



The meeting of Cavendish Parish Council took place on Wednesday 14th January 2026. In the Cavendish Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Councillors Present: Ted Gittins, Annette Williamott, Nicky Welch, Ed Stevens.

Also present: Kay Garner(Clerk), County Councillor Bobby Bennett and 5 members of the public.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Malcolm Halliday and Nick Vosper. In the absence of the Chair Annette Williamott agreed to act as chair for this meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests.

No councillor declared an interest in any item on the agenda. No dispensation requests were received.

3. Approval of minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2025.

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. Annette Williamott signed them.

4. Public Session (20 minutes)

The issue of the pavement repairs along the High Street was raised. No notification was received regarding the work being carried out. It was queried why the High Street was done but not the Columbins. In addition, the water leak found to be a result of a natural spring in the Columbins was also raised. Bobby Bennett agreed to check.

The Solar Farm application. A request for an update. Councillor Annette Williamott agreed to discuss it briefly at this point in the meeting and further at Agenda item 14. (Full details below) A representative from the Church updated the council on the issues relating to the churchyard: The Perimeter Wall has coping stones that has fallen and where significant repointing is needed. The surveyor has noted this as requiring attention.

The neighbour of the church, in attendance at the meeting, voiced his difficulties in obtaining the necessary consent to prune the trees that have been causing issues. WSC Arboriculture team have not granted the necessary permissions. The chair sympathised with this as Cavendish Parish Council have also experienced this.

The issue of the blockage in the adjacent culvert is complex. There has been a serious drain blockage in Peacocks Road which the main gate of the Churchyard opens onto. The drain under this road has caused a lot of difficulties in the last year with floods down to the main A1092, 150 yards away, with some people's basements filled with water to a depth of 7'. The Highways Department were there with four men and significant equipment, I think in November and after several days had apparently still not completely cleared the blockage in the pipe under the road. The Highways Department were there with four men and significant equipment, in November and after several days had apparently still not completely cleared the blockage in the pipe under the road. This was upstream of the pipe under the road that feeds the culvert adjacent to the churchyard. It looks to us as if high pressure water has been blown through the pipe under the road causing a lot of muddy deposit to be moved into the culvert adjacent to the Churchyard, for some distance in-front of the grill on the outlet into a pipe that goes under the main road and into the village pond. This has not solved the said upstream blockage but explains something of the reason for the mess in the culvert. There is a lot of water that comes down Nether Road into Peacocks Road mainly from inadequately drained fields. Some of this will have carried whatever is causing the ongoing blockage. However, the Council have been very reluctant to maintain the



drainage in Nether Road, despite many letters from the owner of Colt's Farm at the top end of Nether Road, until now when there is a real problem with it.

County Councillor Bobby Bennett agreed that these needs doing but realistically there are so many other priorities above that is that it's unlikely to get done.

She also advised on contact details of Suffolk historic churches trust that may be able to assist further on the churchyard issues

5. **County/District Councillors' reports**

County Councillor Bobby Bennett gave a report (as attached) regarding the Suffolk County Council appeals against incorrect government Red highways rating.

She advised that drainage and other surface issues should be continued to be reported. She and others are continuing to pressurise Anglian Water to resolve issues in a timely manner to a high standard.

Children young people portfolio this continues to be worked on as there has been some challenges to the care provided.

The Council has referred the decision on whether to hold elections in May back to the government considering the proposed changes to a unity council for Suffolk.

6. **Finance**

- a) November 2025 and December 2025 Accounts.

These was all agreed by all councillors and approved and signed by Annette Williamott.

- b) Working from Home Expenses – Approve Clerk Payments

This was all agreed and approved by all councillors.

7. **Parish Councillors' Reports**

Ted Gittins: The results of the housing survey are not, yet, available but he thanked Malcolm, Ed and Nick for their assistance.

An update was given regarding the planning application for The Bull. Further objections including from West Suffolk Council Public Rights of Way department are logged against the application.

Ed Stevens: He reported that vegetation overgrowth was impeding access along the path next to the Dower House in the Hight Steet. Also, a re-occurrence of rubbish piling up in the front garden of a property, 1 The Terrace, previously contacted by West Suffolk Council who enforced a clean-up.

Action: Clerk to contact relevant people.

Annette Williamott: Unity Bank. Progress is being made to move to this new bank account. Stour Power Community Energy event. She will be attending this event.

