



Watton At Stone
PARISH COUNCIL

Nigel Poulton Community Hall
School Lane
Watton At Stone
SG14 3SJ
T: 07493 097867
E: clerk@watton-pc.org.uk

13 January 2026

In Attendance: Cllrs Nicola White (Chairman), Richard Lewis (Vice Chairman), Michael Brooks, Annabel Kirk, Anna Bramley, Alastair Bramley, Mark Richardson, Charles Clark, Claire Holman, Abi Brown (Clerk)

Watton at Stone Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 13th January 2026
Nigel Poulton Community Hall at 7.15pm

MINUTES

1. Apologies

Cllr Thomas

2. Declaration of Interests

(a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

None

(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and

None

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None

3. Minutes

Minutes of Watton at Stone Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025 were approved as an accurate record of proceedings. Proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Lewis. All in attendance were in agreement.

4. Public Issues

Members of the public and Councillors can raise matters of concern

5. Chairman's/Clerk's Report

Clerk requested that carpets be removed from the main hall as they are deteriorating due to lack of use. All in attendance were in agreement that the Caretaker can remove them.



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Cllr White would like the Parish Council to review the logo ready for the new website. Cllr Richardson will lead this.

Action: Cllr Lewis

Cllr White made the council aware that there is a government proposal of 'Non parking on pavements'.

6. Reports and approvals from Working Parties and Committees

(a) Environment Committee Report

i. Memorial Oak Tree Approval

A map was circulated of potential sites to plant a memorial tree prior to the meeting. Cllr Kirk proposed that a memorial tree should be planted at the top corner of the Meadow behind the bench. Tony and Morris will take responsibility for planting and maintaining the tree. Cllr Brook's seconded.

ii. Teqball Table

Cllr Kirk suggested the implementation of a teqball table in the area where the swings used to be. It was felt that this space would potentially be used as further parking if planning approved. It was suggested that the area next to the tennis courts or replacing the teen shelter would be a more suitable location. A proposal will be put together by Cllr Kirk regarding location and space required for a teqball table.

Action: Cllr Kirk

iii. Allotment Gate

It was proposed that the gate be removed by Cllr Richardson and was seconded by Cllr Lewis. Cllr Kirk will speak with the house owner of the path to see if it is their gate. Cllr Kirk will also speak with the allotment plot holders who have complained about the gate being broken to see if they would like to volunteer to repair the gate.

Action: Cllr Kirk

Cllr Kirk has met with the Beaneside, Lammas Road residents and Herts County Council to discuss the Lammas and how to prioritise the environment. HCC will put together a process which is to be carried out over the next 5-10 years for all to contribute towards and help facilitate.

(b) Planning Committee Report

One application received for 35 Rivershill (**3/25/1896/HH**). No comment to be submitted.

(c) Community Hall Management Committee Report

i. Update on new contracts

Contracts for hirers are still being reviewed but will be ready for approval for the new tax year.



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A quote has been obtained to repair and clean the back tennis court. Cllr Holman will put together a proposal of costs for repair and maintenance of the three tennis courts. S106 monies will be applied for to complete these works.

Action: Cllr Al Bramley

ii. Boiler Update

The boiler had broken down but has now been fixed. Community Hall Committee to review boiler options for the future.

(d) Finance Committee

i. To authorise payments made in addition to the budget

No additional payments to be approved

ii. To receive summary report of receipts and payments

Report was circulated prior to the meeting.

iii. Review of budget

The 2025/2026 budget was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no queries.

Cllr Richardson provided an update on the Scribe introduction. It was felt that the allotment and booking system were not required. Cllr Richardson will look into other finance software providers and provide report and proposal in February meeting as to whether to move to another provider or stay with Xero.

Action: Cllr Richardson

iv. 2026/2027 budget approval

Budgets were circulated prior to the meeting. There were two options proposed. Option B allowed to use some of the funds in the Parish Council accounts to be used for some costs next year to keep the precept request at last years rate and no increase for residents. It was proposed by Cllr Richardson that option B would be the most viable option. Seconded by Cllr Clark.

Cllr Lewis will look into new providers for year end accounts for the Community Hall and payroll for the Parish Council. Cllr Lewis will obtain quotes from current provider and two additional providers.

Action: Cllr Lewis

v. Approval of Precept Request 2026/2027

It was proposed by Cllr Richardson that the precept request of £54,704 be submitted. Cllr Lewis seconded the motion. Clerk to submit precept request for 2026/2027.



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7. Website Update

i. Domain name

It was suggested that the Watton at Stone Parish Council domain name be moved from .org.uk to .gov.uk. It was proposed by Cllr Richardson to move over and was seconded by Cllr White.

ii. Online bookings

Cllr Richardson queried if an online booking facility was required on the new website. It was felt by the Clerk that an enquiry form asking for basic booking information would be best. It was proposed that Cllr Richardson will speak to Parish Websites to see if there is a cost for them creating a more stringent enquiry form to avoid spam.

Action: Cllr Richardson

iii. Allotments

It was felt that allotment software was not required.

iv. PC skills/background list

Cllr Richardson was concerned that the Parish Council were not utilising the skills of the Councillors. Cllr Richardson will set up a spreadsheet for Councillors to complete with their skills.

Action: Cllr Richardson

8. Defib Update

The Parish Council were contacted by British Heart Foundation regarding the blanket on the defib. Clerk to look into how to access electrical supply to the defib.

Action: Clerk

9. Reports to the Council

The police and Caretakers reports were reviewed and no queries raised.

Cllr Holman to complete the Village Report.

Meeting Closed: 21:18