



**GISLINGHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**



Working for our Community

Email: clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 28th April 2025 at 7:00PM**

Present: Cllr C Tranter, Cllr F Oliver, Cllr C Calver, Cllr K Chapman, Clerk/RFO – S Budd,
DC Cllr R Warboys, 4 members of public, guest speaker Paul Trew

Apologies: Cllr Flemming

- 1 Chair welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence**
Cllr Tranter welcomed everyone and apologies from Cllr Flemming were noted.
- 2 To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items**
None Received.
- 3 To consider requests for Dispensations on agenda items**
None Received
- 4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March 2025 are a true and correct record.**
The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March were approved, with 2 abstentions.
- 5 Report from County Councilor**
CC Cllr Fleming's report can be found as an addendum to the minutes.
- 6 Report from District Councilor**
DC Cllr Warboy's report can be found as an addendum to the minutes
- 7 Public Participation Session**
A member of public (Chair of GUC) raised an issue with the footpath improvements, Footpath 35 has a cemented surface which extends past the fence of Footpath 35 and has encroached onto GUC land. Cllr Calver said Type 1 compound was installed by SCC not cement, part of the footpath was down to bear mud, in poor weather conditions the footpaths were extremely muddy and children were entering school with muddy shoes and trousers, the entrance to Charity Meadow was also bear grass and constant footfall had caused a dip, it was felt that the aggregate covering this area would help to prevent a puddle of water forming in this area and as this thought the grass will grow around this area. The council were not aware the improvements were going to encroach on the GUC land and apologised.
The GUC would like to be informed if any work is going to be carried out on GUC land.

A member of the public raised concerns about the detrimental effect the pylons and Ecopower Suffolk will have on our village, the consultation process was too short, now becoming more political.

Submission is being submitted to the government.

The solar panels are too close to the village and would like plans reviewed to prevent or move the solar farms further away from our village.

The pylon route plans from Wortham to Palgrave have changed, it is going to be overground over protected land.

There will be a Community Fund, ring fenced for communities however not sure on figures. Ecopower is open to discussion on how funds will be held, Parish Councils will have the opportunity to have their say.

Two Councillors attended a meeting in Mellis with Cllr Rout, Ecopower and other local parishes to discuss the proposed projects and provide information parishes, Ecopower did not attend the meeting.

The Parish Council response to the consultation can be found on the website under News and Notices.

ACTION: Clerk to publish response on website

8 Chair's Report

It is with some regret that I have to announce that Cllr Pitt has resigned from the parish council, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Jo, admirably supported by my council colleagues whilst I was unwell and recovering, a great job done by you all.

On 15th April Cllr Calver and I attended a meeting at the Mellis memorial hall with most of the surrounding village Council chairs, our District Councillor Rowland Warboys and Local MP Richard Rout. The subject was the concern over the proposed solar farm project, some very interesting comments were made and some ideas that were put forward to Ecopower Suffolk by me and others and these have been forwarded to councillors - I believe that the key to getting the best deal for Gislegham and Mellis may end up being damage limitation by which I mean getting the overall area proposed for this project reduced and trying to set boundaries further away from dwellings, especially in Burgate Road.

I think that what I personally determined from this meeting without trying to be negative is that in effect what government wants government gets, I feel that all we can do is to make our concerns known and make sure that Ecopower Suffolk not only listens to them but act upon them (nimbysism is not a concern). We have to try to ensure that we do our best to mitigate what is likely to happen with the proposal.

9 Clerk/RFO Report

- A remittance advice has been received from MSDC confirming payment for the first half of the precept £7,200.00
- Accounts for March were sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting
- Quarterly checks of the accounts for yr end 2025 were checked and signed off by Cllr Tranter.
- A Volunteer has started litter picking with adult supervision for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- 20's plenty sign cannot be installed on the streetlight, waiting for a quotation for a post and sign.
- We have received quotations for cutting the footpaths which are not covered under SCC, need to clarify contractors have insurance, c/f to next meeting.
- The Play Inspection Report dated 5th February 2025 received by Clerk on 3rd April 2025, waiting for quotations for some replacement parts.
- Councillors discussed the Annual Village meeting and agreed up to £75.00 to purchase drinks and nibbles for the event, proposed Cllr Tranter seconded Cllr Oliver approved unanimously.
- CIL Neighbourhood Expenditure Report was emailed to councillors prior to the meeting and was proposed by Cllr Tranter, seconded by Cllr Chapman approved unanimously, Cllr Tranter and S Budd RFO then signed the report.
- Budget Monitoring for yr end 2025 and Explanation of variances were sent to Councillors prior to the meeting, councillors discussed the variances and approved unanimously.

ACTION: Clerk checking Contractor has appropriate insurance, send in CIL Report and publish on website & Noticeboard.

10 Neighbourhood Watch Report

We have recently had reports of minor break ins in some neighbouring villages and an assault in Stowmarket. Nothing reported within our village, however this time of year mowers and electrical equipment will be in use, please ensure equipment and outbuildings are secure.

