

COPDOCK & WASHBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 4th August 2026, 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Old London Road, Copdock

Present: Cllr A Ward (Chair), Cllr J Noble, Cllr Tyrrell

In Attendance: Mrs S Frankis, Parish Clerk & RFO

The meeting was chaired by Cllr A Ward.

3151/2627 APOLOGIES: to RECEIVE and APPROVE Apologies for Absence

The Council resolved to accept the apologies received from Cllr M Green and Cllr J Moon for their absences due to work commitments, and from Cllr S Downey for his absence due to a personal commitment.

3152/2627 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: to RECEIVE any Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

3153/2627 DISPENSATIONS: to APPROVE any Requests for Dispensations

No requests for dispensations were received.

3154/2627 PUBLIC FORUM

(i) To RECEIVE Reports from the County and District Councillors

A report had been received from District Cllr Rowland and circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

No report was received from County Cllr Hudson.

(ii) To RECEIVE Comments from Residents of the Parish on Current Agenda Items

No comments were received.

3155/2627 MINUTES: to RECEIVE and CONFIRM the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th July 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2026, having been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting; the minutes were duly signed by Cllr Ward.

3156/2627 MATTERS ARISING: to CONSIDER Matters Arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th July 2026

Minute number 3121 & 3130/2627

ACTION: Cllr Moon is to liaise with Matt Green Landscaping Services to establish what works he may be able to undertake.

3157/2627 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

(i) SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS: to APPROVE the Schedule of Payments for August 2026

Payments were approved as listed below.

No.	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total
P42	Lloyds Bank	Corporate Card	25.10	4.42	29.52
P43	Copdock Cricket Club	Reinstate basketball hoop	60.00	12.00	72.00
P44	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit	315.00	63.00	378.00
P45	Babergh District Council	Play inspection, Fen View	65.53	13.11	78.64
P46	Babergh District Council	Play inspection, Mill Lane	65.53	13.11	78.64
P47	Babergh District Council	Play inspection, V. Hall	65.53	13.11	78.64
P48	Mrs S Frankis	Car park, The Hold	2.75	0.55	3.30
P49	Mrs S Frankis	Home broadband	15.00	0.00	15.00
P50	Moser Groundcare	Grass cutting	416.00	83.20	499.20
P51	Mrs S Frankis	Salary	752.35	0.00	752.35
P52	HMRC	PAYE	50.30	0.00	50.30
P53	Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	7.00	0.00	7.00

(ii) **BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT: to AGREE the July 2026 Budget and Finance Report, including the Bank Balances**

The July 2026 Budget and Finance Report and Cash Book had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting and were agreed. Cllr Noble verified the bank balances totalling £127,380.95.

(iii) **AGAR 2025/26: to RECEIVE the External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26 (Section 3)**

The External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26 (Section 3) was received by the Parish Council. On the basis of the External Auditor's review of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR, in their opinion, the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practice. and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The External Auditor raised one exception: "the smaller authority has confirmed that it is not the sole managing trustee. Therefore, the response to Section 2, Box 11 is incorrect and should be 'Yes'."

ACTION: The Clerk is to publish the External Auditor's Report and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit on the Parish Council's website.

3158/2627 CLERK'S REPORT: to RECEIVE the Parish Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting; a copy is published on the Parish Council website.

3159/2627 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

The Planning Schedule for July 2026 had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

(i) **DC/26/02860**

Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act for DC/22/06242 allowed at Appeal APP/D3505/W/23/3327147 and DC/26/00191 (9 no. dwellings) for the Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) to enable addition of phasing plan 3819 50 to the approved drawings.

Land adjacent to White House, Old London Road, Copdock IP8 3JH.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to submit a comment of 'no objection' to planning application DC/26/02860.

(ii) **DC/26/02994**

Installation of two box windows.

15 Dales View, Washbrook, IP8 3EX.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to submit a comment of 'no objection' to planning application DC/26/02994.

3160/2627

BMSDC JOINT LOCAL PLAN (JLP)

Cllr Ward advised that Babergh District Council (BDC) are still expected to announce which sites they plan to allocate for development in early 2027. A consultation process of circa 2 years will follow this.

