

WESTON COLVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Weston Colville Parish Council Meeting on Monday 6th July 2026, at 7.30pm, in the Reading Room, 46 Chapel Rd, Weston Colville, Weston Green, Cambridge CB21 5NX .

Meeting documents were available at <http://www.westoncolville-pc.gov.uk>

Present – Bridget Durham, John Garrod, Rachel Jennings, Matt Russell, Jess Ashbridge, also present in part – County Cllr Henry Batchelor, and a parishioner.

1. **Chairman's Welcome** – Cllr Durham welcomed those present.
2. **To accept apologies and reasons for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Rayner, and Cllr Pagonis, **P: Cllr Durham, S: Garrod, All in fav.**
3. **To make any declarations of interest** – None.
4. **To approve minutes-** The minutes were approved for the Annual Meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council on 13th May, and Annual Parish Meeting on 13th May. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav.**
5. **Public Participation Session** – None.
6. **District and County Council reports and items of interest** – Report appended.

7.1 Planning – Applications requiring comments

Reference:	Address	Details	Awaiting Decision
26/02088/HFUL Query the location of the pump, due to consideration for the neighbouring property.	3 Pound Farm Barns Weston Colville CB21 5NZ	Planning details	Awaiting Decision

7.2 Planning – Applications awaiting decision with SCDC

Reference	Address	Details	Decision
26/01009/LBC	3 Pound Farm Barns Weston Colville CB21 5NZ	Planning details	Approved
26/00904/FUL	73 Common Road Weston Colville CB21 5NS	Planning Detail	Awaiting Decision

7.3 Enforcement – EN/00357/26 Planning Officer had attended, awaiting a response.

- 8.1 **Conservation Area** – Cllr Harvey would investigate and let us know in September.
- 8.2 **Flooding** – Flood plan had been sent to Officers at Highways.
- 8.3 **Cllr Vacancy** – It was determined to advertise in Challenge.
- 8.4 **Footpaths** – Nothing to report.
- 8.5 **MVAS** – Sign on Chapel Road had picked up a few very high speeds, heading out of the village. Approximately 8,000 vehicles, 3% speeding over 45mph.
- 8.6 **RAF Wratting Common War Memorial** – A representative of the Friends of RAF Wratting Common War Memorial attended regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the site. The PC was unjustly criticised for a lack of attention for the area. No evidence of any lack of maintenance was presented. It was advised that the grass was cut twice a month, during the cutting period. The trustees were not notified of any additional maintenance being required prior to the ceremony in May, and noted that there was little or no communication between the PC & anyone re the memorial, except around Remembrance Sunday, for the provision & laying of a wreath. The PC requested a point of contact. There were also questions about why the PC did not show the amount held in a CCLA investment account, which had been put in trust by the Lloyd Family for upkeep. The Clerk explained that the PC budgeted for the grass cutting, and did not use the funds, as the amount in the trust

would not cover a year's grass cutting. It was determined that it would be added to the accounts file as an opening and closing balance. As of 31st December 2025 the balance was £2480.13. Interest was reinvested in the fund and amounted to £8 per quarter.

8.7 Kingsway Solar – The application to the Planning Inspectorate had been withdrawn in June.

8.8 Forest City – Report from a meeting with Stephen Kelly, Head of Planning, SCDC. There had been no communication with the representatives of Forest City – report appended.

8.9 Policies – Financial Regulations moved to September.

8.10 Asset Register – Cllr Durham had inspected the assets, two slats needed to be replaced at the play area on the recreation area. Two benches at Church End recreation ground needed replacing, suggestion that they were replaced with composite benches, Clerk to seek quotes **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Russell, All in fav.** Woodwork needed treating before the winter, Clerk would contact Simon Royle to carry out works. **P: Cllr Durham, S: Cllr Garrod, All in fav**

8.11 Textile Recycling Facility – Following a discussion it was determined that there was provision at the Chestnut Tree, and local supermarkets, and that the Reading Room car park was too small.

9 Risk Assessment/Health and Safety – Defibrillator was rescue ready. Defibrillator training had taken place. It was suggested that Cllr Rayner acted as deputy for the defibrillator. It was noted that a vehicle had occupied a space in the Reading Room Car Park for some weeks. It was not roadworthy, and needed to be moved. The Chairman would write to the owner, seeking removal before the end of July.

10 Biodiversity – Nothing to report.

11 Playground – A request had been received from Parishioners about partially fencing off the playground to restrict access to parking by the cricket club. Dog waste had been cleared by Parishioners in the play area following matches. The Clerk was asked to contact the Reading Room, about this, and for them to contact Linton Cricket Club, as their tenant. Play areas inspection had been booked for £265 (+VAT) to take place within 12 weeks.

12 Finance –

12.1 To Approve payments – Age UK £500 **P: Cllr Garrod, S: Cllr Jennings, Simon Ratford inv 11570 £300, P: Cllr Jennings, S: Cllr Russell, All in fav.**

Trevor Potter verge cutting £768 (inc VAT), **P: Cllr Jennings, S: Cllr Russell, All in fav.**

12.2 Quarterly Accounts – The accounts were received. The Clerk would provide the account files to Cllr Garrod for inspection.

