

Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish (APM) held 14 May 2026 in the PDCC lounge.

Present: Councillors Charman, Collins, Cooper and Coulson

Apologies: Councillors Pudney (delayed in traffic diversion) and Hollowday

Also Present: The Clerk. County Councillor Paul Bains for some of the meeting.

Electors: 10 Members of the public attended the meeting

05.14.1 APM Welcome

Cllr Cooper stood in as Chair for the meeting, introduced herself, and welcomed everyone.

05.14.2 APM Apologies

Apologies were received and approved from County Cllr Fleming, Cllrs Pudney and Hollowday, plus apologies from various parishioners.

05.14.3 APM To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2024

Copies of the Minutes had been previously circulated. The minutes were not available for signing and will therefore be signed at the next APM.

05.14.4 APM Palgrave Parish Council: As Cllr Pudney was delayed, no report was reviewed. They will be added to the batch of report on the website. Cllr Cooper expressed thanks to the various volunteers, both individual and groups who work so hard for the village. – see attached report Appendix 1.

05.14.5 APM County Council: County Councillor Jessica Fleming –report received and distributed. Newly elected Reform County Councillor for Hartismere district, Paul Bains, introduced himself to everyone and provided some background information on his career to date and confirmed he was looking forward to working with us all.

05.14.6 APM District Council: District Cllr Tim Weller –no report available.

05.14.7 APM Reports from Parish Organisations and Groups within the village

Various reports were summarised by representatives at the meeting, where present. All reports issued prior to the meeting commencing were previously circulated and are appended to the minutes on the parish council website. *Due to lack of space they are not posted on the notice board.* These include St Peter's Church, the PDCC, Palgrave Welfare Trust, VETS, Lows Volunteer Group, Palgrave Walking Group, Help for Hope Coffee Mornings, Bereaved Support Group, Palgrave Photography Group, , Diss Art Group, Ukaholics and Rocking Foxes.

05.14.8 APM To receive comments / concerns from people present: - There were no concerns raised. The Clerk gave a detailed update on the Out of the Box project. It was agreed by all present that hosting the meeting on a Thursday evening worked well and was preferable to a Friday evening.

05.14.9 APM There were no other matters notified to the Chair.

Closing remarks; The acting Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. The date for 2027 will be at 7pm, 13th May.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Report by the Chair of Palgrave Parish Council - Val Pudney outstanding....

All other reports

Suffolk County Councillor Annual Report for Parish Councils, May 2026

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division. Tel. 07714-597980 Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk (*until 21 May*)

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – Over the past year officers and leaders have worked on the details of a unitary structure along with partner Norfolk County Council. Suffolk County Council made its initial proposal for a single unitary Suffolk in September (refer to: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/2025-03-21-suffolkcc-lgr-interim-plan-final.pdf>.)

However in March the Government approved three unitaries in both Norfolk and Suffolk. SCC has concerns that three sub-tier councils would result in (1) higher costs for local tax payers; (2) service differentials and inconsistency especially for social care, education, highways and flood management; (3) fragmentation of councils would which would weaken the County unit rendering it easier for a Mayoral authority to exert regional powers over local service delivery.

Clarity is lacking about the division of authority between the regional mayor and unitaries in areas such as transport, planning, economy and environment/ net zero as well as funding for the regional mayoral office. It is also unclear how civic appointments and related activities would be affected. These are carried out based on the County unit and include the Lieutenancy, local and national service awards, the Citizenship Service, and management of visits by Royalty or Foreign Dignitaries. Further steps in the LGR process include making a Structural Change Order for agreement later this year which would in effect dissolve the County (and other Councils) in 2026; unitary elections are scheduled for May 2027, and Mayoral elections in 2028 along with new councils.

