

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting Held at the Community Building Weasenham On Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 6.30pm

1. To record the names of those present

Cllr T McClenaghan, Cllr J Tidman, Cllr J Hargreaves and
Cllr P Jackson
9 members of the public
G Robinson – Clerk and RFO

2. To receive apologies for absence

None.

**3. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly meeting held
Tuesday 20th May 2025 and Matters arising**

It was proposed by Cllr McClenaghan that the minutes of 20th May 2025 should be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Jackson and all other Councillors agreed. The minutes were duly signed.
No matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report - Mr Tom McClenaghan, Chairman of Weasenham Parish Council

The report was circulated prior to the meeting with the church and village magazine and was added to the Parish Council website. The Chair's report is an annex to the minutes.

**5. Reports from village organisations (Order to be agreed by the Chairman)
Weasenham Community Coffee Mornings:**

**Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 19 May 2026 as prepared and read out
by Debra Kruse**

The Coffee Mornings continue to be held mostly on the first Wednesday of every month, exceptions being illness, inclement weather or the combining of the event with the Remembrance Sunday ceremony, so this year the November one will be on Sunday 8th November directly after our gathering at the village war memorials. I am pleased to report that there is now a consistent attendance of over 20 people every month who come together for a chat, light refreshments and a go at my optional challenging quiz! I apologise for my ongoing inability to meet the copy deadline for Church & Village Magazine (note to self, must do better) but most people see my posts on the village Facebook page or hear by word of mouth. I am delighted to say that our Macmillan Cancer Support fundraising one last year raised in excess of £550 and the Remembrance Sunday one raised over £90 for the Royal British Legion. This year our Macmillan event will be on Wednesday 7th

October and £15 has already been raised by donations received for plants/seedlings this month.

The coffee mornings remain open to everyone with no charge and donations are only requested (and not obligatory) for the above-mentioned charity events.

However, I am hugely grateful to those who bring along home baked goodies, give me a contribution towards the Community Building hire or thrust a box of teabags/jar of coffee into my hands! I would also like to thank Linda

McClenaghan for all her help in setting up and running the coffee mornings and for stepping in when I can't be there.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Council for its support, especially with the Charity events and everyone who turns up to the mornings themselves because that's what it's all about, a community coming together. Debra Kruse

The Chairman thanked Debra Kruse for her contribution, stating that the Coffee Morning's were really welcomed in the village.

Mrs J Grimwood compiled the following report, which was read out on her behalf by the Chairman.

Report for Parish Council Annual Meeting

Representing Weasenham Groups Organised by myself using the community building

Independent Groups / users of building

Art & Craft and F.R.O.G. Fun Quiz

We have put information about both groups in the next church and village magazine

Art Group

The Art Group has been enjoying hiring the community building on a regular basis although with very low attendance, we have tried to increase our numbers but unfortunately no interest but we are continuing our Tuesday afternoon sessions 1-3.30pm as those that do attend find it very enjoyable and relaxing. We are also paying our hiring fees in advance to help the PC. As we now pay by cheque.

F.R.O.G. Fun Quiz (Fund-raising Outreach Group)

The F.R.O.G. Quizzers are happy hiring the community building to hold the monthly Quiz.

We are continuing to pay our hiring fees for the year in advance and money raised by the quiz will be used with quizzers permission for good causes. We are successfully raising money holding one quiz a month and have used some funds to help sponsor one Raynham SHQ Veterans breakfasts donating £200, Weasenham PC donation for ground works/planting £250, Brisley School to help with school outing to Cadbury World £200, Anglian Air Ambulance £300. We have more donations to make, we will be donating to Tapping House £300 agreed at last quiz (April)

Our quiz is very well attended every month with everyone enjoying themselves while raising money for good causes.

To sum up we are all happy with our bookings and the building.

Thank you to all councillors for their assistance.

Organiser Judy Grimwood

The Chairman stated that it was brilliant to have these events in the village, particularly the quiz, which is very well attended.

6. Report on the management of the Community Building provided by the Chairman

The Community Building is holding up well and is being kept clean and tidy for all to use. We will hopefully be agreeing on funds for paint and accessories for internal and external maintenance later this evening.

Some of you may have noticed that the fence panels, post and rail fence and baseboards of the building have recently been repainted. This work was carried out by myself with the assistance of a young man in the village who is participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Part of the process is to carry out some voluntary work in the community. We are helping him achieve that. So far, he has not only helped with the painting but has also carried out some supervised litter picking.

As we have already heard, the building is being used by Debra for her Coffee Mornings and Judy for the Arts & Crafts Group and quiz nights. We have also hired it out for several private parties and just this month to Breckland District Council as a Polling Station. It would be good to get even more people using it. It's warm, comfortable, well-equipped and inexpensive. Ideal for family and friend's gatherings.

The Chairman's Report has details of the improvements on the Recreation Field and Car Park, so I won't go into great detail about that here. Suffice to say, the resurfaced car park has made a huge difference to the area. It is level, solid and a lot more driver friendly and safer than what we had. We have received numerous very positive comments on it.

