

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 9 July 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre

Present: Cllrs Charman (KC), Collins (EC), Cooper (WC), Hollowday (SH), Pudney (VP) and late arrival Cllr Fausset (RF).

Also in attendance: The Clerk, County Cllr Bain (PB) and District Councillor Weller (TW), one (1) member of the public.

- 07.09.01 **Chair's welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was not being recorded.
- 07.09.02 **Apologies for Absence:** All present.
- 07.09.03 **Vacancies and Co-Option of Councillors:** Peter Coulson has resigned which means there are currently 5 vacancies on the Parish Council.
- 07.09.04 **Declarations:**
1. There were no Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests declared and no requests for dispensations.
 2. Councillors were reminded of their obligations under the new Code of Conduct.
- 07.09.05 **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 11 June 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 07.09.06 **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere within the minutes.
- 07.09.07 **Reports for Information:** Both County Cllr. Bain and District Cllr. Weller reviewed their reports in full.
- 07.09.08 **Public Forum:** One member of the public present who raised the following matters: Overhanging tree branch near Church Terrace that needs lopping. **Action:** WC will deal with this. Jobs Lane footpath still needs cutting – Clerk has reported it last month to SCC's PROW. **Action:** Clerk to expedite. Grange Solar Farm Security sign showing 2 Alsatian dogs is very threatening. Could it be moved further back nearer to the actual farm itself so as to be not quite as portentous? **Action:** Clerk to make enquiries. Lastly could the table layout for PC Meetings be more public facing?
- 07.09.09 **Statutory Business and General Governance:**
1. The following policy was unanimously approved: IT policy.
 2. Consultations: Updates re Norwich to Tilbury Pylon scheme- proposed works compound on Old Bury Road near St Johns was discussed. Concerns raised about diverted traffic. **Action:** Clerk to submit response expressing our trepidation at possible diversion routes and extra traffic. Their Community Fund was highlighted. **Action:** Clerk to send details to PDCC
- Community Governance Review (CGR) – consultation ended 19 June. Awaiting outcome.
- Local Government Review (LGR) – no further updates.
- EcoPower Suffolk – pre-application consultation re Development Consent Order (DCO) including compulsory land purchase; rights in regard to that land; extinguishment of any easements on the affected land; variances in relevant legislation, variances to the affected public rights of way; and permissions permits etc required for the construction of the project. The PC voted unanimously to object to the consultation based largely on our previous comments.
- Action:** Clerk to submit a suitable objecting response
- SCC call for Sites re Minerals and Waste consultation – It was unanimously agreed no response required at this stage.
- 07.09.10 **To consider matters relating to planning for Palgrave -**
- a) The following Planning Application was considered:
DC/26/02615: Works to trees in a conservation area @ 4 The Paddocks, The Green – the PC voted to approve this application.
 - b) There were no Planning Determinations to note.
 - c) Solar Farms update: **Grange Farm** –no further update. Latest meeting was yesterday; minutes not yet available. The Parish Council resolved to sign the final approved version of the Community Deed. The Chair and Vice-Chair signed on behalf of the PC, the Clerk as witness thereof. Liberty Global (LG) have agreed to index linking the sum payable, and confirmed they will pay up to £950 of our legal fees, through Birketts Solicitors Ipswich, in producing the Community Deed. **Action:** Clerk to send the signed deed asap to LG
 - d) Planning enforcement issues: O/S query re fires at The Woodyard and on-site caravans. TW will re-check & revert
 - e) No other planning matters for information.
- 07.09.11 **Finance:**
- a) Payments totalling £7639.19 approved, signed by KC and EJ, viewable on website.
 - b) Receipts to note; £65 regular cemetery donation, £75 cemetery fees, £2000 Locality Grant, £500 reduction in our SCC Highways bill re grant from PB's Highways budget, bank interest £219.38, UK Power Networks annual wayleave payment by chq £153.88.
 - c) Bank reconciliation to 30 June 2026 approved and signed by SH. Up to date full accounts noted.
- 07.09.12 **Palgrave School** – No official update to report. Meeting with new head, Chair of Governors and RF delayed till October, exact date t.b.a. Leaving card for current head signed by all present, WC to present to her.

- 07.09.13 **P.D.C.C:** SH shared videos of recent anti-social behaviour with youths climbing the wind turbine, and cars and e-scooters causing damage by driving on the playing field. The Police were notified. **Action:** Clerk to send videos to the anti-social behaviour team at MSDC to investigate
Lock has been installed on the gate at the top of the drive to try and prevent further driving incursions onto the field at night. Discussion held with PB re possible grant to complete the external patio area around the building's circumference to make it more accessible for wheelchairs users, rollators and buggies, and bollard installation.
- 07.09.14 **D.D.N.P:** Draft minutes previously circulated. Questionnaire response agreed to enable Clerk to submit to DDNP
- 07.09.15 **V.E.T.S:** No further update. Refresher CPR & AED training at 7.30pm on 16 October in the PDCC hall.
- 07.09.16 **To consider matters and any actions required for those relating to the Community of Palgrave -**
a) Highways & road related issues; (i) Crossing Road -Clerk has expedited the drainage issue at lower Crossing Road as previously minuted. **Action:** Clerk to chase again for a response
Recent road closures / diversions – clerk has dealt with several complaints especially about Priory Road.
b) Speeding and associated matters: 20mph project: Invoice paid to SCC for the construction works. £500 reduced off the original invoice due to grant from PB. Our thanks and appreciation to PB.
Lorrywatch – Clerk has expedited the training and has been promised the information soonest.
ANPR camera was on-site in June for one week; awaiting the results thereof.
c) The Green: Parking issues with houses on the west of The Green resolved by RF. Area will be re-seeded. The two (2) mounds of tree stump waste have been removed. Area just needs raking to spread the residue about.
Action: A Councillor to take ownership and do on our behalf
Areas of concern around the pond raised by resident: (i) It was unanimously agreed that we are responsible for the Horse Chestnut tree on the west bank of the pond as previously minuted. The tree has a lot of dead wood and needs cropping to make it safe. The PC will pay for the relevant work while other works are being carried out in the area, to be invoiced direct to us. (ii) Village pond west edge nettles and brambles were cut back by adjacent resident. The PC voted to keep this work within the remit of the contractor who maintains this green space on our behalf, and not to use two different people for this task. **Action:** Clerk to contact existing contractor in due course. (iii) Bull rushes in the pond – it was agreed that these do not need cutting back as they naturally die down in winter. **Action:** Clerk to seek advice from JL who has been very involved with the pond's ongoing maintenance on our behalf
d) Other Open Spaces: Dangerous ditch crossing at a permissive footpath along the River Waveney reported to PROW who advise it is not their responsibility. **Action:** Clerk still trying to get details of who owns the land so they can be approached. TW may be able to assist with this
Lows footpath cutting: DM carried out an urgent cut on our behalf as the previous contractor has pulled out of the agreement. SCC only cut it twice a year which was not enough. It was agreed that the PC will look after the Lows in the short term but we need to find a more permanent solution. As part of this, it was resolved the Clerk will make enquiries as to a heavy duty battery strimmer, minimum 5 amp, DeWalt or Makita, brushless motor, to do the work in the interim, and purchase. Will cost upwards of £200. **Action:** Clerk to contact PC for advice, enquire of any funding available through SCC, and purchase. Once purchased RF and KC will tend to the Lows footpath as short term remedy
Blocked ditch near Spinney / MSDC land off Lows Lane: – Much Himalayan Balsam was removed at the June event. Muck heap behind Rose Lane complaint re rats and flies being dealt with by MSDC's Environmental Health who has contacted the farmer.
e) Priory Wood: No further update. Awaiting information from MSDC re the management program for volunteers.
f) Cemetery and Churchyard –Moving of the incomplete pallet-based compost to the east side entrance o/s.
Action: KC, RF, WC and Clerk to meet at 9am 20 July to move it. RF will finish it off with a holding bar across the lower half to prevent fall out
New hole in the churchyard wall, school side, to be dealt with by the Clerk once school holidays start.
g) Flooding at Goulds Close – TW and PB both thanked for their recent help in finding solutions to the problems at this site. Highways will re-design the kerb layout but due to funding, the work cannot be undertaken until 2027 at the earliest. TW has asked PB for the design plans with a view that MSDC might fund the work. Ongoing discussions.
- 07.09.17 **Out of the Box -** Update provided by the Clerk. Additional £2K received from TW's Locality Budget to pay for the additional work by commercial company in Beccles. Phone Box currently being sandblasted and painted in Beccles. Our grateful thanks and appreciation to Hugh, Heribert and Peter for their valuable assistance on the day the box was released from the base and moved. Thanks also to Swan House for allowing storage use. An Historic trail leaflet distributed to all present. Final result is very pleasing. Proof approved for the Information Board, awaiting completion. Waterproof dispenser still to be ordered by Clerk. Local builder has agreed to prepare the new base prior to re-siting the box, and will then prepare a final screed once the box is back in situ. There will be a charge for this work. The Clerk suggested we have the official opening ceremony before the children return to school in September. Agreed either 1 or 2 September. **Action:** Note post meeting the Chair can make 2 September at 4.15pm so all councillors to put this date in their diaries. Official confirmation will be sent to the media, and all relevant parties asap

07.09.18 **Correspondence:** All correspondence distributed.

07.09.19 **Motion under the Public Bodies** (admission to meetings) Act 1960 – Nothing to note..

Date of next meeting – Thursday 10 September at 7.30pm. NB: To be preceded by a Cemetery Meeting at 7pm or asap thereafter.

The meeting closed at 21.20 hours.

Caroline Emeny (Clerk to Palgrave Parish Council)

FINANCIAL REPORT – 30 June 2026

Current account Unity Trust Bank Account No. Sort codeStatement no's 088 & 041 dd 30/6/2026

Current account statement balance	£ 9,601.37
Savings Account statement balance	£ 41,388.97
Overall Total Reconciles with Accounts Balance As Per Spreadsheet	£ 50,990.34