

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

**Minutes of the Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill Annual Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.30pm**

Attendance:

Councillor Gary Peachey	Chair
Councillor Sue French	Vice Chair
Ms Jane Spenser	Clerk to the Council
Councillor James Bailey	
Councillor Gary Harrison	
Councillor Jamie Howard	
Councillor Steve Murrow	
Councillor Alan Vickerage	

Members of the Electorate

3 members of the electorate were present.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all members. The Chair then stood down as the Council prepared to propose and elect a new Chair for 2026-27.

A reminder to everyone that the meeting was being recorded for accurate writing of the minutes.

6359	<u>Nomination for and Election of Chair inc. signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office</u> Councillor Gary Peachey was unanimously nominated and elected as Chair. The declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.	
6360	<u>Nomination for and Election of Vice-Chair inc. signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office</u> Councillor Sue French was unanimously nominated and elected as Vice Chair. The declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.	
6361	<u>Apologies and acceptance for absence</u> Received and accepted from Councillor Philip Haylock Further apologies received from Suffolk County Councillor and West Suffolk Councillor, Don Waldron and PC Scott Cameron.	
6362	<u>Council to note Jane Spenser (Clerk) as Proper Officer of the Council and to confirm that it fulfils the eligibility criteria to use General Power of Competence (GPOC)</u> It was noted that Jane Spenser is Proper Officer of the Council and that the Council meets the eligibility criteria to use the GPOC.	

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6363	<p><u>Council to note, Jane Spenser (Clerk) as Responsible Financial Officer of the Council.</u></p> <p>It was noted that, in accordance with s151 of the 1972 Act, the Parish Clerk is appointed as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer as part of her contract of employment.</p>	
6364	<p><u>To appoint a delegate to meetings of Suffolk Associations of Local Councils</u></p> <p>Cllr Gary Peachey was appointed as the delegate to meetings of Suffolk Associations of Local Councils.</p>	
6365	<p><u>To receive member's declaration of interest and dispensations relating to items in this agenda.</u></p> <p>None received.</p>	
6366	<p><u>To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2026 are a true and correct record.</u></p> <p>It was resolved that the minutes were a true and correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.</p>	
6367	<p><u>Progress Reports for information:</u></p> <p>a. Chair's report</p> <p>This is the report from the Chair of the Parish Council for the past year of 2025-26 as provided to the Annual Parish Meeting prior to this meeting.</p> <p>I will start by thanking Jane our Parish Clerk on her hard work and dedication over the last 12 months. Jane is a very valuable asset to our Council and she works tirelessly to keep the Council on track. I would also like to thank Angela McCarter who has worked very hard on a voluntary basis assisting Jane when needed.</p> <p>Stuart our Parish Keeper has settled well into his role and has now become a valuable member of the Council. His hard work has made a very positive impact on the villages and he is now a familiar face around the Parish.</p> <p>Our Love Your Village litter picks are now becoming very successful with many people getting involved from picking up litter, washing signs and cutting verges, I believe that this is a great way to bring back some pride in our community and our next one is planned for June. That said, there are many people who go around our villages collecting litter all year round and we thank them for giving up their time to do this.</p> <p>I would like to thank the editorial team Kay, Sue & Philip who produce the Parish magazine The Beacon. There is a lot of hard work that goes into producing The Beacon. I know they are always keen to collect</p>	

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content so anyone with an interesting story or some history from the Parish please contact the team.

The Parish Hub now has solar panels installed and this has dramatically lowered our running costs and reduced our carbon footprint. The Hub remains very busy with bookings most days.

We have just had our Easter Egg hunt and this really was a well-received and successful event with over 200 eggs given out to the youngsters of our community, A big thank you to all involved in putting together this great event.

Last November, I attended the annual wreath laying at Kenny Hill, Beck Row War Memorial and the War Graves at St John's Church. As always, this was very well attended.

In December we provided Christmas trees around the parish and these were lit at the beginning of the month. Later in that month Santa and his friends took their annual tour of the Parish, joined by a convoy of other vehicles to add to the attraction, A big thank you to all involved who give their time to put on this show for the community.

We now have 2 more additional solar enabled speed signs making a total of 6. Speeding remains a problem in our parish as well as many others. We have tried many times to put a Community Speed Watch in place but unfortunately a lack of volunteers makes this unachievable currently. However, we do now have monthly reports from each of the signs, so this helps us to highlight the problem areas.

The play park now has the new addition of the jungle climber and we hope this will be well received by our youngsters and is a welcome addition. We really do have a great play park with many great attractions. However, just lately, we have been subjected to some vandalism which is very disappointing and this behaviour does increase the financial pressure on the Council, but with the installation of cameras hopefully this will make it easier to identify the culprits.

The land at Holywell Row is now ready to be shaped into an area of tranquillity for all to use. Hopefully we will get some volunteers come forward to help with this great opportunity.

A couple of weeks ago I hosted a darts and chat evening at the Parish Hub and this was a great evening with over 20 people attending. We have a great opportunity to build on this and add other games but it will need more people to help run it. There is very clearly the need and want for this type of evening to get people out and socialising.

We are about to host the first driver awareness session at the Parish Hub. This is in conjunction with Suffolk Fire Service and is aimed at USAF personnel and all of the community to give advice and raise awareness of the dangers of driving on our rural roads. It is hoped this will be held 3-4 times a year. I really do believe that, as a Council, it is so important that we lead in this type of initiative.

