



WROUGHTON & WICHELSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ASSETS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 8 July 2026**

Present

Cllr Lisa Campisano (Chair)
Cllr Mark Trigg (Vice Chair)
Cllr Debbie Hooper
Cllr Martin Barrett
Cllr Toni Moglione
Cllr John Hewer
Cllr Holly Woodward
Cllr Yathi Bangalore

Cllr Matty Courtliff

Emma Freemantle (Clerk)
Thomas Haworth (Deputy Clerk)

Public: 4

CAOS/26

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr L Coady.

CAOS/27

Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation

No declarations of interest or applications for dispensation.

CAOS/28

Public Questions (Maximum of 10 minutes)

To receive and respond to any questions, comments or representations from the public.
4 members of public present all regarding the children's home.

CAOS/29

Minutes

Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2026.

The Chair suspended standing orders and moved agenda item 7 forward. Members of the public present shared interest in the proposal of the new Children's home proposal.

CAOS/30

Update on Plans for a New Children's Home in Wichelstowe

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services Cllr K Tomlinson provided an update on the new proposed plans for the children's home in Wichelstowe. SBC Officers also provided information and updates to support the project.

Key points raised during the discussion included:

SBC advised that approximately £48 million of the Council's budget is currently spent on children's services, placing significant pressure on the authority's finances. Due to a shortage of suitable local placements, many children are currently accommodated in residential homes across the country, often a considerable distance from their families and support networks.

SBC explained that developing local children's homes will help reduce placement costs while providing better outcomes for children by enabling them to remain closer to home and their existing support services.

KT emphasised that modern children's homes should not be viewed as institutional settings. The proposed home would provide a supportive environment for vulnerable children, with access to a range of professional care and support services.

In response to questions regarding the choice of Wichelstowe as the location, KT explained that establishing the home as part of a newly developing community presents a positive opportunity. Building the children's home alongside the wider development allows it to become integrated into the community from the outset, rather than being introduced into an already established neighbourhood.

GL provided additional information regarding the operation of children's homes.

MC explained that this would be SBC's first Council-owned children's home since previous Council-operated homes were sold. The home is intended for low to medium risk children and would not accommodate children with high-risk or high-dependency needs. It was also noted that there is a national shortage of foster carers, increasing the demand for residential provision.

MC referred to a previous children's home in West Swindon that had experienced issues with antisocial behaviour and poor presentation. MC sought reassurance that children living in the proposed home would be fully integrated into the local community. SBC reiterated that the home would be professionally managed and focused on supporting positive community integration.

Parking concerns were raised by both the parish councillors and a member of the public. SBC advised that, although they could not confirm the exact location of the property due to planning and commercial confidentiality, the proposed home includes three dedicated parking spaces, with approximately 15 additional spaces available nearby.

SBC considered the parking provision to be adequate within the proposed pre planning application.

HW asked about staffing levels. SBC confirmed that the home would be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with staff working shifts. Typically, two to three members of staff would be on site at any one time. The home would accommodate children aged 8–17, who would be unlikely to own or drive vehicles.

SBC confirmed that the home would be subject to regular inspection by Ofsted and oversight by the Council to ensure appropriate standards of care, safeguarding and management. GL confirmed that previous rumours regarding a children's home elsewhere in East Wichelstowe were unfounded. Officers advised that other potential properties had been considered and rejected.

Parish Council members asked when details of the proposal would become public. SBC agreed to take the question away and provide clarification. It was noted that the approach

being taken is one of discretion rather than secrecy, with the aim of respecting the privacy and safety of the children who may live at the home.

MT asked whether SBC intended to lead on positive communications about the proposal or whether Wroughton Parish Council should assist. KT confirmed that SBC hoped to undertake positive communications regarding the project.

MC observed that previous adult care home developments had not attracted significant objections and suggested that the Council and local community should work together to reach a positive outcome.

MB requested that SBC continue to keep the Parish Council informed of progress so that members remain fully updated throughout the planning process.

The Chair reinstated standing orders.

CAOS/31

Actions from the Previous Meeting

Members noted the following actions from the previous meeting:

The Deputy Clerk has asked Bauer Media to include upgrades to bus shelters at Listers and Thorney Park in with the new Perrys Lane shelter. Confirmation on whether this is feasible is yet to be received.

Clerk to take forward bus shelter purchase to Perrys Lane, take this forward to the projects meeting in August to decide if the parish council should continue use of CIL funds or does it wait for further information to come back from Bauer Media.

The Parish Council's new 5mph speed sign has been purchased for the allotment track and has been added to the grounds team's programme of works. Installation due this week.

CAOS/31

Updates from Committee Chair

The Chair provided a report, a copy of the written report is attached as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

CAOS/33

Request to Move a Litter Bin at Kellsboro Avenue

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk a copy of which is attached as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

Members RESOLVED to AGREE to move the bin, however the exact location to be revisited by the Deputy Clerk and new photos circulated to the committee for approval via email.

All AGREED the preferred action is to remove the red dog bin already on site altogether and replace with the dual purpose bin moved away from the house.

CAOS/34

Bowls Club Footpath

The Deputy Clerk provided a verbal update on the ongoing communication with the Council's solicitor regarding the future maintenance of the Bowls Club footpath.

The Committee noted that the matter has recently been transferred to a new solicitor, who is currently investigating the preparation of a lease and a licence for the proposed works.

The Parish Council has provided the solicitor with the contact details of SBC's Property Manager to enable direct communication with the owner of the footpath.

It is anticipated that a more detailed update will be available for the next Community Assets and Open Spaces Committee meeting in September.

CAOS/35 Parish Council Projects and Priorities 2026 and Beyond

Members NOTED that the informal projects meeting will take place on 17 August 2026 at 7pm and this will follow from the previous F&GP meeting the same evening.

CAOS/36 Parish Church Clock and Turret

Members received an update in relation to the parish church clock and turret and to consider setting a budget for the 2027/28 financial year, a copy of the report is attached as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

After consideration of the report, it was clear that the committee agreed to the ownership of the clock and mechanism however not clear on ownership of the turret.

Action: Clerk to investigate turret ownership further and confirm at next meeting.

Cllr H. Woodward suggested that, should the Church have insufficient funds to meet the costs of the associated works, it be encouraged to submit an application for a Section 137 grant from the Parish Council

CAOS/37 Vision 4 Wroughton (V4W) : Maintenance of Willowbrook Gardens

Members reviewed the report of the Clerk a copy is attached as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

The Committee noted that, without the continued support of V4W, responsibility for the ongoing upkeep and long-term maintenance of the asset would ultimately rest with the Parish Council. Members expressed their appreciation for the valuable contribution made by V4W and agreed that, wherever possible, efforts should be made to recruit additional volunteers to help strengthen and grow the group's volunteer base in the future.

Action: The Clerk to clarify the outstanding points within the document and liaise with V4W to ensure the content accurately reflects their understanding. The document should also be amended to make clear that ownership of the asset rests with the Parish Council and that, in the absence of V4W, responsibility for maintenance and insurance would revert to the Parish Council.

CAOS/38 Exclusion of Press and Public

None present.

CAOS/39 Legal Advice regarding the Moormead Road Allotments

Cllr H Woodward provided context around the history of the current situation which surrounds the parish councils allotments and its landlord Swindon Borough Council.

Members NOTED the Clerks information along with legal advice from the parish councils solicitor, a copy of which is attached in the Confidential Minute Book.

CAOS/40 Committee Project Tracker

Members received and NOTED the current Committee Project Tracker, a copy of which is attached as Appendix E in the Minute Book.

CAOS/41

Future Agenda Items

- New Planters and suggested locations.
- Moat Pond – Update on the maintenance and schedule of any works.
- Additional fitness equipment, similar to the Weir Field
- Bench request - Weir field, top of the field – half way up the pathway – behind the football goals.
- 13th Sep Cllr T Moglione Litter Pick event
- Litter Pick events and their frequencies.

Meeting finished at 8.34pm.

Signed:

Chair of Community Assets & Open Spaces Committee

Date: