are very narrow this was raised with Highways; widening is too difficult and expensive. A possible alternative: dropped kerbs, but would require an LHI bid.

7. The 2025 Annual Parish Meeting was declared closed at 8.45pm and the Parish Council AGM commenced.

Appendix A Parish Council Chairmans Report:

Chairman's Annual report May 22nd 2025

Starting with highways matters...

We have had 2 out of our 3 posts correctly installed to host our MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated sign) which has now been in operation since the late Summer 24. Thanks to the group of village volunteers who operate a rota to change the battery and move the sign periodically. The third post is due to be moved to an effective position around the middle of June (advised this date by CCC). Feedback on the effectiveness of the sign has been positive.

Our LHI (Local Highways Initiative) bid for a 20mph speed limit was unsuccessful last year by a very narrow margin, we have tailored the application this year for the same speed limit and have been advised the winning bids will be published in October 2025.

We have a quarterly meeting with our local highways officer where we can bring issues to the attention of CCC. If members of the public have any highways issues the best way to get them addressed is to raise a ticket on the CCC website. Once raised it will be prioritised for action. If there isn't any progress please pass the open

ticket number on the Parish Council who will follow it up.

You will have noticed the repairs to the bollards and the damaged tarmac around the monument after a car accident outside the Duncombe Arms, and the replacement signs at the top of Green lane after fire damage.

Unfortunately, the project to address the ongoing drainage issues on Vicarage Road wasn't a high enough priority for CCC to allocate any of their £60m allocation for this kind of project in the 25/26 year.

The flooding drain on Manor Farm road opposite Water End House was the subject

of a considerable amount of work. The results have been mixed and conversations are ongoing to close this issue to everyone's satisfaction.

East West Rail - Councillor Jack has attended various meetings regarding the project. It seems to be proceeding without any significant changes or clarifications of the plans. Thanks to Councillor Gordon and to Mrs Gordon for arranging the village planter's rota and for updating and planting new flowers and plants seasonally. Also, thanks to the volunteers on the watering rota.

The Old Churchyard has been maintained regularly including some remedial work to the church yard wall, a working party of volunteers in September and another working party in April by Skansa employees as part of their community work in relation to the new A428 section. Thanks to Councillor Gordon for organising all of these and for the help of the volunteers in September. Also, the memorial bench outside the entrance to the Old Churchyard has been repaired and made good by the Banks family, thanks go to them for that.

I am delighted to say the monument inscription has now been repaired and it looks fantastic. Many thanks to Councillor Jack for winning a £2000 grant from the District Council Futures Grant Scheme and battling red tape and tardy suppliers for several years to get this over the line.

The Duncombe Arms is still closed for business, but a new buyer has been found and the deal will hopefully be completed in the near future.

Precept has been set Planning applications have been scrutinised

Street lights have been maintained Potholes and fly tipping have been regularly reported Defibrillator has been checked regularly and the old battery replaced

A litter pick in conjunction with the Tetworth Estate was carried out in April. Thanks to Councillor Jack and councillor Morris-Lowe for organising that and to and all the volunteers. Discussion were held with Waresley Park Estate after residents raised concerns over events and noise. Noise control and monitoring have been put in place.

Thanks to County Councillor Stephen Ferguson who has stepped aside after several year service. Always helpful, supportive and prepared to fight the corner of the villages at County Council. He will be missed.

Thanks to our tree Warden David Morgan for his continued diligent work.

Councillor Edge stepped down this year and I would like to thank her for her work, we hope to see her back at some point if time permits.

A special thanks to Councillor Archer who stepped down after just short of 20 years' service. He led dozens of projects and contributed to many more in that time with diligence, skill and good humour.

A big thank you to my fellow councillors and a warm welcome to Councillor Morris-Lowe and councillor Hutton who have recently joined the PC. They all gave freely of their time, and use their considerable judgement to help make Waresley-cum-Tetworth such a pleasant place to live.

Councillor Richard Jerman 22 May 2025

Appendix B District Councillor James Catmurs Report:

I was elected a year ago and I have had a lot to learn about the council and team that had been in place for 2 years.

I was asked to be a member of the 'Overview and Scrutiny – Finance and Growth' committee, which is fascinating as we aim to provide value by doing what its name suggests it should do. I have worked on helping the 6 parishes within the ward with matters that are important to the residents, sometimes straying into county council matters when I think I can help given my transport background. I have kept the parish council informed about new HDC and CCC initiatives and opportunities.

A few things we have done:

- A grant for solar panels on Great Gransden's community buildings
 - Understand the A421 and EWR plans
 - Develop proposals for better walking, cycling and horse riding (WCH) routes within the ward
 - Participate in the Little Barford planning sessions and promoted a WCH route to connect the south of the ward to Little Barford and then onwards to St Neots
- Case work does arise, and I have helped residents on several matters when requested.

HDC decisions for the year have included passing a balanced budget, based on a reasonable increase in charges to residents. It looks like HDC can maintain this balanced position until it ceases to exist under LGR.

Local Government Reorganization (LGR) started at the end of 2024, but there is little to report. I will keep the parish council informed as it develops

Prior to being elected in May 2024 I was worried about how I would manage as a disabled councillor. Attending evening Parish Council meetings is not always easy as some parish meeting rooms are not totally disabled accessible. Access to HDC's Pathfinder house is not as easy as one might hope given that it is a new building. They have 'pretty' cobbles outside the building that make wheelchair access hard and the entrance door from the car park is poorly designed.

The support I have had from fellow councillors and HDC staff has been good, and we have learned a bit about how to make the role more disabled friendly.