A very large number of sites have been offered by landowners to BMSDC for potential development. The Parish Council believes that a number of these sites are owned by SCC Farms. Cllrs Ward & Tyrrell have arranged to meet with Mr R Hancock, assistant Director Planning, Housing and Growth, Suffolk County Council on Friday, 7th August 2026 for an exploratory discussion to better understand their intentions.

Despite the fact that Copdock and Washbrook have a legally adopted Neighbourhood Plan which does not allocate any sites for development, it is likely that BDC will still want to allocate sites within the Parish given the pressure on new housing numbers coming from Central Government. The Parish Council reiterated that the retention of Copdock and Washbrook's village identity remains the overriding priority and that the preference for any future development is infill only as specified in the Neighbourhood Plan, supported by 80% of residents.

3161/2627 BROCKLEY WOOD UPDATE

Cllr Ward advised he continues to pursue Brockley Wood Ventures asking them to provide a monthly breakdown of HGV movements to/from the site rather than the cumulative dashboard of meaningless data. The length of time they are taking to produce a simple bar chart of data and their delaying tactics are beginning to raise questions.

Cllr Ward continues to seek engagement with Suffolk Highways, who are evading any type of conversation with the Council. The Parish Council has been asking for several months to discuss the positioning and wording of the Swan Hill TRO weight-restriction signage that is to be installed. The Suffolk Highways proposal, as it currently is, will not restrict HGV movements up Swan Hill as the earliest indication of the restriction will be too late for vehicles to take corrective action.

The Parish Council is wanting to make the restriction effective by stopping HGV's entering the Old London Road at the southern end from junction 32b of the A12. There is already a sign at this roundabout indicating no access for HGVs from the Brockley Wood quarry and the Parish Council sees no reason why this can't be added to with a sign that says weight restriction 2 miles ahead.

The Parish Council is not satisfied that the proposed signage will be effective and continues to seek active engagement with Suffolk Highways.

3162/2627 20MPH SPEED LIMIT IMPLEMENTATION

Cllr Ward has contacted Mr P Wright, Community Works Design Engineer LHB and Minor Works Team, Suffolk Highways to ask for the outcome of the consultation on the legal order and for the timescale for the production of the TRO Report. The Report will then be put before Cllr Hudson, the Portfolio Holder for Highways, for it to be signed off.

3163/2627 JUBILEE MEADOW: The Brook (dredging of)

Having been advised by Suffolk County Council Farms that the works would start on 15th June 2026, they finally commenced last week. Fallen trees and vegetation have been removed from The Brook, leaving it clear, but Cllr Ward has queried if the overhanging vegetation should also be cleared.

3164/2627 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME UPDATE

There was no progress to report.

3165/2627 PLAY AREA MAINTENANCE

There were no updates to report.

3166/2627 MILL LANE PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Cllr Ward advised the CIL application has been submitted and that the Babergh District Council Infrastructure Team are satisfied the submission is in order for a cabinet decision on 8th September 2026; BDC Public Realm and BDC Environmental Protection have no issues with the proposals.

The Parish Council has accepted the Kompan quote of £129,749.00 which will be funded as follows:

CIL Bid	£93,304
CWPC CIL Reserves	£31,695
Belstead Galzoni Trust	£3,000
Cllr C Hudson	£1,000
Cllr Rowland	<u>£750</u>
	£129,749

The Council awaits the decision on the National Grid, Bramford to Twinstead Community Fund grant application of £10k funding to contribute to the fencing and landscaping works associated with the upgrade of the Mill Lane Play Area.

3167/2627 CWPC RISK ASSESSMENT 2026

ACTION: Cllr Moon is to undertake the 2026 risk assessment.

3168/2627 NEXT MEETING: to CONFIRM the Date and Time of the Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Council is to be held on 1st September 2026 at 7pm at the Village Hall, Copdock.

3169/2627 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS, INCLUDING ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

No matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 20:21

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Mrs S Frankis, Parish Clerk & RFO to Copdock and Washbrook Parish Council

Email: clerk@copdockandwashbrook.org Website: www.copdockandwashbrook.org

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

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