

Wilby Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Wilby Parish Council
Held on Thursday 14th May 2026 at Wilby Coronation Hall at 7.30pm

1. Introduction and welcome by Chair of the Parish Council.
2. Apologies for absence – **None**
3. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2025 – **Proposed and seconded; approved**
4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes - **None**
5. To receive reports from:
 - 5.1 Wilby Parish Council – **see appendix**
 - 5.2 Wilby School – **no report from Wilby School**
 - 5.3 Wilby WI – **see appendix**
 - 5.4 Coronation Hall – **see appendix**
 - 5.5 District Councillor – **see appendix**
 - 5.6 County Councillor – **no report from new County Councillor**
 - 5.7 St Mary's Church – **no report from St Mary's Church**
 - 5.8 Tree Warden - **Julian Roughton has moved from the area but promised to monitor the newly planted oak trees on London City Road. None.**
6. Public Forum. An opportunity for members of the public to express views or ask questions.

Appendix:

5.1 Wilby Parish Council – Chair’s report.

Chairman’s Report 2025/26

Annual Parish Council Meeting 14th May 2026

Planning applications reviewed

Willow Farm Barn (12/06/2025)

Land adjacent to Willow Farm (18/06/2025)

Erection of 6 No. Dwellings and the creation of a new vehicular access, associated infrastructure and landscaping (20/10/2025)

Remodelling of Pinehurst, Stradbroke Road (11/09/2025)

Projects – War Memorial

Council were asked to look at the possibility of a war memorial by a veteran, Michael Flounders. Discussed further in the Annual Parish Council meeting this evening.

Projects – Wilby Green Signs

After consultation Council agreed to leave the signs in situ although they do not confer responsibility.

Projects – Village gates

Councillors Lee and Cross met with SCC to discuss.

IT

Have a new website and new email addresses

Old website has been decommissioned.

Old emails will cease use in November (currently running in parallel with the new ones).

Councillors and wardens

New councillor Stuart Banks has joined.

Julian Roughton, tree warden, has now left the parish and will no longer be tree warden.

Compliance

Budget review, precept request submitted by deadline and successful.

Clerk

Operated successfully without a clerk.

5.3 Wilby WI Report

Wilby WI Report for Brundish and Wilby Parish Council's Meeting



May 2026

Wilby WI meet at Wilby Village Hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month. We have become extremely popular, creating a waiting list for joining. Members number 43@ May 2026. We advertise on local Village Hall noticeboards, The Parish and SEFWI Websites, in the Brunby (local) Newsletter and have our own Facebook page.

Wilby is a vibrant, active WI – with many "young-at-heart" members who take part in a variety of clubs and activities outside of regular meetings. We love to hear about our members new ventures and achievements. Our aim is to provide a selection of speakers with lots of things to do and learn about, Plus, opportunities to form new friendships and feel part of a fun-loving, caring organisation.

Wilby WI Members continue to be involved and supportive in all our local community groups and associations throughout the year. For example, Wilby WI arranged a community CPR training event and the use of the defibrillator – which was well-attended. Thank you to both Wilby & Brundish Parish Councils for helping to cover the costs.

A WI representative attends both Villages' Hall meetings, as we are one of their main regular user groups. Members support our village churches - Brundish St Lawrence and St Mary's Wilby, with flower arranging and coffee mornings, as well as regular Services.

Our **2025 and 2026 WI Meetings** program and activity highlights over the last 12 months have included a wide variety of Speakers to keep members entertained and informed. Committee aim to strike a balance between educational topics, a new skill for members to try and something more frivolous to keep us smiling! Guests are welcome to attend the Speaker section of our open meetings.

Summary

We continue to provide friendship and support to one another throughout the more challenging times and celebrate the joyful, with a lot of fun throughout the year. Wherever Wilby WI members are, there is laughter, often singing and frequently dressed in fancy dress!

*Mention AA Standing Down - BPC
Opportunity to Employ a Joint Clerk*

5.4 Coronation Hall Report

Wilby Parish Council – AGM Meeting Notes for Village Hall Representative

- The Committee issued a letter in the Autumn that went to most houses in the village detailing that the hall required support and if anyone could spare some time then to please get in contact. It would be fair to say the response was less than negligible.
- At the recent meeting it was decided that the hall will now be run with Janice Knights and Gill Hodder as the only two trustees with the assistance of Nick Palfrey, Tracey Russell and Russell Webb as active committee members – further trustees would be more than welcome. John Diess and Russell Webb have formally resigned as Trustees.
- Deborah Embley and John Diess will seek to get a bookkeeper to run the financial side of the charity, so whilst this will cost the charity, it will allow the two trustees to run other elements of the charity without needing to have a treasurer.
- Bookings have been lower than previous years and the hall could not survive financially only on the weekly hires. Regular pub nights with the occasional party (with the bar open) are vital for the long-term financial viability.

