

**Minutes of the Withersfield Annual Parish Meeting held at 7:00pm on  
Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in the village hall, Withersfield.**

Present: Cllrs Terry Rich (Chairman), Frank Eve (Vice-Chair),  
Julia Korona, Jaclyn Lake, Patricia Mallalieu, Philip Stiles, Indy Wijenayaka;  
Clerk: Laura Crump; County Councillor: Bobby Bennett; District Councillor: Indy Wijenayaka.

**1. Results of the Parish Survey presented by Cllr Frank Eve.**

Withersfield parishioners were asked for their views and feedback on what the Parish Council's top priorities should be.

Cllr Eve summarised the results of the survey. There had been 52 responses received – 77% from the village, 13% from the Arboretum, 4% Hanchett End and 6% other.

The following issues were ranked in order of importance for the Parish Council to spend time on:

1. Planning applications
2. Traffic monitoring
3. Maintenance of green spaces
4. Management of graveyard

The following were ranked in order of which parish projects the PC should spend their funds on:

1. Traffic calming measures
2. Community events
3. Improving public spaces
4. Playground
5. Other

52% of responses said they would help with the above parish projects.

The following points were made from parishioners as suggestions and priorities for the PC:

- Glass recycling
- 20mph zone
- Footpaths
- Nature friendly
- Playground
- Paths in village
- Speeding
- Public transport
- Footpath between the village and Haverhill

The Cllrs discussed the repeated mention from parishioners for the desire of a footpath to Haverhill. Cllr Stiles offered to contact the Thurlow Estate to ask whether they would consider this possibility.

- 2. Report from Chair of Parish Council, Cllr Terry Rich**
- 3. Report from Chair of Traffic Working Party, Cllr Frank Eve**
- 4. Report from County Councillor, Cllr Bobby Bennett**
- 5. Report from District Councillor, Cllr Indy Wijenayaka**

All reports were shared and discussed among the PC. Copies of the reports will be uploaded onto the Parish Council website.

**6. Reports requested:**

**i. Secretary of Village Hall Management Committee, Sheila Horton**

The VHMC report will be uploaded onto the Parish Council website.

**ii. Chair of Sports and Recreation Committee, Denis Elavia**

For the first time in over a decade (excluding Covi) we have no crickets teams using the ground, Wratting Lions and the Haverhill third XI now choosing to play their cricket at Haverhill cricket ground. We have had a couple of enquiries from other teams but unfortunately, we are unable to meet their expectations regarding ground preparation and other facilities especially the lack of proper toilets. Unfortunately, the cost of hiring portaloos and the time involved to prepare a wicket make it make it an unviable proposition for most teams whose members expectation is that they just turn up play their cricket and leave.

**iii. Parish Tree Warden, Alexander Talbot**

None received.

**iv. Suffolk Police**

The PCC's most recent Annual Report for 2023-24 can be found at: <https://suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Annual-Report-2023-24.pdf> The Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner's annual report for 2024-25 is expected to be released in the late summer or early autumn of 2025.

*The meeting closed at 19:30.*