New ‘combined’ election boundaries in Suffolk for the three proposed unitary authorities are shown at: Proposed unitary authorities 2026: Maps - House of Commons Library

- Western Suffolk Council (West Suffolk, 21 parishes from Mid Suffolk, and Babergh (less 31 parishes)). Population: 269,000.
- Central and Eastern Suffolk Council (Mid Suffolk (less 29 parishes), and East Suffolk (less 25 parishes)). Population: 261,000.
- Ipswich and South Suffolk Council (Ipswich, 31 parishes from Babergh, 8 from Mid Suffolk, and 25 from East Suffolk). Population: 257,000.

In Norfolk, three unitary authorities are also proposed:

- West Norfolk Council (Breckland, King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, and 9 parishes from South Norfolk). Population: 310,000.
- Greater Norwich Council (Norwich, 19 parishes from Broadland, and 16 parishes from South Norfolk). Population: 290,000.
- East Norfolk Council (Broadland (less 19 parishes), Great Yarmouth, North Norfolk, and South Norfolk (less 25 parishes)). Population: 341,000.

Investment in Special Educational Needs - The Council has recently secured £1.4m of Department for Education funding (to be match-funded) to build additional Ofsted approved accommodation for children with complex needs in Saxmundham. SCC and Unity Schools Partnership will open a new SEND school in Saxmundham for 126 students with severe learning difficulties.

Also a new specialist school on Glastonbury Road in Bury will provide 90 places for students aged 14 to 19-years with special educational needs and disabilities. This will be run by Eastern Education Group and funded by the Department for Education. The new school will become a centre of excellence and hub for SEND guidance, offering expertise to mainstream schools.

Retirement of Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk Lady Clare Countess of Euston - Lady Clare retired on April 15th after 12 years in this role. She is succeeded by Mark Pendlington. The Lord Lieutenant plays a civic or ceremonial role in the County as the representative of the reigning monarch at important events such as citizenship, religious services and the national honours and awards.

“Simpler” (Better) Recycling – Commencing in June 2026 government mandated changes come into effect regarding collection and disposal of household and business wastes. Currently District and Borough councils collect waste (black bins), co-mingled/ mixed recyclable materials (except glass), and garden waste from households across Suffolk using a wheeled bin service. The materials are then delivered, to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Blakenham, a Composting Facility such as Material Change in Creeting, or for disposal to the Energy from Waste Facility (EFW) as appropriate.

As of this June households will use five bins instead of two (or three including garden waste); glass would be mixed with other items and food/ kitchen waste separated.

Figure 4. Twin Stream Collection System Summary



Collection schedules will change with household waste/ black bins emptied once every three weeks:

Collection Calendar	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Residual			
Recycling			
Food			

SCC is the disposal authority and responsible for the wastes that are collected, both District and County councils act cooperatively through the Suffolk Waste Partnership to process and find the best end uses available for the County’s non-hazardous waste streams. The changes bring substantial costs such as modifying the MRF to take glass, contracting for a new food waste processing facility in Suffolk (Bio Capital in Southwold is likely), and finding new markets. Local glass collection will continue for a trial period alongside kerbside collection in Mid Suffolk.

NSIP Planning Update - the UK government has established an in-house unit at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to discharge Development Consent Order (DCO) requirements, which is currently the responsibility of local authorities. This is intended to reduce delays to energy schemes but will remove some powers from local authorities. The new approach will apply to all electricity network and energy projects including nuclear. SCC is

concerned that this will put communities at risk of being subject to ill-considered projects which do not take into account local factors and reduce democratic input. Refer to: Building our nuclear nation: government response to the Nuclear Regulatory Review 2025 (accessible webpage) - GOV.UK

National Grid Pylon Scheme –The DCO Application is undergoing Examination by the Planning Inspectorate which will continue through 10th August. SCC gave testimony along with other interested parties in February. Transcripts are available on the PINS website : Norwich to Tilbury - Project information. Contact the project team if you wish to participate or comment further, or to request a site meeting: email NorwichToTilbury@planninginspectorate.gov.uk .

