

Present: Cllrs J Chalmers - Chair, N Martineau, R Baxter, Y Martin, L Hebert, S Knight & C Hammond.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received, and the reason given accepted and approved by the Councillors from: from: Suffolk County Council Councillor (SCC) H Richardson & West Suffolk District Council (WSDC) Councillor C Bull

2. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

2.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. N/A.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2026, were agreed, approved and signed as a correct record.

5. Meeting Open to the Public 3 members of the public present.

Two members of the public attended the meeting to express their concerns about the volume and timing of live music at The Royal George. It was explained that the Parish Council has no authority to deal with such matters, as responsibility rests with West Suffolk Council. However, the Chair offered to visit the pub and have an informal discussion with the landlord. The Parish Council values The Royal George as an important community asset and is keen to support the pub while encouraging positive relationships with local residents. The Clerk will report back to the residents once this visit has taken place.

Action Chair/Clerk

A resident, present at the last meeting, has had their article about Pride Month, printed in the Parish News magazine.

6. Report from Suffolk County Councillor (SCC): H Richardson

Cllr Richardson was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report: The new Reform UK administration has been announced at the County Council. The new Cabinet members and their contact details are below: Cllr Michael Hadwen – Leader of the Council E: Michael.Hadwen@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr Philip Faircloth Mutton – Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Adult Care E: Philip.Faircloth-Mutton@suffolk.gov.uk T: 07494 758000 Cllr Vicky Armstrong – Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Efficiency E: Vicky.Armstrong@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr Simon Aalders – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People E: Simon.Aalders@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr Tony Gould – Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and SEND E: Tony.Gould@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr Christopher Hudson – Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways E: Christopher.Hudson@suffolk.gov.uk T: 07889 066211 Cllr Tristan Gale – Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service E: Tristan.Gale@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr June Mummery – Cabinet Member for Coastal Affairs, Communities and Public Health E: June.Mummery@suffolk.gov.uk T: 07889 066317.

The future of local government reorganisation in Suffolk is now uncertain given the new administration at the County Council have decided to launch a Judicial Review into the government's support for the three-unitary-authority model. The precise implications for now are unknown. In the meantime, a new website has been launched to outline what the new unitary authorities will look like, and this can be found here: [Home - Future Suffolk](#)

The damage to the A143 during hot weather in the May half-term week has been repaired. This was due to the membrane, which sits underneath the road surface, melting due to high road temperatures; this itself occurred as the membrane was damaged during installation last year.

A permanent repair to the membrane itself will take place over the summer. Both the permanent replacement and the temporary repairs will be paid for by Milestone, the contractor, rather than the County Council (and by extension the taxpayer). I intend to have further conversations with officers over the summer on longer-term more sustainable diversion routes in the event that either the A1088 or A143 are closed, given the intolerable impact this is having on some villages currently. I have received numerous requests for funding from my locality funding, so if you are aware of any other projects that may wish to apply for support then please do let me know as soon as possible so I can factor these in as best I can.

If there are particular areas that you feel ought to be focused on then please do let me know and I will ensure these are assessed. I am in active conversations with the County Council passenger transport team regarding the 332 and 73 bus services. The CENEX report in the latter is in the process of being finalised and I shall share this once published. Whether there is sufficient funding for the 332 to be extended to Thetford will become clearer later in the year. Cllr Harry Richardson. E: harry.richardson@suffolk.gov.uk T: 01359 265089

The Clerk will arrange a meeting, with Cllr Richardson and the Chair to discuss areas of concern in the village, including traffic calming measures for Hepworth Road and the 30mph limit on Coney Weston Road.

Action Clerk

7. Report from West Suffolk District Councillor (WSDC): C Bull

Cllr Bull was unable to attend the meeting but she reported that WSDC is very busy with the new bin scheme. There have been some teething problems. Some initial issues have been experienced, but it is anticipated that these will improve over time.

8. Chairman's Reports

8.1 To receive any update from the Support our Buses project.

We are still waiting for the Cenex travel report before any further action can be taken.

8.2 To receive update on potential new bin on Hopton Road.

A lamppost has been identified as a possible suitable location, for a dog bin, in Hopton Road. We need to check if we can get permission to mount a bin on a lamppost, not owned by the Parish Council. The Clerk will investigate further.

