



**GREAT
WALDINGFIELD**

PARISH COUNCIL

April 2025 – May 2026

Background of an APM



What the Annual Parish Meeting *is*

The APM is a meeting of the parish's electors, not the council. Its legal purpose is to discuss parish affairs.

- Required by Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, para. 14(1).
- Must be held between 1 March and 1 June each year.
- Must not start before 6pm.

Anyone on the electoral register may attend, speak, and vote. Councillors (other than the Chair) have no special status at this meeting.

What typically happens at the meeting

There is no statutory agenda, but best practice includes:

- Welcome and explanation of the meeting's purpose
- Approval of previous APM minutes
- Chair's report on the council's year
- Financial report
- Reports from community groups, charities, village hall committees, police, school, etc.
- Electors' forum — questions, motions, and discussion on parish matters

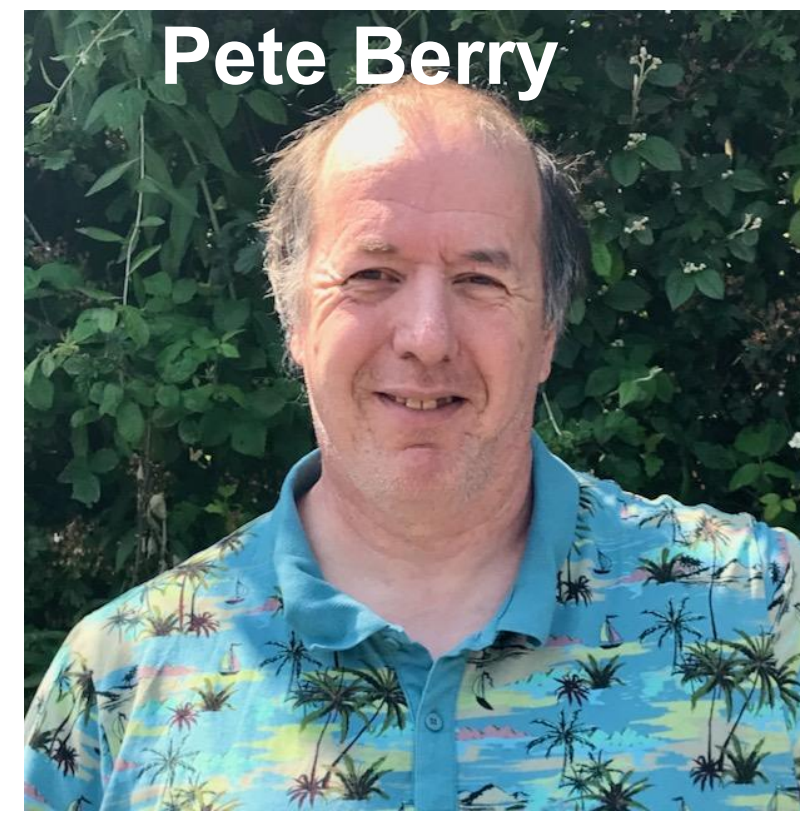
Electors may vote on motions; decisions are non-binding on the council but politically influential.

Voting is one vote per elector per issue.

Common confusions

The APM is often mistaken for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, which is a council meeting that elects the Chair and Vice-Chair. The two meetings are legally distinct and must be minuted separately

The Current Parish Council



Stewart Ambrose
Photo to follow



**Could this be
you?**



**Could this be
you?**

Roles and responsibilities



| SC/WG | Membership |
|--|--|
| Strategic Plan (Action) WG | All |
| Neighbourhood Plan Review WG | Cllrs Evans, Leonard, Baxter |
| Finance SC | Cllrs Evans, Baxter, Leonard |
| HR & Complaints SC | Cllrs Baxter Spackman, Leonard |
| VHMC ¹ | Cllrs Baxter, Leonard (Chair) Evans |
| <u>Social Media</u> ² WG. | Cllrs Berry, Spackman |
| Noticeboards. Volunteer | Cllr Spackman |
| Bus Shelters. Volunteer | Cllr Spackman |
| Planning SC | Cllrs Baxter (lead), Berry, Clare Kiely (advisor) |
| Playground WG | Cllrs Spackman, Berry |
| Pavilion WG | Cllrs Baxter, Leonard, Evans & Clare Kiely (facilitator) |
| QDJG ³ WG | Cllr Berry |
| Biodiversity WG | Cllr Baxter |
| LGR & Dev ⁴ WG | Cllrs Evans, Leonard |
| PC collaboration ⁵ (new WG) | Cllrs Evans, Leonard |
| SALC | Chair & Clerk |
| Traffic Group ⁶ . Liaison | Gail Baxter |
| Trees/Footpaths WG | Cllr Baxter with David Taylor |
| Young People WG | Cllrs Berry, Spackman |
| Braithwaite Trust | Chair |
| Chilton Woods Development | Cllr Maybury: link with Cllr Baxter |
| OSW ⁷ | Cllr Baxter |
| PSS ⁸ | Clerk |
| Disability WG | Cllrs Baxter, Berry, Spackman |
| Events. Liaison | Cllr Baxter |
| Bowls Club. Liaison | Cllr Berry |
| Business Continuity WG | Cllrs Evans, Baxter, Leonard |

So what does the Parish Council actually do?



