



# REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Alison Spouncer  
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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.00pm on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at the All Saints Church, Redgrave.

**Present:** Chairman Andy Warnes, Cllrs Frank Gillett, Elaine Brown, Brian Andrews, Mike Hall, Mike Denmark, Matthew Broughton, the Clerk, and ten 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 Pearse and Blackman-Cross. Declarations of Interest – No.**
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting.** Minutes of the last meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026, previously circulated, were agreed as a true record, **APPROVED** by councillors, and signed by the Chairman. It was **AGREED** by the Cllrs present for the co-option of Matthew Broughton onto the Parish Council, following the provision of a register of interests and eligibility documents from Mr Broughton.
- 4. Public Forum.** A request was made on behalf of the Speedwatch Group for additional volunteers. The resident asked that anyone who may be interested in helping the Group please get in touch with Cllr Hall. The group is considering extending watches to weekends; therefore, anyone who may find that more suitable would be very welcome. Two sessions a week are scheduled, so various amounts of time are available to suit.
- 5. County and District Councillors' Reports.** County Cllr Fleming provided her apologies for her lack of her attendance but provided a report. Information included the news that it is likely the County elections will not be taking place this year. SCC awaits governmental decision, but it voted in favour of a delay. There is a proposal for a 600-hectare (c. 1300 acres) solar farm and energy storage around Yaxley, Gislingham, Brome, and Eye. This is considered an NSIP (National Strategic Infrastructure Project). There is a consultation process for anyone interested in responding. Further details can be found on the SCC website at "EcoPower Suffolk – Suffolk County Council".  
The proposed New Reservoir, Thrandeston or Eye Area by Essex and Suffolk Water is ongoing. A second reservoir is planned near Sibton. More information available at <https://suffolkwaternet.co.uk/>  
District Cllr Morgan gave apologies with no report provided.

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*Cllr Fleming welcomes any communications from residents with queries and concerns. [Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 07714-597980. X (formerly Twitter): @jesstfleming. Our District Councillor can be contacted: [Gilly.Morgan@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto: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/26/04761 – Rectory Farmhouse, The Green, Redgrave Erection of 1no Self-build replacement dwelling following the removal of the existing dwelling. Rectory Farmhouse, The Green.**

The owner of the property attended the meeting, accompanied by his architect, to discuss the proposal. The owner confirmed that he intends to have livestock on his land, hence the fencing that has been erected. Further fencing around the land may be installed. The architect provided information on the design of the proposed development, local materials, stone, and timber, with a sheet roof, with a nod to the character of the area, including Edwardian design. Cllr Warnes thanked both for their input and outlined the PC's concerns about the development. Namely, there appears to be no Heritage statement, the vicinity of Grade II listed properties, and a lack of information within the Design Access Statement. The PC's biggest concern is related to the Ecology report. The PC endorses the report from the Ecological consultant, in particular, the degradation/removal of trees already, and removing the floor in the loft space, potentially cancelling any evidence of the presence of bats, carried out before the inspection. The owner suggested that cameras have been placed within the area for 2 weeks with no evidence of bats; however, it was suggested by Cllr Warnes (backed by a local ecologist) that bats would not be in the area due to it being the wrong season. Cllr Warnes informed the owner of the property that a meeting had been held with the footpath officer visiting the village's footpath network recently. The officer viewed the fencing and was not content with its location. He stated that if he were to receive any complaint regarding the placement, there would be a need for the fence to be relocated. The PC **AGREED** that a response would be provided to BMSDC stating its concerns in a neutral position.

**DC/26/00308 - Land to the South of Churchway, Redgrave Erection of 8no dwellings, vehicular and pedestrian access, and associated infrastructure.**

Cllr Warnes outlined the background to the land off Churchway, noting that while the site was allocated in the 2022 Neighbourhood Plan for a small-scale development of around eight dwellings, this was expressly subject to mitigation measures under Policy RED2 which can no longer be delivered. The current proposal includes a mix of housing types that does not reflect the Neighbourhood Plan's identified priority for bungalows and lower-cost homes and introduces a four-bedroom dwelling for which no local need has been demonstrated. In addition, the drainage

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proposals did not meet the requirements of Policy RED16. While the Parish Council does not object to the principle of development, it **AGREED** to submit an objection highlighting these concerns. It was **NOTED** that the PC acts as one voice, and if anyone wishes to comment, they can also do so on an individual basis.

