



GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council

Draft Minutes

Held in the Village Hall

Wednesday 9 September 2026, 7.30pm.

Parish Councillors Present: R Fogerty (RF), P Cracknell (PC) and J Ashfield (JA)

Also present: Tina Bunn, Parish Clerk, Cllr G Boyd, Cllr C Brown (left after item 6)

1. Welcome

All were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Chairman's Welcome

- a. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Salt and Wade.

- b. To receive declarations of interest and dispensations:

- To receive declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests for councillors on items on the agenda

Declaration of interests were made by RF and JA in relation to the Poors Trust as they are trustees.

JA declared an interest in the Footpath item.

- To receive and consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and those previously granted.

None

- c. To record the number of members of the public present.

There was one member of the public present.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2026 were agreed as a true record

Prop JA, Sec PC

Approved (Unanimous)

4. Chairpersons Report

The chair highlighted the growing problem of speeding in the village, this is in the news generally along with social media showing examples of drivers speeding on country lanes and the specific comments on local social media in respect of this issue. The Parish Council would be grateful for any feedback from District and County Councillors about how concerns can be allayed. Some comments have been of the opinion that the reinstatement of the SAM would be helpful, experience has shown that most speeding is done after dark, whereas the only police action has been in daylight hours. It is a subject that will be discussed again.

5. New issues

Suspend Standing Orders for Reports from the County Councillors and District Councillors.

Cllr Boyd briefed on his written report, the Parish Partnership Scheme is a community funding programme with 50% matched funding to deliver local highway and transport improvements. Norfolk County Council invites bids.

A new Chief Executive Denis Bacon has been appointed for Norfolk County Council.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue have launched a motor cycle safety campaign details at www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/69182/Norfolk-Hugger

Suffolk Water Recycling project, this is a major new water infrastructure scheme being developed, this is in the pre-application phase. The Chair noted that the route for this has not yet been determined and asked what contingency had been put in place in respect of water discharge and the potential for flooding, the parish council has been asked to comment within a tight timeframe but this is difficult without knowing the route.

The Local Government Review has been cancelled, there will be district council elections in 2027 and County Council elections in 2030.

Cllr Brown advised that the Greater Norwich Local Plan was progressing, there were no housing sites identified in Geldeston at this stage but there are some at Gillingham and others. There is also an opportunity to build a new town, proposals are being explored.

Food waste collections have been delayed.

Bungay Football club has had a planning application approved for a 3G pitch, a major investment.

The committee will meet shortly in respect of the Community Fund, a submission has been received in respect of solar panels for the village hall which will be considered.

- a. **Parish 10** - The meeting will be adjourned for public participation, 3 minutes per member for items to be discussed on the agenda only.

A member of the public advised that although the Dunburgh steps have been repaired the walk along the riverbank is dangerous.

JA advised that there is a meeting scheduled to discuss this with a team being pulled together to include the IDB, South Norfolk District Council and Northumbrian Water, hopefully to combine funds to reinstate this section, it needs to be high to stop the water coming over.

Resume Standing Orders.

6. Matters arising from last meeting and outstanding actions, discuss and agree:

- a. Footpaths

In relation to the right of way through the churchyard, nothing has been heard from the Diocese therefore the Chair proposed that the application be completed by the Parish Council.

Agreed unanimous

The Ramblers had suggested that an audit be undertaken in respect of public rights of way. This has been commenced by the Chair and will be put on the parish council website for comment and review.

- b. Application for Green Project to become a Village Green

The Poors Allotment have submitted an application to have the Green Project declared to be a Village Green.

The Chair advised that the Village Green in the centre of Geldeston is not a designated Village Green and it may be appropriate to submit an application.

- c. Progress on registration of land

This work is ongoing a solicitors has been contacted to check on costs.

- d. Environment Agency Update

See item 5

- e. Tree Inspections.

Quotations have been obtained totalling £805.00 in respect of the work required.

A planning application will be submitted.

Agreed Unanimous

f. Allotments

Two of the vacant allotments have been let. Another is now available and can be let. It was noted that currently the water charge is not re-charged to the allotment holders.

Action – review the agreement to see if water charges can be recovered in the future - Clerk

g. Speeding / Pedestrian Safety

The Chair referred to this in his report and concerns have been raised directly to the Parish Council. In respect of the SAM machine the Police didn't take any action and there was no measurable outcomes. The County Council has a Parish Partnership Scheme where the PC can bid for a share of funds to co-pay for something to improve safety such as traffic calming chicanes.

