

Wareside Parish Council

Minutes of Wareside Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 16th October 2025 held in Wareside Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Nicola Gildersleve (NG), Cllr Paul Goodman (PG) (Chairman), Cllr Kim Nicholson (KN), Cllr Stuart Richards (SR) and Cllr Mike Ryan (MR)

Others: Rebecca Burdick (Clerk) (RB)

Members of the public: None.

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Cllr Kerry Raworth (KR)

2. Declarations of interest and dispensations

a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda (including non-pecuniary).

MR - agenda item 7 - due to living in close proximity to the old school site being discussed.

b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.

None.

c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

None.

3. To approve and sign meeting minutes

a) Thursday 22nd May 2025 - deferred until November meeting

b) Thursday 30th June 2025 - deferred until November meeting

c) Thursday 17th July 2025 - deferred until November meeting

d) Thursday 25th September - deferred until November meeting

4. To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public

None.

5. Planning

a) To consider planning applications received by EHDC received between 25th September - 16th October

Application: 3/25/0571/LBC

Proposal: Existing hardwood framed windows (installed approximately 25 years ago), casements and fixed lights to be routed out and slimlite single glazing to be replaced with 4 x 4 x 4 double glazed units

At: Tudor Cottage Bakers End Wareside Hertfordshire SG12 7SH

WPC comments: None

b) To review planning decisions made by EHDC received between 25th September - 16th October

None.

6. To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster emailed his report - please see appendix for full report. No District Cllr report received.

7. To receive updates from Councillors/Clerk on:

a) Little Oak Heath

i. LOH Maintenance

E-Scapes - The cutting season finishes at the end of October. RB to email Chris to ensure the orchard area on LOH is cut on the final visit.

Brambles - PG awaiting costings from the contractor and possible dates for the work to be completed.

Benches - NG has removed the memorial bench in order to carry work on it so that it is able to be secured into the ground again.

ii. Playground maintenance

RB has instructed Broadmead Leisure to fix the two rotten fence posts and the damaged horizontal paling. This has been scheduled to be done when the stair palings are being replaced. RB has sent the annual play inspection to Paul from Broadmead Leisure for to review.

b) Larkshill

RB to create a poll to determine when councillors are free for the next tidy-up.

8. To receive update on Wareside CofE School, Sports & Playing Field.

No material update.

11. To discuss Councillor vacancy on the PC

Today is the deadline for requesting an election by contacting EHDC to fill the vacancy on the PC left when Bob Kerr resigned. RB will confirm with EHDC tomorrow if an election is required or not and will update the council accordingly at the next meeting. Should an election not be required the PC will be able to fill the vacancy by co-option as has been done previously.

12. Finance

a) To approve signing of orders for payment online via BACS

Payee	Work done/goods received	Amount
Rebecca Burdick	Salary (September)	£279.28
EHDC	Bin emptying - LOH	£151.43
TP Jones and Co LLP	Payroll	£63.40
Rebecca Burdick	Reimbursement - Wix website 25/26	£230.40
Rebecca Burdick	Reimbursement - Wix website 25/26	£17.40
Rebecca Burdick	Reimbursement - Wix website 24/25	£12.46
Paul Goodman	Reimbursement - Poppy Wreath	£20.00

b) To discuss ideas for the locality budget grant from Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Two ideas have been proposed for possible projects requiring a grant. 1. Replacement of the two damaged benches on LOH 2. Rejuvenation of the Larkshill orchard including paying for a tree surgeon. The merits of each project were discussed and it was unanimously agreed to apply for a grant for the benches on LOH. It was decided that this project would be easier to justify the need for the grant and provide costs as the benches can be found online. It was agreed that the orchard would still be funded by the PC but input would be required from a tree surgeon to determine costs and this process would take a few weeks at which point the grant funding "pot" may have run out. As required for the application

process RB to discuss the project with Cllr Eric Buckmaster to get his approval and then apply for the grant.

13. Urgent matters not included on this agenda (for full discussion on the next agenda)

None.

Meeting finished at 8.15pm

Next meeting 17th July 2025 at 19.30

Signed:

Date:

Chair Cllr Paul Goodman

Appendix

CGR 2025 - Wareside Parish Council Consultation Response

This submission is in response to Ware Town Council's request that the Review move the boundary between Ware and Wareside so that the whole of WARE 2 as defined in the The East Herts District Plan 2018 becomes part of Ware.

A significant proportion of the new homes forming the Ware 2 development will be built on land currently within the parish of Wareside.

We understand that under the proposal put forward by Ware Town Council, all of these new houses plus a number of existing properties within Wareside parish would become part of Ware Town.

In common with many local councils, Wareside Parish Council is struggling to meet its ongoing day to day costs from its precept which is its only source of current income. Additional projects are increasingly at risk. Two issues facing us at present provide useful examples. The cost of supplying a new defibrillator will have to be met out of dwindling reserves. The Council is expected to pay the cost of running out of date inefficient street lighting which it cannot afford to upgrade.

We simply cannot afford to lose the precept from the existing properties which would become part of Ware Town. Furthermore, some of the additional precept from the new properties would have allowed us to improve services to parishioners either through the increased income itself or by allowing us to access borrowed money for capital projects - an option not currently available to us. These improved services would have gone some way towards offsetting the detriments many parishioners feel we face as a result of the Ware 2 development.

For example, we recently lost our village school partly as a result of the proposed provision of new schools within Ware 2. Once the new development proceeds there will inevitably be an increase in traffic through the parish leading to further detriment to the existing inhabitants. The development will result in the loss of much loved countryside within the parish.

Looked at from a different perspective, many of the existing dwellings in the parish do not have access to proper high speed broadband and the mobile signal in much of the parish is poor. A more regular bus service would be appreciated particularly by residents without access to a car. These services will no doubt be provided to new residents of Ware 2. Were the new houses to be built within Wareside, the Council would have had greater influence to explore with developers and providers the possibility of securing upgrades to the services to existing dwellings as part of the project.

Our objections to the Ware Town proposal could be met to an extent if a mechanism could be found through which some of the lost precept could be made available to Wareside Parish

Council. Assistance from Ware Town Council in securing better services for existing Wareside residents would also help to offset the loss of influence which would result from their proposal. We would welcome the opportunity to explore these suggestions further with them and with EHDC.

Finally, if the boundary is moved we assume that the recent decision to ward Wareside parish will be reversed. The decision to ward was based on the presumption that new homes from the Ware 2 development would be built in Wareside parish. In the absence of these new homes, warding is unnecessary.