**DC/26/00374 – The Hollies, The Street, Redgrave Application for Listed Building Consent - Remove and replace 5no. 2-light timber casement windows.** Cllr Brown recused herself from the discussion. **NO OBJECTION.**

### To NOTE Planning Decisions Received:

**DC/25/05527 Bromley Cottage, The Green** Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 No. Walnut (T1). **NO OBJECTION.**

**DC/25/04901 The Priory, Half Moon Lane** Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement of two pairs of wooden side-hinged garage doors. The smaller pair on the right (believed to be original) would be replaced with like-for-like Bead and Butt Cottage-style doors. The other pair would be made to match. **GRANTED.**

**DC/26/00011 Maplefield, The Street** Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Remove lower limbs from 1 No. Birch buildings of adjacent property and own garage (crown lifting) and reduction in height of the larger of two stems which is leaning towards adjacent house by approx 4-6m. Thin crown of 1 No. Field Maple (T2) by 20%. **NO OBJECTION.**

## 7. Parish Clerk's Report.

**Action 215-7.2:** The PC **AGREED** to accept the quote provided for the works required to be carried out on the two benches in the play area and the bench by the pond.

**Action 344-12:** The Clerk confirmed the application to the British Heart Foundation for the provision of a defibrillator machine was unsuccessful, citing a demographic not overly requiring provision. The PC discussed and **AGREED** to purchase a machine for placement on the All Saints building. An investigation into utilising District CIL monies will be undertaken.

**Action 402-12:** The extension of the 30mph on Hinderclay Road proposal continues, with Cllr Andrews to ask residents and Gressingham for written support.

**Action 401-11:** A group is forming (now up to 4) to determine if there is an opportunity to adopt an HGV restriction on the B1113.

**Action 403-19:** For consideration of Assertion 10, it is suggested that Cllrs use a '.gov.uk' email address. The Clerk confirmed that email addresses can be provided through the package held with 'Freethought' for email. Cllrs Warnes, Hall, Broughton, Brown, Gillett, and Denmark all expressed an interest in having a '.gov.uk' address. It was **AGREED** for the Clerk to facilitate.

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

## Bank Account Balances

Unity Trust Bank Account	£ 5,405.62
Unity Trust Instant Access Account	£73,486.60
<b>TOTAL Bank Account Balance on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026)</b>	<b>£78,892.22</b>
<b>(Of which £73,486.60 in reserves, incl £39,550.26 as CIL)</b>	

### 8.1 Payments Approved and Paid:

Administration costs (not itemised for GDPR)	£ 728.19
Unity Bank Service Charge	£ 6.00
ICO Direct Debit	£ 47.00
SALC Payroll	£ 54.00
Contractor Work for bench/noticeboard installation	£ 525.00
HMRC NI Payment (Qtr 3)	£ 128.34
RBR PCC Hall Hire 2026	£ 270.00
WordPress Website Subscription	£ 43.20

**TOTAL PAYMENTS** £ **1,801.73**

### 8.2 Accounts for Approval:

**TOTAL** £ **0.00**

### 8.3 Monies Received:

**TOTAL INCOME** £ **0.00**

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

- The PC **NOTED** BMSDC's response regarding the comments made on the HE23362 area of land in relation to the call for sites, suggesting the PC should await further confirmation on the call for sites exercise. The PC **AGREED** to adhere to BMSDC's advice and will await further updates.
- An invitation from Adrian Ramsay, MP, to attend a sustainable communities conference on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March at the Corn Hall in Diss. Cllr Warnes will be attending.

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

- A request was received from a resident for the consideration of 4 additional dog litter bins:
  - a. At the junction of the Mill Lane footpath and Fen Street, outside of John's Wood.

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- b. The footpath at the very end of Half Moon Lane, outside of Tanglewood.
- c. At the end of Bier Lane footpath opposite the new dog park (Star Wing)
- d. At the end of Bier Lane footpath and junction of Fen Street, opposite the wooden bench.