SCC opposes overgrounding the pylons and would like to see the 2030 target for delivery scrapped, this has been put forward as the main reason for NG's preference for overgrounding.

EcoPower Solar - The Scoping Report is now complete, and the main DCO application is scheduled for later in 2026. The scoping decision excluded several relevant subject areas such as socio-economics, cultural heritage and ground conditions which is of great concern to the Council. Eco-Power's consultants are currently commencing site survey work and may approach landowners to sign Licence Agreements for land entry. Please get in touch with the Ecopower project team directly if any concerns arise - contact@ecopowersuffolk.com or Jared Boyle on jared@econergytech.com or phone the applicant on 0800 0129 164.

Please get in touch with your County Councillor if you have questions or comments.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Church attendance remains steady, and possibly increasing over the year, with a typical Sunday congregation of around twenty-five to thirty people. We are well-served by the clergy team, who now have to share their time across ten parishes. As from 1st May the joint parishes are officially named as The Benefice of North Suffolk.

Benefice Sunday Club, for children, came to an end last year. This had been based at Wortham Village Hall. In its place we now have a monthly 'All Age' service at Palgrave. We start with a 9.30 breakfast of coffee, hot croissants and other treats; followed by a shortened form of service with modern songs and a good message. Then more refreshments. While we think of a suitable title for the new service, it has been called 'Jam, Joy and Jesus'. Whatever the title, it is proving to be popular.

The Benefice Choir excelled at the 2025 carol service and is shortly to travel to Peterborough Cathedral to sing choral evensong.

Thanks to the generosity of two Church members, we have lately purchased a contactless giving terminal. We hope this will be convenient for any visitors who would like to drop a coin in the collection box but find themselves with no change.

It was a pity that, for various circumstances, Palgrave fielded no cyclists or walkers for the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride last September. This is often a great way to explore the local lanes and countryside – whether for the day or just a few hours. It would be good to see new involvement with this this year.

The long-planned church w.c. project edges forward. Plans were drawn up last year and submitted, with favourable response, to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (the equivalent of Planning). The specification now needs to be completed for consultation and formal approval. We can't wait to get the job priced, funded, and started.

As usual, we have to thank our many volunteers who keep the church looking inviting by such as flower arranging and cleaning, as well as the Parish Council for maintaining the churchyard, walls and gates.

Hugh Bunbury, Churchwarden

P D C C

It seems that most people open with the fact that we are in challenging times, and we certainly are.

Our challenges over the year comprise of trying to communicate to the community we serve in a way that allows us to deliver the service they expect or would like, the rising cost of nearly everything whilst keeping our own charges to a minimum, and the maintenance of the building.

I believe we have succeeded in making the Centre a place that exudes cleanliness, comfort, and a welcoming atmosphere, and we have seen the booking of both private and regular hirers increase over the year. We have received positive feedback on the transformation of the lounge, and the redecoration of the hall and lobby. Some of the events at the Centre are put on by the Centre itself, and we really need feedback in terms of what people think of our current offerings and what they expect from us. We are finding increasingly that we have to push for attendees, despite advertisements in the Star and various other publications and notice boards.

Maintaining the centre seems to have come at us in waves this year. The previously mentioned cost of work on the hall, lounge and lobby came about as it was previously feeling aged and the cost was borne by the centre with the exception of the lounge floor for which we got a grant. Similarly, the patio at the rear of the lounge needed replacing due to wear and tear, and we received a grant for part of the work. We had the drains relined which had badly worn, but this did not fix the problem and we are now having them re-laid at our own cost. The entrance doors needed replacing which was a cost we paid. We have paid out several sums for falling trees and problems with the playing field and playground for which we do not get an income. Children climbing the wind turbine has been raised and we need to improve our current method of stopping this.

