Minutes of the meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at Bealings Village Hall

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

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**
   Apologies were accepted from Rachel Lamb

2. **Declarations of Interest**
   NRI, District Cllr – CH.

3. **Declarations of Lobbying and Responses to Lobbying –** None

4. **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2026**
   The minutes were approved and signed.

5. **Public Participation Session**
   None present.

6. **Reports by:**
   (i) **County Councillor Elaine Bryce (EB)–** EB reported that the decision regarding Westerfield Quarry has been delayed, probably until October. She said that SCC is pursuing a judicial review of the Government's proposed Local Government Review. The River Gipping path improvements are now complete and the full 17mile route is now open. She advised that the SCC Conservatives have opposed National Grid's proposed changes to the LionLink project at Walberswick, and she reported that Suffolk residents can access Government grants towards the cost of a heat pump. EB's full report is attached to these minutes on the website.
   (ii) **District Councillors Colin Hedgley(CH) and Dan Clery –** reports have been received and circulated to Cllrs and attached to these minutes on the website. CH verbally reported that the situation regarding missed bin collections deteriorated in August due to a number of reasons which he explained. He reported that community organisations can now apply for grants towards projects that protect people from electrical harm, and that grants towards warm rooms will be available later this year.

7. **Clerk/Councillor Updates for matters not on agenda:**
   (i) **Acceptance of Officer role** – deferred until the next meeting in the absence of CS.
   (ii) **Self-help Scheme** – The Lodge Road fence area has been strimmed, also both sides of Lower Street from the water meadow to Hall Farm Road and part of the verge towards Boot Street. Gravel and detritus have been cleared at the Hall Farm Road junction which was causing a skid hazard. Plans are in hand to strim the river bank downstream from Lodge Road Bridge and reduce the vegetation in the river. It is hoped to strim around the noticeboard and fire hydrant in Lower Street but this will depend on access due to parked cars which are an ongoing issue. Thanks were expressed to Rob Munn and his team for the work carried out.
   (iii) **Village Gates –** Scottish Power have completed the installation of two new village gates with appropriate signage, together with two new speed limit signs. The Clerk will send them a letter of appreciation.
   (iv) **LGA Website –** The reference to Parish Councils is not relevant as it does not seem to be updated

8. **SCC 20mph Policy**
   In the absence of Rachel Lamb, this was deferred until the next meeting.

9. Planning Applications:

(i) SCC/0170/25SC – Reconsultation - Transport improvements to the A12 from Junction 58 (Seven Hills, Ipswich) to Woods Lane Roundabout, Woodbridge

The amendments were noted and it was decided that the PC does not wish to make any further comments

(ii) Decision updates – None

10. Other Planning Matters – None

11. Review of Village Fete

The Fete was a great success with very positive feedback received for it to be repeated next year. A profit of £696.84 was made – almost twice that of last year. This will go towards the Village Hall fund for providing safety matting for the play equipment. Thanks were expressed to Elaine Bryce for her contribution.

12. WhatsApp Group

SP said that there doesn't seem to be any point in updating the written Emergency Plan, a WhatsApp group seems to be the best way forward. She will convert the current PC Broadcast System to a village WhatsApp Group. JCJ said it would be a good idea to make use of the "what3words" App – he will prepare a short article on how to use this for the next Fynn Lark News.

13. Environmental Issues

(i) Water -no updates

(ii) Bealings Flood Project – The team have attended a Defra meeting in Lowestoft where they made a case to fund the scheme. This was very well received and funding was agreed in principle. Added to the property flood resilience grants, the total funding now promised is £300,000. A business case is being prepared in conjunction with SCC and the Environment Agency to get these funds released. In the meantime, the river section is being kept clear of obstruction prior to the storm season.

(iii) Other matters – none.

14. Highways

(i) **SID** – this is currently on Hall Farm Road and will continue to be moved around the village. Both EB and CH have confirmed that they are unable to provide any funding towards a new SID.

(ii) Annesley House – EB reported that she has provided funding from her budget for the marking of white lines along the wall of Annesley House. An order will shortly be placed for the work, which will take place an estimated 14 weeks from date of order.

(iii) Other Highways matters – EB has asked SCC Highways for an update on the repair of Boot Street Bridge

15. Footpaths:

(i) Bridge on FP12 – Repairs have been completed to the bridge and the footpath is now fully open.

(ii) Other matters - none

16. Finance and Admin:

(i) PC Laptop – The Clerk reported that a new Windows 11 Laptop has been purchased for the PC to replace the outdated one, below the budgeted amount. The data etc has all been transferred with the help of the Community Tech Hub. The Hub can offer cleaning the old PC of all data and forwarding it to a third world country, free of charge. Cllrs agreed to proceed with this in due course. Cllrs agreed the purchase of a numerical keypad to make figurework easier.

(ii) Renewal of Insurance Policy – The renewal premium of £264 is unchanged from last year and Cllrs agreed to accept this.

(iii) Authorisation of payments – The following payments were authorised; proposed by SP and seconded by JCJ:

Chq No	Payee	Description	Amount £
-	Mrs D P Knights	Office Expenses	65.64
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.09.26)	September salary	340.43
-	HMRC (dated 06.10.26)	September PAYE	85.00
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.10.26)	October salary	340.43
-	HMRC (dated 06.11.26)	October PAYE	85.00
-	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee (D/Debit)	52.00
-	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Premium	264.00
-	Little Bealings PC	Village Sign Insurance	10.03
-	Mrs D P Knights (re John Lewis)	New PC Laptop and case	571.23
-	Mrs D P Knights (re John Lewis)	Software – Office 24	119.99
-	Community Tech Hub	Setting up of new Laptop	50.00

(iv) Other Finance and Admin matters

(a) Risk Assessment – The Clerk had prepared and circulated a revised Risk Assessment. Cllrs agreed to adopt this.
(b) The Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed.
(c) Other matters – The NJC have increased the payscale for Clerks by 3.3% backdated to 1st April 2026. Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should be paid the new amount. They asked her to keep a timesheet of hours spent on PC matters, for future discussion.
(d) The Clerk advised Cllrs that the PC is required to have a Data Protection Complaints Policy. This can be combined with a general Complaints Policy and she will endeavour to produce this for the next meeting.

17. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 9th November at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed…….
Chairman