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	<p>Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their hard work and dedication over the last 12 months. It's been a pleasure to be the Council Chairman and I look forward to the year ahead.</p> <p>b. Clerk's progress report on previous agenda items.</p> <p>The Clerk met with Suffolk Streetlighting regarding quotes for 2 additional streetlights and also looked at various lights that are being obscured by overgrown ivy and trees, and will get this addressed.</p> <p>Waiting to hear about a link for the wildlife cameras from Cllr Murrow.</p> <p>The Parish Hub phone box is coming along and the list is now made to purchase the required parts. The door is causing a few issues as it is twisted. As a reminder, Cllr Waldron kindly provided grant funding of £1000 towards this project to get the phone box up and running.</p> <p>A&S Topsoils very kindly donated the topsoil needed for the area at the park that has been turfed. The Clerk has thanked them on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>All play area repairs are now complete including the zip wire. The Jungle Climber is now also passed for play.</p> <p>c. The Beacon</p> <p>Beacon entries for the next edition are due by 15.05.26.</p>	
6368	<p><u>Public participation session (15 minutes) followed by Police, District and County Councillor Reports.</u></p> <p>Parish residents noted that an area of Parkside (the corner with the name of Parkside on) has not been cut by West Suffolk Council and is overgrown. The Parish Council agreed to send the Parish Keeper up to take care of this section for residents.</p> <p>a. Squadron Leader Owen Crossy – RAF Mildenhall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I reported last month that the design of a new search facility at the base main entrance was progressing. The intent is to separate contractor vehicles earlier and give more space for queuing prior to search to avoid delays at the main entrance. What has changed since then is that funding has been made available for the full redesign of the main entrance on the A1101 earlier than expected, which might see that work completed next year. I will keep you and West Suffolk Council updated with any timelines as I get notified. - The base is still intending to support the Suffolk Show as part of the Military Village, although the scale of involvement is likely to be smaller than previous years due to their operational commitments. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Joan Mann Special Sports Day is planned to go ahead on 4th June as usual, providing the athletes attending a day to remember with plenty of fun activities and an awards ceremony at the end of the day. - The Change of Command Ceremony for the 352nd Special Operations Wing is scheduled for 24th July, and you should have received a “Save the Date” notification. - We would like to thank Lou Handy, a Beck Row resident, for arranging to host personnel from the base for a cricket and softball event at the Mildenhall Cricket Club last Friday. The event was well attended, and a good time was had by all. 	
6369	<p><u>To consider planning applications</u></p> <p>DC/26/0618/HH – a. part single and part two storey side extension (following demolition of existing single storey side extension) b. relocation of AC units on side elevation c. one roof light to existing rear extension. Location: 33 The Street, Beck Row, IP28 8AD. SUPPORT</p>	Action Clerk
6370	<p><u>Governance and Finance:</u></p> <p>To receive and approve the bank reconciliations -</p> <p>Appendix A and Appendix B - Reconciliation of Parish Council and Parish Hub bank accounts previously circulated to members ahead of the meeting for the month ending April 2026 were received and approved.</p> <p>To approve payments –</p> <p>Parish Council – Appendix C Parish Hub - Appendix D</p> <p>Payments were authorised. Payments books can be found in the minute folder with these minutes.</p> <p>To receive and sign the Internal Control Statement and Report 2025/26 Appendix E</p> <p>The Internal Control Statement and Report was received and signed.</p> <p>(Items a-h below issued under Appendix F)</p> <p>a. To receive, approve and sign the annual accounts for the Parish Council including savings accounts - The accounts were approved and signed.</p>	

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	<p>b. To receive, approve and sign the annual accounts for the Parish Hub - The accounts were approved and signed.</p> <p>c. To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report - Received and noted by members.</p> <p>d. To consider, approve and sign the Effectiveness of Internal Audit - The Effectiveness of Internal Audit was approved and signed.</p> <p>e. To consider, approve and sign the Annual Financial Risk Assessment - The Annual Financial Risk Assessment for 2026-27 was approved and signed.</p> <p>f. To consider, approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement (section 1) 2025/26 – (page 4 of 6) - Approved and signed.</p> <p>g. To consider, approve and sign the Accounting Statement (section 2) 2025/26 – (page 5 of 6) - Approved and signed.</p> <p>h. To note that the Clerk has set the period for the Public Rights of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return. This was noted and will be displayed on the public notice board outside the Parish Hub and on the Parish Council Website.</p>	
6371	<p><u>To discuss the need for a new bin for the play area</u></p> <p>The Parish Keeper is struggling to keep on top of the amount of rubbish that is being left on the park. The bins on site currently are not sufficient. The small bin near the entrance is also used by people who kindly litter pick the area to then dispose of the rubbish for collection by WSC. The capacity is not enough. The park is already down a bin due to there previously being one inside the gated area. The responsibility for the provision of new bins is on the Parish Council. WSC will empty the bin.</p> <p>It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a wheelie bin on concrete slab which can be sited just outside the gated play area. The Clerk will obtain costing, but the Parish Council approved a spend of up to £500.00.</p>	Clerk
6372	<p><u>To discuss wood protection/painting of the Pirate Ship by the Parish Keeper</u></p> <p>The Pirate Ship has now had a significant amount of money spent on it to replace all the deck and supporting beams under the deck. As the ship is out of warranty, the Parish Council can consider treating the timber with a wood protection for longevity to try and keep the Pirate Ship in good order for as long as possible. The Parish Keeper has confirmed this is something that could be done before the Summer holidays and whilst the Heras fencing is on site.</p> <p>He would be working by the hour to complete to the job. It was agreed to proceed with this work which will make the Pirate Ship look renewed and protect the timber. Suitable treatment will be sought with regards</p>	Clerk

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	to the Pirate Ship being play equipment. The outside timbers and exposed edges will be treated.	
6373	<u>Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda</u> Picnic bench for new turf area at the park	
6374	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Confirmation that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th June 2026.	
6375	Meeting closed at 8.12pm	

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