

Wareside Parish Council

Minutes of Wareside Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 29th January 2026 held in Wareside Church at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Nicola Gildersleve (NG), Cllr Paul Goodman (PG) (Chairman), Cllr Kerry Raworth (KR) 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 Kim Nicholson (KN) and Cllr Stuart Richards (SR)

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 8 - 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 27th November 2025 - unanimously resolved and signed by PG

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

None.

5. Planning

a) To consider planning applications received by EHDC received between 27th November 2025 - 29th January 2026

Application: 3/25/1672/HH

Proposal: Two storey side extension and single storey link

At: 5 Helham Green Cottages Scholars Hill Helham Green Wareside

WPC comments: None

Application: 3/25/1759/PNHH

Proposal: Notification of proposed single storey rear extension; Depth extending from the original rear wall of 8.00 metres, a maximum height of 3.86 metres and an eaves height of 3.00 metres

At: The Annexe 7 Helham Green Cottages Scholars Hill

WPC comments: None

Application: 3/25/1651/HH

Proposal: Erection of outbuilding for domestic storage following demolition of existing structure

At: Legges Cottage Fanhams Hall Road Wareside Hertfordshire SG12 7SD

WPC comments: None

b) To review planning decisions made by EHDC received between 27th November 2025 - 29th January 2026
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

Grassland area cut - PG updated the PC that Nicolas Buxton has cut the open grassland area of LOH for no cost. The PC thanked PG for organising and asked that he pass their thanks on to Nicholas.

Houses backing on to LOH - RB updated the council that one of the houses backing on to LOH has had a couple of large trees removed from its garden and LOH was used to help undertake this work. Whilst no lasting damage has been done to LOH it may be worth emailing First Garden City Homes (FGCH), the housing association (HA) responsible for the houses, to advise them to contact us in future should they require use of LOH. Communication could also be reopened with regards to rubbish dumping on LOH along the fence line of the houses. Previously the PC had been in touch with staff at the HA but this ceased when they left the organisation. The PC agreed for RB to investigate who the contact is now for the PC with regards to these houses and to email them accordingly. RB also updated the PC that one of the bungalows backing onto another side of LOH has started leaving rubbish outside the access gate they have from their garden onto LOH. It was agreed that PG would investigate which HA is responsible for the bungalows and RB to email as agreed with FGCH.

ii. Playground maintenance

RB shared the December bi-monthly inspection report with the PC. There was nothing new requiring attention since the last report. RB had instructed for work to be undertaken as agreed at the last meeting and this is awaiting completion. Paul from Broadmead leisure also reviewed the annual inspection report and confirmed nothing required immediate action and that areas noted which required monitoring will be done during the bi-monthly inspections.

b) Larkshill

Further work has been undertaken by SR, MR, KR and PG clearing and cutting back areas of Larkshill. KR discussed plans to make a compost area for some of the debris along with using an incinerator as the piles are building up from the areas that are being cleared. The PC agreed both were good ideas - with regards to burning it was noted this would be done in a suitable open area away from neighbouring houses when the wind was blowing away from them, to avoid any disruption.

SR, MR and KR have met a couple of times at LH and plan further tidy-ups in the new year. It was agreed that money should be allocated in the next FY for professional work as there are trees on the land that require a tree surgeon's expertise. PG to contact Ben, a local tree surgeon. MR suggested that a plan be put in place for the area, so that in years to come when others take over the management it is clear what the vision was/is. PG agreed and suggested this be drafted at the next tidy-up.

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

No material update.

11. To agree Parish Council 2026 meeting dates and venue

It had been discussed at the last PC meeting about splitting PC meetings between the church and the village hall (VH). This meeting was planned to be at the village hall however when the date was changed the VH was not free so the meeting took place at the church. MR raised his concern regarding the lack of facilities at the church notably disabled access and lack of a toilet. PG noted disabled access was possible and also a toilet was hoped to be built later on in the year. It was also noted the church is very cold in the winter months and its use would be perhaps best in the summer. Supporting both facilities was something the PC were keen to do and it was agreed that splitting meetings between both venues would work well - using the VH in the winter months and the church in the summer months. RB to book the VH for February, March, April and October. PG to discuss with Mark regarding use of the church in May, June, July and September.

12. Finance

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

Payee	Work done/goods received	Amount
Rebecca Burdick	Salary (December)	£279.28
Rebecca Burdick	December inspection - 3067	£78.00

b) To review the financial position for the current FY

RB presented the current FY financials including projected spending for the rest of the FY. The PC is on target to finish the FY within what was budgeted. Some items which had been budgeted for had not been spent (e.g. money to repair/upgrade street lighting) and it was discussed if this could be made more apparent within the budget spreadsheet so that it is clear if any money is carried over what it was originally meant to be spent on. RB and PG to look at the spreadsheet to see how to make this possible. The street lighting repair and upgrade is an unavoidable expense in the medium term but precisely when it will have to be incurred is uncertain. It was agreed that it is prudent to budget for the cost of one lamppost upgrade per year. Money not used in one year will be carried over to the next for that purpose.

The Clerk's salary has not been increased since 2019, this was at the request of RB as as a villager she wanted funds to be spent where they were needed in the parish rather than on increasing her salary. The PC agreed that they should now pay an hourly rate in line with what is recommended by NALC to prevent the hourly rate falling far behind. Because of this RB has added additional funds for this FY to backdate the Clerk's salary to the recommended hourly rate for the FY. This has not been agreed by the council and would be discussed at the March meeting.

c) To review the draft budget and discuss and agree the precept for 2026/27

RB presented a draft budget for FY26/27, additional streams of funding have been added for professional tree work at Larks Hill and rubbish removal at LOH - as agreed at previous meetings. The Clerks salary was included at the current recommended hourly rate with 3% increase, this had not been agreed by NALC for the next FY yet but is in line with last year's increase. It was agreed to increase the precept by 20%, £3379.00, from £16,895.00 to £20,274.00. The PC did not want to increase the precept by as much as last year (30%) however felt strongly that it was prudent to provide for additional funds to cover the

projected budget and make an additional allowance to cover inflationary rises in costs as well as unexpected additional items - which every year seem to be required particularly to maintain LOH, an area used by a lot of villagers.

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

NG updated the PC that a stretch of the road from Babbs Green to Bakers End is falling away into the ditch which runs alongside it. This had been raised to Cllr Buckmaster when he was taken around areas of concern in the village. However nothing has been done to rectify the road and it is quickly getting worse and becoming dangerous for unsuspecting cars that drive along it. NG to get some up to date pictures and send to Cllr Buckmaster. PG to send NG the correspondence with Cllr Buckmaster to date.

Meeting finished at 9.15pm

Next meeting 19th February 2026 at 7.30pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair Cllr Paul Goodman.