



# REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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

held at 7.00pm on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at the All Saints Church, Redgrave.

**Present:** Chairman Cllr Andy Warnes, Cllrs Elaine Brown, Frank Gillett, Mike Denmark, Brian Andrews, John Giddings, Alison Spouncer (Clerk). Nineteen members of the public were in attendance.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Introduction.** A welcome was extended to all at the meeting by Chairman Cllr Andy Warnes.
- 2. Apologies** District Cllr Gilly Morgan, Cllr Pearse. **Declarations of Interest – None. Delegated Declaration of Interest Dispensation decisions or dispensation requests where required – None.**
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting.** Minutes of the last meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024) previously circulated were agreed as a true record, **APPROVED** by councillors, and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Public Forum**  
The members of the public were in attendance to discuss Item 12; Purchase of Gallows Hill by Beaulieu Homes Ltd for potential development.
- 5. County and District Councillor's Reports.**  
Cllr Fleming was in attendance and provided a summary of the report (previously circulated to Councillors). Cllr Fleming wished to highlight three public consultations currently open; the SCC post-16 travel policy for 2025/26 open for public consultation until 16<sup>th</sup> December. The Local Transport Plan consultation is open until 25<sup>th</sup> November and the Budget 2025/26 Consultation is open until 16<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Fleming emphasised how welcome public considerations would be. Being a member of the budget working party with the challenges of rising costs in salaries, adult education, and SEND provision Cllr Fleming would be interested to hear peoples' thoughts on how to utilise the funds. Visit [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2025\\_26\\_budget](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2025_26_budget) or contact Cllr Fleming directly. The budget will then be finalised February/March 2025.  
Warm Homes Interest Free Loans are available on a first come, first served basis. With a total of £3 million to be provided, applications can be made for energy efficiency upgrades including insulation, solar panels and air source heat pumps. The loans are between £2,000 and £15,000 which are required to be paid in seven years with 0% interest. Visit <https://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan> for more details.

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This Page 1 of 6



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299

Cllr Fleming wished to seek any experiences any villagers may have had linked to the County Broadband installations. She is aware of issues arising in other villages and wishes to follow them up.

District Cllr Morgan gave her apologies for not attending the meeting but provided a report, summary including the two New Community Transport Schemes providing trips to Eye and Stowmarket initially with the hope of more options to follow.

Funds for Community Projects have been made available (£270,000) with applications open for community organisations and projects over the next three years.

*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/24/04428** – Rose Dene, Fen Street. Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity, including those in breach of a planning condition Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) for use of land for stationing of static caravan as a dwelling.

**OBJECTION:** Unofficial advice was sought from the planning department, however, with the lack of the advice required for the question asked the PC agreed to **OBJECT** to the application on the understanding that the caravan is sited outside the curtilage of the applicant (Rose Dene).

**DC/24/04685** – The Coach House, The Green. Reduction of 1 Conifer to 7ft as leaning and too large for area. **NO OBJECTION.**

To **NOTE** any planning decisions received.

**DC/24/03161** - Reed House, The Street, rear extension, installation of solar panels, alterations for front wall – GRANTED.

**DC/24/03816** – Bramley House, change of location of installation of Air Source Heat Pump – GRANTED.

**DC/24/04322** – The Cottage, The Green, works to trees (felling of 1No Ash Tree, 1No Beech Tree, 2No dying Ash Trees and 1No dead Sycamore Tree – NO OBJECTION.

**DC/24/02600** - 14 Churchway – dropped kerb – GRANTED.

7. **Parish Clerk's Report.** To **RECEIVE** an update on actions outstanding from previous meetings.

Action: **290-13:** Gressingham Foods Ltd has agreed to help with the maintenance of the village pond, the VAS speed machines and Speedwatch group. Cllr Warnes is to return a call, while Cllr Andrews awaits contact regarding the machines.

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**300**

Action: **296-12:** Cllr Denmark confirmed the Christmas tree has been ordered and is awaiting light options. In her absence, Cllr Pearse suggested an art competition for the children of the village linked to the tree. The Councillors present **AGREED** with the suggestion.

Action: **292-4:** It was agreed for the PC to meet with Botesdale and Rickinghall PCs and their Clerk to discuss the Community Transport Bus purchase further.

*Thanks were offered to Cllr Gillett and Sean Rourke who carried out maintenance works on the Bus Shelter on the Knoll.*

**8. Responsible Financial Officer Report.** The financial report was **NOTED**.

**The Total Bank Accounts Balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 totalled £70,437.72** (Of which £61,373.57 in reserves, incl £31,267.50 as CIL)

<b>Unity Trust Bank Account</b>	<b>£ 8,702.27</b>
<b>Unity Trust Instant Access Account</b>	<b>£ 61,735.45</b>
<b>TOTAL Bank Account Balance on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b>	<b>£ 70,437.72</b>

**8.1 Payments Approved and Paid:**

MS Office 365 Annual Subscription. (Clerk)	£ 59.99
Soda PDF Annual Subscription (Clerk)	£ 37.90
Scribe Accounts Annual Subscription	£501.12
RBL Wreath Type B (Clerk)	£ 24.49
Service Charge (Unity)	£ 18.00
TRAMAR Inv 292	£ 72.00
Park Flowers (Clerk)	£ 40.00
Bus shelter maintenance (Cllr Gillett)	£ 40.00
War memorial insurance (Botesdale PC)	£ 50.00
TRAMAR Inv 308	£ 72.00
SALC Payroll Services	£ 54.00
Zurich Municipal Insurance (Redgrave Parish Council)	£533.00*
TRAMAR Inv 314	£ 72.00
Strimmer service (Cllr Warnes)	£ 63.26
Sean Rourke (Bus Shelter maintenance/shelves/benches)	£1350.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit)	£252.00
Community Action Suffolk One Suffolk subscription	£ 60.00
Administration Costs	£603.85
Service Charge (Unity)	£ 5.40

**TOTAL PAYMENTS**

**£3,909.01**

**\*Change of Insurer with a saving of £444.19 for 12 months.**

**8.2 Accounts for Approval:**

**TOTAL** **£0.00**

**8.3 Monies Received:**

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This Page 3 of 6



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Credit Interest (Instant Access Account) £361.88

**TOTAL INCOME £361.88**

**8.4** The reduction in the Instant Access Account’s interest rate from 2.75% to 2.6% was **NOTED**.

**9. Correspondence.** To **NOTE** correspondence received.

- A request had been received from the Cross Keys Pub to hold a carol-singing evening on 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm on the Knoll. It was **AGREED** this would be a nice addition to the festivities.\*
- The new Rural Connect door-to-door transport service from Communities Together East Anglia was **NOTED**. The details have been circulated on the bulletin and Facebook.
- The Street Forge Workshops have their annual open day on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 was **NOTED**.

**10. Resident’s Correspondence.**

No correspondence was received.

**11. Standing Order Documents for review (previously circulated).**

- Charity Trustee Appointment Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Communications Policy
- Document Control & Records Management Policy
- Information Security Incident Policy

All documents were **AGREED** to be published. It was **NOTED** the only change is within the ‘Charity Trustee Appointment Policy’ that now only includes Redgrave Amenities Trust with the removal of Little Ouse Headwaters Project and Charity for the Needy.

It was noted that post the preparation of these revised orders (and those approved in October), advice has been received from NALC recommending that all parish and town councils review their current policies and arrangements and take steps to ensure they comply with the new positive duty for councils to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, which came into effect on 26th October 2024. It was **AGREED** that this activity would be undertaken.

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This Page 4 of 6



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302

**12. To DISCUSS a high-level proposal from Beaulieu Homes following its purchase of Gallows Hill (5 acres).**

Cllr Warnes provided a timeline of the introduction from Beaulieu Homes since its purchase of Gallows Hill. A meeting was had with some members of the Council, the Clerk and Iain Jamie of Beaulieu Homes. During a site visit, Mr Jamie outlined the company’s plans for the land: eight Bungalows and 2 affordable bungalows within 1.5 acres. Beaulieu Homes proposes to then sell the remaining land (c3.5 acres) to the Parish Council for £1 with the suggestion of siting a village hall, play area and wildflower meadow on this area. In response Cllr Warnes confirmed the PC had highlighted the land being outside of the settlement boundary, the access and heritage issues found in the previous application and MSDC’s viewpoint that there is no great need for houses in the village and therefore a real need would need to be proven, and appropriate compensation provided to the village. It was stressed to Beaulieu Homes that the PC had initiated a Housing Needs Survey which will provide information on the villagers’ thoughts with results expected in early 2025. A pictorial plan was shown to those present at the meeting with Cllr Warnes confirming that he will add the details on the PC website.

Questions were taken from the public: It was confirmed the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) does not necessarily prevent development beyond that identified in the plan but this might require the production of a People and Place document to support any significant increase; it was also noted that the ongoing Housing Needs Survey might also support any such increase if it showed an increase in the need since the production of the NP. One resident wished to highlight the application in 2019 was refused due to traffic and the accessibility concerns, being in a conservation area and ecological concerns. Since then, traffic alone has become even more of an issue.

Concern was also raised that if the bungalows were agreed to, the buildings would latterly be extended to two-storey homes as has been seen in other developments. Many residents agreed it would not be a good position for a village hall/play area with accessibility being dangerous on the pavement on the bend, which could not be altered. Cllr Warnes suggested there would need to be an above standard percentage of biodiversity net gain, however, this was questioned with residents suggesting the agreement for tree planting by Gressingham Foods Ltd has still not materialised. Cllr Warnes concluded the discussion confirming the details would be shared on the website, no further discussions would be had with Beaulieu Homes until after the HNS results had been discussed and an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting would be held to provide further opportunities to discuss. The PC would seek the thoughts of the village before any decision was to be made about the response to the Beaulieu Homes offer. It was highlighted by a resident that the PC has effectively ‘one voice’ and therefore anyone who has views from either side should respond also.

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**13. To AGREE dates for 2025 meetings.**

The following 2025 dates were **AGREED**: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**14. Any Items to be proposed for the next Agenda:**

To **REVIEW** the draft budget for 2025/26

To **REVIEW** Grant/donation applications received for 2026

To **REVIEW** the changes in standards; potential of virtual meeting attendance options.

**15. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 7 pm All Saints.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12 pm**

**\*The PC was latterly informed the change of date for the carol singing on the Knoll. It will now be held on 12th December, not 19th as recorded in the minutes for the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

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This Page 6 of 6