



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 19th August 2026 at 7.00pm in West Row Outdoor Bowls Club, Beeches Road, West Row IP28 8NY

Attendance:

Councillor Alan Fisher
Councillor Lisa Baker
Mrs Sharon Vale
Councillor Roz Hamill
Councillor Alan Goodenough
Councillor Sally Knight
Councillor Martin Connery

Chair
Vice Chair
Clerk

Members of the electorate and other attendees:

Two 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.

607	<u>Apologies and acceptance for absence</u> Apologies requiring consent received and accepted from Councillor M Peachey, Councillor J Goodenough and District Councillor Don Waldron.	
608	<u>To receive member's declaration of interest and dispensations relating to items on this agenda.</u> None were received.	
609	<u>To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the council held on Wednesday 15th July 2026 are a true and correct record.</u> It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 15 th July 2026 were a true and correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.	

Signed by Chair of Meeting:.....

Date Signed: 9th September 2026



610	<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 Councillor Louis Busuttil informed the Council of proposals to accommodate up to 1,200 asylum seekers at RAF Barnham, adjacent to a small village near Thetford. He advised that both County and District Councillors are opposing the proposal and will continue to monitor developments, keeping the Council informed of any updates. Councillor Busuttil also advised that he has a Locality Budget of £6,000 available for distribution amongst a number of parish councils within the area. He invited West Row Parish Council to submit details of any projects or expenditure for which funding assistance may be sought. b. District Councillor Don Waldron – West Suffolk Council Councillor Waldron advised that he has a Locality Budget of £5,000 available for distribution amongst a number of parish councils within the area. He invited West Row Parish Council to submit details of any projects or expenditure for which funding assistance may be sought. c. Squadron Leader Owen Crosby – RAF Mildenhall - I would like to clarify the position of RAF Mildenhall and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the planned Sunnica Energy Farm development. The MOD was a consultee during the statutory planning consultation process for the proposed development of Sunnica. The MOD reviewed the proposals to determine if there would be any impact on Defence and raised no objection to the proposed Sunnica Energy Farm consultation. The MOD was also involved in the planning stage, and officials have reviewed the planning criteria for the proposed solar farm and are content that MOD's interests were considered and protected. As a result, the department's decision not to object to the energy farm remains unchanged. I can assure you that as part	
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	of this process, the relevant Subject Matter Experts were engaged, and no objections to the solar farm were raised by any party, which included the users of the nearby MOD sites. The MOD cannot object to developments just on the possibility that there may be an impact to Defence activities should a specific chain of events occur. - There were traffic lights in Mildenhall town that had a significant impact on journey times for us all, especially combined with the closure of the road north of Lakenheath that was funneling more traffic into fewer routes. Representatives from the base did discuss the works with the West Suffolk Highways Network Assurance Centre, but their inspector reported that there was not much they could do until the work progressed past the roundabout by the Esso garage, which has now happened and the delays have reduced. - We had some veterans from the SR-71 spy plane visit the base this month and talk about some of the things they did and experienced whilst flying from Mildenhall. One in particular stuck in my mind because he had a very positive opinion of the quality of the British air traffic controllers getting them home safely. - Invites for this year's Mil-D-Con event have been sent to local cadets and schools. - Our Community Relations Advisor, Natalie Murphy, has produced a newsletter summarising recent activity, which I have attached. d. PC Scott Cameron – Community Police Officer. Nothing to report at this time.	
611	<u>Planning Matters</u> None.	
612	<u>Matters Relating to Governance</u> None.	
613	<u>Financial Matters</u> a. Approval and Authorisation of Payments for August 2026.	



	It was unanimously Resolved to Accept the payments. b. Approval of July 2026 Payments & Receipts List. c. Approval of July 2026 Bank Reconciliation.	
614	<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 – No updates. 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 received another cemetery groundworks quote but hasn't felt well enough to review it yet. Hopefully a Zoom meeting can be arranged next week. 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 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. h. Householder Hedging. Close.	
615	<u>Other Working Party Updates/Reports</u> a. Update to the Echo/Parish Magazine. b. Update on Neighbourhood Plan – WRNP is due to be formally made by WSC on 14th July. Awaiting final confirmation. This represents the last stage of the process. c. Warm Places Update. Expenses update. The next fish and chip lunch will be on Friday 25th September 2026. d. 100 Club Update. The August draw was won by Stuart Walker number 126 to the value of £76.00.	

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616	<u>Allotment Matters</u> Summer BBQ and AGM has been arranged for Saturday 29 th August 2026. A combination padlock has now been attached to the gates at the entrance of the allotments.	
617	<u>Events</u> a. Christmas 2026. A meeting with St Peter's Church and representatives from WRPC has been arranged for Thursday 20 th August at the parish office. b. Parish Council Surgeries. Next surgery to take place on Saturday 20 th September 2026 from 10:00 to 11:00 – Councillor A Fisher will attend. Additional surgeries will be on every third Saturday of the month.	
618	<u>Chair and Councillors' reports/suggestion (on the night)</u> - A resident raised concerns regarding an increase in dog fouling throughout the village and asked whether the Parish Council could take any action to address the issue. The Council acknowledged the concerns and discussed the importance of responsible dog ownership. It was agreed that residents should be reminded of their responsibility to clear up after their dogs. - Clerk has contacted the Environmental Agency and logged a report regarding the blockage of the river past Judes Ferry. We now have an incident number, and photographic evidence has been submitted. - Councillor Fisher and Councillor Baker attended the Parish and Town forum in July in Newmarket and reported that it had been a useful and informative networking event. They suggested that future forum discussions should include planning enforcement matters and the possibility of establishing a dedicated contact line with West Suffolk Council to assist parish and town councils. They also proposed that the next forum meeting scheduled for October, be hosted at West Row Village Hall.	



619	<u>Correspondence and exchange of additional information (at the discretion of the Chair)</u>	
620	<u>Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda</u> Remembrance Sunday.	
621	<u>Date of the next meeting</u> The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9 th September 2026.	
622	<u>Meeting closed</u> The meeting closed at 7:50 pm.	