Looks after a number of community assets

Chooses a number of projects we hope will improve the lives of GW parishioners

Tries to solve problems raised by parishioners - trees down, ditches full, sewage leaks, lack of dropped kerbs.

Makes donations to support good causes

Assesses planning applications that come into the village

We have to look after all our community assets



Village Hall



Bus Shelters
Benches



Village gateways



Pavilion



Dog poo bins



Green Acre
Village Sign



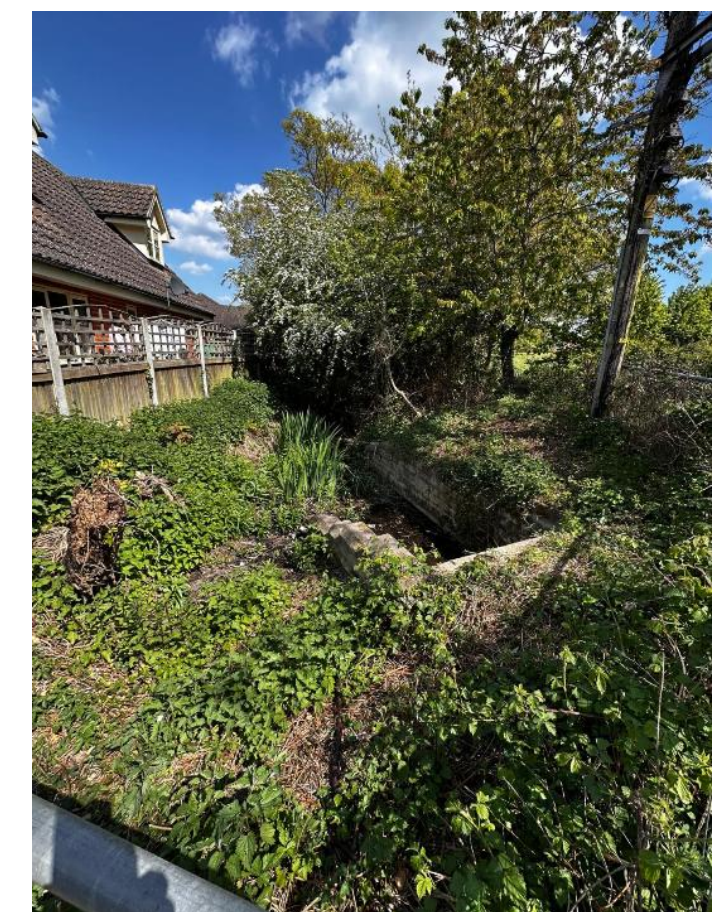
Litter bins

Notice boards



Play Equipment
Jubilee garden

Ditch clearance >



Banner posts



SIDs

58 Streetlights



Christmas lights

The projects to improve the Parish Strategic Plan



strategic plan 2026 2030 v1.1.docx

Strategic Plan 2026-2030

The projects to improve the Parish Strategic Plan



Introduction

This four-year Strategic Plan (SP) sets out the Parish Council's priorities, objectives and actions for the period 2026–2030. It provides a clear framework to guide decision-making, resource allocation and engagement with residents and partners, while remaining flexible enough to respond to changing local needs.

Overview

The Council will strive to strengthen and sustain a sense of community within Great Waldingfield, by addressing environmental, social, economic and planning matters and delivering quality services to the residents within the resources available. To always act in the best interests of Great Waldingfield Village and its residents, through active representation to the second tier (BDC) and first tier (SCC) of local government.

Purpose

The SP supports the Parish Council's statutory duties and its role as the first tier of local government, acting in the best interests of the community. It is important the SP provide residents with a clear understanding of the GWPC's priorities and objectives for the period 2026 to April 2030. This SP is the framework for the Council to deliver its objectives, in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Plan, within a planned budget and timeframe.

This SP is a 'live' document that will be monitored and updated regularly (at least bi-annually). Progress and updates will be provided via the Council's website and social media pages.

Where issues facing the village are areas which are not directly under the control of GWPC, the Council will endeavour to use its influence to ensure that service providers such as Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council, (or the new Unitary Authority created out of LGR) provide services that are relevant to benefit of Great Waldingfield Village residents.

