



REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Alison Spouncer
E: clerk@redgrave-pc.gov.uk
P: 01379 890613

421

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.00pm on 2nd April 2026 at the All Saints Church, Redgrave.

Present: Chairman Andy Warnes, Cllrs Brian Andrews, Mike Hall, Mike Denmark, Matthew Broughton, Gill Blackman-Cross, Karen Pearse, and 3 members of the public.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Introduction.** Chairman Cllr Andy Warnes extended a welcome to all at the meeting.
- 2. Apologies –** Cllrs Brown and Gillett, the Parish Clerk and County Councillor Fleming.
Declarations of Interest Nil.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting.** Minutes of the last meeting on 5th March 2026, previously circulated, were agreed as a true record, **APPROVED** by councillors, and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Public Forum.** A member of the public noted that two keys had been supplied with the newly installed Asgard shed at the Old School Playing Field and that arrangements were needed to enable authorised access. An external key lock box was suggested, although one councillor raised security concerns and proposed replacing the lock and issuing additional keys instead. It was **AGREED** that the member of the public would investigate alternative options, including a police-approved outdoor key box, obtain costs, and report back with recommendations. Another member of the public requested approval to trim a tree outside her property and sought the Council's assistance in clearing the footpath along the B1113 adjacent to her property. These matters were to be considered later in the meeting.
- 5. County and District Councillors' Reports.** County Cllr Fleming's report highlighted several current issues affecting Suffolk. The Government has confirmed that Suffolk's two-tier council structure will be replaced by three new unitary authorities, with structural change orders expected in summer 2026, elections in May 2027, and a Mayoral election in 2028. Changes to national recycling policy from June 2026 will require new arrangements for food and glass waste collection and processing. The retirement of the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Clare, Countess of Euston, was noted, with Mark Pendlington to succeed her. Updates were also provided on nationally significant infrastructure proposals, including energy projects and the National Grid Norwich-to-Tilbury pylon scheme, which Suffolk County Council continues to oppose in its current form.

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Cllr Fleming welcomes any communications from residents with queries and concerns. Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07714-597980. X (formerly Twitter): @jesstfleming. Our District Councillor can be contacted: Gilly.Morgan@midsuffolk.gov.uk

6. **Planning.** To **CONSIDER** any planning applications received by the Council for comment, including those received after the publication of this agenda.

DC/26/01048 The Stagers, The Street, Redgrave, to vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents). To allow for minor material amendments to the proposed development, including to the dwelling and cart lodge as per submitted plans and documents. (Response required by 9 Apr 26). The Council raised **NO OBJECTION.**

DC/26/01123 Land to the East of, Rose Dene, Fen Street. Application for Approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Outline Planning Permission DC/25/01753 dated: 30.09.2025 - Appearance, Layout and Scale for Erection of 1no Self-build dwelling. (Response required by 10 Apr 26). The Council agreed, with one Councillors recusing himself from the vote, that it could make no recommendation on this application as it did not appear to address the requirements of the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan RED6 regarding properties within the Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity (ALLS).

DC/26/01228 1 Thornhill Green, Redgrave. Application for consent to carry out works to tree(s) protected by a Tree Preservation Order. Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation order MS36/G6 - Oak Tree (just one) prune back some of the longer branches (Response required by 9 Apr 26). The Council raised **NO OBJECTION.**

One application was received post the publication of the agenda:

DC/26/01202 Land Adjacent to the Cottage, The Green. Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/24/00757 dated 12/04/2024 (Response required by 9 Apr 26). The Council raised **NO OBJECTION.**

To **NOTE** planning decisions received.

DC/26/00374 The Hollies, The Street. Remove and replace 5no. 2-light timber casement windows – **GRANTED**

DC/26/00667 Malva House, Hall Lane. Works to trees, pollard 1No Weeping Willow tree – **NO OBJECTION**

Late Incoming: DC/26/00933 Broadlands, Half Moon Lane. Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Prune overhanging lower branches of 3 No. beech (T1, T2 and T3) and one silver birch (T4) – **NO OBJECTION**

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7. **Parish Clerk's Report.** The following points were **AGREED** from the Parish Clerk's report:
- Actions 199/12.2 & 215/7.2:** The spare bench previously agreed to be refurbished from the footpath to Botesdale was deemed to be beyond repair. It was **AGREED** (3 votes to 1 with 3 abstentions) that there was no need to build and erect a new replacement bench.
- Actions 55-16/366-7:** The Council **AGREED** to continue with the procurement of 3 village road signs (unanimous) and that this should be a sole source procurement exercise through Sean Rourke (6 votes to one) given the much higher quote from SCC.
- Action 409-10:** Cllr Denmark **AGREED** to install the spare dog litter bin at the junction of Fen Street and the Fen.
- Action 368-11:** The Council considered clarification regarding the potential costs of opening a rest centre under the Parish Emergency Plan. It **AGREED** that, should Suffolk County Council not cover such costs, the Parish Council would accept responsibility for them. The Council also **AGREED** to purchase the proposed Village Emergency Box at a cost of £181.65.
- Action 376-15:** The Council **NOTED** delivery of the Asgard storage container and thanked the volunteers who erected it at the Old School Playing Field. It also **NOTED** that certain items appeared to be missing from the delivery, including shelves, hooks and the wooden sub-floor. This was being queried with the supplier. If unresolved, it may be necessary to purchase wooden flooring, which the Council **AGREED** in principle (subject to quotes).

8. **Responsible Financial Officer Report.** The Council **NOTED** the financial report.

Bank Account Balances

Unity Trust Bank Account	£ 1,523.56
Unity Trust Instant Access Account	£66,826.60
TOTAL Bank Account Balance on 28th March 2026)	£68,350.16

(Of which £66,826.60 in reserves, incl £39,550.26 as CIL)

8.1 Payments Approved and Paid:

Administration costs (not itemised for GDPR)	£ 728.19
Utilities Search (Rudlings Solicitors LLP) for the Woodland	£ 540.00
Visual Graphix road signs/brackets (Cllr Hall)	£ 22.44
Sunshine Survey (Woodland)	£ 816.00
SALC Payroll Services	£ 54.00
Norton Software (A Spouncer)	£ 24.99
SCC Street Lighting maintenance	£ 228.50
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 2,414.12

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8.2 The Council **AGREED** the following **Accounts for Approval**:

RBR Parish Magazine May 26- Apr 27	£ 200.00
SKRI Consultants (Repair of 2x oak benches, & pond bench paint)	£ 1,110.00
TOTAL	£ 1,310.00

8.3 **Monies Received:**

TOTAL INCOME £ 0.00

8.4 The Council **NOTED** the quarterly reconciliation statement produced.

9. **Correspondence.** To **NOTE** and, where appropriate, **DISCUSS** correspondence (previously circulated).

- The Council **NOTED** BMSDC's notification that Planning Portal service charges for planning applications will increase by £5 to £75.83 + VAT per application submission.
- The Council **NOTED** BMSDC's Spring Litter Pick initiative and a separate request from the Suffolk Tree Warden Network to collect plastic tree guards. The Council **AGREED** to coordinate these activities with the existing Redgrave Litter Pick programme with Cllr Gillett.
- The Council **DISCUSSED** the response from Suffolk County Council regarding HGV concerns on the B1113 and a proposal from Cllr Hall, on behalf of the Community Action Group, to approach the area's MP for support. The Council **AGREED** that this would be premature and that an approach to the County Councillor would be more appropriate at this stage.
- The Council **NOTED** the Government's announcement that the three-unitary model for Suffolk will proceed including a boundary change to expand the size of Ipswich.
- The Council **AGREED** that Cllr Hall would represent it at the official opening of The Pantry at the THRIVE at Redgrave and Lopham Fen on 11am Monday 27 Apr 26.

10. **Resident Correspondence.** To **NOTE** and, where appropriate, **DISCUSS** items received from residents.

- The Council **AGREED** to request a visit by the Suffolk Highways Community Liaison Engineer to consider options in light of reported near miss incident on 13 Mar 26 at the junction of Churchway and the road in front of the Cross Keys pub,.
- The Council **AGREED** to hire temporary traffic lights |(at an approximate cost of £370) to enable the Community Self-Help team to safely clear pavement overgrowth on the bend at the exit of the village on Hall Lane.

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11. **Review of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).** Cllr Warnes reported that the next meeting of the NP Steering Group is scheduled for Thursday 9 Apr 2026. Andrea Long, the consultant supporting the work, has confirmed her availability.
12. **To DISCUSS the options for replacing the footpath signs and posts where necessary.** The Council **AGREED** to seek a quote from Richard Haydon to replace missing or broken posts and finger signs on footpaths around the village.
13. **To DISCUSS the Woodland purchase.** The Council **NOTED** progress on the purchase, including acceptance of the offer by the landowner and work being undertaken by the appointed solicitor, Rudlings LLP. It further **NOTED** that the solicitor had advised that the developer of the properties adjoining the Cottage may wish to widen the footpath through the wood. This was being challenged, as the planning application stated that no change to the track through the wood was required, which the developer has acknowledged.
14. **To AGREE a date for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM).** The Council **AGREED** to hold the APM on the same day at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 5 May 26.
15. **To DISCUSS the format of the 'Redgrave Community Forum.'** Cllrs Hall and Blackman-Cross **AGREED** to lead planning for the Redgrave Community Forum to be held on the Knoll during the summer. The Council **AGREED** that stallholders should be invited, as at previous events.
16. **To DISCUSS the cleaning of the entrance gates to the village at each end.** The Council **AGREED** Cllr Hall's request for funding for materials to clean the village entrance gates, at an estimated cost of £14.99.
17. **Items to be proposed for the following Agenda.**
 - Election of new officers including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Tree Warden, Gressingham contact; Footpaths officer; RAT trustees
 - Year End Accounts
18. **Date of next meeting.** Tuesday, 5 May 26, 7 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19:52 pm

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