



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7.00pm in West Row Outdoor Bowls Club, Beeches Road, West Row IP28 8NY

Attendance:

Councillor Alan Fisher	Chair
Councillor Lisa Baker	Vice Chair
Mrs Sharon Vale	Clerk
Councillor Roz Hamill	
Councillor Alan Goodenough	
Councillor Sally Knight	

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.

590	<u>Apologies and acceptance for absence</u> Apologies requiring consent received and accepted from Councillor M Peachey, Councillor J Goodenough, Councillor M Connery and Squadron Leader Owen Crossby	
591	<u>To receive member's declaration of interest and dispensations relating to items on this agenda.</u> None were received.	
592	<u>To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the council held on Wednesday 17th June 2026 are a true and correct record.</u> It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 17 th June 2026 were a true and correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.	

Signed by Chair of Meeting:.....
Date Signed: 19th August 2026



593	<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 attended the meeting and provided an update on several current matters. Members were informed of demonstrations planned outside Endeavour House in Ipswich by the Green Party in response to the County Council's proposal to withdraw its Climate Emergency Declaration. Councillor Busuttil also reported on a demonstration that took place the previous weekend between Thetford and Barnham concerning proposals to accommodate asylum seekers at the former RAF base. Councillor Busuttil updated the Council on ongoing efforts to challenge the proposed Sunnica solar farm development. He advised that RAF Mildenhall has raised concerns regarding the proximity of the solar panels to the perimeter of the base. These concerns include the potential for individuals to conceal themselves beneath the panels and the possible impact of the development on radar operations. Further concerns relate to the battery storage element of the project, particularly the presence of lithium and the associated fire risks. The Council is making representations to the Environment Agency regarding these environmental and safety issues. Regarding the proposed development of more than 1,000 homes in Mildenhall, Councillor Busuttil highlighted emerging concerns over water infrastructure. Anglian Water has confirmed that existing underground water pipes serving Mildenhall have sustained damage, which may affect the reliability of the water supply. In addition, concerns remain regarding the increased volume of traffic through Mildenhall town centre, as no relief road is currently proposed as part of the development plans.	
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Minute Note Regarding Statement on RAF Mildenhall

The Council notes that a statement was made that "RAF Mildenhall has raised concerns regarding the proximity of the solar panels to the perimeter of the base." This statement is incorrect. For clarity, neither the Ministry of Defence nor RAF Mildenhall has raised any objection to the Sunnica Solar Farm development through the planning process. The Council considers it important that the public record accurately reflects the position of both RAF Mildenhall and the Ministry of Defence.

b. District Councillor Don Waldron – West Suffolk Council

Nothing to report at this time.

c. Squadron Leader Owen Crosby – RAF Mildenhall

The West Row gate access to the base will be closed from today until 21st July for improvement works on base, so traffic flow will be reduced in the vicinity during this period.

The 352nd Special Operations Wing have returned to Mildenhall from their deployment in support of Operation EPIC FURY. You may have noticed that flights of CV-22 Osprey and MC-130J Commando aircraft have resumed, with an initial increased activity rate to catch up with missed training before returning to normal levels.

The Change of Command Ceremony for the 352nd Special Operations Wing (departure of Col Adam Moore and arrival of Col Shane Muscato) is still scheduled for 24th July as planned.

RAF Mildenhall hosted a visit by the Chair of Staff of the Air Force, General Kenneth Wilsbach, and the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, David Wolfe, this week. This was an opportunity for the base to highlight its strategic importance to current and future operations.

Our Community Relations Advisor, Natalie Murphy, has produced a newsletter summarizing recent activity, which I have attached.

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	d. PC Scott Cameron – Community Police Officer. Nothing to report at this time. Two members of the public attended the meeting and expressed their thanks to the Parish Keeper for maintaining the public footpaths around the village.	
594	<u>Planning Matters</u> None.	
595	<u>Matters Relating to Governance</u> None.	
596	<u>Financial Matters</u> a. Approval and Authorisation of Payments for July 2026. It was unanimously Resolved to Accept the payments. b. Approval of June 2026 Payments & Receipts List. c. Approval of June 2026 Bank Reconciliation. d. Approval of Summary of Receipts and Payments Qtr 1. e. Approval of Monthly Breakdown of Receipts and Payments Qtr 1.	
597	<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. Clerk will write to the owner of the land. e. New Cemetery – A'n'l fencing has been appointed to erect the perimeter fence, which is scheduled for September. The final few quotes for the remainder of the works are being obtained, and hopefully final decisions on contractors can be made in the next month or so. All being well, I would expect the project to be complete no later than Spring 2027.	Clerk

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	f. Bus Stop Signs – No update. g. Lost Bridge over River Lark – No update. h. Householder Hedging.	
598	<u>Other Working Party Updates/Reports</u> a. Update to the Echo/Parish Magazine. Magazine will be going to print this week. 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 31st July 2026. d. 100 Club Update.	
599	<u>Allotment Matters</u> Summer BBQ arranged for Saturday 29th August. There has also been a theft of an item from the allotment and also vandalism to one of the plot holder's outdoor buildings. The Clerk will source a padlock, and the allotment gates will now be closed at the end of the day.	
601	<u>Events</u> a. Christmas 2026. Councillor S Knight to lead on this, and will arrange a meeting with St Peter's Church. b. Parish Council Surgeries. Next surgery to take place on Saturday 18th July 2026 from 10:00 to 11:00 – Councillor A Fisher will attend. Additional surgeries will be on every third Saturday of the month.	
602	<u>Chair and Councillors' reports/suggestion (on the night)</u> Clerk asked if the September meeting could be brought forward a week to Wednesday 9th September 2026. Councillor A Fisher and Councillor L Baker will attend the Parish Forum meeting on 28th July in Newmarket.	
603	<u>Correspondence and exchange of additional information (at the discretion of the Chair)</u>	
604	<u>Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda</u>	

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West Row

Parish Council

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Chair: Cllr Alan Fisher

605	<u>Date of the next meeting</u> The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19 th August 2026.	
606	<u>Meeting closed</u> The meeting closed at 7:50 pm.	

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