



## Meeting of the Parish Council

### In the Pavilion

Following the Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 20 April 2026

### MINUTES

**Present: Councillors Christine Ashdown, Anthony Besford-Land, David Bromley, Paul Carver, John Davis, Ben Falat, Sandie Keller, 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 Keller and Bragg. County Councillor Back.

#### 4. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

4.1 Receive Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests from councillors on items on the agenda. BF on 15.1

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 March 2026

**Proposed by Cllr. Ashdown, seconded by Cllr. Carver, 1 abstention, 7 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 came in at around £92,000.00. Cllr. Ashdown and the Clerk will meet to discuss ways to reduce the cost.

The Parish Press was due to be delivered before Easter but the process of labelling each copy is taking so long to complete.

#### 7. Chairman's Report:

Cllr. S Keller announced that as she had been absent for a while, the Vice Chair would give the report.

The Bromley report from the last meeting is ongoing.

The internal audit has been completed and no issues found, this report will be taken to Full Council in May.

We are waiting on Anglian Water to help sort through the debris removed from the land spring drain.

We were informed of a request to open the Boulevard gates for a funeral; this request has not come through the Parish Council.

### **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.**

Yes, this is an update that, since the last meeting, we have finally received, a decree from the government as to how the new unitary system should operate, and, to our great relief, it is not going to be one monstrous one sentence, which is going to... there are going to be three.

But East Suffolk, Will remain as far as concerned, as far, probably as Woodbridge. Beyond that, the Felixstowe, that is going to go into Ipswich. But, having said that, although it will be then centred in the north, as Lowestoft is the biggest town, what we are taking on board or the new Authority will be taking on board part of Mid Suffolk, which will extend as far as Stowmarket and that region, which will be a long way for them to come for meetings but those based in Lowestoft it is probably a relief to not have to travel.

Council next year. And then we, as we suffer, will be dissolved in 2028.

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

Voluntary hours for March were 111. The plug plants have been delivered and currently being potted. We will be looking for an alternative site for the busy lizzies following complaints of them being around the roses. The Cherry Tree for outside the Harbour Masters office will cost around £120.00 and Carol will pay the Parish Council for it, Clerk to contact East Suffolk Services for the exact figure. Soil is needed for the boat planter; it was agreed that soil from the land spring drain can be used. The begonias are potted and shooting up ready for the hanging baskets.

Chair thanked all the FoNEP volunteers.

### **10. To receive a Finance & Projects Brief.**

Previous months spend was in the region of £14,000.00, however, right through the year, 11 months' worth, we've been well under, profile spending. Compared to last year we are £16,500.00 up which will be transferred to EMR, which would raise the reserve to £69,000.00 which is better than it has been, but still not up to the recommended 1/3 or 1/2 of the precept. We are also expecting a VAT reclaim for the parish which is another £10,000.00 which has not been accounted for yet. The box Up has been moved today and will be repaired shortly. The new pad it is sitting on cost £320.00 and is over near the tennis courts.

Tennis courts have been moss treated and cleaned

**11. To note Planning application decisions**

None received

**12. To discuss the Banksy**

Clerk was contacted by County Councillor Letita Smith who along with other colleagues is interested in helping towards restoring the Banksy as part of Lowestoft becoming an Arts & Cultural Town. Clerk to contact Kerry Blair to ask for a meeting.

Cllr. Davis suggested having the bridge repaired first. We will need a conservationist to work alongside the structural engineer.

**To note the next Parish Council meeting and committee meetings: Finance Committee 7 May, AMPC 11 May 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. Boatshed lease and crane access
  
- 2. Shed 5 lease.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 18.48pm.

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