Achievements since last update

- All the remaining single glazed windows and old metal framed double glazed windows have been replaced for new double-glazed units – thanks to Anders for the grant monies.
- New blinds in kitchen and bar to help lift the look of the hall.
- A New Years Eve party was held and was a great success, with the six nations rugby held in the spring and a grand national day the hall continues to provide for the village, but it takes time and effort.
- Great effort went to clearing the hall of old rubbish that had accumulated in the attic and the storeroom.
- Lounge area was tidied with the removal of the filing cabinet and the piano.
- The repairs to the car park did not last nearly as long as the Committee had hoped.

Plans for Next 12 Twelve Months

- Find a better solution to the car park entrance. We have a contractor booked in who will affect a repair during the school summer holidays. The hall has set money aside from the annual fee it receives from the school and the church as well as its own funds. Any grant monies would be greatly received. Hopefully this will be a longer-term fix.
- Completion of the PIR operated lights for the car park.
- New emergency lights above the two fire exits.
- Have the EV charges up and running, this project that is being conducted with Connect Kerb and Suffolk County Council has ground to a bit of a halt.

Financial Situation

- Unlike probably most village halls, the financial position of Wilby is good. With attention being paid to ensure any surplus cash balances are earning a return and maintaining a healthy bar margin, whilst keeping costs low, the Committee has managed to generate £4,500 in the 10 months to April 2026 whilst maintaining the hall and ensuring compliance.

5.5 District Councillor Report

Annual Report 2026 from your District Councillor

The matter of LGR, Local Government Reorganisation, is continuing. In March the Government decided to opt for the three Unitary solution instead of only one for all of Suffolk. Elections for the Unitaries will take place in May 2027. The Unitaries will become functional on the 1st of April 2028. The first year is to be spent on creating functionality, a lot of work. The existing District Councils will cease when the Unitaries start in earnest. This means that present District Councillors will be able to, or even expected to, do 11 months past their 'expiry date'. During those 11 months I anticipate that some Officers may leave, others will without a doubt be seconded to help with the creation of the new administrations. Thus, we need to crack on with what we want done during this year. As we now know the government finally decided to go ahead with the County Council elections in May this year. Luckily, the District Council Officers were well prepared for this last minute change of heart. Anyone elected to be a County Councillor will serve for only two years, up to April 2028. To complete this piece I'd like to add that the Mayoral Elections are still planned to happen in May 2028.

An unexpected problematic issue arose during the early summer of last year. A company called 'Connexin' started to put up 12 m high poles in various villages. It was stated to be in order to facilitate broadband. They even took it upon themselves to alter the previously announced locations on the very day of erecting poles. Highways had given a preliminary permit covering the entire county. That was withdrawn in light of the recent events. After these early events no more poles have emerged to my knowledge, the project seems to have entered a state of dormancy.

A Community Governance Review has been launched, this one not dealing with any boundary changes but looking at any wishes expressed by Parishes to alter their numbers of Councillors or to merge with a neighbouring parish. In this area it was only Stradbroke that requested a change, decreasing the number from 13 to 11, making it easier to maintain quorum. All requests were collected by Officers and discussed within a working group within the District Council. I am part of this group. The process has been smooth and the project is expected to be finalized late this autumn, after all due consultation has been done. We all know too well that water resources are scant in our area. As more houses are being built and more need from businesses develop something needs to be done. A very vast NSIP (Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Project) is proposed. It involves extraction of water from the Waveney, purification plants and storage reservoirs. One will be a 'Central Service Reservoir' located approx. 25 miles to the east of Heveningham Hall. This will be connected to the 'Western Service Reservoir', to be put in an area a few miles to the west of Eye. There are some options as to where the pipelines between these will be put. Members of the public, businesses, Parishes and district councillors were asked to give their views, based on written info plus maps. I did my best with this for our area trying to work out where the least disturbance would occur. Admittedly the map wasn't easy to assess. In the 3rd quarter of this year Essex and Suffolk Water will announce their preferred option corridors. In mid 2027 a statutory public consultation is planned. A DCO, (Development Consent Order) is scheduled to be applied for in the first half of 2028. After a few more somewhat briefer steps land can finally be acquired and the actual digging starts. The email address to the company is swsp@nwl.co.uk

This has been another year of struggling to get the New Street Close parking problem resolved in Stradbroke. This was first approved by the District Council some 14 years ago but after that nothing happened. After having spoken to several one Officer did get a quote for the works only for him somewhat later to tell me there was now no money. Since, amongst other things, I have been and am in touch with fellow Councillors who are in the

Cabinet. We have visited New Street Close and met with people living there. Presently some ideas are being considered, whether it will be workable we don't yet know. There is a will to help.

In Laxfield there is a stretch of path connecting one area to another one, this has never been completed and Parish Clerks and I have seen a number of Officers to no avail so far. The Parish Clerk has and is, putting a lot of time into this. Presently there is another Officer on the case and we can only hope that this will be resolved. That would enable wheelchair users, mobility scooters and prams to use this connection.

As always there is so called 'case work', this when different members of the public get in touch asking for my input in trying to solve a problem. Sometimes there is success, at others there is disappointment.

Finally I'd like to encourage applications for neighbourhood grants, at this time of the year there is money in the till.

Best Wishes,
Anders Linder

DRAFT