We have secured a grant for extending the new patio across the back of the hall and paths around the sides. This will be good for hirers and improve accessibility, which is a key focus at the moment. We also have a grant to replace the surface under the swings and we are looking into making the playground more accessible. We also have a grant towards installing a more up to date sound system that will benefit cinema goers and other users of the centre. We have received a grant towards the running cost of the Star for six months. This recognises the important community value of the publication.

I am pleased to say that the team who work tirelessly to make all this happen are up for the challenges and have done a remarkable job in not only maintaining the status quo, but demonstrating ongoing improvements. They should be very proud of themselves.

Finally, the centre is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and we would welcome you all at the bar on a Friday evening and at the event arranged on the 20th June.

Nick Duncumb, Chair PDCC

Palgrave Welfare Trust

The Palgrave Welfare Trust is a Registered Charity which was formed in 1970 from a number of older charities, one of them dating back as far as 1653. It continues to offer financial help in the form of grants to residents of Palgrave in cases of difficulty or hardship. The Trust can help, for example with travel expenses for repeated hospital appointments or frequent visits to someone in hospital. It can also make grants for educational activities such as school field trips and visits, and various other unforeseen expenses.

We have made some payments during the past year and these are always much appreciated. We do have further funds available which we would like to offer to those where it is needed, and we are always reviewing how best this can be achieved, and how to publicise the availability of the assistance.

We sadly report the death of former Trustee, Michael Lockett who died just before Christmas. He had served as a Trustee for many years and made a huge contribution to the smooth running of the Trust. His role, as a Trustee

nominated by the Parish Council has been taken by Charles Flack. Other Trustees are Sian Bunbury, Rev. Helen Grover, Ian McClintock and Pam Whistlecraft.

If you know of someone in need of help, please do not hesitate to approach any of the Trustees or email palgravewelfaretrust@gmail.com or phone 01379 643635.
All matters are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Sian Bunbury, Trustee

V E T S

We are lucky that we haven't had any call-outs so far. But that doesn't mean we have been resting on our laurels... We had two training sessions, one at Wortham Village Hall on 29th May 2025 and one at Palgrave Community Centre on 30th January 2026. Most of the team members attended at least one of these sessions. Two team members had to step down from active service during the course of the year, but we also have a new team member. As this new team member is a trained nurse, we are very happy to be able to draw on her experience. At the moment we have 11 team members and one person who continues to help with organisational activities.

Training

We were able to organise a training session for the village on how to deal with Catastrophic Bleeding on 16th January 2026, when 36 people attended. This training was sponsored by the Community Centre, who let us use the room, and the Parish Council, who paid for two Public Bleed Control kits. These are now placed in the AED cabinets and both are clearly signposted.

"Annie"

Annie – our CPR practice dummy – was used for the VETS training sessions and made an appearance at the Village Day on 22 March 2025 and at the Catastrophic Bleeding Awareness training in January.

Heribert & Kathryn Westerveld

THE LOWS VOLUNTEER WORKING PARTY

A group of villagers had another working party at the Lows in October, dealing with the nettles at the far end (near Tesco). There is an enthusiastic and energetic group of volunteers we can call on if the situation arises. Not everybody is able to help every time, but between us we can make the village just a little better place to live!

Heribert & Kathryn Westerveld

Palgrave Walking Group

This last 12 months have been another good year for the walking group which continues to expand, a few members have become less active, their places having been filled with younger members, with various members taking turns to lead well researched walks.

We recognise the importance of the group not just for exercise but for the social interaction it brings creating new friendships. *We say we are a social group that walks, not a walking group that socialises.*

We are currently getting between 15 and 20 walkers for each walk and meet on the mornings of the 2nd to the 4th or 5th Tuesdays each month with the details of planned walks going out to all registered group members and published each month in the Palgrave Star.

Car sharing is a priority when not walking locally. We also try to use open pubs or cafes on most walks for our refreshments and to support their hospitality.