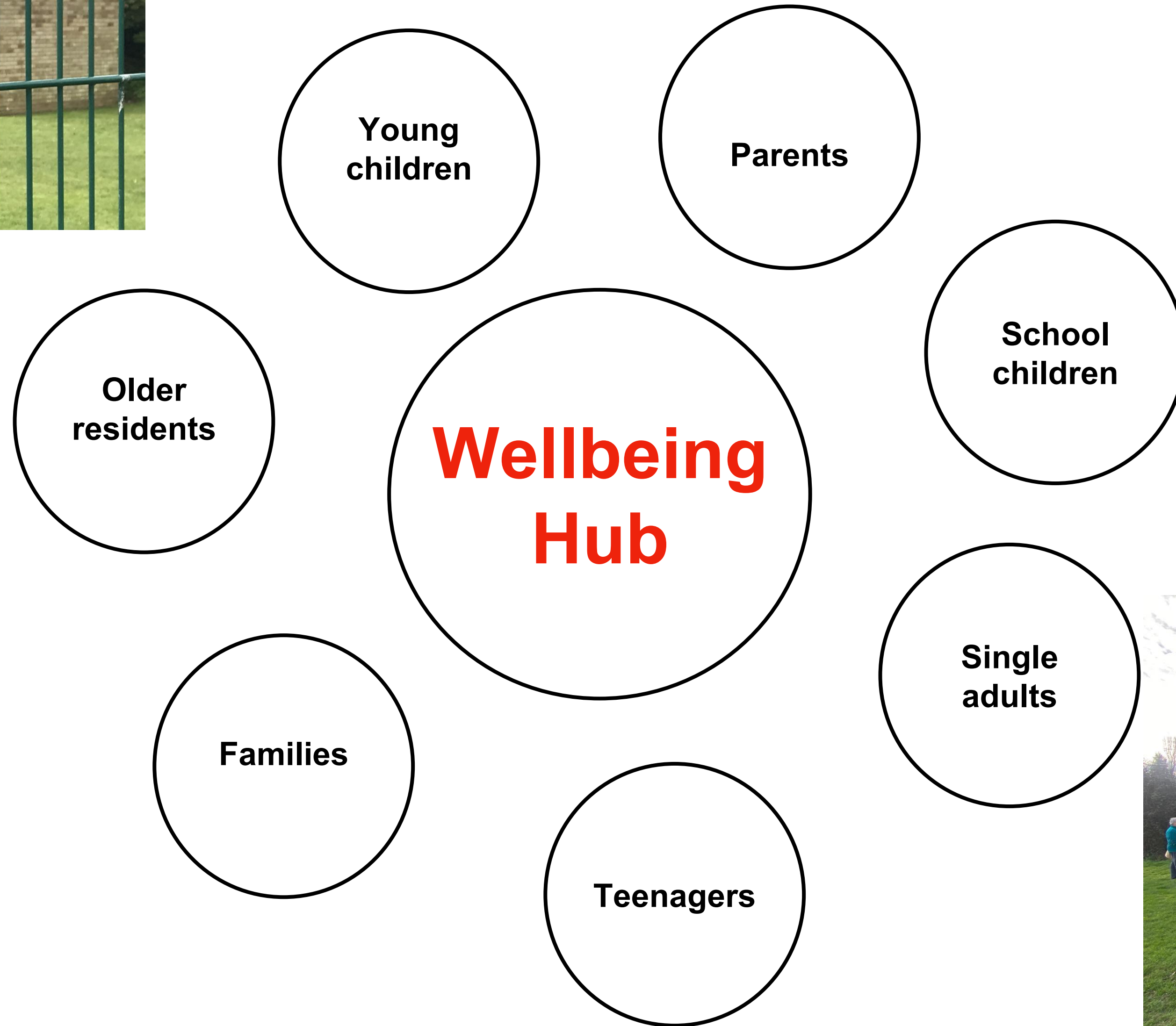
Great Waldingfield Parish Council (GWPC)

The projects to improve the Parish Action Plan



| | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|---------------|--|
| | | | | email | | |
| 9 | Pavilion ground lease | PWG | | SCC | 26/27 : SP | |
| 10 | Village Sign (Greenacre) | VSWG | Mar | Set up VSWG | 26/27: SP | |
| 11 | Terms of Reference: Bowls Club | MF/JE | Nov | Minutes (22/10/26), lease summary to BC Cttee & arrange follow up meeting | | |
| 11 | Head Lease Renewal: expires 2029 | MF/JE | Mar | Initiate discussions with SCC to renew HL. Renew sub lease to BC | 26/27 | |
| 12 | Terms of Reference: Old School Wood | MF/JE | Mar | Arrange meeting with David Taylor / Chris Francis | Mar | |
| 12 | Terms of | MF/JE | Mar | Arrange meeting | | |

