



Meeting of the Parish Council

In the Pavilion

Following the Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 16th March 2026

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Christine Ashdown, Jean Bragg, David Bromley, Paul Carver, John Davis, Ben Falat, Jo Turner and Val Wickard.

Also in attendance: Michaela McGoun (Clerk). 1 member of the public. 1 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. B & S Keller, Bragg and Besford-Land.

4. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

4.1 Receive Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests from councillors on items on the agenda.

4.2 To receive and consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

4.3 To note any dispensations previously granted.

5. To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 February 2026

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

6. Outstanding actions: To note actions taken from last meetings which are not detailed on this agenda.

15.2 Kesgrave field play park quote – not received but in hand.

7. Chairman's Report:

The land spring drain clearance is in progress; the park gates were closed for H & S reasons while they worked on the bridge area.

The bridge is in bad repair and beginning to collapse, not from these works but a historic damage.

We will need to put a weight restriction on it until repairs can be completed.

We have received a repeated annual complaint regarding the precept increase. A meeting was offered previously to explain how the finances work but that was ignored.

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.**

District Councillor Gee highlighted that emergency vehicles will not be restricted to any weight limits.

There is not much going on, the budget was approved in February. She was pleased the Box Up has full approval for funding.

9. To receive an update from FoNEP and agree any necessary action.

Voluntary hours for February were 91, lower than usual as without the stall we are always a few people short. Plug plants will be delivered next week, busy lizzies will be delivered, the college will be sending in a group of students again this year. FoNEP all have new High Viz vests. We have had some complaints about bedding plants around the roses, so we won't do that anymore. FoNEP have donated their gazebo to the Trust.

Chair thanked all the FoNEP volunteers.

10. To receive a Finance & Projects Brief.

Café windows – replacement in progress for completion before re opening.

OB Primary School – Traffic cones purchase, split between OBPC & OPC has been rejected by OPC as unreasonably large number of cones and has the caretaker got the capacity to action daily. Continues liaison between Clerks is ongoing.

Parish press – Has gone to print and will be delivered by Royal mail before Easter.

Mini Zoo – Whilst the mini zoo is closed, the signs have been covered up so people don't try to go in.

Finances – Current acct - £1,981.73

Reserves - £300,202.10

Nursery Close – Bollard purchased to prevent vehicle access

Box Up – Will be re sited alongside the tennis courts out of the flood risk.

Tennis Court – Treatment of tennis courts was agreed and will include an ongoing maintenance contract.

11. To note Planning application decisions

None received

12. To discuss a request from Norfolk Angels

This was discussed and agreed in principle to support their request if it is for the local Waveney area, but more information required.

13. To note tennis court treatment

This was mentioned earlier within the Finance brief.

14. To receive a brief from Cllr. Bromley on Commodore Road car park.

Cllr. Bromley shared the article from the Lowestoft Journal, he explained he had received a petition from 37 local residents asking for him to investigate the car park changes as a Councillor. Cllr. Bromley gave the Councillors a background of the building and car park. Cllr. Falat stated that the petition needed to be given to the Clerk, and that from his understanding it is a potential change of use for the land as although previously commercial it was private to the

public which a pay for car park is not. Cllr. Falat also pointed out that in the brief it refers to Oulton Parish Council which is not relevant to this concern.

Cllr. Falat suggested to the Councillors that they take this forward in that we recognise the issues, this was unanimous that the Councillors were interested in taking the matter forward. Cllr. Carver agreed we should send an official letter to East Suffolk Chair of Planning that we raise concerns over the car park use.

District Cllr. Gee stated that she had been involved as a mediator and has written to several departments and no one has engaged, she also contacted Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Highways to insist they do need planning approval.

To note the next Parish Council meeting and committee meetings: Finance Committee 9 April, Full Council 20 April 2026.

15. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

1. To discuss Water Sports Centre
Nothing to discuss

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.22pm.

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