



Geldeston Parish Council
Meeting of the Parish Council
DRAFT Minutes
Held in the Village Hall
Wednesday 11 March 2026, 7.30pm

Parish Councillors Present: Cllr R Fogerty (RF), Cllr A Wade (AW), Cllr P Cracknell (PC), Cllr S Salt (SS) and Cllr S Barrows (SB).

Also present: Tina Bunn (Parish Clerk) and South Norfolk District Councillor C Brown

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Chairman's Welcome

- a. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ashfield, The reason that Cllr Ashfield was unable to attend was that he was away. The Parish Council were asked to approve this absence in line with the six month rule (Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972).

This was approved with a unanimous vote, therefore the six month rule is reset in respect of Cllr Ashfield.

Apologies for absence were also received from Norfolk County Councillor Stone and South Norfolk District Councillor Bernard.

- b. To receive declarations of interest and dispensations:

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

None

- 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 were two members of the public present.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

Prop SS, Sec AW

Approved (Unanimous)

4. Chairpersons Report

The Chair took the opportunity to remind everyone that the Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for May. In view of the fact that no-one attended this meeting last year he proposed that the meeting agenda should be very short, a statement should be read, any questions answered and then the meeting would be closed. He asked if anyone had anything they would like him to include in the statement please let him know.

5. New issues

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

A written report had been circulated from Cllr Stone.

Cllr Brown provided an update on the budget process and advised that the grants had been revised by the Government at very short notice and future years grants have been cut considerably. Due to the transition programme South Norfolk District Council (SNDC) have brought forward the Capital Investment programme. There are new funding opportunities to be applied for including:

- Rural Transport
- Youth Services
- Disability Grants
- Communities Action fund – this does not require matched funding but more points in the assessment would be allocated if there was additional funding available.
- Communities facilities fund (Village halls can apply for items such as solar panels)
- In Bloom fund (this would need to be match funded)
- Ward budget – up to £2,000

Applications will be accepted from April 2026

Local Government Review (LGR) - awaiting the government announcement. County Council elections will be held in eight weeks' time, these will be based on the new divisions for the Waveney Valley Area, in May 2027 elections to new Unitary (shadow), 2028 new authorities will take over. Mayoral elections have been postponed until 2028.

The Village clusters planning process is coming to an end, final decision is pending.

a. **Parish 10**

A comment was made in respect of the objection made to the planning application in respect of three houses at West End, the objections appear to be in respect of the entrance visibility, the speaker felt that visibility was worse in other areas of the village. It was also commented that the road would benefit from a 20mph speed limit.

Councillors advised that speed limits are the responsibility of the county council and they have in the past been very reluctant to put a 20mph limit in place as there are very strict criteria.

Resume Standing Orders.

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

a. Footpaths (also see item 6f)

The Chair advised that letter has been sent to Rev Smith about the recognition of the public right of way across the Glebe land, Church Yard and Car Park, the chair has also followed this up.

Norfolk County Council (NCC) are to do remedial work on the riverside footpath between Dunburgh and Beccles. They have also agreed to look at the Dunburgh Steps. This is to be undertaken by the department that has responsibility for promoted footpaths. The Chair has been told that the work will shortly be started to repair the breaches in the River / Wherry Dyke and when that is done he will speak to NCC again.

He is also in contact with the MP about the NCC lack of action in respect of many other Public Rights of Way.

b. Application for Green Project to become a Village Green

This is in progress. The chair also asked for a quotation from Durrants who estimated a cost of £500 to advise the parish council on the rent payable at the lease renewal which is due next year.

c. Pedestrian Safety within the village including hedges

The Parish Council noted that the hedges have been cut back along the road to Gillingham but in places the work has not been very successful.

Action – to send another letter – Clerk.

d. Progress on registration of land

To be prioritized before the next meeting.

e. Environment Agency Update

Cllr Ashfield is in contact with them.

f. Application for the footpath to be included on the definitive map

See 6a.

g. Standing Orders and policies update; to review and agree on the Publication Scheme and the IT policy.

The policies were reviewed and agreed.

IT Policy, Prop AW, Sec PC

Approved Unanimous

Publication Scheme, Prop SS, Sec AW

Approved Unanimous

h. SAM 2

Cllr Barrows reported that the SAM 2 machine is not currently working. Investigations are ongoing to see if it can be repaired.

i. Trees on the Village Green.

Cllr Cracknell has identified that there are branches hanging over the road. He will apply for planning permission to have the work completed.

j. Renew grass cutting contract

At the last meeting it was agreed that East Suffolk Services had undertaken the work fully in line with the contract and it was agreed that they should be asked to continue with this work. The contract has been renewed in line with the decision made at the last meeting,

k. Essex and Suffolk Water Project

No further update currently.

l. Provision of additional allotments – site visit.