Action - investigate options and costs of traffic calming measures – Clerk

This will be an item at the next meeting and members of the public are invited to attend to discuss.

7. Finance

a. To approve invoices for payment

Printing paper	£17.99
Wave (water bill)	£104.00
National Archives	£19.76
National Archives Search	£9.92
Postage	£3.80

Agreed Unanimous

b. To discuss payment to have minutes included in Tidings Magazine

The cost for a regular quarter page slot would be £160 for the year, this will be reviewed in the budget setting process for 2027/28 as there are no funds allocated for 2026/27.

c. To discuss and approve training for the Clerk and Parish Councillors

None

d. To report on bank accounts and balances

See Statement of Account

Statement of Account as at 07/09/26				
b/f from 31/03/2026				
Unity Instant Access Savings			£11,129.04	
Unity Current Account			£8,963.41	
	Running total		£20,092.45	

Statement of Account as at 07/09/26				
Bank Balance @ 07/09/26				
Unity Current Account			£11,700.59	
Unity Instant Access savings			£11,183.15	
			£22,883.74	
Payments 01/07/26-07/09/26		Payment		
14/07/2026	Timpson	£20.00		
14/07/2026	Chamberlins	£13.00		
23/07/2026	HMRC	£202.80		
31/07/2026	Salary Clerk	£293.94		
31/07/2026	Unity Bank	£7.00		
04/08/2026	David Bracey	£156.00		
04/08/2026	Post Office	£9.95		
14/08/2026	Land Registry	£14.00		
31/08/2026	Unity Bank	£7.00		
01/09/2026	Salary Clerk	£293.94		
	Total	£1,017.63		
Received Current Account				
	Total	£0.00		
Received Savings Account				
	Total	£0.00		
Reserves				
Unity Instant Access Savings	£11,183.15			
expenditure to year end (as per budget)	£8,662.83			
Allocated reserves *	£106.00			
General reserves	£2,931.76			
	£22,883.74			* Minute from 25/11/25 meeting The budget for 2026-27 is agreed at £12,032. A 10% increase in the 2025-26 precept would be £11,926 and any excess expenditure would be covered by income and allocated reserves.

- e. To discuss the finances and reserves moving forward including the 2027 budget and precept.

Quotations have been received in relation to future expenses in respect of the playground, it was proposed and agreed that £5,000 should be ringfenced from reserves for future expenditure on the playground.

Prop PC, Sec JA

Agreed Unanimous

Action - A finance working party will be convened before the next meeting.- clerk

8. To discuss and agree village matters:

- a. 20 is plenty proposal.

This is a proposal to display 20 is plenty signs throughout the village to encourage drivers to slow down.

Action – Clerk to contact Beccles Town Council and Norfolk County Council to see who championed their campaign for Northgate.

- b. Playing Field replacement items

Quotations have been received for replacement items – see 7c. There is also urgent works required in respect of the fencing, further quotations will be obtained and a decision made before the next meeting.

Two quotations have been obtained to replace the picnic bench. It was agreed that the £686.94 be accepted and an application be made to Cllr Brown for a grant to cover as much of this cost as possible.

Action - Clerk

- c. Northumberland Water, to attend a future meeting.

The chair advised that he will, with the clerk, complete the submission in respect of the water project. A representative has been invited to the next meeting.

- d. Updates to website

The website will be updated to add mapping information in respect of items such as footpaths, the conservation area and historical data such as the Enclosure Act.

- e. Use of cones in the Street

This item is no longer an issue.

- f. To update in respect of a survey submitted about Green Spaces

The survey was noted.

9. Updates from village committees & groups

An update has been received in respect of the Village Hall, the village fete is scheduled for Saturday 17th July 2027, the submission has been completed in respect of the Solar Panels application.

10. Planning applications and other planning matters

- a. South Norfolk District Council Planning applications.

None

- b. Village Clusters – report update if available

None

- c. To discuss any SNC additional planning applications, received before the meeting.

None

- d. Broads Authority Planning Applications.

None

- e. To discuss any additional planning applications for BA, received before the meeting.

None

The meeting ended at 9.05

Date of next parish meeting: 11 November , 7.30pm

Other dates for 2026/27

13 January 2027

10 March 2027

12 May 2027