



**GISLINGHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**



Working for our Community

Email: clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 17th August 2026 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr Fell, Cllr K Chapman, Cllr R Gray, Clerk/RFO – S Budd,
4 members 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

None

3 To consider Requests for Dispensations on Agenda Items

None

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th July 2026 are a true and correct record

The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th July were approved by councillors.

5 Report from County Councillor

Cllr P. Bains report can be found as an addendum to the minutes
Suffolk County Council has appointed a dedicated Highways Inspector. The new inspector is responsible for surveying the highways and responding to reported defects. They will investigate issues and produce the necessary reports to enable remedial works to begin where appropriate. A member of public asked Cllr P Bains the stance of the Reform on the Ecopower Suffolk project in this area, they are generally supportive of renewable energy in principle but it is felt that the amount of infrastructure in the Hartismere Division is disproportionate compared with other areas.

6 Report from District Councillor

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

7 Public Participation

All four members of the public in attendance raised concerns regarding the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects proposed around the village.

One resident expressed disagreement with the suggestion that the solar project would improve biodiversity or enhance agricultural land. They stated that Grade 3 agricultural land is still capable of producing good crops, and that sheep grazing has not been proven to improve soil quality. The resident also commented that they did not personally know anyone who supported the project. It was further noted by members of the public that they had been unaware of the meeting held on 5th August and felt that the information had not been published clearly enough and flyers could have been posted through doors.

The Council recorded that two members of the public who attended the meeting on 5th August were in favour of the project and confirmed that the meeting had been advertised in the usual manner, including the Parish Council noticeboard, website, and Facebook page. An advert was also published in The Messenger, which is delivered to all households, encouraging residents to submit their views directly to EcoPower and to email the Clerk with any comments. The Council noted that only one response was received from a resident who was present at the meeting.

A member of the public raised significant concerns about the damage these NSIP projects could have to the village. They stated that, once constructed, the pylons and solar farms would make the surrounding area feel more like an industrial site rather than a rural village. The resident also highlighted the disruption that would occur during the construction phase, noting that many of the main entrances into and out of the village will be heavily affected, causing considerable inconvenience for residents and local traffic. A member of the public stated that the compensation package offered is nowhere near suitable given the scale of the project, the level of disruption expected, and the perceived impact on local house values. They felt that the offer does not reflect the extent of harm the village will experience both during construction and once the infrastructure is in place. A member of the public asked whether someone could gather all information, photographs, and views from residents and present this material directly to the Planning Inspectorate. The resident felt that a coordinated submission, clearly showing the level of devastation, the project would cause to the village, may help inform the Inspectorate's decision. The Council listened to the resident's request and agreed to discuss the matter further. Councillors also noted that residents have the option of becoming councillors themselves, which would enable them to assist directly with gathering information and contributing to any coordinated submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

8 Chair's Report

Further information was provided for the donation request Thornham Magna bowls club they are seeking funding to replace the lawnmower £4250+VAT, Cartridges 10 blade £2300+VAT and an Aerator £1650+VAT. Councillors discussed the request and noted that the overall costs are quite high. The Council agreed to request clarification on how many club members are residents of Gislingham, in order to better understand the level of local benefit before considering the application further.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

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

Quarterly accounts review was completed by Cllr Calver

External audit has been completed by PFK and published on the website and noticeboard.

Notice of Conclusion of audit announced on the 17th August, copies can be requested at the cost of £1.00 per copy.

The community dance evenings open to the public may be provided under the Local Government Act 1972, s.145 (Provision of Entertainment and the Arts). It was agreed that Neighbourhood CIL funding may be used to cover the Village Hall hire costs for these events, supporting entertainment and social wellbeing for residents, councillors discussed and approved £150.00 proposed by Cllr Fell, 2nd by Cllr Chapman and approved unanimously.

Discover Suffolk have provided quoted for printing the updated Circular Walks maps 500 - £249, 1000 - £360, 2000 - £510, Councillors discussed and agreed 1000 maps, proposed by Cllr Chapman, 2nd by Cllr Gray approved unanimously.

Co-operative bank requires Individual self-certification form to be completed by all Councillors to complete their due diligence, councillors at the meeting completed the forms, Cllr Fell to talk to Cllr Saunders to request the required documents.

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 order maps for Discover Suffolk, Organise invoice from Village Hall for dance and Entertainment sessions. Cllr Fell to talk with Cllr Saunders regarding the banking form requirements.

10 Playarea

A survey for the playpark refurbishment will be in the next Messenger magazine, We have received several reports of anti-social behaviour at the play park over the past few weeks. CCTV footage has been reviewed and clearly identifies the teenagers involved; this information will now be passed to the relevant authorities if this continues.

A significant amount of money has been invested in transforming the play area, and we have received many positive messages from residents about the improvements. It would be extremely disappointing if the new equipment were to be damaged by the actions of a small number of individuals.

New additions to the play park will be activity tables and recycling bins will be installed at the play park to support responsible waste disposal and encourage recycling.

11 Neighbourhood Watch

We are aware of scam messages circulating which claim that your account is overdue by £4.27.

Please do not respond to these messages or click on any links. This is a scam, and residents should delete the message immediately.

12 Footpath Warden's Report

None received.

13 SID (Speed Indicator Device)

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

14 Finance

Payments	Amount	Proposed	Seconded	Approved
Admin payment for August	£670.69	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Expenses – S Budd NNB activity benches	£1209.60	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Inn-House Technology – paid by SO	£25.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Gislingham Village Hall – July	£20.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Activity Table Assembly	£150.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Suffolk Timber – wooden ramp repairs	£420.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Expenses – Cllr Oliver – defib cabinet installation	£50.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Expenses – S Budd ground stakes for picnic benches & activity benches	£129.98	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Expenses – S Budd Recycling bin	£224.39	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Suffolk Timber – Anchoring benches	£300.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Expenses – Recycling bin stickers	£3.99	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
PKF Littlejohn External Auditor	£378.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Expenses – Microsoft Office Annual	£84.99	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Playdale balance	£26274.06	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Expenses Stationary, bin bags	£55.74	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Suffolk Timber – Anchor recycling bins	£180.00	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous
Kingfisher Direct 4 coloured recycling bins	£1091.33	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Gray	Unanimous

15 Policies

Health & Safety Policy review

Councillors discussed as agreed no changes to the Health & Safety policy.

16 IN CAMERA

Date of the next Parish Council meeting 21st September 2026

Meeting closed at 8.55pm