



Watton-at-Stone Parish Council
Nigel Poulton Hall
School Lane
Watton-at-Stone
SG14 3SF
Tel: 07493 097867
E: clerk@watton-pc.org.uk

10 March 2026

In attendance: Cllrs Nicola White (Chair), Richard Lewis (Vice Chair), Michael Brooks, Annabel Kirk, Alastair Bramley, Mark Richardson, Joe Thomas, Charles Clark, Claire Holman, Abi Brown (Clerk)

Watton at Stone Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 10th March 2026
Nigel Poulton Community Hall at 7.15pm

MINUTES

1. Apologies

Cllr Anna Bramley

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 10th February 2026 were approved as an accurate record of proceedings. Proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Brooks. All in attendance were in agreement.

4. Public Issues

None



Watton-at-Stone Parish Council
Nigel Poulton Hall
School Lane
Watton-at-Stone
SG14 3SF
Tel: 07493 097867
E: clerk@watton-pc.org.uk

5. Chairman's/Clerk's Report

Clerk advised that Fairview have now completed the floodkit base. The Parish Council thanked them for their generosity. The caretaker will be constructing the flood kit in the next week or so.

Cllr Thomas advised that there is a portal which allows residents view social housing and shared ownership. Cllr Thomas will share the link and the Clerk will make available on Facebook.

Action: Cllr Thomas/ Clerk

6. Update regarding fete stand

It was discussed if the Parish Council should have a stand at the fete. Cllr Alistair Bramley proposed that due to the lack of interest in last years stand that the Parish Council should not have a stand but instead will go to the fete and speak with residents. This was approved unanimously by all in attendance. Cllr White to advise the organisers of the fete that the Parish Council will not require a stand this year.

Action: Cllr White

Cllr Kirk joined the meeting at 19:29.

7. Reports and approvals from Working Parties and Committees

(a) Environment Committee Report

i. Update allotment and swift boxes

Cllr Kirk has circulated a list of suggestions including a new gate and resurfacing of the track into the allotments to be requested under the S106 monies. These are suggestions that have been made by the Allotment Association.

Cllr Clark raised that the lease with Bidwells is up for renewal on 20th March. It was queried if the Parish Council want to renew and keep responsibility of the allotments. It was agreed that another meeting would be held to ascertain the information regarding the lease. Cllr Clark agreed to speak with Bidwells regarding the lease for the allotment and to establish what the repercussions would be if the Parish Council didn't renew the lease.

Action: Cllr Clark / Cllr Kirk

The Clerk will create a calendar with renewal of leases and monthly actions that the Parish Council need to carry out.

Action: Clerk



Watton-at-Stone Parish Council
Nigel Poulton Hall
School Lane
Watton-at-Stone
SG14 3SF
Tel: 07493 097867
E: clerk@watton-pc.org.uk

An email was circulated by the Hertford Swift group regarding the installation of swift boxes. The residents of Lammas Road are arranging for them to come and do a talk at the War Memorial Hall to try and encourage residents to have a swift box installed.

(b) Planning Committee Report

3/26/0205/LBC – Heathmount School - Removal of two redundant fire escape doors and one redundant fire escape – No comment to be submitted

(c) Community Hall Management Committee Report

i. Finalising sports contracts (Cllr Holman)

Sports contracts have now been finalised and will be distributed by the Clerk. Cllr Clark is going to read the water meter each month so that the cricket team can be aware of cost.

Action: Clerk

ii. New Chair of CHMC

Cllr Alistair Bramley is having to step back from his role as Chair of the Community Hall Committee for the time being due to an increased workload. Cllr White has volunteered to step into the role until Cllr Alistair Bramley is able to step back into the role as Chair. Cllr Holman also volunteered to take on relations with the Sports Team.

It was proposed by Cllr White that John Meishcke should be asked if he would be happy to join the Community Hall Committee due to his knowledge of the hall. This was seconded by Cllr Alistair Bramley.

iii. Sports Day – 12th April 2026

There is a meeting with the sports teams on 24th March. With regards to the Sports Day, the weather will be monitored and a decision will be made nearer the day if the event is going ahead or not. Clerk to ask the school to add it to their newsletter.

Action: Clerk

(d) Finance Committee

i. To authorise payments made in addition to the budget

None

ii. To receive summary report of receipts and payments



Watton-at-Stone Parish Council
Nigel Poulton Hall
School Lane
Watton-at-Stone
SG14 3SF
Tel: 07493 097867
E: clerk@watton-pc.org.uk

Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Clerk raised that the Lloyds bank fees have increased considerably. The Finance Committee will review the bank fees.

Action: Finance Committee

iii. **Review of budget**

Budget report was not circulated but will be presented for year end at the next meeting.

iv. **Update on Finance Software**

Finance Committee are meeting after the monthly March meeting to discuss the Finance Software. Cllr White thanked Cllr Richardson for his efforts in researching potential financial software.

8. Reports to the Council

Cllr Clark queried the reasoning for carrying out the Village Report monthly as it doesn't appear to change. Cllr Kirk will arrange getting the Environment Committee together and reviewing the village report form.

Action: Environment Committee

There is a pile of rubbish next to the cricket shed which needs removing. Cllr Clark will organise a tidy up.

Action: Cllr Clark

The village sign needs cleaning. Clerk to contact local window cleaners for quotes for cleaning of village sign and road signs into the village.

Action: Clerk

Clerk to write a letter to resident of 70 High Street regarding overgrown tree which is now encroaching on the path.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Kirk offered to complete the village report.

Meeting closed : 20 :36