

WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2026 at Wolston Baptist Church, Main Street, Wolston

Councillors: Cllr Willis, Cllr Wright, Cllr Milne, Cllr Osmond, Cllr Ramsay)

Attendees , Cllr S Ward (RBC) Clerk Malyon, RFO Ball and 7 Members of the Public

The meeting started at 19.15pm with a welcome from the Chair

131. Apologies: to receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

Cllr D Poole, Rugby Borough Council
Cllr AM Sonko, Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Rainey Wolston Parish Council

132. Information items: to consider and discuss items for information and comment if appropriate:

a) County Councillor report

None

b) Borough Councillor report

Cllr Ward reported that Rugby's first bid as a current proposal does not meet requirements. The borough will continue as normal until updates received from 1st April Rugby Rangers future is uncertain at this point.
The Council is unsure when elections may go ahead; they however have everything in place and are ready to go when the decision is made

c) Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire update

133. Public participation: to adjourn to allow public participation for 15 minutes.

A resident asked who is in charge of cutting the hedge on Stretton road. Can it be covered by the PC as allotmenters are currently cutting by hand. Requested to be completed by Council by end of Feb before nesting season. – **ACTION RFO to ask contractor to undertake.**

Attenuation pond- why is there no water in it? Cllr Ramsay confirmed investigations are in place as they don't think it is working as it should be.

134. Declarations of interest

a) To declare any personal interests or prejudicial interests in items on the Agenda and their nature.

Cllr Willis – Rugby Borough Cllr, Trustee WLCC, Cllr Ramsay -Allotments holder, Trustee WLCC

b) To receive, consider and approve any requests for dispensation relating to Agenda items.

Cllr Ramsay -Allotments holder, Trustee WLCC

135. Minutes of previous meetings:

To review and if appropriate, approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings 20th November, 4th December 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th November 2025 and 4th December 2025 – Proposed Cllr Wright– seconded Cllr Willis 4 in favour 1 against

Queries were raised against the below minutes/ Enquiries – ACTION CLERK

114- Request for Clerk to check regrading R Fenwick timeline

Blocked drain- end of dyers lane- Cllr Willis requested to email Cllrs item 121.

136.Co-Option- An opportunity for residents to request Co-option onto the Parish Council to replace vacant seats

Jennifer Taylor and Raquel Fernandez volunteered to be co-opted as a Cllr for Wolston Parish Council

Jennifer Taylor – Proposed by Cllr Wright, Second Cllr Ramsay

Raquel Fernandez - Proposed by Cllr Ramsay, Second Cllr Osmond

The Chair invited Councillors to vote for each candidate in turn, by a show of hands.

Jennifer Taylor Unanimous. Jennifer Taylor signed the Acceptance of Office declaration, Code of Conduct and details of Pecuniary Interest.

Raquel Fernandez Unanimous. Raquel Fernandez signed the Acceptance of Office declaration, Code of Conduct and details of Pecuniary Interest

RESOLVED To Co-Opt Jennifer Taylor and Raquel Fernandez as a Councillors for Wolston Parish Council. The Clerk witnessed Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Willis welcomed the two new Councillors to Wolston Parish Council

137. Finance

a) To approve accounts for payment.

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
WALC	Procurement course	£42.00
V Griffin	Millstone Beds	£16.98
Lakeside	Aug to Nov Cuts	£5,461.20
WLCC	Youth Club	£1042.20
T Willis	Chair's Allowance	£750.00
L Wright	Cultivator	£26.00
T Ball	Use of own equipment	£210.00

Motion Carried- Proposed by Cllr Ramsay, seconded by Cllr Milne- 5 Cllrs voted in favour, Cllr Willis and Wright abstained

b) Finance update for approval, to include bank reconciliation and AGAR-

The RFO reported she spoken with potential new auditor, and is waiting for costs and requirements to progress

c) To note payments received payment from spitfire

None

d) Consider Grant applications and make any appropriate decisions.

Update for WLCC grant

RESOLVED: that the update be moved to the closed session Proposed Cllr Ramsay- seconded Cllr Willis 5 in favour 2 abstentions

Wolston Conservation group- £780 for tree work, grant request for £449 contribution to total cost

Cllr Wright queried as to whether they have asked landowner; it was established that as part of the lease Wolston Conservation Group have an Agreement to maintain trees.

Proposed by Cllr Ramsay, Second Cllr Milne

1 vote against

1 vote abstained- Cllr Willis abstained due to conflict of interest as he is an active member of the Conservation Group.

All other Cllrs voted in favour

RESOLVED - Proposed by Cllr Ramsay and seconded by Cllr Milne to approve the payment 5 in favour 1 abstentions 1 against

a) To consider the Council's current banking arrangements and agree action to amend both the Lloyds Bank and HSBC the bank mandate.

RESOLVED The approval that the Parish Council Lloyds bank account mandate and HSBC bank account mandate be updated to comprise of all Parish Councillors allowing any 2 councillors to authorise a payment. The amendment to the mandate was noted as an essential update to ensure the Parish Council is mitigating all financial risks in accordance with its policy.

Proposed by Cllr Osmond and seconded by Cllr Ramsay - Unanimous

b) Consider the proposal to apply for an internet banking facility, following completion of the bank mandate changes both the Lloyds Bank and HSBC the bank mandate.