11 Footpath Warden's Report (Martyn Byrant)

Footpath report can be found as an addendum to the minutes

12 SID (Speed Indicator Device) (Stuart Wells)

SID report can be found as an addendum to the minutes

13 Spring Get Together

The council would like to thank Mrs Oliver for the cakes provided on the 12th April, enjoyed by everyone who attended. The attendance numbers were low, it was discussed it could be opened to all residents in the village, it was decided to c/f to next meeting.

14 End of War in Europe Celebrations

The celebrations are organized, marque will be put up 9.30am on the morning the Silver Band, Gislingham Variety Club, Bar, Hog Roast, Tea/coffee and cold drinks, Ice Cream van, bunting will be put up a few days before the event, Cllr Oliver, Cllr Calver and Cllr Chapman will be onsite during the day. The proceeds for the Tea's & coffee will be given to The British Legion, it was agreed if no proceeds the council would give a £50.00 doantion.

15 New VAS (Vehicle Activated Speed Device)

We are waiting for a quotation from Highways for post installation.

ACTION: Chase Highways for quotation

16 Village Signage

A member of the public attended the meeting last month but had to leave due to the time, he raised concerns with some of the signs in the village deteriorating or missing.

Charity Meadow –The sign on the toddler area did have a plastic cover but it has broken off and the sign is now deteriorating

The sign on the play area is old and out of date. It still refers to the closest telephone box as being outside the shop.

High Street the "School" sign on the High St is illegible

There is a sign as you approach the pub from the VH warning of a children's play area ahead. Needs to be removed as play area was moved the Charity Meadow in 2006.

Roads Approaching the Village – Finningham Rd and Mellis Rd used to have signs marking Gislingham Parish Boundary. The signs were removed about 7 years ago but the posts to hold the signs remain.

Some of these have been reported to Highways.

ACTION: Clerk to report the remaining signs to Highways, arrange new signs for Charity Meadow.

17 War Memorial Survey

Structural survey complete, councillors discussed the report and have agreed to monitor the Memorial for any movement, however further movement is not expected. War Memorials Online has been updated with condition and photos from the report. It is recommended to have a Maintenance / monitoring plan in place.

ACTION: Clerk to create a maintenance/monitoring plan recommended by War Memorials Trust

18 Defibrillator

We have been offered a defibrillator for Gislingham Primary School, councillors discussed and agreed the village shop would be a good location if agreeable by the shop.

ACTION: Cllr Tranter to discuss with the shop

19 Planning

No applications were received.

20 Community Emergency Plan / Watercourse talk

Paul Trew attended the meeting to give a talk on the work group he works with in Finningham maintaining the River Dove in their village.

This group is not part of the Parish Council, it is a group of volunteers on a Whatsapp group they carry out work in 1 hour time slots working in small sections at a time, clearing vegetation and trees from the ditches, large trees are offered to people with wood burners in the village. Councillors thought this was a good idea and hope volunteers come forward to create a working party.

21 Charity Meadow

No Licence is required for the bench and approval has been granted from GUC and the school. The cost of the bench is £349.00 and the soft anchors approx. £80.00.

Proposed by Cllr Oliver seconded by Cllr Chapman approved unanimously.

ACTION: Clerk to purchase Bench and Soft Anchors.

22 Finance

Payments	Amount	Proposed	Seconded	Approved
Admin payment for April	£658.88	Cllr Chapman	Cllr Tranter	Unanimous
Expenses S Budd – Bunting, flags End of War Celebrations, Ink	£81.99	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
SALC Membership	£496.40	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Chapman	Approved, 1 abstention
SCC – Street Lighting Electric	£1081.96	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Inn-House Technology	£25.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr Tranter	Unanimous
Mason Navarro Pledge – War Memorial Survey	£1440.00	Cllr Oliver	Cllr Tranter	Unanimous
Expenses S Budd – laptop & data transfer	£378.99	Cllr Oliver	Cllr Tranter	Unanimous
Hire of Village Hall – March Meeting	£20.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr Tranter	Unanimous
Expenses – Cllr Tranter Spring Get Together Cakes, keys	£33.49	Cllr Chapman	Cllr Oliver	Approved, 1 abstention

23 Training

Cllr Chapman has completed both Councillor Training Sessions

Send dates of training to new councillors

24 Policies

Standing Orders

Councillors agreed to adopt the changes recommended by NALC, proposed by Cllr Calver and seconded by Cllr Tranter, approved unanimously.

ACTION: Clerk to update the policy and upload them to the website

25 Co-option

Christopher Fell & Christopher Saunders completed a Councillor Co-option Form which were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Christopher Fell & Christopher Saunders met all the criteria and were welcomed to the council.

ACTION: Clerk to add new Councillors to email account and website, send paperwork to Christopher Saunders

26 IN CAMERA

Date of the next meeting is **19th May 2025** at 6.30pm in Gislingham Village Hall followed by the Annual Village Meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm