



**GISLINGHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**



Working for our Community

Email: clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 16th March 2026 at 7.00PM**

Present: Cllr C Tranter, Cllr Saunders, Cllr C Fell, Cllr K Chapman, Clerk/RFO – S Budd, DC Cllr R Warboys, CC Cllr J Fleming

Apologies: Cllr C Calver, Cllr R Gray, Cllr F Oliver

1 Chair welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence

Cllr C Tranter welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Cllr F Oliver, Cllr R Gray & Cllr C Calver and approved unanimously.

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 16th February 2026 are a true and correct record.

The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January were approved with 1 abstention.

5 Report from County Councillor

CC Cllr Fleming's report can be found as an addendum to the minutes.

6 Report from District Councillor

DC Cllr Warboy's report can be found as an addendum to the minutes

7 Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

8 Chair's Report

Nothing significant to report this month.

Following Cllr Calver's enquiry, I spoke with the owner of the village store regarding the placement of vapes near the confectionery display. He explained that this is the most practical location within the shop layout and mirrors the arrangement used in their Walsham store. He also noted that alcohol was previously displayed in the same area without any complaints. The store continues to follow strict age-related regulations for the sale of vapes, cigarettes, and alcohol, and these controls are adhered to at all times.

As mentioned in my Neighbourhood Watch report, I have been made aware of two thefts of domestic heating oil—two incidents in Palgrave and one near Eye. Residents with oil tanks are advised to ensure they are securely locked.

Finally, many of you will know that David Braybrook passed away a few weeks ago. His funeral service will take place at St Mary's in April. Regrettably, I am unable to attend due to a prior

commitment. I felt it would be a fitting gesture for the council to lay a poppy wreath in his honour, and Cllr Saunders has kindly agreed to present this on behalf of the council. David served this village with great dedication, particularly through his work with the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, and he represented the armed forces at numerous village events. He will be greatly missed.

Wreath for David Braybrook approximately £25.00 Proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Tranter approved unanimously.

9 **Clerk/RFO Report**

- Accounts for February were circulated via email to all Councillors prior to the meeting.
- Asset register updated to include Defibrillator, stand and recycled plastic benches, it will be updated again once the play park is completed.
- Eco Powersuffolk – I attended a CLG Meeting last Thursday lots of questions were raised at the meeting, slides and minutes will be available on the website
- Two of the locks are broken on the noticeboard, they have now arrived and need to be installed
- Slow horses 1 location agreed on Back Street and lawowner felt the other should be at the beginning of Back Street, I will enquire for a suitable location.
- Resident inquired about the Bus co=Ordinator role but then declined as felt they did not use the services on a regular basis – anyone interested in the role please contact us.
- Defibrillator cabinet, I have found an insulated cabinet which does not require electricity point , £410.00 + VAT, looking for grant funding options available
- Traffic Mirror was installed briefly at the junction of Back Street/B1113, it was deemed to be dangerous a difficult to judge distance, I have emailed the supplier for information on more suitable options.
- Certificates ready for 2024 Watson Bowl and Volunteer of the year winners
- Annual Village Meeting will be on the 18th May, the Parish Council Meeting will start at 6.30pm followed by the AVM. Councillors discussed refreshments and agreed a spend of up to £75.00 for drinks and nibbles, Cllr K Chapman will arrange.
- **Litter Pick 22nd March, 10am**
ACTION: Clerk to contact Internal Auditor, School for further information on cutting back trees. Defib box alternatives,

10 **Neighbourhood Watch Report**

Asian man knocking on doors in the early hours of the morning. While there is no confirmed link to criminal activity, the behaviour has understandably caused concern. This is not really neighbourhood watch , but nonetheless an important observation I have received a few complaints ab customers who have deliveries scheduled for next week and paid for , only to be told that their order is cancelled unless they pay the current oil rate or they can rebook or wait until the oil crisis is over -under consumer rights act I believe this to be illegal. Once goods are ordered and confirmed in writing and paid for, a contract has been entered into. 2 thefts from domestic oil tanks in Palgrave and 1 near Eye.

11 **Footpath Warden's Report (Martyn Byrant)**

No Footpath report received.

12 **Speed Indicator Device) (Stuart Wells/Anthony London)**

Quotation received for solar SID device £3227.85 +VAT, due to the additional weight of the solar panel and battery Highways have said the existing post is not suitable. Highways can install an 89mm post at a cost of £630.00 +VAT. The solar device is approximately £1000.00 more expensive than battery device.

Councillors briefly discussed and have carried forward to the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate costs for battery operated device for comparison.

13 **Grants and Donations**

Councillors discussed the applications and the following awards were proposed by Cllr C Tranter, seconded Cllr C Fell, approved unanimously
Pylons East Anglia £250.00

Svetlana Carter Dance Classes £50.00
Ecopower Suffolk £250.00

14 Planning

DC/26/00818 – 5 Hillcrest, Gislingham, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8HR – Erection of a single-story rear extension Councillors discussed the application and voted and approved with one abstention.

ACTION: Clerk to add comments onto planning portal.

15 Play Area

Notifications have been posted on the Messenger and on the Parish Council website advising residents of the temporary closure of the play area while refurbishment works are undertaken. Playdale have carried out their site visit and confirmed the positioning of the new equipment. It was noted that the slide and rope bridge were *not* scheduled for removal by Playdale. The recent inspection report identified Very Low to Low risk, primarily relating to splinters. Sanding and painting works have commenced, and volunteers would be welcomed to assist.

Playdale will review the spin disc if time permits. A replacement has been quoted at £629.20 + VAT, therefore repair is preferred if feasible.

A query had been raised regarding vehicular access rights to the play park under the new lease. The landowner has now provided formal written approval confirming vehicular access for maintenance purposes. A copy of this approval has been forwarded to Gislingham United Charities for their records

16 Finance

Payments	Amount	Proposed	Seconded	Approved
Admin payment for March	£852.41	Cllr Saunders	Cllr Tranter	Unanimous
S Budd Expenses – Noticeboard locks	£39.72	Cllr Chapman	Cllr Fell	Unanimous
Inn-House Technology CCTV Sim	£25.00	Cllr Fell	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Gislingham Village Hall – February	£20.00	Cllr Fell	Cllr Tranter	Unanimous
Playarea paint & Materials CIL	£127.42	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Playarea benches – CIL	£1863.90	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Fell	Unanimous
Playarea Table tennis & equipment	£1023.99	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Ground anchors	119.98	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous

17 Policies

Internal Controls Statement & Report

It was noted that once the play area improvements are completed, the council's insurance arrangements may need to be reviewed and adjusted to ensure all new equipment is fully covered.

ACTION: Clerk to update and upload to Website.

18 IN CAMERA

Date of the next meeting is **20th April 2026** at 7.00pm in Gislingham Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm