



## **GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of the Parish Council**

#### **Draft Minutes**

#### **Held in the Village Hall**

**Wednesday 14 January 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), Norfolk County Councillor B Stone and South Norfolk District Councillors B Bernard and 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 J Ashfield (JA)

- b. To receive declarations of interest and dispensations:

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

Councillor Fogerty declared an interest in item 6c as he is a Trustee of the Poores Trust.

- 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.

Three members of the public were present.

### **3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

Prop SS Sec AW

**Approved** (Unanimous)

### **4. Chairpersons Report**

The Chair expressed his thanks to his fellow Councillors for the various things that have been done and time spent on Council matters over the busy season with a mention to Councillor Barrows for installing the grit bin, at the junction of Stockton Road and Yarmouth Road, also thanks to Snowy for providing the shovel.

### **5. New issues**

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

The January report from Councillor Stone was received. He provided an update on the County Council budget, the budget will be balanced using the government settlement and £4.9m from reserves. Savings will be required.

In respect of the Local Government Review (LGR), no decision has yet been made.

Devolution has a 15 January deadline, a response to the Minister on technical issues is being submitted. No decision has been made in respect elections in May.

At this point Cllr Stone left the meeting.

Councillor Brown provided an update on the South Norfolk District Council budget. A multi-year settlement has been received which was marginally better than expected.

Proposals in respect of the LGR have been submitted.

They are working on the assumption that elections will be held in 2027.

South Norfolk had a projection for capital spending in future years, however due to the LGR this does not need to be allocated so they are looking at an increase in allocation for the Community Action Fund and additional funding for different capital projects.

The Village Clusters Planning Inquiry is underway.

The way waste is collected will change, probably around May, June, a food waste collection will be introduced along with other waste collection services, for example electricals.

The Chair asked if there will be benefits arising from any surplus recycling returns, Cllr Brown felt that this was unlikely.

At this point Councillor Brown left the meeting.

a. **Parish 10**

It was reported that there are potholes in the road at the junction of Geldeston Hill and The Street.

**Action Clerk report to the Rangers.**

Also the path from the crossroads to the Village Hall has deteriorated.

**Action Clerk report to the Rangers.**

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

a. Footpaths

The Chair was pleased to report that, after a few reminders the path between The Boundaries, Gillingham and Yarmouth Road has been cleared and is passable once again.

He also updated on the correspondence with the Ramblers Association in respect of the state of the steps at Dunburgh. They have advised that this should be completed by the summer using more robust materials which should last longer than the wood used previously.

b. Bus shelter signage update

The signage has improved and the bus shelter looks tidier, no further action currently, this item will be removed from the next agenda.

c. Application for Green Project to become a Village Green

The Chair had declared an interest in this item but was still able to speak. The Parish Council had submitted an application in respect of this item but were advised by Norfolk County Council that the process could take up to a year. It would be a much quicker and straightforward process if the submission was made by the landowner. The submission would be the same but a new application would be required and a trustee would need to swear a document in front of a solicitor paying the appropriate fee. The Poores Trust refuse to pay this fee so it is proposed that it is paid by the Parish Council.

The Chair also advised that he had been in contact with Durrants and asked for a quotation to see what is an appropriate rent for the land as the lease is up for renewal.

Proposal: The Parish Council pay for the documentation to be sworn in front of a solicitor.

RF abstained from voting on this item.

Prop PC, Sec SB

Against 1, For 3, Abstain 1

**Agreed**

d. Pedestrian Safety within the village including hedges

Most of the hedges have now been cut following the correspondence. However the hedges on the approach to Gillingham are still hanging over the road making it difficult for pedestrians and traffic.

**Action** SB will check that this has not been remedied, if not a letter will be sent to the landowner.

e. Dog Fouling

Adhesive signs have been installed at the Clumps, the footpath by the Marina and the Park. The one by the Marina has been vandalized but this will be replaced. This item will be removed from the next agenda.

f. Progress on registration of land

One area of land owned by the Parish Council is registered and the appropriate document will be submitted to update the contact details, this will be generic so that it will not require updating if the clerk changes.

All the other land owned by the parish council is not on the land registry therefore this work is now ongoing.

g. Environment Agency Update

Cllr Ashfield has been having discussions in respect of the state of the riverbank and footpath. The current situation is that the riverbank footpath has been breached in three places. Both the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) and the Environment Agency (EA) are aware of these breaches. South Norfolk Highways have confirmed that they are willing to put limited funds towards the repair of the riverbank footpath. The IDB who will do the work has now received approval from the EA (due to the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to do the work along the riverbank however it is being put into their work plan with no specific date allocated.