The Future of our Pavilion

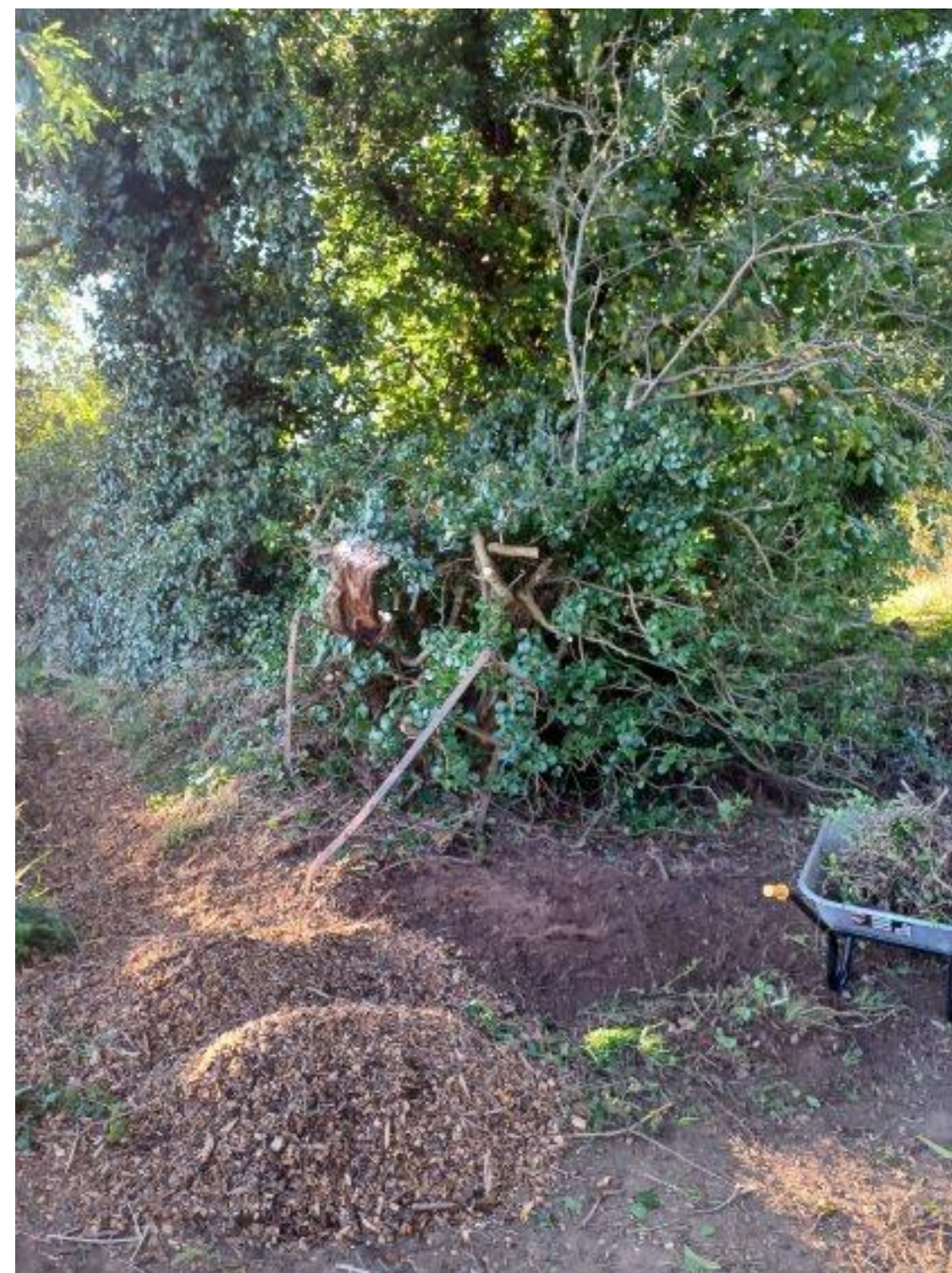


Mental Health

Physical Health



Make Footpaths 11/12 more accessible



| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| B24-20 | Amount of CIL Bid £17,450.00 | Recommendation to Cabinet to approve CIL Bid B24-20 for £17,450.00 from the Ringfenced Infrastructure Fund |
| GREAT WALDINGFIELD | Total eligible project costs £18,450.00 (excluding VAT) | |
| Upgrade to Footpaths 11 and 12 | Other funding £1,000.00 from Parish Neighbourhood CIL | |

