

Minutes of PCAM, Wyck Rissington Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Monday 26th May 2026, 18:00

Councillors Present: Cllrs Cook, Watson, Hall, Ponti and Gorton.
In attendance: 13 members of the public plus Cllr. Thurling

- 0260526/1 Cllr.Corps was unable to attend. His report is on the website.
- 260526/2 Cllr.Watson declared an interest in a neighbour's planning application. No other declarations of interest.
- 260526/3 Cllr. Cook was elected as Chair.
- 260526/4 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for accuracy.
- 260526/5 Cllr.Cook briefed the Council on the Governance Review. He highlighted changes in guidance regarding the separation of the Chairman and RFO roles, and the requirement for an IT policy. The Council unanimously approved the new policies and revisions.

Cllr.Cook also discussed the village policy statement, particularly the council's role in planning enforcement. While the policy currently focuses on the council's statutory responsibilities, there is a grey area regarding involvement in planning enforcement matters that impact the community. The council agreed to maintain the current policy, allowing for flexibility in addressing significant concerns.

The insurance policy has been renewed with a slight increase to £264 , covering inter alia public liability for accidental nuisance
A compulsory ICO subscription has been renewed , and a GALC subscription, which lapsed, has not been needed for the governance reviews. The GALC subscription costs around £45 and is not considered a significant expense. The Clerk was authorised to renew it only if he considered it would be of assistance to him.

- 260526/6 The council's accounts for the year were reviewed, highlighting significant expenses related to the Twin Pipe project offset by contributions from GCC , CDC and one resident. The year-end reserves were healthy, and a detailed analysis of the budget and spending was provided. The new financial year began with a 75% precept receipt. Having taken into

account a paper on Internal Audit and Governance and received the reports of the Acting RFO and Internal Auditor the Council unanimously approved the accounts and AGAR.

The reserves have now increased to approximately £18,500, and a revised budget for 26/27 is proposed to allocate funds for maintenance and improvements. The budget aims to utilise the reserves effectively, including savings accumulated over the last 3 years from not hiring a professional clerk. The Council approved the revised budget . Cllr. Cook informed the Council that Andrew Lathe had agreed to become RFO with effect from 1 July. The appointment was approved unanimously for finalisation by the Acting RFO following the meeting with transitional arrangements to be made thereafter including adding him to the Bank mandate.

260526/7 Cllr.Thurling discussed speeding on the Wyck Beacon road which led to the suggestion of placing signs at both ends of the road to alert drivers. Cllr.Thurling will also following up on issues with water drainage, including a blocked watercourse and flooding near Stone House and seeking additional funding from CDC to address these problems.

The Unity Authority Consultation is being rushed, with a briefing scheduled for this week and a response deadline of 15th June. The district council network is strongly opposed to the Government's policy, citing concerns about accountability and the potential for overlapping responsibilities. The focus should be on improving communication channels and prioritising issues to ensure a more effective response notwithstanding whether the proposals for a unitary authority proceed.

260526/8 Cllr.Watson updated the Council on the claim from the occupants of Fletchers Farmhouse .

On Tuesday 10 March 2026, the Council were served with proceedings commenced by Brian Finnimore on 5 March 2026. The proceedings have been commenced as an Online Money Claim. The court claim seeks payment of the sum of £2615, which is the estimated cost of installing the open grate (although this is not apparent from the claim form itself). No cause of action is pleaded and although issued as a claim for money, the Finnimores have not spent this money, not incurred a liability for this money and never will be liable for it.

A formal Request for Information was made by the Council on 13 March 2026 requesting (among other things) details on the cause of action relied on and how it had arisen. He refused to answer this

request.

In view of the defective nature of the Claim but also the very complex historic background surrounding flooding and flood preventative measures in the village, a substantial defence (running to 15 pages) was filed on behalf of the Council on 27 March 2026.

In addition to pleading in the Defence that the claim should be struck out as an abuse of process, on 1 April 2026 we applied to the Court for an order that the claim be struck out as an abuse of process; alternatively that judgment be entered against Dr Finnimore on the grounds that the claim has no real prospect of success and there is no other reason for a trial.

The Directions Questionnaire was filed on 23 April 2026. This deals with issues such as compulsory mediation and other case management issues like case allocation and the availability of parties and witnesses. Should the case survive strike out, we have stipulated that the case should be allocated to the multi-track because of its complexity rather than the small claims track. We can expect a more experienced judge to deal with a multi-track case.

It is difficult to predict when the court will deal with our strike out application but hopefully it should be in the course of this calendar year.

Insurers have been kept fully informed throughout.

- 260526/9 Cllr Hall briefed the PC. The green and pond are being monitored for maintenance needs. The grass on the green is recovering from flood damage around the twin pipes, and additional signage will be added to prevent parking on the green. The pond is experiencing an algae outbreak due to heat and fish activity, and the water level is being monitored for potential blockages.
- 260526/10 Cllr.Watson briefed the PC on planning matters.The Wyck Cottage planning application was refused by the district council, despite support from the parish council. The appeal decision was confusing, as the development wouldn't harm the conservation area and the parish council supported it. The consultation on the Fletcher's Farm House

pergola application was noted for the record . In summary the Council had noted concerns about its impact on the view and the preservation of the building's character. The proposed design, as depicted in the drawings, was also considered visually overwhelming and potentially detrimental to the historical significance of the building. The Council had objected to this application and subsequently the Conservation Officer has reached the same conclusions and also

objected

260527/11 There is no correspondence at this point.

020326/11 Provisional dates of next Parish Council meetings to be advised (and now proposed in these minutes as) :

7th September 2026

7th December 2026

1st March 2027

24th May (Annual Meeting) 2027

The public session ended at 7.35pm