8. **Chair Report**

Nick Vosper sent a report. (as attached)

Community Orchard. Thanks were given to Harriet North and her team for all their hard work.

9. **To receive an update on the list of actions agreed at the last meeting.**

As not all councillors were present this is deferred to the next meeting.

10. **Planning Applications**

DC/25/1805/TCA

Proposal: Trees in a conservation area notification - five Hawthorn (H1- H5 on plan) a. height reduction by up to three metres b. crown reduction over the ditch by up to 1.5 metres

Location: St Marys Church Peacocks Road Cavendish Suffolk

Parish Council Response: No Comment

DC/25/1666/LB



Proposal: Application for listed building consent - a. lime plastering repairs to exterior and interior of main building that are in disrepair b. replace corroded guttering and down pipes c. replace asbestos tiles from outbuildings with metal barn roofing d. repair exterior render on car port
Location: Nether Hall Peacocks Road Cavendish Suffolk CO10 8BX

Parish Council Response: Support

11. Vacancy for Parish Councillor

No applications have been received, to date.

12. Memorial Hall

(a) Cadent Gas – Car Park

It was agreed that the form from Cadent would be completed and Wayman & Long Solicitors instructed to act on our behalf.

Action: Clerk

13. Emergency Rest Centre

Councillor Nicky Welch asked for this to be added to the next meeting.

14. Solar Farm

Annette Williamott provided an update (to Item 4 Public Session)

There have been no further developments at present. As the Planning Officer for West Suffolk Council previously stated this will continue for a long length of time. There was an article published in The Guardian (usefully forwarded to us by Malcolm) regarding a government quango; National Energy System Operator (Neso). They will be prioritising applications to connect by either the end of the decade or 2035. They will either be prioritised for grid connection, removed from the queue, fast-tracked before 2030 or placed into a new delivery pipeline. The Wales End Solar Farm Group have asked the Parish Council to consider help towards further funding. Possibly a Road Safety risk assessment. Councillors agreed in principle providing there are no legal restrictions. Clerk to contact SALC for advice.

Action: Clerk

15. West Suffolk Traffic & Speeding Group

It was agreed that we would join this group. Councillor Ted Gittins agreed to be the point of contact and attend as required.

16. St Mary's Churchyard

(See Item 4 – Public Session)

17. 2026 Usage of The Green – Request from CCA

(a) June 6/7th Open Gardens (Plant stall only)

(b) September 5th Fete

(c) November Fireworks

It was agreed by all councillors to grant this request

18. Correspondence

(a) Donation request from Citizens Advice

It was agreed by all councillors to donate £50.00.

19. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda of the next meeting on Wednesday 11th March 2026.

(As above)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:30.

Signed:

(Chair) Dated:

11/3/26



Bobby Bennett Report

Suffolk County Council appeals against incorrect government Red highways rating

Suffolk County Council has called on the Department for Transport to correct a report it says wrongly labels the authority in the worst category of a new ratings system.

The move comes after a meeting with department officials (DfT) on Monday by Councillor Paul West and senior highways officials.

The new system ranks highways authorities using a traffic-light system based on effectiveness in spending the government's highways maintenance funding.

The council says the DfT failed to include in its assessment £10 million of highways funding it brought forward from 2025/26 and invested early in 2024/25.

Had this been included, Suffolk would have received an Amber rating for highways expenditure, consistent with its ratings in road condition and best practice, rather than an overall Red.

Councillor West, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Operational Highways, said: "That £10 million delivered much welcomed resurfacing ahead of time, but we have now been unfairly penalised for it.

"We fully support transparency in the reporting of highway maintenance performance but transparency can only be meaningful if the data being published is accurate.

"We have demonstrated to the government where it has gone wrong and we want it to recognise its mistake and correct the rating to Amber.

"Make no mistake, we ultimately want a Green status, but it is important that we at least have a ranking that accurately records where we are."

Andrew Cook, Executive Director of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure for Suffolk County Council, said the council was unhappy it was not given the chance to comment on the ratings and accompanying report before it was published by the DfT, and that a request to delay publication to do this had been rejected.

"Other government departments routinely undertake proper due diligence before publishing assessments of this nature," he said.

"We feel it is unacceptable that this standard was not met on this occasion."

