



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

09 June 2026

In attendance: Cllrs Nicola White (Chairman), Annabel Kirk, Anna Bramley, Alastair Bramley, Mark Richardson, Joe Thomas, Charles Clark, Abi Brown (Clerk)

Watton at Stone Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 9th June 2026
Nigel Poulton Community Hall at 7.15pm

MINUTES

1. Apologies

Cllr Holman
Cllr Brooks
Cllr Lewis

2. Declaration of Interests

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

Cllr Kirk confirmed that she has an allotment

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 3rd May 2026 were approved.

4. Public Issues

It was reported that a child went missing and was found in the overgrown bush outside the community hall. It was proposed that Adam Welch would be asked to come and reduce and tidy up the hedge. All in attendance were in agreement

Action: Cllr Kirk



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5. Chairs/ Clerks Report

The HR Committee will be carrying out salary reviews for the cleaner/litter picker and the caretaker.

The Clerk has been contacted by a resident who was concerned for the welfare of the wildlife due to the cricket nets. Cllr Alastair Bramley and Cllr Anna Bramley will speak with the cricket team to see if they are able to remove the nets at the back of the meadow.

Action: Cllr Bramley

6. Reports and approvals from Working Parties and Committees

a) Environment Committee Report

i. Approval for survey to smaller oak tree on meadow

Treemonkey who trimmed the oak tree were concerned about the smaller oak tree near to the tennis court entrance. They suggested that a survey be carried out. Cllr Kirk proposed that a survey be carried out at a maximum cost of £600. Cllr White seconded the motion. All in attendance were in approval.

Action: Cllr Clark

ii. Approval to install £40 swift box on side of Community Hall

Cllr Kirk proposed to install two swift boxes on the Community hall. It was seconded by Cllr White. All in attendance were in agreement. A sign will be made with a QR code directing residents to the website with information about swifts.

Action: Cllr Kirk/Clerk

iii. Change to management of the allotments

Cllr Kirk circulated an email regarding options for the future of the allotments. There has been a price increase by the Diocese and large legal fees which the Parish Council is unable to facilitate due to budget restraints. It was felt that the options are to either hand the land back to the diocese, ask the allotment holders to take over the lease and manage themselves or to increase the allotment plot rent but run a risk of losing money if not all plots are let. It was proposed, in principal, by Cllr White that the Parish Council step back from running the allotments and help the Allotment Association with taking over the management by the end of September. The Environment Committee will organise a meeting with the Allotment Association to advise them of these changes and the plan going forward. Everyone in attendance was in agreement.

Action: Cllr Kirk

b) Planning Committee Report



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No new applications have been received. Cllr Thomas will forward any planning applications he is receiving and will contact EHDC Planning Department as the Clerk is not receiving all of the new planning applications.

Action: Cllr Thomas

c) Community Hall Committee

Minutes from the recent meeting were circulated. The tennis courts have been resurfaced and there are some small holes which need to be fixed and then the invoice can be paid.

Cllr Clark has taken the cricket water meter reading. The Clerk will email this reading and the cost to the cricket team to advise them of their usage to date and to advise them that we will invoice them every six months.

Action: Clerk

i. Herts County Council Bicycle Initiative

The Clerk has received communication from HCC regarding a new cycling infrastructure initiative. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with HCC to discuss how the initiative could benefit Watton-at-Stone.

7. Finance Committee

a) To authorise payments to be made in addition to the budget

None

b) To receive summary report of receipts and payments

Reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

c) Budget Review

Clerk advised that the Council Tax is much higher than budgeted for this year due to the charitable status being removed.

8. Reports to the Council

The Village report was carried out and circulated prior to the meeting. The new planters which are currently empty is now having dog waste put in them. The Clerk will arrange for soil and plants to be delivered. Cllr Kirk will arrange a date for scouts to come and plant up. The Clerk will then advertise for volunteers to help maintain the boxes. It was also noticed that the hedge along the alleyway along the school field is overgrown.

Action: Cllr Kirk/Clerk

Meeting closed: 21:08