Minutes of the meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council held on Monday 13th July 2026 at Bealings Village Hall

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

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**
   Apologies were accepted from Trevor Harris and Caroline Saunders (CS)

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

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

4. **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May 2026**

   The minutes were approved and signed

5. **Public Participation Session**
   The applicant for planning application DC/25/4783/FUL spoke briefly about the application to be heard at agenda item 11(i), and answered some questions from Cllrs.

6. **Highways**
   (i) **SID** – JCJ and Julian Haywood-Smith have identified a location for a new SID on Hall Farm Road. The quotation was for £3668 but both CH and EB report that they have limited funding in this financial year. EB said she will investigate further and advise what level of funding she can obtain. Depending on the result of this, CH may be able to provisionally put aside a small amount.
   (ii) Annesley House – Following further damage to the wall, this matter has again been referred to SCC Highways. EB said she will progress the possibility of white lines along this stretch of road
   (iii) Other Highways matters – SP has been informed that SCC Highways do not often respond to reports made on their reporting tool. They need to be more pro-active with this. EB said that she will feed this information back to them

7. **Reports by:**
   (i) County Councillor Elaine Bryce (EB)– EB reported that work is continuing regarding the opposition to the proposed Westerfield Quarry. It is likely to be discussed at SCC's Committee meeting on 1st September. SCC have confirmed that comments will be accepted right up to the date of the meeting, 400 additional comments have already been received. A consultation extension has also been agreed for the Easton and Letheringham Solar Farm. SCC have launched a legal challenge against the Government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk. EB was pleased to announce that SCC has welcomed the Care Quality Commission's latest assessment of their Adult Social Care services, which has once again been awarded an overall rating of "Good". She also reported that Suffolk businesses will benefit from an expanded apprenticeship support scheme. 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 he has received dozens of complaints regarding the new bin collection system, which has been ongoing for a well over a month. All complaints have been forwarded to the relevant officers.

8. 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** – as reported previously, the Lodge Rd bridge railings have been cleaned - thanks were expressed to Eric Barnett for use of his rain water butt to fuel the jet wash machine. The new PC noticeboard in Lower St has been 'planted' – thanks were expressed to David Munn. The detritus from the water problems on Kiln Lane has been cleared from the junction with Lower St. Clearing of the verge vegetation on Lodge Rd bridge area, Lower St and Hall Farm Rd will commence when the weather is cooler.

(iii) Other – The Clerk reported no further progress with the new village gates. She has chased this with Scottish Power.

9. SCC 20mph Policy

RL has drafted a questionnaire to circulate to residents to get their opinions on speed restrictions. Suggestions were made for some amendments and it will be discussed further at the September meeting. SP thanked RL for compiling this.

10. ESC Thriving Places Fund

Due to the minimum expenditure level required for revenue funding, Cllrs are not aware of anything to apply for at the moment

11. Planning Applications:

(i) DC/25/4783/FUL – Farm Buildings North West of Gt Bealings Hall, Hall Farm Road – Change of use of traditional farm buildings to form two dwellings with new detached garages and associated works

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** support this application. Cllrs were of the view that it is a sympathetic conversion of the historic barns and the creation of new homes will both improve the immediate appearance of the barns and help preserve them for the future.

(ii) Any other application - None

(iii)Decision updates –DC/25/3338&3410 re Hakewill House and DC/26/0177 re Cherry Tree Cottage have all been permitted by ESC. The Planning Inspector has dismissed the appeal in respect of DC/25/3380 – Croft House

12. Other Planning Matters:

(i) ESC New Local Plan – The Clerk had attended a forum on this where it was suggested by ESC that it is anticipated that Ipswich will be liaising with East Suffolk in respect of those parishes that are to be transferred to Greater Ipswich, and that there will probably be another Scoping Consultation to cover the new area. The PC agreed to defer commenting until further plans are drawn up.

(ii) Other – none

13. Village Fete

Arrangements are proceeding well. The rope has been delivered, there is a possibility of some jazz musicians from Ipswich school and bottles are required for the tombola.

14. Environmental Issues

(i) Water Sampling – Following a request from the Deben Climate Centre for donations from Parish Councils for water sampling consumables, Cllrs agreed to donate £100 this year, to be reviewed next year as future payments will be dependant on seeing the DCC's accounts.

(ii) Bealings Flood Project – An application to fund the engineering project for flood mitigation for the amount of £240,000 has been submitted with the full support of SCC and the Environment Agent. Adjudication is awaited.

(iii) Other matters – RS has received a reply from Anglian Water to his request for information about Gt Bealings Water Recycling Centre. He will circulate this to Cllrs.

15. Footpaths:

Work to repair the bridge on FP12 will commence on 20th July with an intended completion date of 24th July. Complaints have been received about the overgrown state of Hasketon Bridleway 23.SCC report that the contractor has been chased to cut back the surface vegetation, but this will not include the clearance of hedges and side growth which will be dealt with separately outside the bird nesting season.

16. Finance and Admin:

(i) HMRC Mileage Allowance – Following the Government's announcement that standard business mileage rates are to be increased to 55p per mile back dated to 5th April, Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should be paid this rate.

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

Chq No	Payee	Description	Amount £
-	Mrs D P Knights	Backdated mileage payment	4.20
-	Mrs D P Knights	Office Expenses	9.90
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.07.26)	July salary	340.43
-	HMRC (dated 06.08.26)	July PAYE	85.00
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.08.26)	August salary	340.43
-	HMRC (dated 06.09.26)	August PAYE	85.00

(iii) **Defibrillator in Phone Box –** it was decided that this idea is not practical at the current time due to cost and maintenance issues, plus it would need a mains electrical connection. It will be kept under review for future consideration.

(iv) Other Finance and Admin matters

(a) The Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed.
(b) Risk Assessment – this was deferred until September
(c) Other matters - none

17. Correspondence – RS has received information about an LGA website referring to Gt. Bealings. This will be discussed at the next meeting

18. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 1st September at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed…….
Chairman