"Other highways authorities have also voiced concerns about the accuracy of the ratings and there is growing consensus across the highway industry that the DfT mechanism is fundamentally flawed."

Suffolk Highways continues to perform strongly against national road-condition benchmarks.

In December [it was awarded £2.9 million](#) from the Department for Transport's 2025/26 Incentive Fund.

The fund, introduced by the current government, rewards local authorities that demonstrate excellence in highway asset management and efficiency.



[Data published on the Department for Transport \(DfT\) website](#) shows only 3% of Suffolk's A-road network is in poor condition, better than the England average, with the proportion in good condition broadly aligned to the national figure.

Suffolk's B and C roads also outperform national averages, with a high share in good condition and significantly fewer in poor condition.

The DfT-reported data also shows that the overall condition of Suffolk's entire road network has consistently improved since 2011 across all road categories.



Receipts

Date	Source	Amount	Admin.	Cemetery	Allotment s	Other	Hall Bookings	Hall Other	VAT
03/11/25	Hall Hire - Koalas	112.00					112.00		
04/11/25	Hall Hire - Pre-School (Main Hall)	49.00					49.00		
10/11/25	WSC - Welcome Wednesday Grant	850.00	850.00						
10/11/25	Hall Hire - Illuminators	112.00					112.00		
10/11/25	Hall Hire - Hort.Society (2026)	162.00					162.00		
10/11/25	Open Reach	32.80				32.80			
13/11/25	Hall Hire (Mens Badminton)	7.00					7.00		
17/11/25	WSC - Glass Recycling	387.00				387.00			
17/11/25	WSC - Locality Grant (Notice Board)	600.00				600.00			
17/11/25	Hall Hire - Astronomy Society	42.00					42.00		
18/11/25	Hall Hire - Pre-School	250.00					250.00		
22/11/25	Memorial (Wright)	92.00		92.00					
23/11/25	Pre-School Electric	107.76						107.76	
23/11/25	Pre-School Electric	98.74						98.74	
28/11/25	Hall Meters (Cash)	178.00						178.00	
27/11/25	Memorial (Lacey)	300.00		300.00					
	Total for November 2025	3380.30	850.00	392.00	0.00	1019.80	734.00	384.50	0.00
	B/Fwd	107724.16							
	Total C/Fwd	111104.46							
	Less Expenses to 30/11/25	34858.03							
	Net	76246.43							
	<u>Earmarked Funds as at 30/11/25</u>				<u>Bank Account 30/11/25</u>				
	Cavendish Flowers	647.13					Current	66538.11	
	War Memorial	711.00					Savings	9708.32	
	Memorial Hall	8750.00							
	Play Area (Replacement)	5000.00							
	Traffic Management	6030.00							
	Total Earmarked Funds	21138.13							
	Reserve	55108.30							
	Total	76246.43					Total	76246.43	

Date	Source	Amount	Admin.	Cemetery	Allotment s	Other	Hall Bookings	Hall Other	VAT
01/12/25	Hall Hire - Yoga (Vatters)	170.00					170.00		
02/12/25	Clare Priory - WelcWed Donation	250.00				250.00			
06/12/25	Hall Hire - Quiz Night	10.00					10.00		
08/12/25	Hall Hire - Tea Dance	36.00					36.00		
08/12/25	Hall Hire - History Society	105.00					105.00		
10/12/25	Hall Hire - Mens Badminton	7.00					7.00		
11/12/25	Hall Hire - Lapwing	61.00					61.00		
16/12/25	Hall Hire - Mens Badminton	7.00					7.00		
17/12/25	Hall Hire - Ladies Badminton	84.00					84.00		
18/12/25	Hall Hire - Pre School	250.00					250.00		
	Total for December 2025	980.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	730.00	0.00	0.00
	B/Fwd	111104.46							
	Total C/Fwd	112084.46							
	Less Expenses to 31/12/25	41827.81							
	Net	70256.65							
	<u>Earmarked Funds as at 31/12/25</u>				<u>Bank Account 31/12/25</u>				
	Cavendish Flowers	647.13					Current	60548.33	
	War Memorial	711.00					Savings	9708.32	
	Memorial Hall	8750.00							
	Play Area (Replacement)	5000.00							
	Traffic Management	6030.00							
	Total Earmarked Funds	21138.13							
	Reserve	49118.52							
	Total	70256.65					Total	70256.65	



