

Minutes of the meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council held on Monday 1st September 2025 at Bealings Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs Dee Knights (DPK) - Clerk to the Council, Elaine Bryce (EB) – Suffolk County Councillor

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Caroline Saunders.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
NRI, District Cllr – CH.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying and Responses to Lobbying**
None
4. **To approve the Minutes of Meetings held on 14th July and 11th August 2025**
The minutes for the 14th July were approved and signed. DPK reported an error in item 5a of the minutes for 11th August – The planning application number for The Boot should have been stated as DC/25/2367/FUL. The amendment was made and initialled and the minutes signed.
5. **Clerk/Councillor Updates not on agenda:**
JCJ advised that he had made no progress with Scottish Power regarding replacement village gates. The Clerk will progress this matter.
6. **Public Participation Session** – none present
7. **Reports by:**
 - (i) **County Councillor Elaine Bryce** – A report has been received and will be attached to the minutes on the website. EB reported verbally that the Devolution boundary proposals for a One-Suffolk will shortly be submitted by SCC. She stated that she is not happy with the draft map proposed by the District Councils for their three Council proposal. Both business cases must be submitted to the Government by 16th October. She said that new improved bus services are commencing today, and she outlined details of the proposed solar farm in the Easton and Letheringham area.
 - (ii) **Dan Clery and Colin Hedgley**
Two reports have been circulated to Cllrs and full copies are attached to the minutes on the website. CH verbally reported that in his opinion there will be an appeal regarding the Westerfield Quarry decision, whichever way it is decided by SCC. He said he agreed with EB regarding the District Councils' proposed boundary map and will vote against it. He advised that branches and trees that are in a dangerous state can now be reported online. Free music lessons are available for older residents of Kesgrave, particularly those with long term health conditions. The Seafront Gardens at Felixstowe have been awarded a Green Flag for the 10th consecutive year.
8. **Planning Applications:**
 - (i) **DC/25/2992/FUL – Ivy Cottage, Boot Street – Installation of Solar PV Panels**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to support this application.
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 - (ii) **Any Application coming forth** – none
 - (iii) **Decision Updates :**
DC/25/2259/P3Q re Croft House has been withdrawn. **DC/25/2367/FUL** re The Boot has been permitted by ESC. All other outstanding applications are still awaiting decision.

9. Other Planning Matters – none**10. Community Self-Help Advisory Committee**

The draft Terms of Reference that had been circulated were approved. CH advised that he had given the Self-Help Working Group a grant of £1500 from his Enabling Communities budget.

11. Emergency Planning – update on WhatsApp procedure – Caroline Saunders has got this in hand and will report progress shortly.**12. Westerfield Quarry**

The PC is not a statutory consultee, but it had been agreed at the previous meeting on 11th August that the PC wanted to submit an objection. SP had circulated a draft response and the wording was agreed. The Clerk will submit the objection to SCC.

13. Village Fete – SP reported that this had been held the previous day and was a great success. Very favourable comments had been received with a proposal already for the 30th August 2026. TH confirmed there was a profit of £543.54 which will go towards the Village Hall refurbishment.**14. Highways and Footpaths**

(i) **SAVID/SID** – nothing to report

(ii) **Other Highways matters** – Road Closure signs are problematic regarding their siting, but have to follow Government guidelines

(iii) **Footpaths** – The Clerk reported that SCC have published a notice stating that the temporary closure of FP12 has been extended to 16.04.2026 or until completion of the works to repair the damaged footbridge, whichever is earlier.

15. Environmental Issues

(i) **Water quality in River Lark** – RS is still awaiting a reply from Anglian Water.

(ii) **Other matters** – none

16. Finance and Admin:

(i) **Clerk's salary – new NJC agreement** – Cllrs agreed that the pay award should be implemented from 01.04.25, as proposed by the NJC.

(ii) **Authorisation of payments** – The following payments were authorised; proposed by TH and seconded by JCJ:

Chq No	Payee	Description	Amount £
-	Mrs D P Knights	Office Expenses	17.50
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.09.25)	September salary (inc. arrears)	384.72
-	HMRC (dated 06.10.25)	“ PAYE	96.00
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.10.25)	October salary	333.17
-	HMRC (dated 06.11.25)	“ PAYE	83.20
-	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	47.00
-	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Premium	264.00
-	Little Bealings Parish Council	Village Sign Insurance	10.03

(iii) Other Finance and Admin matters:

(a) **Bank Reconciliation**- This was approved and signed

(b) **Other matters** –None

17. Correspondence:

- (i) **BT Phone Box** - A resident has reported that there is a broken glass window in the ex-BT phone box and has offered to clean it out and tidy it once the glass is repaired. This phone box is now in the ownership of the PC and is listed at a nominal amount of £1 in the asset list. Cllrs agreed to finance this work and SP will liaise re arranging it. It was suggested that it would be good place to site a defibrillator for GtB here. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- (ii) **Devolution meeting** – SP is attending a Devolution meeting at East Suffolk offices on 3rd September and will circulate a report to Cllrs.

18. Date of next meeting– Monday 10th November at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed.....

Chairman