

WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL

2 Main Street, Wolston, Coventry CV8 3HJ

Telephone: **07305 147713** E-mail: clerk@wolstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Extraordinary Meeting of Wolston Parish Council

Tuesday 11 August 2026 at 6.30 pm

Wolston Baptist Chapel

Present: Cllr Rainey (Chair), Cllr Kenney, Cllr McCabrey and Cllr Wright.

In attendance: Tracie Ball Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)/note taker and one member of the public.

77. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Fernandez (reason not given) and Cllr Taylor (away from the village). Cllr Osman had advised that work commitments might cause him to arrive late. Clare Malyon Clerk (Annual Leave).

78. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wright declared an interest in item 80.2 and in any discussion concerning the proposed purchase of a new power tool for the Public Works Lead.

No other interests were declared and no requests for dispensation were received.

79. Approval of previous minutes

79.1 — Meeting held on 2 July 2026. Updated draft minutes had not been received. Approval was therefore deferred until the September meeting.

79.2 — Extraordinary Meeting held on 14 July 2026. It was RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Kenny and carried unanimously.

No final paper copy had been submitted, so the minutes still require the Chair's signature

80. FINANCE

80.1 — Schedule of payments. The Council received the RFO's report and considered the following payments:

Supplier	Description	Amount	Comments
Baptist Church	Rent Q2 26	£1050.00	
DM Payroll	4/26 – 9/26	£151.20	
Flamex	Annual maintenance	£102.00	
Vision ICT	Website & Emails	£285.46	6 emails 3 months web

RESOLVED to approve the schedule of payments and the information presented. Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Kenny and carried unanimously.

80.2 — Councillor and staff expenses. There were no councillor or staff expenses presented for approval.

80.3 — Government guidance on expenses and allowances.

Members considered the revised HM Revenue and Customs approved mileage allowance rates for employees using their own vehicles for authorised business travel.

RESOLVED that Wolston Parish Council adopt the revised HMRC approved mileage allowance rates, effective retrospectively from 6 April 2026, as follows:

Vehicle type	First 10,000 business miles	Business mile over 10,000
Cars and vans, including electric vehicles	55p per mile	25p per mile
Motorcycles	24p per mile	24p per mile
Bicycles, including electrically assisted pedal cycles	20p per mile	20p per mile

It was further noted that an additional passenger allowance of 5p per business mile may be paid for each fellow employee carried in a car or van on a qualifying Council business journey. **Proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor McCabrey and carried unanimously.**

80.4 — Banking arrangements. Deferred to the next meeting.

80.5 — Financial Regulations relating to banking and electronic payments. Deferred to the next meeting.

81. RUGBY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN AND WOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

81(a) — Rugby Borough Local Plan. The Council considered the request for comments and the implications for Wolston.

RESOLVED that the RFO, working with Cllr Wright, draft a letter setting out the Council's comments. The draft is to be circulated to all Councillors for approval before submission. Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr McCabrey and carried unanimously.

81(b) — Wolston Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Council considered the work completed to date, the relationship with the emerging Rugby Local Plan and the need for current professional advice

RESOLVED that the Chair to contact Avon Planning to seek advice on whether and how the existing Neighbourhood Development Plan could be revived and progressed in the current planning context. Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr McCabrey and carried unanimously.

82. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Council considered the information received from Thurlaston Parish Council and reaffirmed its support for a single unitary authority for Warwickshire.

RESOLVED that a letter be drafted on behalf of Wolston Parish Council, drawing upon the points raised by Thurlaston Parish Council and setting out Wolston's support for a single Warwickshire unitary authority. The draft is to be circulated to Councillors for approval before being sent to the appropriate recipients. Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr McCabrey and carried unanimously.

82(a) SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITY ASSETS

No separate decision on this item was recorded in the notes available to the RFO.

83. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS — EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public and press in the public interest for the consideration of confidential personnel and/or legal matters.

The RFO/note taker left the meeting before item 83. Cllr Rainey assumed responsibility for taking the minutes from that point.

83.1 NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 9 — RESTRUCTURING OF WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL

To address councillor's concern over the continual difficulties and discord with the efficient performance of Wolston PC day to day operations, it was proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Kenny and carried unanimously to form a working group to conduct a comprehensive 'fit for purpose' examination of our current structure and methods of operation for now and the future.

83.2 STAFFING UPDATE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR OF HR AND THE CHAIR

Following a debate regarding the way forward in the continuing problems with our staffing arrangements and the discord prevailing it was proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Osmond and unanimously agreed that we should follow the advice and recommendation from WALC to urgently engage professional, external HR specialists to assist in resolving the outstanding staff issues and working arrangements. Such professional guidance will ensure objectivity and an independent view in the event of challenge and will be paid for from the admin budget and/or reserves.

84. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Thursday 3 September 2026 at 7.15 pm at Wolston and Brandon Village Hall, Main Street, Wolston.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Chair