Whilst the PC **AGREED** that the addition of more dog litter bins may be a positive, consideration was given to the additional cost this would cause from the purchase of new bins and subsequent regular collections. The PC confirmed it has a 'spare' bin currently not in use; therefore, it was **AGREED** by all Cllrs present to place this at the junction of the Mill Lane footpath and Fen Street. Consideration was given to moving the bin that is currently located at the bend of Hall Lane on B1113, as it does not appear to be overly used; however, Cllr Brown was concerned about the vehicle access at the end of Half Moon Lane, and Cllr Denmark suggested moving the bins would be quite an undertaking. The PC **AGREED** for the Clerk to seek an update from Mr Larder regarding his suggestion that he would be adding a dog litter bin at the Star Wing dog area.

**11. Review of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).** Cllr Warnes updated those present on the status of the Neighbourhood Plan Review. A Steering Group (SG) has now been established. The group's Terms of Reference have been drafted and circulated to Cllrs for consideration. Step 1 of reading all documents is now complete. Eight out of the 10 chapters of the plan are simple in amendments; however, chapters 7 and 8 are more complex. Community engagement would be an opportunity for residents to look through the input to the SG. The Council **AGREED** the following documents:

- SG Terms of Reference
- Step 1 Report (and supporting Neighbourhood Plan Chapter documents)
- Updated SG Plan
- Community Engagement Strategy for Step 3 Neighbourhood Plan Review and Update

**12. To DISCUSS the options of requesting the extension of the 30mph speed limit on Hinderclay Road.** Following the request from Adrian Ramsay, MP, to investigate the extension of the 30mph, Cllr Andrews **AGREED** to speak with residents and Gressingham to ask for written comments on the option.

**13. To DISCUSS the formal report and business case for the purchase of the wooded land.** Cllr Warnes presented the Formal Report and Business Case for the purchase of the wood to the Council. Cllr Warnes confirmed he had met with a representative from Durrants for the MRICS valuation; Durrants will provide a confirmed valuation report in a couple of weeks. Cllr Warnes attended a site survey by Sunshine Surveys, who confirmed the

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pink markers are in the correct places to mark the boundary of the land. Cllr Warnes also attended two visits for a condition survey of the trees; a quote of £4,600+VAT has been provided for the removal of diseased and dying trees. The landowner has previously agreed that costs associated with such works will be taken from the final agreed sale price. Cllr Warnes has consulted with solicitors with a quote of £2,000+VAT being required to close the sale. Cllr Warnes has made an initial enquiry regarding a BMSDC Community Nature Recovery Large Grant option; the application needs to be in by 16<sup>th</sup> March with a 2-week lead time for a decision to be received. (Cllrs had previously **AGREED** to pursue this). The Council **AGREED** a set of resolutions regarding the proposed purchase as follows:

- **Resolution 1:** That the Parish Council **NOTES** the contents of this Report, the consultation undertaken to date, and that the boundary survey has been completed and satisfactorily confirms the site boundary.
- **Resolution 2:** That the Parish Council **AGREES IN PRINCIPLE** to the purchase of the woodland off the Green, Redgrave, subject to:
  - Receipt of the independent MRICS valuation, expected by mid-February 2026, confirming that the price represents best consideration and;
  - Final agreement of the purchase price with the seller.
- **Resolution 3:** That the Parish Council **AUTHORISES** the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, to complete the legal purchase once the conditions in Resolution 2 have been satisfied.
- **Resolution 4:** That the Parish Council **AGREES** to the submission of an application to the Mid Suffolk District Council Community Nature Recovery – Large Grant to support habitat restoration, priority species enhancement, capacity building and biodiversity monitoring associated with the Woodland, subject to the purchase proceeding in accordance with Resolution 2.

14. The Council **AGREED** the new IT Policy (circulated previously to Cllrs for consideration)
15. The PC **AGREED** to request Trevor Brown to carry out the PC's Internal Audit for 2024/25.
16. The format for this year's Redgrave Community Forum/Annual Parish Meeting (APM) was discussed, following last year's lower turnout from residents. Cllr Denmark suggested a later date in the year and to hold it on the Knoll. Those present **AGREED** this would be a positive option, and it was **AGREED** for the clerk to confirm the dates the APM is required to take place.

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**17. Any items to be proposed for the next meeting.**

Woodland Status.

Safety Inspection for Children's playground.

Redgrave Community Forum and Annual Parish Meeting.

**18. Date of next meeting.** Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7 pm.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:15 pm**

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