

**Draft Minutes of Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe Parish Council
Extraordinary General Meeting held at Wadenhoe Village Hall Monday
June 1st, 2026 at 7.00pm.**

Please note that all minutes are draft and are approved at the next meeting

In attendance: Carew Treffgarne, (CT, Chair), Toby Baker (TB), John Gent (JG), Chris Grove (CG), Karen Pollock (KP), Gill Williams (GW) and Jonathan Ward-Langman (JBW-L, Clerk). 26 members of the public attended.

Declarations of Interest: JG (item 17, trustee of Wadenhoe Trust), CT (item 20, STAUNCH Campaign Committee).

14. Apologies: none

Public Forum (discussion relating to item 17):

Stephen Hall (Chair, Wadenhoe Trust) explained several reasons for the Trustees' decision to seek planning permission for change of use of the King's Head building into residential accommodation. In summary, The Trust cannot continue subsidising the maintenance of the building as a public house – current estimates for the repair of the roof and sewage plant are cost prohibitive. The problems of parking, litter and anti-social behaviour that have affected the village when the pub has been open appear to be insoluble. Legal restrictions that The Trust would place on any lease to mitigate such problems (e.g. restricting music, opening hours and parties) make it less viable as a business. Similar covenants restricting usage would apply if it were sold. Feedback from King West's marketing of the public house as a commercial opportunity over the last 2 years has indicated that, in its current condition and configuration, the property is not considered to be commercially viable to operate as a public house.

In response to questions from members of the public, he stated that The Trust has not considered making the King's Head an asset of community value, but that option could have been explored by a third party while the tenancy was being marketed. The Trustees have yet to decide whether the building would be sold or rented out if the planning application were to be successful. The experience of previous tenants (serving high quality food, running an adjacent tearoom) suggest that additional investment or innovation would be unlikely to improve the pub's viability. He said that The Wadenhoe Trust aims to conserve the village's architecture and improve the quality of its properties, it does not have any objectives relating to community enhancement beyond that. The Trustees believe that the majority of Wadenhoe residents oppose re-opening of the pub because of the parking and ASB problems. The application has been processed more quickly than expected by North Northants Council, which is why it was not mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. The Trust has been approached to take over the management of the Village Hall and is currently in negotiations to do this. Land attached to the pub would be offered to the Village Hall; this is not suitable for extended car parking due to the risk of flooding.

The Clerk commented that Local Authority Conservation officers did not routinely visit listed buildings unless they were subject to a planning application or a complaint about their state was raised. Any resident or other member of the public could comment on the application as an individual via the NNC planning Portal, irrespective of any view taken by the Parish Council.

Four members of the public (who had been former tenants of the pub or had been involved in its management) stated that they did not believe that the pub could be profitable as a business. A member of the public said that although he regretted the loss of the pub, he was satisfied that all options had been explored. He noted that some interested parties had decided not to apply for tenancies, largely because of the car parking issue and lack of mains sewerage. Several members of the public expressed regret that so many pubs were closing nationally and were sorry that this historic amenity would be lost to the village if this planning application is successful.

15. Minutes of the Parish Council Annual General meeting held on Monday May 11th, 2026: Unanimously approved as a true record (proposed TB, seconded GW).

16. Matters arising from minutes of the Parish Council Annual General meeting held on Monday May 11th, 2026: None.

17.Planning:

- **to consider application for conversion of former public house into a C3 residential dwellinghouse, demolition of rear single-storey extension and associated alterations: The Kings Head, Church Street, Wadenhoe, PE8 5ST. (26/00400/FUL and 26/00401/LBC, attached) and determine any comments or objections to be submitted by the Parish Council:** discussed by the Council. A variety of views were expressed. It was agreed that the Council should support the planning application (proposed GW, seconded TB, 4 votes in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention [conflict of interest]). *Action Clerk*
- **North Northants Council Local Plan Scoping Consultation:** discussed by the Council. Agreed Chair to draft proposed response, circulate for comments and collate. Key points so far noted are:
 - a) Given their 'conservation' status, Pilton and Wadenhoe should be designated 'restraint villages' rather than just 'villages'.
 - b) Insufficient reference to the agricultural economy should be redressed; emphasis on logistics sector considered excessive. *Action: CT*

18. Finance

- It was as agreed to approve the following payment (unanimous, proposed TB, seconded JG). *Action Clerk*

Jon Essam Invoice 87648 Pensions Regulator re-registration	£60.00
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19.Community Speed Watch Initiative (OPFCC Initiative, see below). CT reported. Agreed in principle that the Council would fund the cost of speed monitoring equipment (£150 x 2) for Wadenhoe and Stoke Doyle if volunteers form Community Speedwatch groups. Clerk to find out how equipment is obtained. *Action All/Clerk*

20.Report only.

- Update on NE/22/00698 - The Glebe Farm Land development application. CT reported: Judicial Review now scheduled for 23/24 June 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

Next Meeting: 7pm, 13th July TO BE HELD AT PILTON CHURCH
Jonathan Ward-Langman, Parish Clerk, clerk@piltonstokedoylewadenhoe-pc.gov.uk
June 3rd, 2026

Email May 18th, 2026: Community Speed Watch Initiative relaunched following successful pilot (see item 19)

An improved Community Speed Watch scheme has been rolled out across the county after a successful trial in 2025, with more than 40 groups signed up. The new approach makes it more accessible and easier for volunteers to take part.

Community Speed Watch is a volunteer-led initiative run by Northamptonshire Police's Safer Roads Team in partnership with Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone. The programme empowers local residents to take an active role in improving road safety by helping to reduce speeding in their communities.

Under the new scheme, for a small cost, each Community Speed Watch group has its own speed monitoring equipment, replacing the previous system where devices had to be shared across communities on a month-by-month basis. This meant availability was limited and monitoring periods were shorter.

The scheme is now more accessible. Volunteers can operate the new devices - that are quicker and easier to set up and run - when it is suitable for them, allowing more flexibility.

The new equipment and format was successfully piloted in Staverton last year and has since been rolled out across all existing and new groups.

The Community Speed Watch scheme is designed to be preventative, encouraging safer driving from road users to reduce risk, not to enforce penalties.

Any community group with concerns about speeding and road safety in their area can sign up. The Safer Roads Team assess each proposed location to ensure that it is suitable and safe for the Community Speed Watch to monitor there. The members will then receive training from the Team on how to use the equipment and record vehicle details.

Danielle is part-funding the programme to help make the process more accessible for volunteers and tackle road safety issues.

She said: "Road safety is one of my top priorities, and it is something that residents regularly raise with me. I'm pleased to see the scheme reformed, with new easier to use equipment.

"The Community Speed Watch volunteers generously give their time to help keep their neighbourhoods safer, and the scheme can now give them the flexibility they need to continue making a real difference."

Northamptonshire Police's Safer Roads Team Manager, Matthew O'Connell, said:

"Speeding continues to be one of the main concerns for residents across the county, whether they live in one of our larger urban areas or smaller rural communities.

"To have so many people who are passionate about improving road safety is just fantastic, and we are very grateful for the continued efforts they have made to both their communities and the Force through their volunteering.

"I have no doubt their significant level of commitment makes a real difference and helps to improve road safety and save lives through the invaluable data they provide us as well as the awareness they raise on the dangers of speeding."

Read more: [Community Speed Watch Initiative relaunched following successful pilot - Northamptonshire Police & Fire Commissioner](#)

The groups pay a fee of £150 for the equipment. A further £150 is funded by Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone.