The approval that the Parish Council Lloyds online banking account mandate and HSBC online banking account mandate be updated to comprise of

- Cllr Ramsay and Cllr Osmand to authorise payments
- RFO – Tracie Ball to Initiate payment
- All Councillors to View only

RESOLVED The amendment to the mandate was noted as an essential update to ensure the Parish Council is mitigating all financial risks in accordance with its policy

Proposed by Cllr Ramsay and seconded by Cllr Taylor to approve the action. All Cllrs voted in favour. Cllr Wright Abstained

137. Notice of Motion for Parish Council to consider undertaking a review of the Wolston Conservation Area 'Character & Appearance' in order to ensure that any new development or changes to existing buildings and/or structures comply with planning regulations by respecting and preserving the area's distinct historic character and unique visual identity and align appropriately with community aspirations.

"...The review would address principal characteristics such as materials and streetscape, identify potential risks including unsuitable modifications, and highlight prospects for improvement through updated guidance, comprehensive appraisals, and design review..."

After a discussion regarding feedback regarding the Prom Dress Boutique signage; the Chair shared the following response received:

Feedback from Planning Enforcement:

"...We will be looking into this as soon as possible but we may not be able to get back to you before the Parish Council meeting. In the meantime, I can advise that if signage includes illumination then advertisement consent would usually be required..."

The Cllrs in general support the idea of new business in the community and wish to support them in every way possible. They cannot control what is said on social media and hope to create a supportive community.

Cllr Wright Proposed to move this item forward to the next agenda and explore the idea of updating the Conservation area report with village collaboration with a clear definition of the Conservation Area of Wolston.

Cllr Osmond Seconded:

Votes For: Cllr Willis, Cllr Wright, Cllr Milne, Cllr Osmond, Cllr Ramsay, Cllr Taylor

Votes against: None

Votes Abstained: Cllr Fernandez

Motion Carried

138. Progress reports/information from working groups and committees, items of update for Parish Council – to consider/decide matters relating to each as required

a) Flood Action Group-

Wolston Flooding update from Cllr Willis as attached appendix. The chair requested that we Record thanks to Public Works Lead P Dixon for checking in on vulnerable properties and filling sandbags. Cllr Wright asked whether the bags are porous as when he tried to move some they were frozen solid when stored outside of the waterproof storage where approx. 160 bags are stored safely away from the elements. RFO Ball who is on the village hall cttee confirmed that the Emergency box is to be moved to Chapel which acts as base camp for flooding emergencies.

b) Allotments-

Chair Willis is awaiting a response from Mr Dumbleton (Solicitor) and set to meet with the Chair of the Allotment Cttee. The Chair of WPC is pleased to hear that the CIO application is progressing. Snagging list has been produced.

Further to resident feedback in the public forum Cllr Wright Proposed that the hedge be maintained by the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Ramsay. All Cllrs voted in favour

Motion Carried

c) Wolston Leisure Centre-

Requested to move to Private and confidential part of the meeting. **Motion Carried-** All Cllrs voted in favour

139. Planning To receive information on planning applications and any other planning matters and decide any actions as appropriate: -

a) New planning applications to be distributed to all councillors on receipt.

b) Rugby Borough Local Plan – to discuss impact of current version of Local Plan on Wolston and make any decisions as appropriate

Motion Carried- Request from chair to defer- Proposed by Cllr Willis, seconded by Cllr Ramsay- All Cllrs voted in favour

140. Future Agenda Items – Councillors are asked to use this opportunity to raise items for future agendas.

Parish Council to review current provisions and decide on future action as appropriate for the following items, unless they have already been actioned as business as usual

- a) Adoption of policies
- b) Dog poo bins- Bluemels
- c) Christmas 2026 lights
- d) Streetlighting
- e) Wolston Parish Council consider renewing its interest in the development of the former garage sites on Manor Estate, Wolston for the development of Elderly Persons Accommodation and contact RBC for the latest position regarding sale or clearance.
- f) Salisbury trust- To review and discuss the historic role on this trust and benefits to the village and make decisions as appropriate moving forward.
- g) Neighbourhood Development Plan
- h) Character Assessment
- i) Bin on Manor Estate to be reinstated for dog waste
- j) Grass cutting Tender
- k) Gate through to school flooded- Clerk report to WCC

141. Date of Next Meetings –

To confirm Thursday 5th February 2026 at 7.15pm for the for the next regular meeting of the Parish Council.

Motion Carried- Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Osmond- All Cllrs voted in favour

If an interim meeting is required, an agenda will be sent to Councillors and be put on the website and in the Parish noticeboard **three** clear working days before the meeting is held.

142. Confidential matters: to consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for discussions and decisions in relation to either Personnel matters or Legal matters.

Motion Carried- Proposed by Cllr Ramsay, seconded by Cllr Wright- All Cllrs voted in favour

Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Parish Council is invited to Resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

- a. Wolston, Brandon and Bretford Joint Burial Committee- A discussion was had where it was highlighted that the burial Clerk is still awaiting an updated contract.

Terms of Reference remain an outstanding item- It was highlighted that it is burial boards duty to review, however, would need to come back to PC.
- b. A discussion was had where the PC can support a grant for Wolston leisure centre upcoming remedial repairs

The meeting closed at 21.40

Appendix Cllr Willis Agenda Item 139a