



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7.00pm in West Row Outdoor Bowls Club, Beeches Road, West Row IP28 8NY

Attendance:

Councillor Alan Fisher	Chair
Mrs Sharon Vale	Clerk
Councillor Alan Goodenough	
Councillor Sally Knight	
Councillor Martin Connery	

Members of the electorate and other attendees:

Three members of the electorate.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00pm. A reminder to everyone that the meeting was being recorded for accurate writing of the minutes.

623	<u>Apologies and acceptance for absence</u> Apologies requiring consent received and accepted from Councillor M Peachey, Councillor J Goodenough, Councillor Roz Hamill, Councillor Lisa Baker and Squadron Leader Owen Crossby	
624	<u>To receive member's declaration of interest and dispensations relating to items on this agenda.</u> None were received.	
625	<u>To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the council held on Wednesday 19th August 2026 are a true and correct record.</u> It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 19 th August 2026 were a true and correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.	

Signed by Chair of Meeting:.....

Date Signed: 21st October 2026



626	<u>Public Participation session (15 minutes) to include District and County Councillors', RAF Mildenhall and Police Reports, plus representation from electors of the Parish.</u> a. County Councillor Louis Busuttil – Suffolk County Council County Councillor Louis Busuttil confirmed that local elections will now take place in May 2027. He also advised that the proposed Local Government Reorganisation has been withdrawn following new legal advice. Councillor L Busuttil informed WRPC that he would like to nominate The Shed, SARS, and The King's Food Bank, Mildenhall, for the King's Award for Voluntary Service, which is the highest national honour awarded to local volunteer groups in the UK. WRPC expressed their support for The Shed being put forward for the award. It was agreed that Councillor A Fisher would email Councillor L Busuttil to confirm the Parish Council's support for the nomination. b. District Councillor Don Waldron – West Suffolk Council Nothing to report at this time. c. Squadron Leader Owen Crosby – RAF Mildenhall - An exercise was held to rehearse procedures for reacting to a protest at the base main entrance last week. Apologies that this was not notified to the community in advance, but it was not well notified internally, and we were not aware of the exercise. This has been fed into the lessons learned from the exercise. - The Chief Constable of the Ministry of Defence Police visited RAF Mildenhall to see the constables that work here and get a feel for their daily routine. He also discussed counter-drone defensive operations with the US security personnel and leadership. - RAF Mildenhall hosted a clergy day, with representatives from a variety of religious denominations from around the region, meeting with the on-base Chaplains to discuss the spiritual pillar of	AF
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	support to Airmen. On the same day, we also hosted a Key Leaders Day to explain the operational role of the base and the units that call it home. There was attendance from County Councils, local government, and emergency services. - The US Labor Day holiday was on 7th September, so there was a reduced activity at the base last weekend. - Exercise COBRA WARRIOR is ongoing through September, and you might notice increased aircraft activity across the region, although Mildenhall itself should not be significantly impacted. - Our Community Relations Advisor, Natalie Murphy, has produced a newsletter summarising recent activity, which has been distributed to Councillors. d. PC Scott Cameron – Community Police Officer. Nothing to report at this time.	
627	<u>Planning Matters</u> a. DC/26/1115/OUT – Outline planning application (means of access to be considered) – one dwelling (following demolition of existing garages). Land at Neve Gardens, West Row IP28 8PP. SUPPORT.	
628	<u>Matters Relating to Governance</u> None.	
629	<u>Financial Matters</u> a. Approval and Authorisation of Payments for September 2026. It was unanimously Resolved to Accept the payments. b. Approval of August 2026 Payments & Receipts List. c. Approval of August 2026 Bank Reconciliation.	
630	<u>Matters Relating to Street Furniture/Amenity Provision</u> a. Report on Speed Indicator Device Findings. The SID data was shared with Council Members ahead of the meeting. The data is consistent with the last readings showing as expected. Other data shows isolated issues with speeding, but average speeds are within limits set.	



