

MINUTES
Blundeston & Flixton Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 17th February 2025

Present: -, Mr G Wade (Chairman), Miss M Wright, Mr P Button, Cllr P Ashdown, Cllr K Robinson, Mrs B Shaw, Mr S Rees, (Vice Chairman) Mr K Blowers, Mr C Harris, Mr R Leach, Mrs G Soanes, Mrs E Sparkes, & 9 Parishioners were present.

1. **Apologies**-Mrs D McKernan, Cllr E Back.
2. **Declaration of interests:** No Declaration of interest
3. **Approval of Minutes:** minutes of the previous meetings held on 20th January 2025 were approved and signed.

4. **Update on ongoing matters-**

Fly Tipping Queensway- fly tipping” in the small wood adjacent to the old clay pit (pond) at the back of Queens Way.

As no one seems to own the land it was agreed to contact the Environment Health team as there are some hazardous materials like gas canisters and fire extinguishers. Cllr P Ashdown will give the clerk the details to forward on.

Sign in Market Lane at the bottom of short road still Damaged

Sign in Market Lane at the bottom of short road Damaged, This has been going on since 2022, the clerk will email East Suffolk Services again.

White Lines at the corner opposite the Fruit Hill Farm Entrance

This has been reported again on the reporting tool. We had a reply to say they will continue to monitor this during routine inspections.

Footpath between The Street and Market Lane

Still no further updates to report.

Planning Application Decisions

Cllr P Ashdown said that the only way we will see the decisions would be to go onto the Portal to check.

House in Lound Road regarding fence

Cllr P Ashdown said that there is still a planning application in for this that is still under review, and asked the clerk to look who the case officer is and contact them.

Play Park Repairs/Inspections

This is still in progress

Millennium Green Trees

We are still waiting for the Tree Surgeon to come out and give us a cost for the work to be done it was also raised that the tree that was planted for the Queens Jubilee the plaque has been removed and also the W.I tree the plaque has been removed.

Village Hall

It was agreed to ask the village hall management team get some posters done so that we can put up on the notice boards and websites and the village shop.

Footpath between Lound Road and Flixton Road safety gate has been blown down

This was reported on the tool twice they came back with a report to say the gate may have been installed by Waveney District Council (Now East Suffolk Council)They will instruct a contractor to remove the gate but will not replace.

5. **Clerks Report:** let everyone know that Miss E Ball has agreed to do the Internal Audit again this year at the cost of £100 all agreed this at the meeting.

6. **15 Minutes for Parishioner input-**

Three Parishioner’s raised concerns about the village hall, this was discussed fully with all the members of the parish council and it was decided which way to go forward with this issues and the fallen numbers of groups not attending the meetings of the village hall and several ideas where put forward as to help get the vacant bookings filled in the way of posters, hexagon and village life and Cllr Keith Robinson has offered some funding with storage areas at the hall for groups. The chairman will organise a meeting with the secretary to send out letter/email to all local groups inviting them to a management meeting to discuss all these matters further.

7. Other Parish Business (Parish Councillors).

It was raised that the Ditches along Market Lane after persistent rain the road is often flooded there is hardly any water in the ditches it was asked if it is highways issue as no cut out for the water to get in the ditches and if they build the new garden village where will all the water go it was asked to put this on the reporting tool.

The armistice soldier silhouettes will be removed on Thursday and put into storage.

It was mentioned that the play park inspection was done and it was reported that it is getting really weedy on the protective matting, and also the roundabout mat is getting very thin in one place it was agreed to take some photos and the clerk will email NGF Play as we have a 5 year warranty on the matting.

It was asked if we could all agree a date for our annual litter pick this was agreed to be on Saturday 8th March at 9.30 am at the village hall. The clerk will send the posters round and put on the notice boards.

A Parishioner has asked a councillor if it would be possible to make Pound Lane a one way street, as this is really bad with all the school buses and cars at school time, this would need a traffic regulation order at a cost of around £10,000 Cllr K Robinson said he would have a look at the cost and what would be involved.