A discussion was undertaken in response to the site visit and options for future allotments, it was felt that there may be an option for one more.

It was noted that a couple of allotments are not being tended in line with the agreement. A further discussion is required and this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

7. Finance

a. To approve invoices for payment

The invoices as detailed below were approved for payment.

Data Protection Fee (DD) £52 less £5 for paying by DD	£47.00
Internal Audit Fee £145 plus £20 Courier	£165.00
Norfolk Parish Training and Support Subs 119.26 plus VAT	£143.00

Prop AW, Sec SS **Agreed** Unanimous

b. To report on bank accounts and balances.

Bank Balances are:	Unity Current Account	£ 9,490.20
	Unity Instant Access Savings	£11,071.94

Bank signatories were reminded that they have access to the information detailed above as part of their access to the banking details.

As part of this report the Internal Control Statement was reviewed and it was proposed that this was accepted.

Prop PC, Sec SS

Agreed (4 for and 1 abstention)

c. To report on the finances and reserves.

The statement of account was presented by the clerk. It was noted that expenditure is within budget and a budget summary was provided

Statement of Account @ 08/03/26

b/f from 31/03/2025

Barclays GVP	£28.29
Unity Instant Access Savings	£10,882.01
Unity	£9,074.70
	<u>£19,985.00</u>
Running total	£19,985.00

Statement of Account 08/03/2026

Bank Balance @ 08/03/26

Barclays	Reserves GVP	£0.00
Unity		£9,490.20
Unity Instant Access savings		£11,071.94
		£20,562.14

Payments 11/01/26 - 08/03/26	Ref	Payment
Virus checker	26/039	£64.99
Land Information	26/040	£14.00
HMRC	26/041	£200.80
Wages January	26/042	£293.94

Service Charge		£6.00
Grounds maintenance of open spaces 2025	26/043	£2,788.67
Service Charge		£6.00
Clerk Training	26/044	£72.00
Wages February	26/045	£293.94

Total £3,740.34

Payments to be approved

Data Protection Fee (DD) £52 less £5 for paying by DD	£47.00
Internal Audit Fee £145 plus £20 Courier	£145.00
Norfolk Parish Training and Support Subs 119.26 plus VAT	£143.11
	£335.11

Received

	0.00
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Total £0.00

RESERVES

CIL	0.00
Barclays	0.00
NHP	0.00
Unity Instant Access	£9,490.20
expenditure to year end (as per budget)	£662.69

Allocated reserves	£609.00
General reserves	£9,800.25

£20,562.14

d. Asset Register review.

It was noted that there is a bin on the Village Green which requires checking. The Asset Register was reviewed and agreed.

8. To discuss and agree village matters:

None

9. Parish Council items, to discuss and agree:

a. Asset Inspection

The recently adopted Finance Regs state that there should be an annual inspection of assets and details should be recorded. A process is in place in relation to the playground. Councillors were asked to note any findings and report to the clerk.

b. Recycling

The clerk was asked to investigate options for a can recycling centre.

c. To discuss the likely future requirement for all councillors to have a .gov.uk email address (AGAR).

This is not currently a requirement of the AGAR and will be reviewed again at a future date.

d. To discuss the play area in respect of any ground works which may be required.

Cllr Wade advised that ground works may be required as rabbits have undermined some of the mounds on the play area, he will monitor and report back.

e. Risk assessment and Risk Management Policy review.

The submitted documents were reviewed and agreed. The clerk was asked to check if there is a current disaster recovery plan in place.

Prop AW, Sec SS

Agreed Unanimous

10. Updates from village committees & groups – to note.

11. Planning applications and other planning matters

a. South Norfolk District Council Planning applications.

Application 2025/3937

Proposal: Outline planning permission for phased erection of 3 No self-build dwellings & upgrading of Highway Access (known as West End) with all matters reserved except for access

Location: Land South Of Yarmouth Road Geldeston Norfolk

Applicant: Waveney Valley Projects Ltd

Application Type: Outline Planning Permission

Objection submitted by the Parish Council

Application 2025/3951

Location: Aprilyn 8 Station Road Geldeston Norfolk NR34 0HS

Proposal: Demolition of existing cottage and replace with new detached 2 storey dwelling with ground floor above flood level

Application Type: Full Planning Permission

Deadline 17 March 2026

No objections.

b. Village Clusters

No update.

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

f. To receive updates on any enforcement issues.

No updates but the parish council have advised enforcement of a couple of matters.

12. Councillor's issues for information.

Items were identified for the agenda of the next meeting; the fence at the bottle bank and an allotment agreement review.

13. Correspondence for information.

a. Letter received in respect of the signage in the bus station.

The letter was noted, no action required.

Date of next parish meeting: Wednesday 13 May 2026, 7.30pm

Tina Bunn
Parish Clerk
Geldeston Parish Council