



GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council

Draft Minutes

Held in the Village Hall

Wednesday 13th May 2026, 7.30pm

Parish Councillors Present: R Fogerty(RF), A Wade(AW), P Cracknell(PC), J Ashfield(JA), S Salt(SS)

Also present: Tina Bunn, Parish Clerk. Cllr G Boyd, Cllr C Brown, Cllr B Bernard.

1. Richard Fogerty was re-elected as Chairman and the DAO was signed
2. Andrew Wade was re-elected as Vice Chairman.
3. Chairman's Welcome
 - a. Written notification was received prior to the meeting from Cllr S Barrows that he wished to resign. We take this opportunity to thank him for all his work and support during his time as a Parish Councillor.
 - b. JA declared an interest in matters concerning the Riverbank land. JA and RF declared an interest in matters concerning the Poor Trust, as the Parish Councils representatives.
 - c. One member of the public.
 - d. The Power of Competence remains until there is a full election of the Parish Council.
4. Approve Minutes of the last meeting, 11th March 2026. Prop (SS), Sec (PC) Agreed
5. Continue with the Finance working party. Prop (AW), Sec (PC) Agreed
6. Chairman's Report: The work done during the last year was summarised at the Annual Parish meeting held prior to this meeting.
7. New Issues
 - a. The outgoing Councillor Barry Stone sent a note of thanks to all for the support given to him during his time as a Norfolk County Councillor. The Parish Council would like to thank Barry Stone for his frequent attendance at our meetings.

We now have a new County Councillor, George Boyd, and look forward to his future reports.

b. Allotments to be discussed under 10a.

8. Matters arising from last meeting and outstanding actions

a. We are still awaiting a response from Rev. Smith to a letter sent about recognition of a public right of way across Church land.

b. Green project application. To support the application made by the Poors Trust, the Parish Council needs to provide a letter of consent. A suitable letter has been drafted and will be signed by Cllr (AW). Prop (PC), Sec (JA).

c. Registration of land. There is still more work to do, which Tina is dealing with.

d. Work along the river footpath to Beccles outside our parish, involving the Norfolk CC Trails team, provided an opportunity to discuss the steps at Dunburgh. NCC have told us they will deal with them.

e. This has been dealt with.

f. There was discussion about repairing or replacing the SAM2 equipment. So far £45 has been spent to assess its condition. This has shown the cost to repair is £900, a replacement £3,366, or £4,031 for the latest SAM3 model. It was mentioned that our insurers had reminded us that Highways must approve any locations where the machine is to be deployed, the person installing the device must be qualified as per Department of Transport guidelines, a qualified person must deal with any maintenance (such as changing batteries), and risk assessments must be undertaken with a log of checks maintained. It is also not yet clear whether Kirby Cane PC are interested in sharing these costs, but grants may be available; however, an application would not be considered until December. A grant would be for a maximum of 50% of the cost. It was decided not to continue, as the evidence collected on its continued use did not show clear positive gains. However, this does not rule out other solutions should a representation be made.

g. A tree inspection needs to be done at the Stone Pit and Village Green (PC). The details of the tree surgeons known to us would be put in contact with (PC), who will coordinate inspections and report back with costs to a future meeting.

h. The items listed in our Asset Register require ongoing review to ensure their inclusion, condition, relevance, and value. Your input is always welcome.

i. The two breaches along the dyke have been repaired. Mr Dowson has made a representation regarding this work, which will be discussed at a future meeting once more information is presented.

9. Finance

a. Internal Auditor's Report

This was received and reviewed. The recommendations and observations were noted and alterations for future were agreed.

b. Certificate of Exception. It was noted that as both the Council's income and expenditure for the year was under £25,000, the Council could exempt itself from external audits. This was considered and agreed.

c. Annual Governance Statement. The Council considered the assertions on the Annual Governance Statement, completed the form, and agreed the authorisation by both Chair and Clerk.

d. Accounting Statement. The Council considered and agreed the Accounting Statement and authorised the Chair to sign on their behalf.

- e. Notice of Public Rights for inspection. Accepted.
- f. Approve Asset Register for accuracy. Accepted.
- g. Approved insurance and authorised invoices and payments.
Agreed that the insurance sourced via Community Action Suffolk with Ansvar at a cost of £5 564.57 for the next three years will be renewed.
- h. Invoices for payment.
Councillor training £62.40. NALC membership £102.68. Village Hall room rent £154.00.
- i. Appointment of internal auditor
It was agreed that we should continue with the existing auditor Heelis and Lodge, and record a vote of thanks for all the work undertaken by Tina in preparing and coordinating all the work needed for the audit.
- j. Training
No new requests received.
- k. Review of year end performance against budget
The performance was within budget
- l. To report on bank accounts and balances
See statement of account
- m. To report on the finances and reserves.
See statement of account.

Statement of Account @ 31/03/26			
b/f from 31/03/2025			
Barclays GVP			£28.29
Unity Instant Access Savings			£10,882.01
Unity			£9,074.70
			£19,985.00
Running total			£19,985.00
Statement of Account 31/3/26			
Bank Balance @ 31/3/26			
Barclays	Reserves GVP		£0.00
Unity			£8,963.41
Unity Instant Access savings			£11,129.04
			£20,092.45
Payments 9/3/26 - 31/3/26	Ref	Payment	
ICO Registration	26/046	£47.00	
Water for allotments	26/047	£35.74	
Subscription	26/048	£143.11	
Wages March	26/049	£293.94	
Service Charge		£7.00	
	Total	£526.79	
Payments to be approved			
none			
Received			
unity trust	Interest	57.10	
	Total	£57.10	
RESERVES			
CIL		0.00	
Barclays		0.00	
NHP		0.00	
Unity Instant Access		£8,963.41	
expenditure to year end (as per budget)		£0.00	
Allocated reserves		£609.00	
General reserves		£10,520.04	
		£20,092.45	

10. a. Allotments. There was a discussion on the general condition of the allotments and it was proposed that a letter should be sent to some of the owners regarding condition and use. Prop (PC), Sec (AW). Agreed unanimously.

11. The Village Hall Committee requested our support for the application for funding of solar panels. A letter of support has been sent.

12. Planning applications and other planning matters

a. No applications brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

b. Still awaiting formal decision from the Planning Inspector; however, an ecology survey is currently underway.

c. No applications brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

Date of the next meeting: 8th July, 7.30pm