	b. Update on Footpath 30 (eroded riverbank) along the river at bottom of the Gravel. Nothing to report. c. SCC Development – Councillor M Peachey has spoken with Lovells about the eventual handover of the public green spaces to WRPC, the proposed transfer documents are currently being drawn up by their solicitors. d. Building site at the entrance to Pott Hall Road – Councillor A Fisher has spoken to WSC regarding the site and can report that the case is still ongoing and that the enforcement order is still in place. e. New Cemetery – Councillor M Peachey has asked for approval of the attached spreadsheet. Council supported and approved the budget for cemetery. Fencing – Councillor M Peachey spoke with Ian Wiseman and he is currently estimating to begin the first phase of fencing late September early October. Groundworks – Our preferred option, based on the quotes received, is P&R Groundworks. Note that the quoted price will be £5K lower, achieved by switching the roadway within the burial area from gravel grids to Breedon gravel. Councillor M Peachey has spoken with P&R Groundworks and they are provisionally holding space for us starting mid-October, with the works expected to take around a month or so. The question was raised as to whether “Breedon gravel” would be a better surface to use for the non-disabled car parking spaces (instead of “grass grids”). Councillor M Peachey has asked the contractor to provide a price, although it would likely be cheaper than grass grids, it would require the addition of a hardcore sub-base which would cost more. Councillor M Peachey will let WRPC know once he hears back from the contractor. If we did want to amend the surface, it would require an amendment to our planning permission. Landscaping – WRPC preferred option based on the quotes received is Earl Contracting. Councillor M Peachey has spoken with them, and they would be able to do the work around November onwards. Water Connection – The site needs water and a mains connection is the only feasible option. Anglian Water will do the main connection and arrange road closure. WRPC preferred option to lay a pipe in the verge from the main to our site boundary, based on the quoted received, is Lucking Utility Services. Budget – Councillor M Peachey has put together a spreadsheet (attached) showing the estimated costs for the construction phase of the project. This is based mostly	
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	on the quotes attached, plus a few small estimates for other things. Councillor M Peachey is in the process of updating/confirming quotes for: front height barrier, gates, standpipes, signage, cycle hoops, bins, bat boxes etc. f. Bus Stop Signs – The Council noted that two bus stop signs have now been erected within the village, one on the wall adjacent to the barbers and the other near the Chapel. Councillor A Fisher will contact Suffolk County Council Passenger Transport regarding the installation of the relevant bus timetable information. g. Lost Bridge over River Lark – No update.	
631	<u>Other Working Party Updates/Reports</u> a. Update to the Echo/Parish Magazine. Deadline for articles is 15th September 2026. b. Warm Places Update. Expenses update. The next fish and chip lunch will be on Friday 25th September 2026. Christmas lunch is booked at Simpsons Garden Centre for Friday 11th December 2026 c. 100 Club Update.	
632	<u>Allotment Matters</u> Summer BBQ and AGM will be rearranged for a later date.	
633	<u>Events</u> a. Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2026 – timings to be confirmed. Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 11:00 am. b. Christmas 2026. Friday 4th December 2026. Tree lighting at 7pm and refreshments in the Church Hall c. Parish Council Surgeries. Next surgery to take place on Saturday 19th September 2026 from 10:00 to 11:00 – Councillor A Fisher will attend. Additional surgeries will be on every third Saturday of the month.	
634	<u>Chair and Councillors' reports/suggestion (on the night)</u> - Councillor M Peachey has spoken with SCC about the PROW improvements between Chapel Road and Cricks Road. The new bridleway ending on Cricks Road has been completed, they still need to do the legal part, after which new signage will be erected, expected by the end of the year. The link to be created between the two paths along Chapel Road is expected	

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	to be done next spring/summer. - Councillor A Fisher attended the Civic Leaders Tour at RAF Lakenheath last week. - Councillor S Knight has been invited to become a Governor of the Preschool, with the appointment due to commence in November. Council considered the matter and raised no objections to the appointment. - Councillor A Goodenough would like to order new plants for the War Memorial. Council agreed to this request.	
635	<u>Correspondence and exchange of additional information (at the discretion of the Chair)</u>	
636	<u>Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda</u>	
637	<u>Date of the next meeting</u> The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 21 st October 2026.	
638	<u>Meeting closed</u> The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.	