

**MINUTES**  
**Blundeston & Flixton Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Present:** - Mr G Wade (Chairman), Mr S Rees (Vice Chairman), Miss M Wright (Acting Clerk), Mr P Button, Mrs B Shaw, Mr K Blowers, Mr R Leech, Mrs D McKernan, Mrs E Sparkes, Cllr P Ashdown, Cllr K Robinson, & 7 parishioners.

- 1. Apologies:** Mrs A Coleman (Parish Clerk), Mrs G Soanes, Mr C Harris, Cllr E Back.
- 2. Declaration of interests:** Mr R Leech declared an interest in planning application DC/25/0795/TPO/TPO/028/2021
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th February 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**  
The Chairman reported that he had ascertained that the area known as Furze Common Pit near Queensway was owned by the Parish Council. Emails have already been sent to East Suffolk Council regarding the fly-tipping and a response is awaited before any further action is taken. It appears this is historic rubbish, but once it is cleared if there are any further instances of fly-tipping then the Parish Council may consider installing security cameras in the area, which could result in prosecutions taking place against those responsible.

**Sign in Market Lane at the bottom of Short Road** - it was reported that this has now been repaired.

**Footpath between The Street and Market Lane** -no further updates

**Play Park Repairs policy** - a meeting is to be arranged with a representative from ESC to discuss what is required

#### **Millennium Green Trees**

Despite assurances from our insurers, concerns were raised about this work being undertaken by volunteers, in particular relating to Health & Safety issues. We have had a quote for the work required and it was agreed that a further meeting would be arranged with the contractor to see exactly what work is needed, as he inspected the trees without a member of the PC present. It was mentioned that Highways can provide H&S training and the kit required and Cllr Robinson is to follow this up. During the discussion, concerns were also raised about H&S implications for the Thursday night gang and the litter pick - these are included in the Risk Assessment policy on the Parish Council website but we need to consider this further.

#### **Village Hall**

Posters have been placed around the village and ideas are being discussed to generate more business for the hall. The owner of the field behind the hall has been approached to see if that could be used, with a percentage of any charge being donated to a charity of his choice, and we are awaiting his reply. The storage rooms need to be tidied up and partitioned off for various groups to use. It was confirmed that all invoicing and payments are up to date.

#### **Playpark inspection re matting**

Awaiting contact from the contractors to arrange a site visit when they are next in the area.

#### **Barriers on the footpath between Hall Road and the school**

Cllr Robinson advised that this is being chased up by Highways to enforce reinstatement of the barriers that were removed when the footpath was resurfaced.

**5. Clerks Report:** In the absence of the Clerk, she had asked that the following be raised –

Form received from Bruno Peek re the VE day celebrations was discussed and completed  
Thanks was given to Cllr Robinson for funding the SID board – this has now been received and we are awaiting installation of the posts and training of volunteers before this can be brought into use.

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

It was asked if a free estimate could be obtained for the work required on the trees on the Millenium Green. This has already been done and as previously mentioned a further meeting is to be arranged with the contractor.

In terms of the playpark, it was suggested that a sign be put up to say that the PC have no responsibility for any usage and that users do so at their own risk. It was advised that signage is in place with wording as agreed with the contractor.

Ken Ward asked if he would be required to give his British Legion speech at the lighting of the beacon on VE day and it was confirmed that he would do so.

The dog poo bin next to the duck pond at the Market Lane end of the footpath needs to be replaced. Cllr Ashdown said he can fund this but asked that the application be delayed until 1 April. Clerk to obtain quote and action request for funding.

It was raised that the footpath between Market Lane and The Street had become extremely slippery after recent rain and is considered dangerous. This has previously been inspected and we were advised that no work was required. However, this is to be reported again via the Highways reporting tool – Clerk to action.

**7. Other Parish Business (Parish Councillors):**

It has been reported that dogs are being let off the lead on the Millenium Green and there is a considerable amount of dog poo on there, which is not pleasant for other users. There are notices on the two main entrances and it was agreed to get another one for the entrance at the junction of Short Road and Market Lane, and also to put a statement on the village Facebook page asking dog owners to be considerate of others.

The playpark hedge has been cut back but the resident next door has raised concerns about children who are getting through the hedge then poking sticks through the fence at his dogs. However, he has said he will look at putting new panels in place to try and stop this from happening. Thanks was expressed to all the volunteers who helped with clearing away the hedge cuttings.

A parishioner has raised concerns about the storage of historic Parish Council minutes. It was confirmed that the parishioner has already been contacted and been advised that these are stored safely.

Thanks was expressed for a record breaking attendance at the village litter pick – 39 people in total. The rubbish has not yet been collected by ESC and this is to be chased up. ESC are also to be asked if they can provide more hoops for the litter bags.

The annual Brain Tumour coffee morning will take place on Saturday 29 March from 10-12.30 in the Village Hall. Tesco in Great Yarmouth have kindly agreed to provide tea, coffee, sugar, milk and biscuits.

It was suggested that a member of the PC goes on the Village Hall Management committee and Mrs D McKernan volunteered to do this.

The duck signs by the pond were raised – Cllr Robinson reported that there is an overall review of such signage and he is waiting to hear the outcome.

## 8. County Councillors Report (Cllr K Robinson and Cllr E Back)

The monthly SCC newsletter had been sent round to all councillors and there were no questions arising.

Cllr Robinson provided an update on devolution. SCC have voted for one unitary council for Suffolk which should provide savings of approx. £103m over the first five years. This money can then be spent on front line services. Having one council will mean that services will be more joined up with no differential between ESC & SCC. There will still be local councillors and Parish Councils can have more powers if they so wish.

## 9. District Councillors Report: (Cllr P Ashdown)

Cllr Ashdown advised that the ESC vote on devolution will take place on Wednesday 19 March.

There is a new leaflet for the Buzzbus service and funding is in place to run the service until April 2026. The more people who use it, the more funding will be provided to continue running the service.

## 10. The following planning applications were discussed

DC/25/0795/TPO/TPO/028/2021 – T1 1no. Oak (marked on plan) Crown thin by up to 30%, The Willows, 12 The Street, Blundeston – Approved

DC/25/0660/FUL New single storey timber building with pitched roof comprising 3 n. car ports, Whitehouse Farm, Rackhams Corner, Blundeston – Approved

DC/25/0453/FUL Windy Ridge, Lound Road, Blundeston – ESC have asked for further comments from the Parish Council and these were discussed and agreed. Clerk to submit comments to ESC.

DC/25/0859/FUL Single storey rear extension and side window at ground floor, Copper Cottage, Market Lane, Blundeston – Approved.

## 11. Other Points for discussion

### Approval of the following policies as circulated to the PC members

Freedom of Information Policy

Information Technology Policy

Data Protection Policy

Updates to Financial Regulations and Anti-Harrassment and Bullying Policy

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

### Election and Re/Election Blundeston Charity Trustees

Mr G Wade and Mr P Button confirmed they are happy to be reappointed. Following the retirement of Mr J Nichols a vacancy has arisen and Miss M Wright confirmed she is happy to stand. In the absence of any other nominations, she was duly elected.

## 12. Finances

<b>Expenditure</b>	£30.00 Clerks Allowance
	£40.50 Clerks expenses re hamper for Cllr E Back
	£26.94 Clerks HP ink/paper subscription for 3 months
	£380.00 Kevin Jones res cutting the playpark hedge

<b>Income</b>	£1,984.20 VAT reclaim
	£14.00 Clothing recycling bank
	£3,720.00 Funding for SID board
	£75.80 Bank interest

**13. Correspondence for Information - no correspondence received**

**14. Emails - all have been read prior to the meeting**

NGF – matting to playpark

Cllr Robinson - February 2025 monthly newsletter

ESC – Windy Ridge planning application DC/25/0453/FUL

Rural workshop attendance

Suffolk Police – adopt online portal to help locate vulnerable missing people

NALC – Chief Executives’s bulletin 13 March 2025

Planning and Building Control newsletter March 2025

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.38pm  
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm