

## . MINUTES

### **Blundeston & Flixton Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Present:** - Mr G Wade (Chairman), Mr S Rees, (Vice Chairman) , Mr K Blowers ,Mr P Button, Mrs G Soanes, Mr C Harris, Mrs D McKernan, Miss E Gowen, Mrs E Sparkes, Mr R Leech, Cllr P Ashdown, Cllr K Robinson,& 10 Parishioners were present.

1. **Apologies**, Miss M Wright, Cllr E Back Apologies have been excepted.
2. **Declaration of interests:** There was no declaration of interest at this meeting
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meetings held on 19th January 2026 were approved and signed.
4. **Update on ongoing matters-**  
**Village Hall-**Hopefully there will be a meeting in March.

**Roundabout in Playpark-**Kevin was in Beccles so he called into BFS to see if it was ready for collection only to find that it needs a bit more work on the Centre spindle they have agreed to block in the gaps so children cannot get their hands caught inside this will mean an extra cost to the original quote it was agreed to go ahead to get this done.

**Overgrown Hedge in Footpath of Lound Road/Flixton Road-**This has been reported on the reporting tool and the council will contact the owner of the property.

**Update on Work on Telephone Mast-**The work will start on the Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and will last for three days.

**Lawn Mower Replacement** -This has been paid for and will be delivered in March.

**Maintenance and Play Park inspections-**All the forms have been filled in for this to commence in April and the clerk has asked if we will get one in February and March but in the meantime Rod and Emily will continue to do their checks, the Chairman thanked them again for doing the inspections.

**SID Board re Volunteers and Data-**It was asked again if Emily has had any help from the volunteers and any luck with getting data from the board- the machine needs a Windows or Android device to download the data the Councillor said re the volunteer's that it will be difficult for them to do it as it is so heavy but is willing to ask if anyone is interested again to help with Sid Board If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please contact the clerk at [Clerk@blundestonflixtonparish.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@blundestonflixtonparish.gov.uk)

**5.Clerks Report-**Anya mentioned that Glenis Soanes and herself went through the Internal Controls Statement and Glenis signed every part of the statement the only issue that came out of this was that the clerk needs to have an Annual Performance Appraisal . The Clerk and the Chairman signed and dated the documents at this meeting.

**6.Public. Participation (15 mins)** – Nothing to report at this meeting.

**7. Other Parish Business (Parish Councillors)-**It was asked if we could set the date for the Annual Litter Pick, it was agreed to do this on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 9.30 am at the Village Hall.

A Councillor mentioned about the Planning Forum that was on the 9<sup>th</sup> February at East Suffolk Council in Lowestoft that herself and the clerk attended, to say that there were 70-80 people there from different areas of Suffolk and they were all really concerned about all the land that the government have put up a high percentage of houses to be built in a short time and that Call for

Sites was causing a lot of Anxiety in Blundeston Village due to the Prison site that is still ongoing but at this stage no one could give any answers due to drainage issues and at this stage no one could give any answers she raised that there is a lot of anxiety and asked when does a Village become a town but no one could answer that question but they did say that even if land is put forward it's no guarantee that it would be excepted by them, they did stress that they are willing to work with Parishes so that the outcome could come to a happy medium. Cllr K Robinson said that there are two pieces of land put through in Blundeston but would not know where this is until 13<sup>th</sup> March.

It was raised about the Millennium Green regarding dogs off leads a Parishioner was walking his dog on the green but it was not on a lead, on asking the question they said that there was no sign on the gate off Short Road to say keep dogs on leads it was asked if the clerk could contact the Environment Health to try and get a Public Space Protection Order put in place.

It was also raised that there is a gap in the Millennium Green Hedge near the spinney that there has been a footpath appear from the road into the Millennium Green and that a child ran through the gap into the road a Councillor agreed to have a look at what could be done with this and the chairman also asked him to get a new keep dogs on lead sign for the entrance off Short Road.

**8. County Councillors Report-Cllr K Robinson-** Let us know that the Elections will now go ahead in May.

**9. District Councillor Report -Cllr P Ashdown-** Mentioned Call for Sites and that they will not know until the 13<sup>th</sup> March what land has been submitted it will then be given to the local planning areas who will go through all the sites and come to a decision of recommendation after this stage if they are going forward the Parishes will be informed they will be looking at the big sites first i.e. The Garden Village at Corton, Beccles and Carlton Colville. The Solar Farm is still going to come to committee at the back of Border Lane.

**10. Consider planning applications as listed below plus any further applications received before the meeting.**

**DC/26/0163/VOC**|Variation of Condition No. 2 of DC/25/0453/FUL - Two storey and single storey front, side and rear extensions plus new detached double garage with home gym. - To provided additional studio / workshop ancillary accommodation|Windy Ridge Lound Road Blundeston Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5AT. This Application was rejected at the meeting.

**11. Other Points for discussion**

**Dog Fouling in the Village** -It was raised about the amount of dog fouling that is appearing in the village.

**Request to Hire Playing Field for Summer** -Some members of the Scouts came to the meeting tonight to discuss the wonderful support from the village in regards to the Scarecrow trail and asked the council if they would mind if they moved this to July this was agreed at the meeting. It was asked if the Scouts could use the field at the back of the Village Hall for their Fate on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026. It was raised that we should ask the land owners first, Paul said he would ask the question and it was agreed by the Parish that if the land owner is happy then we would only charge for the hire of the Village Hall. It was also mentioned that their lead Scout Volunteer Josh has proposed that they will not do the parade on St Georges Day but have a picnic on the Millenium Green this was also agreed at the meeting tonight. The Scouts had to do an Audit of the Village Hall and sadly there are a few Health and Safety issues that need to be addressed, this will be passed onto the Village Hall Management Team. Unfortunately, the Scouts cannot use the Village Hall until these issues are rectified.

## **Policy Updates/Reviews**

Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy

Disciplinary Policy

Flexible Working Policy

Grievance Policy

The above Policies were agreed at the meeting by the Parish Councillors

<b>12.</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	£1500.00 Baggleys for Replacement Mower
		£37.20 Starboard Systems Accounting Package
		£10.98 HP Ink and Paper for Clerk
	<b>Income</b>	£15.00 Clothing Recycling Bin
		£500.00 East Suffolk Council Locality Budget for Lawn Mower
	Budget/Forecast (Quarter)	
	Bank Reconciliation (Quarter)	

## **13. Correspondence**

**To note the attaches appendix of items which have been circulated.**

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

New Code of Conduct Factsheet Series from SALC

Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partnership

Hi Anya, we've published a new online resource showcasing practical case studies on devolution

PLANNING REFORM AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

Neighbourhood Planning Guidance for Infrastructure  
and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Document

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm

The next meeting is scheduled for, Monday 16<sup>TH</sup> March 2026

