

**Minutes of the meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council held on  
Monday 12th January 2026 at Bealings Village Hall**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs Dee Knights (DPK) - Clerk to the Council; Elaine Bryce (EB) – Suffolk County Cllr one resident – Julian Haywood Smith (JHS)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were accepted from Caroline Saunders and Regan Scott

**2. Declarations of Interest**

NRI, District Cllr – CH.

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

**4. To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 10th November and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

The minutes were approved and signed

**5. Clerk/Councillor Updates not on agenda:**

- (i) Annesley House – This has been taken forward by CH and EB. Although funding could be arranged, SCC are against the idea of white lines. EB will pursue this matter.
- (ii) Village Gates – these were promised by Scottish Power to be put in place in December, but there has been no action or feedback despite chasing by DPK

**6. Public Participation Session**

JHS spoke later in the meeting

**7. Reports by:**

- (i) **County Councillor Elaine Bryce** – EB’s report has been circulated to Cllrs and is attached to these minutes on the website. EB verbally reported that it is hoped that the application for Westerfield Quarry will be heard at the March meeting. SCC are disappointed by the Govt statement on the provisional Local Govt finance settlement which was less than expected, and would mean a £6million budget gap. She said that she is in favour of the May elections going ahead, but the decision rests with the Govt.

**(ii) District Councillor Colin Hedgley**

**(iii) District Councillor Dan Clery**

Reports have been circulated to Cllrs and full copies are attached to the minutes on the website. CH verbally reported that the consultation on Devolution proposals has now closed and all local Parishes have submitted comments in favour of a One –Suffolk council. He reported on a meeting he had recently attended at ESC on the new National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF) which is due to come into force later this year, which contains some worrying stipulations.

**8. Planning Applications:**

- (i) **DC/25/3774/ARM – Approval of Reserved Matters – Land East of Adastral Park, Martlesham Heath**

It was decided that the PC does not wish to submit any comments on this development

- (ii) **SCC/0170/25SC- Transport Improvements to the A12 between Junctions 58 (Seven Hills) and Woods Lane Roundabout**

The PC has no further comments to make following those submitted under the first consultation

**(iii) Decision Updates :**

The following applications have now been permitted by ESC:

DC/25/2670 re Cherry Tree Cottage and DC/25/1962&1963 re Rosery Farmhouse.

DC/25/3380 re Croft House has been refused

**9. Other Planning Matters - None**

**10. Village Fete 2026** – This has been programmed for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August, which is the Bank Holiday weekend. The profits from this help fund the Village Hall

**11. Highways and Footpaths**

- (i) **SID in Lodge Road** – JCJ reported that the display is malfunctioning. DPK will check the warranty details
- (ii) **Hall Farm Road** – JHS was given permission to speak about the speeding problems near his property and he requested that a new SID is purchased aimed at the traffic travelling in both directions along the road, by alternating the direction of the sign. SP will contact CH and EB about the possibility of obtaining a grant from their local budgets. DPK will investigate the current prices from Westcotec, the company we used previously
- (iii) **Ditch** – a discussion was held regarding the need to clear the ditch along the southern side of Lodge Road near the junction with Seckford Hall Road.

**12. Environmental Issues:**

A written update report has been received from Rob Munn:

- (i) **Bealings Community CIC Flood Group** – The design work has been received from the civil engineers for the installation of 9 x 900mm pipes under Lodge Road, and the final costs are now awaited. The Group are meeting with Patrick Spencer MP on 23<sup>rd</sup> January to discuss funding.

Immediately before storm Goretti, a large tree in the river downstream of Lodge Road Bridge was causing the river to back up. Paul Ward removed this with his digger. The PC expressed their thanks to Paul for his actions

- (ii) **Self-Help Scheme** – Work will shortly resume with clearing Lower Street up to the junction with Hall Farm Road, this will be completed before the new spring growth

**13. Finance and Admin:**

- (i) **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	19.99
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.01.26)	January salary	333.17
-	HMRC (dated 06.02.26)	January PAYE	83.20
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.02.26)	February salary	333.17
-	HMRC (dated 06.03.26)	February PAYE	83.20
-	SAVID	Annual fee	50.00

**(ii) Budget and Precept for 2025/26**

A draft budget for £9950 and provisional precept amount had been previously discussed at the PC meeting in November. It was proposed by SP, seconded by RL and unanimously agreed that this budget be adopted for 2026/27

It was **RESOLVED** to implement a precept of £9100 which, with the expected VAT refund, would cover the budget, including the annual transfer to Reserves. This represents an increase of 8p per week (£4.06per year) for a Band D property.

**(iii)Other Finance and Admin matters**

- (a) The Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed.
- (b) Other matters - none

**Correspondence –**

**Lead Item for Fynn-Lark News –** GtB are due to contribute the item for the March magazine. SP has circulated a draft article which Cllrs commended and can be submitted next month.

**14. Date of Next Meeting –** Monday 16th March at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman