GISLINGHAM

GISLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME QUALITY

Working for our Community

Email: clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com

FINAL MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21st September 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Fell, Cllr K Chapman, Cllr F Oliver, Clerk/RFO – S Budd, CC Cllr P Bains, 4 members of public (2 arrived at 7.15pm), Cllr C Calver (arrived at 7.08pm)

Apologies, Cllr R Gray, DC Cllr R Warboys

1 Chair's welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence.
Cllr Fell welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies from Cllr Gray were noted and approved by council.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items
Item 12

3 To consider Requests for Dispensations on Agenda Items
None

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th August 2026 are a true and correct record
The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th August were approved by councillors and CC Cllr P Bains as Cllr Oliver and Cllr Calver were not present at the previous meeting.

5 Report from County Councillor
Cllr P. Bains report can be found as an addendum to the minutes
Bus funding was discussed, and a member of the public attended to raise concerns regarding transport provision to Bury St Edmunds, this is currently being investigated with SCC.
He asked whether the existing Thursday service could be extended to include Bacton and Mendlesham, as this would increase passenger numbers and improve the viability of the route.
He also highlighted that the current 16-seater vehicles are not suitable for wheelchair users, Zimmer frames, or pushchairs, and that a full-size bus would provide significantly better accessibility for residents with mobility needs.
In addition, it was suggested that bicycle carriers could be added to buses, as this may encourage greater use of public transport by enabling passengers to combine cycling with bus travel.

6 Report from District Councillor
Cllr R Warboy's report can be found as an addendum to the minutes.

7 Public Participation
Two members of the public attended to provide further information regarding the request for financial assistance towards equipment for Thornham Magna Bowls Club. They explained that the club had incurred unforeseen expenditure this year, including re-wiring the clubhouse and pollarding several trees, which had reduced their ability to fund new equipment. The club is now fundraising to replace the lawn mower (£4,200 + VAT) and cassettes (£3,000 + VAT).
The club currently has 46 members, of whom 10 are residents of Gislingham. Councillors asked whether members from other parishes—Thornham, Yaxley and Finningham—could also be approached to contribute towards the fundraising effort.
The representatives reported that £2,000 has been raised so far and quizzes, race nights have been arranged, resident to report back to Thornham Bowls Club.

Councillors discussed the request and approved in principle a contribution of £500.00, noting that if the other parishes were to contribute a similar amount, the club would have sufficient funds to purchase the new lawn mower.
Two members left at 19.50pm.
A resident expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for the comprehensive report submitted to EcoPower Suffolk, noting that it clearly set out the concerns and potential impacts on the village. He asked whether all information gathered to date—including written comments, photographs, and other evidence—could be compiled into a single document to illustrate the detrimental effect the proposed project would have on Gislingham, and whether such a coordinated submission could be sent directly to the Secretary of State for consideration.
Councillors discussed and agreed for the information to be sent to the Secretary of State by recorded delivery.
Two members left at 8.08pm
ACTIONS: Clerk to compile report and send recorded delivery

8 Chair's Report

Nothing more to report.

9 Clerk/RFO's Report

Accounts for August were forwarded to all councillors prior to the meeting.
Precept payment has been received
Fixed saving account has been approved, and funds will be deposited in the next 14 days.
Martyn has confirmed the Autumn Litter pick is on the 1st November
Email regarding Community Emergency Preparedness and Resilience.
ACTIONS: Clerk to add litter pick to website and social media, transfer funds to be moved to savings account.

10 Grants & Donation

Gislingham Summer Fair £100.00
The Messenger £200.00
Councillors previously approved the above request. The formal proposal was made by Cllr Oliver, seconded by Cllr Fell, and approved unanimously.
Thornham Bowls club representatives attended to discuss in the public participation section and residents report back to Thornham Bowls Club committee.

11 Buses

A member of the public attended to raise concerns regarding transport provision to Bury St Edmunds, this is currently being investigated with SCC.
He asked whether the existing Thursday service could be extended to include Bacton and Mendlesham, as this would increase passenger numbers and improve the viability of the route.
He also highlighted that the current 16-seater vehicles are not suitable for wheelchair users, Zimmer frames, or pushchairs, babies or young infants should be in car seats on the 16 seater minibus but not applicable on buses, a full-size bus would provide significantly better accessibility for residents with mobility needs.

12 Play Area

A needle was reported to us in 'The Den' down at the Bowling Alley, thank you to Martyn Bryant for collecting the needle from the resident in the sharps box, this area is not part of the play park but has been dealt with accordingly. Report of a piece of play equipment in the toddler area being broken, Cllr Oliver attended site and replace the part which had come off. A report of the zip wire spring stopper being broken, 2 quotes obtained Playdale £382.50+VAT, Playground Supplies £1190.00 + VAT, we have funds available to fund the above works.
Councillors discussed the quotes, Cllr Chapman proposed, seconded by Cllr Calver, approved unanimously.
A wasp's nest was reported on the hill in the play area over the bank holiday weekend, approval to treat received from Cllr Fell, Cllr Gray & Cllr Oliver.
The marble trail game need cleaning to remove dirt/grit to allow the marble to run freely, and some missing bolt caps need replacing, Cllr Oliver agreed to carry out the required maintenance, proposed by Cllr Calver, seconded Cllr Fell approved with one abstention.
ACTIONS: Clerk to complete order for form Playdale

13 Neighbourhood Watch

Reports of scam callers in personating banks and FCA officials trying to get bank details, beware of scam callers, hang-up and make a call to your bank.

14 Footpath Warden's Report

Report can be found as an addendum to the minutes.

15 SID (Speed Indicator Device)

None received.

16 Finance

Payments	**Amount**	**Proposed**	**Seconded**	**Approved**
Admin payment for September	**£603.44**	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Calver	Unanimous
Expenses – S Critchley Speed Camera calibration, postage	**£1209.60**	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Calver	Unanimous
Inn-House Technology – paid by SO	**£25.00**	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Calver	Unanimous
Gislingham Village Hall – August	**£30.00**	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Calver	Unanimous
Gislingham Village Hall – Community Dance Sessions	**£150.00**	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Calver	Unanimous
Millennium Pest Control – Wasps	**£72.00**	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Calver	Unanimous
MSDC – Bin Emptying	**£865.20**	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Calver	Unanimous
Expenses – Cllr Oliver play area repairs	**£75.00**	Cllr Chapman	Cllr. Calver	Approve with one abstention

17 Policies

Disciplinary Policy read with Disciplinary Rules

Disciplinary Rules read with Disciplinary Policy

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy

Grants & Donations Policy

Councillors discussed and approved all policies.

18 IN CAMERA

Date of the next Parish Council meeting 19th October 2026

Meeting closed at 8.55pm