

MINUTES
Blundeston & Flixton Annual Meeting
Held on Monday 19th May 2025

Present: - Mr G Wade (Chairman), Mr S Rees (Vice-chairman), Mrs G Soanes, K Blowers, Mrs B Shaw, Mr P Button, Mrs E Sparkes, Mrs D McKernan, Mr R Leach, & 10 parishioners were present.

Annual reports were available from the Parish Council Chairman, Blundeston & District Local History Society, Blundeston Charity Trustees, 1st Blundeston Scout Group, Blundeston, Village Hall Management Committee, Blundeston in Bloom, Blundeston and Flixton W.I Full copies of these reports are available from the clerk or on the Website.

The annual meeting closed at 7.25pm

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1. Election of Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson

The Clerk took over the meeting for the election, Paul Button proposed Mr. Graham Wade as Chairperson, and this was seconded by Glenis Soanes and all other Councillors at the meeting. Mr. Graham Wade said that he was happy to continue and following a unanimous vote Mr. Graham Wade was re-elected as Chairperson. Mr. Steven Rees agreed to carry on as Vice Chair and this was agreed by all Councillors at the meeting Mr. Rees agreed to continue and following a unanimous vote he was re-elected as Vice Chair.

2. Apologies: Miss M Wright, Cllr P Ashdown, Cllr K Robinson, Mr C Harris

3. Declaration of interests: Cllr P Button declared an Interest in point 10

DC/24/3383/FUL|Conversion of Barn following Class Q prior approval to form single residential dwelling|Agricultural Barn Lowestoft Road Blundeston Suffolk

4. Approval of minutes of previous meetings held on...Monday 14th April 2025..... are a true and correct record These minutes were approved at the meeting.

5. 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. A Parishioner thanked the Parish for clearing the Fly-tipping but had few questions they wanted to ask.

Questions pertaining to the documentation detailing ownership of the land:-

The Parish Council said that after some lengthy investigation the land belongs to the Parish.

In what form is the documentation detailing who owns the land?

The Parish Council have the document and only found it recently after a lot of investigation it was asked if they could have a copy of the documents and was told that Parish Deeds are not for public reading.

What was the distribution of the PC circulation delivered **12th May 2025**, did this go out to **ALL** the households in the village?

This letter was circulated just to the residents of Queensway and Copperfield Terrace due to the fact of a lot of garden waste/Christmas trees if this was left it would encourage more Fly-Tipping the parishioner said that there was still some other rubbish in the pit due to the drop in the water level the Parish have said that going forward that the pit is clear now and they do not want no more added to it.

it was asked if we could get a volunteer group together but there is no public right of way to get to the pit so we cannot organise any community groups as it is just a historical pit that belongs to the Parish in part and the local land owner in part it would be trespassing a few years ago motorbikes used to use this that's why the land has been left to be over grown so people should not be accessing the pit.

Tombola at Barkis Meadow

The Blundeston and Flixton WI have asked again if they could have a fund Raiser day on the Barkis Piece Land as there subs have gone up and from the fund raising this has helped keep the cost down, the date of the 28th June clashes with the Nelsons Journey event at the Plough Inn it was asked if they could come up with another date all the Parish Councillors agreed this at the meeting.

Play Park Repairs/Annual reports

A Councillor will follow this up for the meeting in June.

Barriers on Footpath between Hall Road and the School

It was asked if the clerk could email Badger Builders as the barrier still has not been replaced.

Footpath between The Street and Market Lane

Still ongoing issue

Sid Board update

We now have the sid board, the pole has been put up in Market lane, A Councillor said that she will speak to Cllr K Robinson, regarding some training that he advised and the Health and Safety aspects, then maybe organize a meeting with the volunteers it was also asked that we would need some Hi Vis Vests this was agreed at the meeting.

6.Clerks Report-

The clerk told all that the Internal Audit had been done and that the Exemption Certificate had now been sent to the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn.

Also on looking at the Insurance Quote it was noticed that the CCTV is not insured and asked if this needed to be amended, it was agreed to get a quote from the insurance company in the first instance.

7. Public Participation input (15 Mins)

A Parishioner asked about the Telephone Box in Queensway, it was asked who owns this, the Parish Council own the box, it was asked if a Parishioner could turn it into a Book Exchange this was agreed at the meeting and if this went ahead the parish would supply the correct paint for the job to be completed

The 1st Blundeston Scouts Group wanted to let the parish know about some events coming up they want to involve more parents so we have arranged the following events

Scout Summer Picnic 12th July 2025-12-3

Scarecrow Tour -afternoons of the 29th/30th October

Scout Halloween Disco 31st October 2025

Leaflets will be sent around to advertise these events, also that in the future we might need a new leader to help if anyone is interested please let us know.

And if we know of anything that the scouts can help with please let us know.

8.Other Parish Business (Parish Councillors) The following matters were discussed with the councillor's present -

A Councillor asked if the Parish wanted the Annual Play Park inspection done again this year it was agreed to get this booked in for June.

Also it was mentioned about the Tree Surgeon that had given us a quote for some work to be done about 3 Months ago has anything been agreed for him to do the work another councillor said that he would follow this up.

It was asked about the Roundabout on the play park if we are going to get a new one as he knew someone who would like to donate to get it replaced. The Parish is not sure what to do with the roundabout at this point it was agreed to investigate this matter further.

A Parishioner has asked if the village could have another Dog Waste Bin at the other side of the Millennium Green/ Church Road end. This was not agreed at the meeting .

It was noticed that the Millennium Green Beacons post was badly rotten so it was removed last week we have obtained a couple of quotes for a new oak pole which are well over £1500.00 it was asked if the clerk could email Bruno Peaks to see if there is any funding or point us in the right direction. The Grip Basket and the sign will need to be re painted and powder coated.

9.District and County Councillors Report: (Cllr P Ashdown) Has sent his apologies for this meeting and (Cllr Keith Robinson, Cllr Edward Back) both sent their apologies for this meeting.

10.To consider planning applications as listed below plus any further applications received before the meeting.

DC/24/3383/FUL|Conversion of Barn following Class Q prior approval to form single residential dwelling|Agricultural Barn Lowestoft Road Blundeston Suffolk

This Application was agreed at the meeting by the Parish Councillors present

11..Other points for discussion

Play Park Accident

There was an incident at our play park on the roundabout which has now been removed from the play park

To Discuss our monthly meetings for 2025/2026

It was suggested that we only hold 10 meetings a year and not have a meeting in August and December this was all agreed at the meeting but to be mindful of planning application's that might come in.

To agree the quote for the new website that has been sent around to comply with generic emails.

This was agreed at the meeting the clerk will follow this up.

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

Updated Standing order in line with NALC

These were approved at the meeting by all the councillors present at the meeting

13. Finances:

Expenditure £30.00 David Bracey Play Park Inspection

£312.00 New Dog Waste Bin

£6.68 Employers National Insurance

£112.94.00 Clerk Expenses Voucher for Internal Auditor/Refreshments for **AGM**

and Envelopes.

The Chairman let the Councillors know that the clerk has done 6.5 hours extra this month due to Year End

This was agreed at the meeting.

Income:- - £5126.88 Neighborhood Cil
£7500.00 First Installment Precept
£260.00 Dog Waste bin Cllr P Ashdown Funded
£26.00 Clothing Recycle

Approval Annual Accounts

Approval of Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025
Approval of Section 2 Annual Accounting Statement 2024/2025
These were all agreed at the meeting

Bank Reconciliation (Every Quarter)
Budget/Forecast (Every Quarter)

Insurance Quote 2025/206

The Quote was agreed and it was also agreed to go ahead for the three-year fixed rate option the CCTV cover will be added if not too expensive.

21. Emails

Lowestoft Neighbourhood Plan – Consultation
Nominations for the 2025 Suffolk Adult Learners' Awards - 1 Week Left!
Countywide – Over 140 offences detected during operation
Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Small Grant Scheme "Try It" - Live for applications
Grants to community organisations
Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partners
Knife crime in Suffolk sees 20% drop in latest figures
April Monthly Newsletter (Cllr K Robinson)
Opportunity to quiz the PCC and Chief Constable
Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner's Update: May 2025
Local Government Review - a survey to seek views on council services [OFFICIAL]
Bus Stop Improvements and Passenger Group meeting

Any other Business

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 16th June 2025 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm