



**Meeting of the Parish Council
In the Pavilion
6.30pm, Monday 17th March 2025
MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Christine Ashdown, Jean Bragg, David Bromley, Paul Carver, John Davis, Ben Falat, Brian Keller and Sandie Keller.

Also in attendance: Michaela McGoun (Clerk). 2 members of the public. 1 County / District Councillor.

1. Welcome

2. Announcement on Reporting

Councillors and members of the public will be reminded that in the interests of openness and transparency, the law permits filming, recording or other means of reporting of meetings.

3. To receive and consider acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs. Besford-Land, Munro, Turner and Wickard.

4. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

4.1 Receive Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests from councillors on items on the agenda. None

4.2 To receive and consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. None

4.3 To note any dispensations previously granted. Cllr. Falat

6. To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th March 2025

Proposed by Cllr. B Keller, seconded by Cllr. Ashdown. 1 abstention, 7 in favour.

6.1. Outstanding actions: To note actions taken from last meetings which are not detailed on this agenda. NONE

7. Chairman's Report:

There has been a fair amount of antisocial behaviour in the park recently, mostly due to the underage disco held in the Lady of the Lake. The youths were drinking beforehand in the park and smashing bottles in the play park. The second time they smashed the pub up so they will no longer be holding the discos.

The Chairman also informed the Councillors that they must attend a training session as they will not be able to hold any post of office if a course has not been attended.

8. Public Forum and Public Service Reports:

An opportunity for members of the public to make comments on any matters on this agenda. This forum will include **receipt of any written District Council, County Council reports.**

9. To receive an update from FoNEP.

Voluntary hours for February were 163. The VE day anniversary on the 8th May, FoNEP will be in on that day and it is also their 15th Birthday so plans are being made to combine the two celebrations. Removal of the ivy on the trees has stopped due to nesting period. If anyone has any suitable wood for bird boxes, they would like to donate. FoNEP will repair the fence to the dinghy park with some posts that the Grounds staff have. East Suffolk Services have donated some bags of compost. Cllr. Bragg has offered FoNEP some posts which she doesn't need.

Cllr. S Keller asked how one of the FoNEP volunteers is doing and asked for the Parish Councils best wishes to be sent to him.

10. To Note the signage at Slaters Pit

The signage has gone up at Slaters Pit in time for the closed season. The Clerk received a phone call from Cllr. Robinson who has received complaints regarding the signage and the closed season. Clerk advised that as the Parish Council own the pond, we could impose any rules or determine what happens. The closed season is to protect the fish whilst spawning.

11. To receive a Finance and Projects Brief

Finance Report to Full Council - 17-March-2025

Previous Minutes: –

Surface repairs to Boulevard amusements completed and looking good

Christmas Lane suggestion to circumvent difficulties of 'Grant' is that

OBPC purchases lights & signage, retaining such for future use.

Signage at Slaters: completed & ready for installation.

Kesgrave Field needs to be surveyed for contamination; once we

have this then a comprehensive proposal can go forward to full council

(surface levelling → Playing Field).

Standing Orders for approval of Grants do not require amending,

since they state that each be assessed on own merits, purely then

governed by budget availability.

AoB Security has seen an uplift of £1.8k for additional hours covering

8-weeks additional guard cover.

The spend profile through Feb/Mar was consistent within the 12-month

Precept with full balance on account having fallen by £5,285 (note Precept

50%÷12 = ~£6k)

CCTV cameras: additional 2 cameras authorised for pinch-points near Museum & Old Forge. We own the current system and these 2 cameras, as extras to be purchased (the system has the capacity).

Note:– That existing work at Colmans Shed to make camera installation more efficient still needs pursuing (Cllr Falat has key access).

The EDF invoices for Museum & Office appear excessive at ~£22k. The suggestion for Full Council is that we employ an independent electrician to survey the system and report on any unusually high current-draws; there may be a 'leak' in the system, but until we know, we cannot fully challenge the invoices. Anticipated cost of such survey is <£500 which may provide a positive response, or may not; but at least a better understanding.

Insurance proposal was shared around Finance Committee appears sound and it is recommended to agree to another rolling 3-year contract.

Cllr. Bromley commented on Christmas Lane with concerns regarding the signs as if we don't get permission the signs could be removed by Highways.

12. To approve the payments for this month and in between meetings.

Monthly			
MC Cleaning	Office / pavilion		£117.00
Norfolk Copiers	Copy costs		£34.24
Daisy	Phone/internet		
EDF	Pavilion		£212.82
EDF	HM Toilets etc		£44.06
ADHOC			
NPTS	Cllr Training x 3	£	195.00
AJ Builders	Resin surface 1	£	7,308.00
AJ Builders	repair wall	£	3,930.00
AJ Builders	Resin surface 2	£	7,374.00
AJ Builders	wall repair	£	4,516.80
			-£23,731.92
INCOME			
P Petty	Rent		£240.00
Bank	Interest		£1,095.33
TOTAL			£1,335.33

Proposed by Cllr. B Keller

Seconded by Cllr. Bromley

All in favour.

13. To discuss supporting yellow lines at Swonnells Court / Malsters Way

The matter was discussed, and it was agreed to support their application if there is no cost to the Parish Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Ashdown, seconded by Cllr. Bragg, all in favour.

14. To discuss energy bills

This was brought from Finance as a suggestion to have an electrical survey carried out on the Museum and the office to see what is using all the electricity.

Cllr. Davis reported that the pump in the Museum is permanently pumping which could be using a lot of electricity.

It was agreed to go ahead with the survey.

Proposed by Cllr. Falat, seconded by Cllr B Keller, all in favour.

To note date of next Annual Parish Meeting, Council Meeting and Committee Meetings: Finance Committee Thursday 10th April 2025 4pm, Full Council 28th April 2025 6pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.19pm.

Signed by the Chairman..... Date.....