Village Map and Leaflet



VILLAGE CONTACTS

BOWLS CLUB

Margaret Gardiner 07794265195

BRAITHWAITE ALLOTMENT TRUST

Reverend Faith Marsden
01787 312002 femarsden@hotmail.co.uk

COMMUNITY WOODLAND (Branchlines)

David Taylor, Chairman 01787 373541

FIRST FRIENDS PRE SCHOOL

01787 882473 ffpnursery@hotmail.com

GREAT WALDINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

01787 374055
admin@greatwoldingfield.suffolk.sch.uk

GW EVENTS TEAM

gwevents@aol.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Mark Freeman - Clerk 07922 336386
parishclerk.gwpc@greatwoldingfield.uk

John Evans - Chair
jevans.gwpc@greatwoldingfield.uk

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

Rev'd Faith Marsden
01787 312002
femarsden@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL

vh@greatwoldingfield.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.greatwoldingfield.uk

JUBILEE GARDEN

Chris and Anne Francis 01787 370734
or Linda Lutz 07773 161419

WHITE HORSE PUB

Pauline 01787 371314



The history of Great Woldingfield

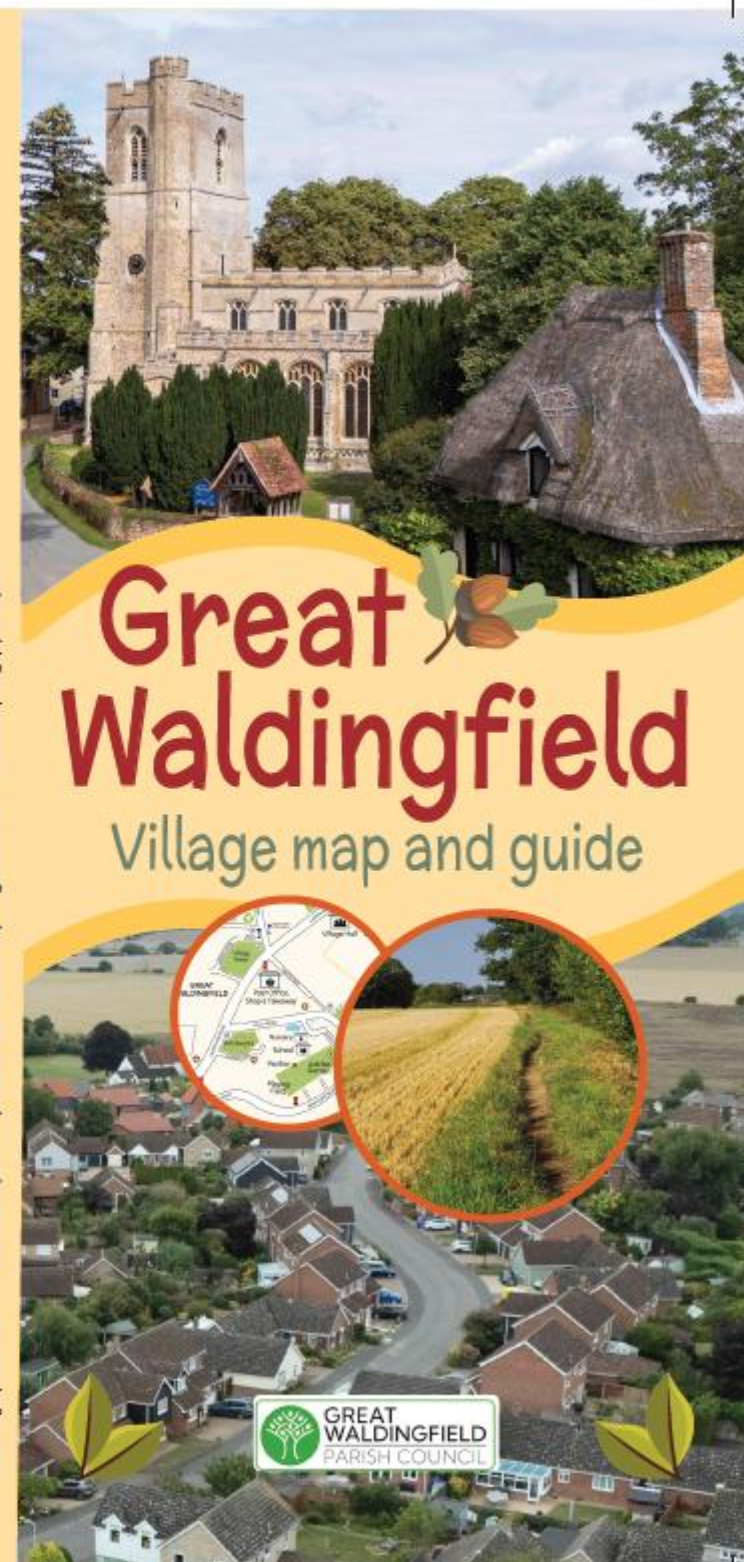
The discovery of a number of artefacts suggests that the village existed during the Bronze Age and the Roman occupation of Britain, but the first record of the village's existence is from the Domesday Book of 1086, in which the village was listed as Walingafella Magna with three Saxon manors and an area of around 3,000 acres (12 km²). Located on the major thoroughfare between the wool town of Lavenham and Sudbury, the village was well-placed to benefit from the trade boom in the late Middle Ages.