12.3 Annual Return 2025-26 – The Public Inspection of Accounts would occur between 3rd June, and 14th July.

12.4 Annual Return 2025-26 – The required documents were submitted to the external Auditors PKF Littlejohn before the deadline of 30th June.

12.5 Earmarked Reserves – It was determined to create earmarked reserves for defibrillator £250, MVAS £650, Playground £500, Legal expenses £3,000 and flood equipment £150.

12.6 Bank Signatory – In hand.

12.7 RAF Wratting Common – Mandate form would be completed for CCLA, details to be changed on Charity Commission.

Credit Received – HMRC PAYE refund	£159.22
HMRC VAT refund	£1,166.50
County Council Grass Cutting Contribution	£478.47
Wages s/o	£280.69
Balance at Lloyds Bank Current Account on 1st July	£3,133.23
Balance at Lloyds Savings Account 1st July	£21,133.74
Briggs Gift Account Balance 1st July	£718.76

Date	Detail	Amount	VAT
10.06.26	Simon Ratford Grass Cutting 11523	£300	
25.06.26	Gill Jordan Coaching	£90	
26.05.26	CAPALC – internal audit	£262.48	
24.06.26	SSE Street Lighting	£52.22	
26.05.26	Clear Councils Insurance	£933.57	
22.06.26	Bank Charges – Account change	£4.25	

13 Matters for next Agenda – Conservation Area, Financial Regulations, Grange Farm, Emergency Plan

Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2026 are: 7th September, 2nd November.

Cllr Durham closed the meeting at 21.51

District and County Councillor's Report – July 2026

Kingsway Solar

Last month we reported that the Kingsway Solar application had been submitted to the government's planning inspectorate (PINS) for assessment. PINS had to validate the application, where they make sure all the information is there for them to make a decision on it, before it was accepted. PINS replied to Kingsway with a list of changes that they'd need to make before it was in an acceptable state for examination – the letter stretched to some 11 pages! As a result of this, Kingsway withdrew the application with a view to making the required improvements and then resubmitting.

So it looks like this hasn't gone away totally but does give those of us that are interested the 'summer off' reading and commenting on hundreds of technical documents. The positive thing from this process is that it demonstrates that the government are committed to scrutinising this proposal seriously, rather than waving it through.

Forest City

More good news (in our opinion) – you may have seen that Matthew Pennycook, the minister for Housing and Planning, recently announced in Parliament that the Forest City idea wasn't in the government's New Towns plan, meaning it currently doesn't have any mechanism for gaining approval. Given the size of the proposal, this wouldn't be able to go via the local councils, it would have to be a government led scheme, so now they have ruled this out for the time being, I know a lot of us are breathing a sigh of relief. Although, with anything relating to planning and development, nothing is impossible, so this may not be the last we've heard of it but it certainly is for the moment.

The local authorities in our area had also jointly written to the government outlining why they think the plan is unsuitable and that they don't support it. This was pivotal as these are the local planning authorities in our area, so a joint letter from them all condemning the proposal was helpful. For clarity the authorities that penned the letter were – South Cambs District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambs District Council and West Suffolk District Council. Suffolk County Council opted not to sign, the reasons for which we are unsure.

Local Plan

The District and City council's Local Plan is moving forward. The current status is that the Council are due to start another round of consultation on the final draft of the Plan. This is very important as it's the last opportunity for us to comment on the proposals before they're submitted to a government inspector for examination. The comments made at this stage will be seen by the inspector.

The big-ticket item in our area is the Grange Farm new town proposal. Initially it was proposed to build a new 6000 house development to the north of Abington. There were over 1000 representations received on this proposal alone, so thank you to all those who engaged with the process. We will wait to see what changes, if any, the Council has made based on the feedback they received, although our view is that it's unlikely that they will have removed the site from the Plan, they may have altered the layout/density etc. Whatever the final proposal is, please do use the opportunity to comment on it – positively or negatively – as it will be the largest settlement in our area, larger than Linton.

Local Government Reorganisation

At time of writing, we are expecting an imminent announcement from government outlining their preferred geographies for the new unitary authorities in Cambridgeshire. Once this announcement is made it'll be all hands-on deck for the local authorities to get themselves in order for the first elections of the new councils in May 2027.

TEAMS Meeting 18 Jun 26 – Forest City

Present: Stephen Kelly Chief Planning Officer (CPO) SCDC

Henry Batchelor District/County Cllr

Weston Colville PC; Carlton PC; Balsham PC; West Wickham PC

No-one from West Wrating, who asked for the meeting with CPO initially

CPO & SCDC do not endorse or support the project.

SCDC have offered no advice except that any developer must engage properly with the planning process. No meetings have taken place. CPO & developer both attended one social function which is the limit of the contact

There is no evidence of a deliverable scheme at this point

Developers do not permit downloading of any information unless one signs up to be a supporter of the project

Developers have no track record if delivering anything

No map exists but coverage would extend to 470k acres

No landowners have been listed.

Carlton PC rep is in contact with many local landowners, and all bar one are against the project

190k householders would be affected

CPO confirmed 37k new homes had already been given planning consent, and no additional requirement had been identified

New local plan due out July 2026, and makes no mention of such a scheme

Development Agency, if appointed would take decisions away from local authority & people

DRAFT