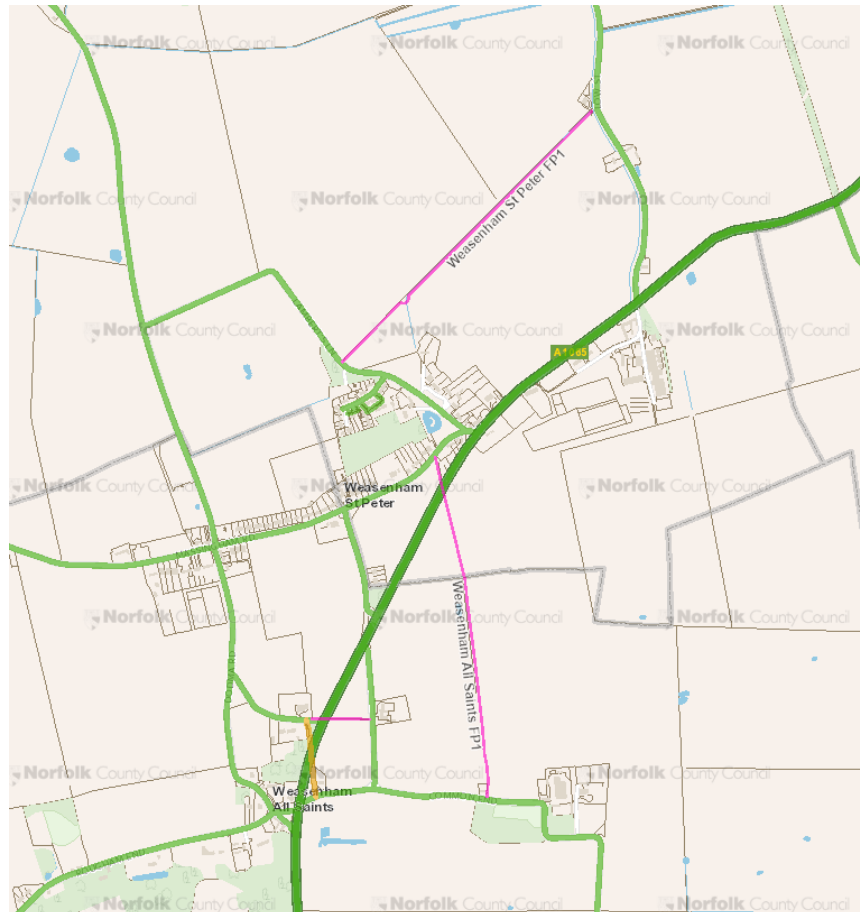
There are also the new goalposts, the refurbished storage container, and the refurbished 1937 Coronation Bench, which is now located more prominently in the village in the area of the memorials.

Yesterday, we took delivery of a new 8-seater round, easy access, picnic table. This, at the request of a parishioner, will be sited between the container and the large tree. In that location it will benefit from the shade of the tree in warmer weather and provide a place for a picnic or just a rest when out walking. It was inexpensive at £339 paid for by the Solar Fund, with their agreement. The Chairman thanked a member of the public who had already offered to help assemble the bench.

The big project for the Recreation Field now is the potential purchase of new play equipment. Engaging with companies supplying such equipment is a slow process, but we're getting there. Once all the details are known, we plan to present them to the village for final thoughts on going ahead with the project. Finally, in this section, grass cutting. We have a new contractor for this year, Top Garden Services of Thetford. They are cutting all areas, that is, the Rec Field, the Green, the memorial areas and both churchyards, every two weeks. Last year some areas were only cut every three weeks. Not only have we achieved a contract where we have more cuts, but we also managed to save over £900 on last year's bill. Personally, I think the areas being cut are looking very good, now that the long winter growth has been brought under control.

7. Report on the footpaths in the village

We received a request from the Chairman of the Norfolk Ramblers concerning Rights of Way and Footpaths. The Chairman asked if we could assist them by discussing footpaths at this meeting and basically keep an audit of the state of the paths in the village. We are happy to do this, in fact in Edition 4 of the Council's Newsletter, June 2024, we actually had an article on the public footpaths in our area. What we would ask here, is that if you spot any problems with any of our public footpaths, that you bring it to the Council's attention so that we can take appropriate action.



8. Parishioners' questions

A parishioner noted that the Green is looking so much better. Cllr McClenaghan agreed with this and thanked the parishioner for their comment.

A Parishioner asked if we could possibly hold the budget for next year rather than increasing it. A short discussion was had on the reasons why the Precept increased and that we couldn't not increase it if there was a requirement to do so. There was a suggestion from the Parishioner that projects could be stopped, and the Solar Fund used to offset the Precept. It was explained by the Chairman that this cannot be done.

Cllr McClenaghan also noted that the Parish Council is trying to build up a reserve to cover any unexpected costs during the year. He also explained that if the Solar Fund stopped tomorrow, we must ensure that all our day-today expenses can be covered by the Precept, and this is the case.

A The parishioner also asked about the proposed new Solar Farm. Cllr McClenaghan noted that the Council had heard nothing further on that, but that he had attended an open meeting with the company behind it and expressed the view that if it goes ahead, our community would be looking to see some financial benefit from it.

A The parishioner also asked about the 2024/25 objections and asked are they the same objections as the previous year. They also asked if the objections could be made public. On the first part, the Chairman said that the objections were similar to the previous year but based on a different set of accounts. On the second part Cllr McClenaghan noted that the objector would have to give permission for details of the objections to be published.

9. Date and time of next Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved to set the next APM for Tuesday 18th May 2027 at 6.30pm.