An outbreak of Bubonic plague in 1626 reduced the population by at least 10%, going from 513 in 1611 to 459 in 1631. In 1648, during the siege of Colchester (part of the English Civil War) Cromwell's Ironsides were billeted in the village, an area which became Garrison Lane. Soldiers were stationed in the village after the war before being demobilised.

The 1851 Census tells us that the village had a population of 659, with 140 agricultural labourers, 58 scholars, 46 paupers and 20 farmers. By 1901 this has dropped to 462 as a result of many people moving away to seek work following job losses arising from importation of basic goods. The Great War witnessed the permanent loss of another 34 village men, and a flu epidemic - combined with the depression of the 1920s - saw the numbers fall even further, 363 being recorded in 1921 and only 348 in 1931.

The Church of St Lawrence, a Grade 1 listed building, dates back to the 14th century. There was, however, a church on the site for some time before that - since before the Norman conquest in fact. The greatest change probably happened in 1869 after the then rector (W.D. Bailey) visited the Holy Land. In the chancel there is a mosaic of marble fragments from Rome and granite from the Holy Land.

During World War II an airfield was built adjacent to the village. The airfield was completed in 1943 and handed over to the USAAF on 23 March 1944. With three runways, the airfield was home to the 486th Bombardment Group. First flying B-24 Liberators and then B-17 Flying Fortresses. Remains of the old runways are still visible today.



GREAT WALDINGFIELD VILLAGE MAP & GUIDE

Welcome to the village of Great Woldingfield. This condensed map shows the location of the community buildings and green spaces, the local public footpaths and where to find the various village amenities.

To download this map and to obtain more detailed information please go to the village website at - www.greatwoldingfield.uk or simply scan the QR code below.





Grass Cutting in the Village





Projects and activities involving the village



Litter picks

Planted seeds

Summer activities/ football

Biodiversity Group

Events Team



Scarecrow Trail

Quizes

Book Trail

Christmas light switch on

Opening the Playing Field in the Summer Holidays



Lots of hoops were jumped through!

Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of VJ-Day



Dropped Kerbs



Installed at school area.

Report a problem page up on the website



| Issue | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Abandoned vehicle | Babergh | https://www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online |
| Anti social behaviour | Babergh | https://www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online |
| Broken lit sign or bollard | Highways | https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/ |
| Blocked Drain | Highways | https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/ |
| Crime | Police | https://www.suffolk.police.uk/area/your-area/local-policing-team-contact/contact-your-local-policing-team/ |
| Defibrillators | PC | parishclerk.gwpc@greatwaldingfield.uk 07922 336386 |
| Ditches | Landowner/PC | parishclerk.gwpc@greatwaldingfield.uk 07922 336386 |
| Dog bins – overflowing | Babergh | https://www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online |
| Dog poo bags | PC | parishclerk.gwpc@greatwaldingfield.uk 07922 336386 |





Parish Support Services



Cleaning signs

Cleaning play equipment

Litter picking

Checking AED defibrillators

Checking benches

Looking after
SIDs



blackthorn
LANDSCAPES

Checking PC owned areas



Those secret weapons have still been great this year



Our County and District Councillors

Suffolk County Council



Philip Faircloth - Mutton

Babergh District Council



Paul Clover



Margaret Maybury

Hope we never lose them!

