

GT. BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL
(www.greatbealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**The Annual Parish Meeting of Gt. Bealings was held on Monday 11th May 2026
at 6.30pm at Bealings Village Hall**

Present: Sue Prentice (Chairman) (SP), Colin Hedgley (CH), Regan Scott (RS), Trevor Harris (TH), Caroline Saunders (CS), Rachel Lamb (RL), John Carter-Jonas

In attendance: Dee Knights, Clerk to the Council (DPK), Peter Prentice (PP) -Bealings Village Hall Trust, Norman Porter (NP) – Fynn Lark News, Paul Finch (PF) – Community Tech Hub plus 3 other residents

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Elaine Bryce

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 21st May 2025

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes -

There were no matters arising

4. Community Tech Hub

PF spoke about how the Hub came to be set up. He explained the membership benefits which include a Community Support Group, weekly advice emails about scams, email support and advice, and quarterly workshops. In addition drop-in sessions are held weekly in Grundisburgh Deli to enable problems to be discussed with an expert. He stated that it is hoped to launch Basic Device Training sessions with the aim of boosting peoples' confidence. He also outlined some ideas for the future.

5. Suffolk County Council's 20mph Road Safety Group

SP advised the meeting that the PC has been approached by the Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group with a view to joining forces with other Councils over road safety matters. SCC has now issued details of its new 20mph policy, a summary of which was read out. The major challenge for smaller Councils is that they will be required to fund all costs of implementation themselves and would also be required to conduct expensive speed surveys.

The following discussion centred on whether there is a perceived need, who are the vulnerable people, how do we raise the money and who would police it? CH advised that speed bumps can only be installed where there is sufficient street lighting. It was decided to take this matter forward for discussion at the PC meeting in July.

6. Chairman's Report – Review of Year

SP summarised the work that the PC has been involved in during the year including the Self-Help Scheme, Planning matters, Emergency Planning, Water Quality in the River Lark, and the Village Fete, plus issues regarding the National Planning Policy Framework, Local Government Re-organisation, Flooding, roads and traffic issues. She expressed thanks to Rob Munn for setting up the Self-Help Scheme and his work on flood prevention, to Charles Barrington for maintaining the village sign, to David Munn and Sally Johnson for repairing and clearing the phone box and to Regan Scott and Farran Douse for river quality work. A full copy of the Chairman's Report is attached to these minutes on the website.

7 & 8 Councillor Reports

Reports have been received by County Cllr Elaine Bryce, District Cllr Colin Hedgley (CH) and District Cllr Dan Clery. All have been circulated to Parish Cllrs and are attached to these minutes on the website.

CH verbally recapped the last 12 months and mentioned the proposed Westerfield quarry, which will not be decided until after the new SCC Cllr training has taken place. He said that the new County Cllrs may challenge the recent Local Government Reorganisation decision to have three Councils. He also spoke about the major changes to Planning laws, problems with Planning Enforcement, the roll-out of the new Recycling Bins, funding for the 1st Light Festival in Lowestoft, and a new grant scheme for cycle racks. He urged residents to report any issues with potholes to SCC via their online reporting tool. He said that the recent Call for Sites had not revealed any in Gt Bealings. He also confirmed that once again he has some funding available for local projects.

9. Community Reports

(a) Village Hall Trust– PP presented a report for the Bealings Village Hall Trust. He thanked the two Parish Councils for their donations, also the two District Cllrs, together with all other donors and supporters of the various events. Following completion of the Roof and Doors project, the interior of the Hall was refurbished with new heaters, curtains and redecoration. Four working parties took place during the year doing site maintenance. PP thanked all those who took part, in particular Andy Mayhew for use of his digger on the car park work. The two major events – the Plant Sale and the Village Fete – were very successful. Pop Up Pubs were popular, together with other fund raising events. The full report is on the PC's website.

(b) Fynn-Lark News Report – NP presented a report for the Fynn Lark News. He said that a 48 page publication is now regularly produced, almost entirely in colour at a cost of over £400 per issue. The financial position has improved since last year due largely to advertising revenue. He commented that it is not purely a commercial operation, but aims to bring together the rural community. The recent 10th Anniversary party was well supported and a 10th Anniversary FLN edition is available. He thanked all the supporters, with a special mention to the Parish Councils and Churches for their donations, Peter and Vicki Carr for organising the distribution and Tim Llewellyn for his design work. The full report is on the PC's website.

8 Any Other Business - none

9 Questions

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 7.55pm..

Signature..... Chairman