Various requests have been submitted to senior management at the EA to help fund these works as they are part of the flood defences without success.

The Cherry Tree Fishing Club have complained to the EA that the works undertaken during the summer used inappropriate materials which are already washing away in places.

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

The Chair will write to the Vicar.

i. Standing Orders and policies update

The amended Financial Regulations and Co-Option policies were reviewed.

Proposed: That the amended Co-Option Policy be approved and adopted and that the Chair may sign them.

Proposed: AW Sec SB

**Agreed:** Unanimous

Proposed: That the Financial Regulations Policy be approved with the appropriate modifications and adopted and that the Chair may sign them.

Proposed: AW Sec SB

**Agreed:** Unanimous

j. SAM 2

Cllr PC briefed on the information obtained from the person who used to run the SAM unit at Kirby Cane & Ellingham Parish Council he has now passed this on with the manual and the transfer is straightforward with no requirement for specialist training. The data is held on a memory stick. It should be managed by a Parish Councillor for insurance purposes. The fixing posts are already in place in Geldeston.

The information has been sent to the police but there is limited response.

Cllr SB advised that he would be happy to take this work on. Contact details to be supplied.

k. Trees on the Village Green.

There is a tree on the village green which requires attention.

**Action** Cllr PC will review and obtain an estimate for the works.

l. Renew grass cutting contract

The suggestion is that the contract with East Suffolk Services is renewed for another year provided the quotation supplied falls within the expected budget. The councillors were asked to vote to waive the requirement to obtain another quotation.

**Agreed** Unanimous

m. Essex and Suffolk Water Project

Cllr AW has participated in the meetings as a representative of the Parish Council. He advised that this is a complex project which should result in improved control of water through the locks.

Action: A link to the website to be added the Parish Council website.

## 7. Finance

- a. To approve invoices for payment

Renewal of McAfee virus protection £64.99

Land Registry Fee £14

**Agreed Unanimous**

- b. To report on bank accounts and balances.

Bank Balances are: Unity Current Account £13,230.54

Unity Instant Access Savings £11,071.94

- c. To report on the finances and reserves.

### Statement of Account @ 10/01/26

#### b/f from 31/03/2025

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

### Statement of Account 10/01/2026

#### Bank Balance @ 10/01/2026

Barclays	Reserves GVP	£0.00
Unity		£13,230.54
Unity Instant Access savings		£11,071.94
		<b>£24,302.48</b>

Payments 10/11/25 -10/01/26	Ref	Payment
Unity Bank		£6.00
CC Betts & Son Ltd (reimburse to P Cracknell)	26/032	£14.59
Norfolk Parish Training and Support	26/033	£43.20
Tina Bunn Wages and expenses incurred	26/034	£289.71
Wave (Anglian Water)	26/036	£18.29
Microsoft (reimbursed to Tina Bunn)	26/037	£84.99
Amazon (reimbursed to R Fogerty)	26/035	£32.99
Tina Bunn Wages and expenses incurred	26/038	£293.74
Unity Bank		£6.00



## **9. Parish Council items, to discuss and agree:**

- a. Provision of additional allotments – site visit.

There may not be enough room for further allotments. Cllr SB will undertake a site visit.

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

The report in respect of the Village Hall was noted. The Parish Council wished to express their thanks to Keith for all his work acting as the Treasurer for 14 years. The role has been passed on to Sarah Adams.

The Village Hall AGM is on 4 March at 7.30pm.

## **11. Planning applications and other planning matters**

- a. South Norfolk District Council Planning applications.

Application 2022/1897 has been withdrawn

2022/1993

Applicant: Todhunter Ltd.

Location: Land South Of The Street Gillingham Norfolk

Proposal:

Outline planning permission for Residential Development, with school expansion land, open space, landscaping and highway improvements, with all matters reserved except for access

This report will be discussed on 20 January, the parish council wished to submit a further objection to this application in respect of traffic and highways matters impacting on the village.

- b. Village Clusters – report update if available.

No update.

- c. To discuss any SNC additional planning applications, received before the meeting.
- d. Broads Authority Planning Applications.
- e. To discuss any additional planning applications for BA, received before the meeting.
- f. To receive updates on any enforcement issues.

## **12. Councillor's issues for information.**

- a. New Monitoring Officer is Sinead Carey, Linda Mockford and Claire White will be her deputy Monitoring Officers.

## **13. Correspondence for information.**

None

Meeting ended at 9.27

Date of next parish meeting: Wednesday 11 March 2026, 7.30pm

DRAFT