Mark the Clerk



The engine that keeps the Parish Council moving

Reads and redirects or
replied to incoming emails

Prepares detailed tenders
for work needing doing

Keeps the website updated

Researches information
we need



Sends out emails to other bodies

Deals with contractors

Deals with the public

Organises the agendas and
papers for the PC meetings

Updates all the policies and
procedures including the
huge asset register

Does all the Finances

First port of call for all problems

Keeps us on the straight and narrow



Transparency of our finances

The Parish Council receives a percentage of your Council Tax every year

Last Year £60,900

Connected General Reserves to our Four year Action Plan with earmarked reserves for certain projects

Earmarked reserves for repair and maintenance of our many assets

Will be isolating the precept money in the current account for ease of seeing when we dip into reserves to complete projects

Highlights from the end of year Budget



| | 25 26 bud | 25 26 for |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| receipts | 65,769 | 78,498 |
| payments | -71,271 | -68,865 |
| surplus/ deficit | -5,502 | 9,633 |

Subject to finalising year end

Income was more than budget because of VAT reclaim and grants

Expenditure slightly less than budget

Allowing us to put nearly £10k back into reserves to support the action plan

We have not increased the precept this year 2026 2027

Village Hall



Just some of the tasks being sorted by Trustees

Sorted the sewage!
Schedule of Repairs and Maintenance
Cleaning Contractor
Booking Management
Reviewing contracted services
Space utilisation

It's not just us!



Other volunteers are doing amazing work in the village

Community Larder
Biodiversity Group
Horticultural Show team
Events Team
QDJG volunteers
Branchlines
Coffee morning group
Good Neighbour Scheme
Allotment volunteers
GW Village News team
Street Champions
Village Volunteers
Craft and Chat Team
Bowls and Social Club committee
Speedwatch team
Acton and Waldingfield Scout Group

Reverend Faith
Helen who's been designing our leaflets
Bernard who runs the village website
Mark K who often goes litter picking in the village
Mike F and Ray B who've been saving us a lot of money by
doing repairs around the village
David Taylor - footpath and tree warden

Unsung heroes who we don't even know about

We want to recognise them...