Andy Matheson

Help for Hope Charity Coffee Morning

The monthly Charity Coffee Mornings were instigated following a Benefice meeting in St Peter's Church Palgrave in the summer of 2022. We wanted to have a regular coffee morning to be held in the Community Centre, to be inclusive and welcome all to join us from the village and beyond, to meet with friends and make new friends.

We support mostly local charities and only ask that people donate what they can – 100% of the proceeds go to the chosen charity - a win : win situation!

Since then, we have held a coffee morning every month of each year (except December) and the popularity has grown over the years from around 18 attendees to almost 40 each month, forcing us to move out of the small lounge to the main hall to accommodate everyone safely and of course there is still room for more! There is always a vibrant buzz, sometimes noisy atmosphere, and always joyful!

There is a band of generous volunteers who make yummy cakes, scones and biscuits, turn up on the day and look after all who come with a smile and a top-up of tea and coffee, and we couldn't continue without them.

From July 2022 to April 2026, we have donated almost £7000.00 to charity, a not inconsiderable sum!

May the coffee mornings continue to offer support and enjoyment to all and help and hope for very needy causes.

Pat Leigh, On behalf of the Benefice Help for Hope Team

Bereaved Support Group

Our support group for those who have experienced a loss through suicide has been meeting at Palgrave Community Centre on the last Wednesday of the month 7.15 to 8.45 for over a year. Currently we have around 7 to 8 people who attend the meetings regularly, but sadly, we meet more and more who will more than likely attend in the future.

Sometimes the people who attend have been bereaved for many years and haven't had anywhere to go to talk about their particular loss and some are very recently bereaved. We have four facilitators, one of which has a very personal connection to suicide loss, a psychotherapist, myself, trained in suicide prevention and hold a diploma in bereavement counselling and another member of my Funeral Service staff.

The group is a safe space for those who experience this often isolating and stigmatised mode of death in a loved one, to say exactly how they feel, what they are experiencing and also pass on advice and support to each other.

There are few support groups in our rural area specifically for suicide loss and it is our hope to help as many people as we can who experience such a devastating loss

The back room at the community centre is the perfect environment for the group. It is the perfect size, is comfortable and quiet. We really love the new décor too as it feels even more like someone's front room.

Susan, Susan Whymark dipFD

Palgrave Photography Group & Diss Art Group

After almost ten years of regular gatherings, formal meetings have ended, though members still reunite for outdoor photography walks.

The Art Group - Having recently marked our 50th year, the group continues to flourish. Two successful exhibitions at No 8 in Diss this past year demonstrated our artistic vitality.

With nearly 30 active members, we maintain a healthy balance of continuity and renewal—welcoming new artists while acknowledging departures through illness or life changes. New members are always welcome.

Our diverse programme includes guest demonstrations, plein air sessions, and weekly meetings, reflecting the eclectic interests of our membership across all artistic genres.

Phil Dyer

Ukaholics Anonymous is a social ukulele group. We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month to play our ukes, sing, laugh together and drink tea! We run a free Beginners' Half Hour from 7.00 to 7.30 and we have some spare ukes for you to use, so you can see if you enjoy playing before you commit to buying an instrument. This main session runs from 7.30 to 9.00 and we each contribute £5.00 for this. The song lyrics and ukulele chords are shown on screen and the songbook is available for download online. Just come along one Thursday, or contact Pete Arnold on 07934 432185 or petearnold1957@yahoo.co.uk

Rocking foxes rock n roll group are now in their second year at the Palgrave Community Centre. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month from 19:30 hrs through till 21:30 hours. There you can meet lots of friendly, lively people just having fun while learning something that will aid well-being, stimulating both body and mind. These are fun sessions enjoyed by people of all ages. Aimed at beginners with no previous knowledge and going through the basic moves for street rock n roll in the 1950's style. Anybody can do this. All abilities are welcome. All refreshments, cake and biscuits are included in the door entry price which is £7. No need to book just rock up. Contact Sharon on 07803045536 if you want any info or email info@rockingfoxes.co.uk