Action Clerk

8.3 To discuss councillors' roles and responsibility

It was agreed that Cllr Baxter will lead on Environmental issue, supported by Cllr Knight.

Cllr Hebert will lead on legal and insurance matters.

Cllrs Hebert/Chalmers and the Clerk will lead on the Emergency Plan.

Moving forward the councillors need to decide which areas of responsibility they would like to be involved with.

Action All

9. Clerk's Report

9.1 To receive any feedback from the WSDC Planning Training.

The Clerk attended some Planning training, hosted by WSDC. It was an interesting session.

Topics covered included: the new Local Plan process, which is commencing in June 2026. It was noted that there is an increase in new housing number requirements from 765 to 1200 annually.

S106 monies/CIL contributions were also discussed. As well as planning enforcement. The Planning Enforcement Team are guided by Town and Country Planning act 1990 and operate on an assumption to approve. It was noted that there is a different attitude from residents now, with advances in social media and access to information, meaning that residents often use the laws available, to delay planning challenges, which can prove to be costly for the Council.

9.2 To note submission of Barningham Community Coffee Morning fund Evaluation Form. The Clerk has asked for invoices from the Barningham Community Coffee Morning so that payments can be made from the fund we hold for them. It is understood that the Community Coffee Morning is proving to be hugely successful.

10 Finance/Compliance

10.1 To confirm insurance cover.

The Clerk has made a comparison between the asset register and the amount of cover we carry. She feels that this is adequate. She has confirmed that Speed Indicator Devices (SID), are covered under the street furniture heading. Cllr Hebert has looked at the cover and following confirmation, via the Clerk, that other local councils do not have additional cover for cyber attack and data breaches, the councillors all agreed that we would not take out this extra cover at this time.

10.2 The following accounts were approved for payment.

Salary/office	Payment	Various	-£2,255.55
Mapping software	Payment	Parish online	-£45.00
Brown bin	Payment	West Suffolk	-£53.00
insurance	Payment	Clear Council	-£844.42

The Chair signed the agreed schedule of payments.

10.3 Bank reconciliation, budget report and schedule of payments.

The Clerk provided the Councillors with a bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and a budget report for information. The budget report shows a comparison between budgeted and actual income and expenditure.

10.3 (i) Cllr Knight carried out the additional accounts check at the meeting. These included checking documents confirming the amounts set up for payment at Barclays and verifying the bank reconciliations (for all accounts)

10.3 (ii) Cllr Chalmers will approve the payments at the bank, following confirmation from Cllr Knight who has made the additional accounts check as recorded above..

10.4 To review and agree Internal Audit report and note any recommendations made for action. The accounts were found to be in good order and complaint with current regulations. There were some recommendations/comments made.

(i) Council might wish to review the NALC Advice Note – Procurement, 3 February 2026 and ensure any applicable revisions are incorporated at the next annual review (of the Financial Standing Orders FSO). It was agreed that, unless we have a large project, we will wait for SALC to produce updated FSO.

(ii) At least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chairperson shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO

Comment: council might want to ensure that the minutes record that the member so appointed has undertaken this activity, including any exceptions, and that their report is received and noted by the council. See item 10.3 (i)

(iii) Council is advised to review its response to Line 11 – Disclosure note regarding trust funds - and refer to paragraph 2.32 of the Practitioners' Guide 2025 which states that where a body is NOT a sole trustee, it must answer Yes.

(iv) Council might wish to review the provisions of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 and consider whether it might be able to work towards ensuring compliancy with the requirements of publishing the following data on its website in accordance with the required timescales: Publish quarterly: Individual items of expenditure that exceed £500 (currently published on an annual basis); Government Procurement Card transactions; Invitations to tender for contracts over £5,000; Details of contracts that exceed £5,000. Publish annually: Details of all land and building assets; Grants to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations; Organisational Chart. The Clerk will work towards producing this information for publication.

Action Clerk

10.5.1 To Agree Section 1 of AGAR for submission to External auditor.

The Council agreed Section 1 Annual Governance statement 2024-25 of the AGAR. This was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk.

