



**GISLINGHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**



Working for our Community

Email: clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 20th July 2026 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr Fell, Cllr K Chapman, Cllr R Gray, Clerk/RFO – S Budd,
Cllr R Warboys, 1 member of public

Apologies: Cllr F Oliver, Cllr C Saunders, Cllr C Calver

1 Chair's welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr Fell welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies from Cllr Saunders, Cllr Calver and Cllr Oliver were noted and approved by council.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr Chapman Item 10

3 To consider Requests for Dispensations on Agenda Items

None

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026 are a true and correct record

The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th June were approved by councillors.

5 Report from County Councillor

Cllr P. Bains report can be found as an addendum to the minutes.

6 Report from District Councillor

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

7 Public Participation

The member of the public attended to raise concerns regarding the NSIP Projects taking place around the village, particularly the proposed solar farm development as it is in the consultation stages.

The resident expressed dissatisfaction with the revised plans and questioned whether the Parish Council intends to submit a representation as part of the consultation process. They stated that the community fund is insufficient and feels it is a sweetener to palm off residents rather than addressing the scale of impact on the village.

The resident suggested that meaningful improvements could be made locally, such as extending the Gislingham Edge route to the railway line, thereby moving it further away from the village and reducing the impact on residents.

The resident emphasised that the solar project will have a significant and lasting effect on Gislingham and argued that local people should receive direct reimbursement or compensation for the disruption caused by the development.

8 Chair's Report

We have received a request for funding Thornham Magna bowls club they are seeking funding to replace the lawnmower which is 20 years old and a £1000 to update our equipment, although the club is not situated in Gislingham there are several residents playing at the club. Councillors discussed the request and decided to carry it forward to the next meeting as there are only three councillors present at this meeting.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

Accounts for June were forwarded to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Accounts quarterly reviewed are being carried out by Cllr Calver

Ashton Solicitors confirmed that the GUC are unable to claim the VAT as they did not pay the VAT.

The zipwire base, spin disk and removal of rotten benches will be completed this week, funding is available for a recycled plastic activity bench to replace the old benches & recycling bins, approved by councillors

Amendment to the AGAR section 2 Box 11, as requested by PKF.

Circular Walks map has been amended and sent to Discover Suffolk to provide a quotation for printing.

A funding request has been received for the dance evenings at the village hall, previous evenings have been a great success and lots of residents have been in attendance, councillors discussed the funding and questioned if CIL monies can be used on the event.

A resident raised concerns about the overgrown hedge on the footpath to the play area, the hedge belongs to the school and they have been informed.

The new defibrillator cabinet has been installed opposite the Village Shop and is now registered with The National Defibrillator Network.

ACTIONS: Clerk to contact Infrastructure for funding, order activity benches & bins, chase quote for Circular Walks Map

10 GUC

The GUC have asked if add an annual report and Complaints Policy on their section of the website.

The GUC is going to be hosting a free picnic and Silver Band performance in Town Yard at 2pm on 20th September and have asked if it would be possible to borrow the 'village's' marquee for this event. Due to the limited number of councillors present and a declaration of interest, the Council could not vote on this request. It will be added to the agenda for the next meeting so that a formal decision can be made.

11 Neighbourhood Watch

Doorstep callers Impersonating Suffolk Fire and Rescue officers stating solar panels are dirty and cause a fire hazard trying to get residents to pay them for their cleaning services.

Reports of groups of up to 40 young people have been at the Co-op in Botesdale causing disruption to businesses and distress to residents, the police are now involved.

12 Footpath Warden's Report

Footpath report can be found as an addendum to the minutes.

A resident message regarding a footpath on the new estate Poppy Way which needs cutting, he has offered to volunteer to cut footpaths, Cllr P Bains is looking into equipment and training.

13 SID (Speed Indicator Device)

The speedwatch team have requested funding to service and calibrate the speed guns, the approximate cost is £400.00, councillors discussed and approved unanimously

14 NSIP's

The EcoPower Suffolk consultation is now open for responses, and this is an important opportunity for both the Parish Council and residents to submit comments. Suffolk County Council has confirmed that local communities will need to respond again during this stage before the application is submitted to the Secretary of State. Residents are strongly encouraged to provide detailed feedback, clearly explaining how the proposals may affect their daily life, wellbeing, property, and the wider village environment. The more specific and comprehensive the responses, the more effectively community concerns can be represented within the NSIP process, the deadline date for responses is 16th August 11.59pm.

The community fund currently proposed is £125,000 per year for four years, shared across all affected parishes. Given the scale of the infrastructure planned around Gislingham and the level of disruption residents are likely to experience, this funding level is disproportionately low. When divided between multiple communities, the amount available to Gislingham would be minimal and would not meaningfully offset the long-term impacts on landscape, amenity, wellbeing, or local character. The Parish Council therefore considers the proposed package insufficient and expects a significantly enhanced community benefit offer that reflects the scale of change being imposed on the village.

Points raised by residents - negative impact on our village, Cumulative effects with the pylon project, Insufficient community fund, rural outlook, industrialisation of the countryside, Mental health and wellbeing impacts and short-notice of meetings, Councillors discussed and agreed with the points raised, council to draft a response.

15 Planning

None received.

16 Finance

Payments	Amount	Proposed	Seconded	Approved
Admin payment for July	£515.00	Cllr. Gray	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Top Garden – March-June	£1353.60	Cllr. Gray	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Inn-House Technology – paid by SO	£25.00	Cllr. Gray	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Gislingham Village Hall – April	£20.00	Cllr. Gray	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Clear Council Insurance AP	£67.10	Cllr. Gray	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Playground Supplies Zipwire, spin disk	£19728.00	Cllr. Gray	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous

17 Policies

IT & Laptop Policy
Sickness & Absence Policy
Staff Appraisal Policy
Training Policy
Travel & Expenses Policy

Councillors reviewed all policies prior to the meeting and approved unanimously.

Date of the next Parish Council meeting 17th August 2026

Meeting closed at 21.21pm