It was asked about the Sid boards that have been ordered and if the posts are on order Cllr K Robinson said he spoke to them yesterday and they are on a 14 week order and also the training Cllr K Robinson said once we know when the Sid board is arriving he would help.

It was raised again about the Barrier that was taken down at the school at the other end of church road, Badger Builders have been asked to reinstate the barriers Cllr P Ashdown said he would talk to Justine Coote at Badger Builders.

8. **County Councillors Report (Cllr K Robinson and Cllr E Back)** Keith mentioned that Cllr Edward back has had an operation and is recovering well. Keith also spoke in depth about Devolution where one council does everything and that we would dissolve six councils and just have one it should release a min of around £40 million a year the money saved would not go back to the government we would spend it more efficiency. A Mayor would be voted in in May 2026.

Keith also said as far as our village hall is concerned that he might have a bit of funding for new lockers for the storage.

9. **District Councillors Report:** (Cllr P Ashdown) added a bit more to the above and said that the majority of councillors we have now are of a certain age but with the new unity they need to encourage a younger set and will need a good salary with a full-time role.

East Suffolk Council Tax will go up by 2.99% and will go through next Wednesday County will go up by 2% for social care precept then 2.99% for general rates.

The next Northern parishes community meeting will be held at the Seagull Theatre on Tuesday 4th March 18.00-20.00 with the possibility of running a another small grants scheme for new projects.

10. **To Consider planning applications as listed below plus any further applications received before the meeting.** DC/25/0453/FUL|Two storey front, side and rear extensions and new detached double garage with home gym.|Windy Ridge Lound Road Blundeston Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5AT

The Parish Council rejected this Planning Application at the meeting

11. Other Points for discussion

Approval of the following policies as circulated to the PC member's

ANTI-HARASSMENT AND BULLYING POLICY

DISCIPLINARY POLICY

FLEXIBLE WORKING POLICY

GRIEVANCE POLICY

The above policies have been read and agreed with the councillors present

Election and Re/Election Blundeston Charity Trust

Graham reported that 2 trustees for the Blundeston Charity trust were due for election re/election at the March Parish Council meeting. The current trustees are Graham Wade, Paul Button, Julie Hetherington, and John Nichols, John Nichols has resigned from the post, Graham has said he is happy to stand for a further 4- Year period so we will have a vacancy. Anyone interested should speak to the clerk or a trustee.

Updated Budget/Forecast 2025/2026

This was agreed at the meeting with the councillor's present

12. Expenditure	£39.95 Spangle Fish (website)
	£38.40 SALC Clerks Training
	£8.50 Expenses for Clerk two Lever Arch Files
Income	£23.00 Clothing Recycle Bin
	Budget/Forecast (Quarter)
	Bank Reconciliation (Quarter)

13. Correspondence for Information

To note the attaches appendix of items which have been circulated

SCC Highways - Blundeston Footpath 002, Blundeston - Ref – 503471

Urgent Complaint Regarding Lack of Maintenance on Roundabout on B1375

14. – Emails All have been read prior to the meeting

Chief executive's bulletin - 23 January 2025

Planning data now available (East Suffolk)

Culture in East Suffolk Network Events (Feb/March)

The Rural Bulletin - 28 January 2025

Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partnership

Volunteering @ Citizens Advice

Saved search results and Tracked Applications have been updated

Chief executive's bulletin - 30 January 2025

Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2025

Consultations of interest

January 2025 Monthly Newsletter (Cllr K Robinson)

EP Passenger Interest Group meeting 08.01.25 – minutes

Devolution - update 3rd February 2025 Suffolk on the fast track

Chief executive's bulletin - 6 February 2025 (NALC)

Suffolk Family Carers - upcoming workshop for Armed Forces Family Carers

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm
2025

The next meeting is scheduled for, Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.30pm