10.5.2 To Agree Section 2 of AGAR for submission to the External auditor

Section 2, the Accounting statements for 2024-25 of the AGAR was agreed. This was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk.

The Clerk will submit the required documentation to the External auditor.

Action Clerk

10.5.3 to note actions to be taken to be compliant with the Publication requirements/Transparency Code. The Clerk will ensure the Publication - Transparency Code requirements are met by ensuring the documents/notices required, by the Accounts and Audit Regulation 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller authorities) Regulations 2015, and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities are published/uploaded, within the required timeframe.

Action Clerk

10.6 To note End of Year Pension submission to SCC.

The Clerk confirmed that she has completed and submitted the end of year return to the SCC Pension Scheme as required.

10.7 To following documents were reviewed, updated where required and agreed:

(i) [Asset Register](#). (ii) Clerks Contract. (iii) Caretakers Contract.

11. Village Matters

11.1 To receive any Highways update.

There were no additional highways updates.

11.2 To receive Traffic Data update.

This is in hand and the data will be uploaded to the website and Facebook.

11.3 To receive update on damage to verge B1111/Church Road.

The damaged kerb, outside the shop has been repaired.

12. Neighbourhood Plan

12.1 To receive any update, to include the Barningham NDP - Fact check report.

WSDC have forwarded our comments, prepared by our Consultant, along with theirs to the examiner.

13. Planning (to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted)

13.1 Tree Preservation Order - TPO/003(2026) Land South Of, Hopton Road, Barningham notification that the above Tree Preservation Order was made by West Suffolk District Council on 7 May 2026.

The Councillors thanked Cllr Baxter for all the work she has done to achieve this protection for the trees on the proposed development site.

22.Exclusion of the Public and Press To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for the consideration of the following items:

22.1 Personnel Issues. 22.2 Legal Issues.

14. Housing Needs Survey (HNS)

14.1 To receive any update. There was no update at this time.

15. Aggies Piece, Biodiversity and Environment. To receive any updates, to include:

15.1 To receive update on request for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

See under item 13.1.

15.2 To discuss option to plant wildflowers on green spaces in the village.

A meeting is being held next week to discuss next steps.

16. Caretaker's Report.

16.1 To receive any update from the Caretaker

The caretaker is happy with the new equipment, funded by the SCC Self-help Scheme. He has cleared the overhanging vegetation: on the footpath by the village hall, by the shop, along the pathway from Royal George to Bishops Croft, the village entrance signs on both ends along B1111, by the speed camera sign by Lingwood close ,the village hall sign on B1111. He is making regular checks on the play equipment in both the children's Play Area and on the Cricket Meadow.

17 Play Area/Cricket Meadow: To receive any updates, to include:

The Cricket Meadow has been cut.

18. Churchyard/Cemetery.

There was no report for this meeting.

19. Correspondence for Discussion/Information

19.1 Wellbeing Suffolk, request for information.

We have been contacted by a Wellbeing Engagement Worker with Wellbeing Suffolk. They are looking to connect with any local men's groups or older persons groups in the local area to promote the support available through Wellbeing Suffolk. The Chair will pass on information for various groups in the village, including the Community Coffee Morning, Social club, Knit and Stitch and the Coffee Caravan.

Action Chair

19.2 WSDC Consultation on Pavement licences

WSDC has written to let us know about a change to the cost of pavement licences for businesses in our area such as cafes, restaurants and pubs. West Suffolk Council has agreed to trial scheme designed to provide up to £1.2m of additional support to our town centres. Part of this is enabling them to drop the pavement licence application fee from £500 to £100 across West Suffolk.

19.3 WSDC Civic Service invitation.

The Chair of West Suffolk Council, Councillor Peter Armitage has issued an invitation to join him for his Civic Service in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 28 June 2026 at 3.30pm.

19.4 Landline switch over checklist

We will ask for advice from Cllr Bull regarding this and include it as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Action Clerk

19.5 Parish forum

It was noted that the next Parish Forum will be held on 28th July. The venue is still to be confirmed.

21. Date of Next Meeting. Annual Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 8th July 2026, 7.00pm
Barningham Village Hall.

22.Exclusion of the Public and Press To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for the consideration of the following items:

22.1 Personnel Issues. None.

22.2 Legal Issues. None.

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