more

news about an event in June to come

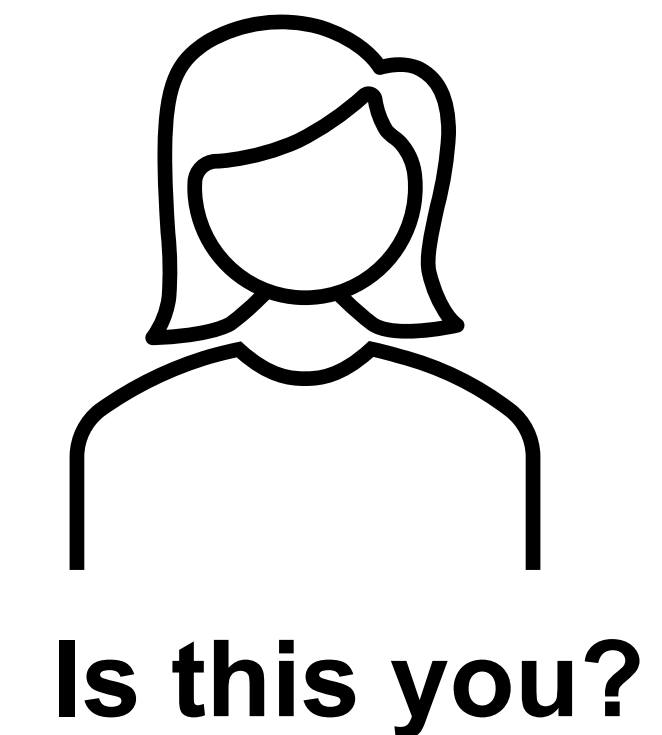
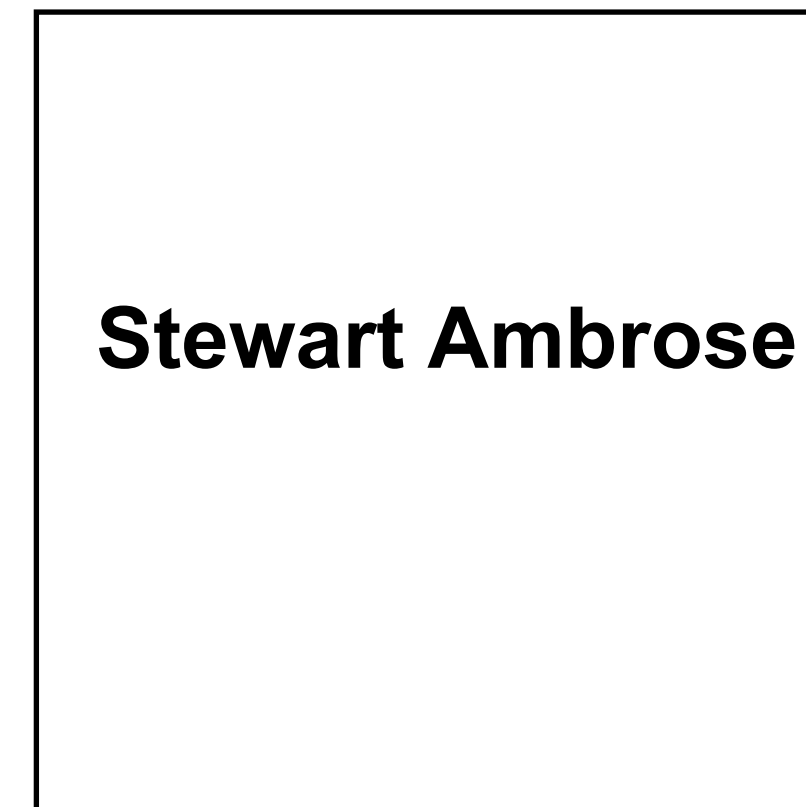
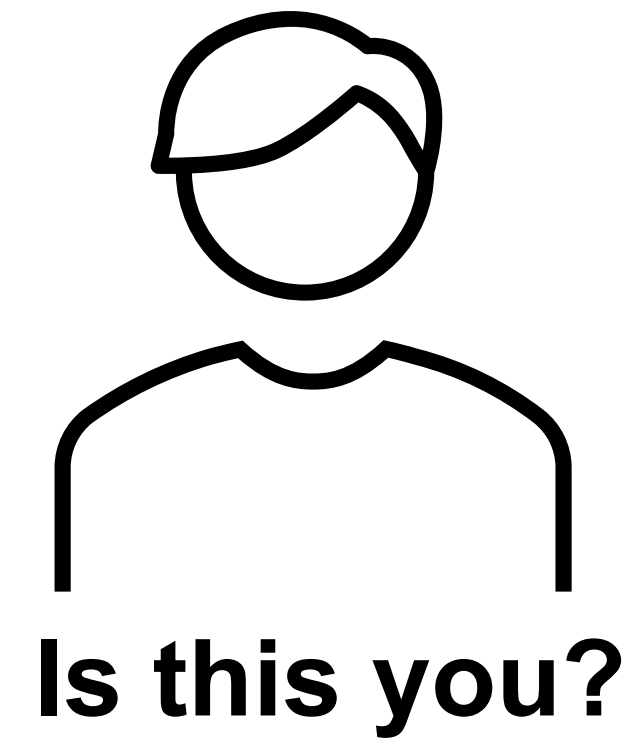
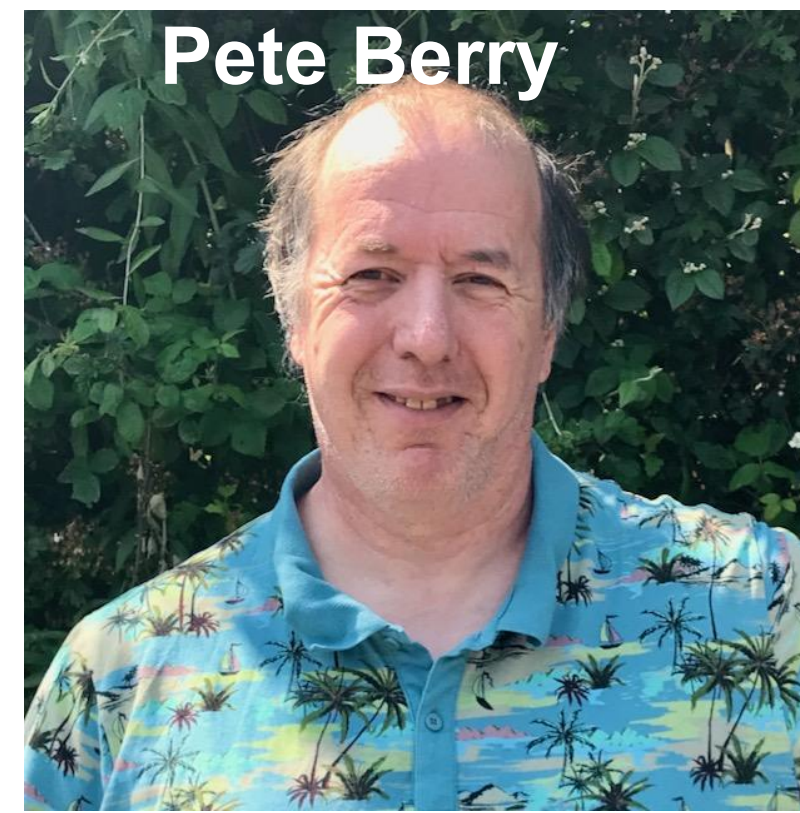
Who have I missed?



My heartfelt thanks to all of these very special people. You have been a tremendous support to me over the last two years.



The future Parish Council



Looking forward



- Local Government Reform (LGR)
- Collaboration with neighbouring PCs
- Next year elections for PCs May 2027



**GREAT
WALDINGFIELD**

PARISH COUNCIL

Thank- you