Payments

Date	TO WHOM	Cheque No./DD	Amount	Category											
				ADMIN	MISC Other	Cemetery/ Allotments	Street Clean/Maint.	Grass/ Trees	Hall Maint.	Hall Services	Hall Deposit Return	VAT	S137		
01/11/25	James Munro Landscaping	23521	1200.00				1200.00								
05/11/25	Water Rates (Allotments)	DD	18.00			18.00									
06/11/25	CCTV Camera	23529	43.47								43.47				
07/11/25	J Murcott Hall Cleaning	23527	219.74								219.74				
11/11/25	Microsoft Subscription	23531	84.99	84.99											
12/11/25	Deposit Return (Cobern)	23525	25.00									25.00			
13/11/25	Deposit Return (Burton)	23524	25.00									25.00			
13/11/25	SALC Payroll	23520	54.00	45.00										9.00	
14/11/25	West Suffolk (Bins) Allotments	DD	38.01			38.01									
14/11/25	West Suffolk (Bins) Memorial Hall	DD	57.15								57.15				
14/11/25	West Suffolk (Bins) Cemetery	DD	85.72			85.72									
21/11/25	A.Williamott-WelcomeWed	23533	257.61		257.61										
24/11/25	Noticeboard-MemorialHall	23530	717.68								598.07			119.61	
25/11/25	Clerk Wages (K Garner)	23534	637.32	637.32											
26/11/25	British Gas (Electric)	DD	326.00								271.67			54.33	
26/11/25	Chubb F&S	DD	32.33								26.94			5.39	
26/11/25	Deposit Return (Noventum)	23495	25.00									25.00			
28/11/25	J Murcott Hall Cleaning	23536	225.00								225.00				
	Total For Period		4072.02	767.31	257.61	141.73	1200.00	0.00	0.00	1442.04	75.00	188.33	0.00		
	B/Fwd		30786.01												
	C/Fwd		34858.03												

Date	TO WHOM	Cheque No./DD	Amount	Category											
				ADMIN	MISC Other	Cemetery/ Allotments	Street Clean/Maint.	Grass/ Trees	Hall Maint.	Hall Services	Hall Deposit Return	VAT	S137		
02/12/25	J Murcott Hall Cleaning	23535	210.00								210.00				
04/12/25	River Trust Donation (Kirkman)	23528	50.00												50.00
05/12/25	Water Rates (Allotments)	DD	18.00			18.00									
08/12/25	Mortimer Contractors	23532	4200.00		3500.00									700.00	
15/12/25	West Suffolk (Bins) Allotments	DD	38.01			38.01									
15/12/25	West Suffolk (Bins) Memorial Hall	DD	57.15								57.15				
15/12/25	West Suffolk (Bins) Cemetery	DD	85.72			85.72									
16/12/25	Clerk Wages (K Garner)	23539	1169.87	1169.87											
17/12/25	J Murcott Hall Cleaning	23541	162.50								162.50				
17/12/25	Suffolk Cloud	23526	120.00	120.00											
19/12/25	Deposit Return (L Garner)	23538	25.00									25.00			
20/12/25	Bank Charges	DD	9.98	9.98											
22/12/25	Deposit Return (Quealy)	23537	25.00									25.00			
29/12/25	British Gas (Electric)	DD	798.55	665.46										133.09	
	Total For Period		6969.78	1965.31	3500.00	141.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	429.65	50.00	833.09	50.00		
	B/Fwd		34858.03												
	C/Fwd		41827.81												



Nick Vosper – Chair Report

Allotments

There is one overgrown plot which the tenant has been asked to remedy. I have had no further communication from the neighbour who complained about trees overhanging his property following the response to his complaint. Everything seems ready for the next growing season.

Community Orchard

Harriet North and her team of volunteers continue to manage the orchard and keep us informed of progress at each key point. Pruning by a professional gardener which was organised for Jan 24/25 has now been pushed back to later in the year due to weather. The past season was managed very well with any excess fruit given to a specialist charity at the end of the season.

There are plans to build a covered compost area from donated pallets and other materials - the area would have a rudimentary roof and gutters to collect rainwater into butts to minimise city water usage for the future. Harriet has other plans to maximise community engagement and has contributed several articles to the parish magazine. Watch this space!