

Minutes of the meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council held on Monday 16th March 2026 at Bealings Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs Dee Knights (DPK) - Clerk to the Council; Elaine Bryce (EB) – Suffolk County Cllr, residents - Julian Haywood Smith (JHS) and two others

1. Apologies for Absence

None

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 12th January and 9th February 2026

The minutes were approved and signed

5. Clerk/Councillor Updates not on agenda:

- (i) **Village Gates** – JCJ has had a meeting on site with representatives from Scottish Power to agree location of gates. The work is due to be done in the Spring.
- (ii) **Self-help Scheme** – Rob Munn has some new kit to enable the river bridge to be cleaned as soon as weather is suitable
- (iii) **Other**- none

6. Public Participation Session

The members of the public who were present were given permission to speak under Item 7. Thanks were expressed to Sue and Peter Prentice for the work done on the garden at the junction of Boot St and Grundisburgh Rd

7. Boot Street Bridge

It was felt that the signs for the 3 ton limit were in the wrong place and were not big enough. EB will take this up with SCC Highways. EB said the damage is confined to the parapets and it will take time to get the necessary permissions for the work from the other interested agencies – Environment Agency and Historical England. City Fibre have installed two-way traffic lights at the bridge at their own expense. Residents are providing evidence that the parapet on the downstream side is showing signs of movement – EB will ask the structural engineers to inspect this.

SP expressed the gratitude of the PC to EB for coming to visit the site and for her assistance in this matter.

8. Proposed SID for Hall Farm Road

A quotation has been received for £3668 which includes Bluetooth data. The PC would need to call on funding by the County and District Cllrs for this. EB said that funding from the County would not be available until after the Local Elections on 7th May. In the meantime, the existing SID on Lodge Road will be temporarily switched between the two sites. JCJ and JHS will liaise.

9. 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 the SCC passed a balanced budget in February. She is concerned about the effect the Election result will have on the campaign against the

Westerfield Quarry as new Cllrs will not have the prior knowledge about the quarry details. However, SCC have agreed to fund a full Economic Impact Assessment after the developers declined to do this.

(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 said that the application for Westerfield Quarry cannot be determined before the May elections and not before the July meeting – that decision will rest with the new administration. The Government Minister is currently considering the decision on Devolution – whether to accept one Council or three. Planning is undergoing major Government changes and ESC has had their housebuilding figure raised from 905 to 1660.

CH explained that Planning Enforcement has to abide by very strict rules – accuracy is essential and as the applicant can appeal at every stage, some actions are taking 6-10 years to complete. He advised the PC that a new ESC fund will be available in April for communities including PCs to apply to for the upgrade of facilities.

10. Planning Applications:

(i) New applications - None

(ii) Decision updates – Still awaiting decision by ESC are DC/25/3338&3410 re Hakewill House and DC/26/0177 re Cherry Tree Cottage. The application for DC/25/4167 re The Field Siding has gone for fast track appeal.

11. Other Planning Matters - None

12. Village Fete 2026

SP said that it is hoped to get a musician to provide entertainment at the fete. A competition is being arranged inviting children in the village to design a poster.

13. FLN 10th Birthday Celebration

SP reminded Cllrs about this, details of which have been circulated.

14. Highways and Footpaths

- (i) Condition of Lower Street** – Residents have expressed concerns about the road conditions in the Street, especially at the junction with Kiln Lane. SCC have done some drain clearance and the pothole has now been filled, but the problem of water run off still exists. The householder whose property is most affected is investigating the course of the leak from the rill.
- (ii) Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group** – The PC has received an invitation to join this Group which is aimed at securing 20mph speed limits on specified roads. SP suggested that this should be on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting, so residents can express their views. She will prepare a paper for the meeting.
- (iii) SID in Lodge Road** – This has now been repaired and is working correctly. JCJ is still investigating downloading the Bluetooth data.
- (iv) Other Highways matters** - none
- (v) Footpaths:**
 - (a) Footpath No. 9** – Gt Bealings to Martlesham. Network Rail have consulted the PC on their proposal to divert this footpath so that it passes under the railway line, instead of over it at a level crossing, which would then be removed.

The PC **RESOLVED** that there are no objections to the proposal

- (b) Footpath No. 12 – This has been closed since March 2025 due to a damaged footbridge which was due to be repaired by 16th April 2026, but the signs have now deteriorated so that it is passable but unsafe. SCC have advised that recent site conditions have prevented access to deliver the works. The legal closure notice will be extended and new notices posted. It is hoped to complete the work by the end of May.

15. Environmental Issues - RS has written to Anglian Water (AW) about the recent flooding at the Sewage Treatment Works (SWT). He has asked AW to attend a future PC meeting. AW have agreed to put in phosphorus monitoring at the Grundisburgh SWT which is within the GtB boundary.

16. Finance and Admin:

- (i) **Authorisation of payments** – The following payments were authorised; proposed by CH and seconded by SP

Chq No	Payee	Description	Amount £
-	Mrs D P Knights	Office Expenses	25.70
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.03.26)	March salary	333.17
-	HMRC (dated 06.04.26)	March PAYE	83.20
-	Mrs D P Knights (dated 28.04.26)	April salary	340.43
-	HMRC (dated 06.05.26)	April PAYE	85.00
-	Suffolk Cloud	Website Accessibility Report	70.00
-	Bealings Village Hall Trust	Room/Hall hire 2025/26	109.00

(ii) IT Policy

A proposed IT Policy had been circulated and the PC **RESOLVED** to adopt this with immediate effect – proposed by SP, seconded by JCJ

(iii) Next year's Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

The Clerk suggested that the APM in 2027 be held prior to the routine PC meeting in March, as that is a shorter meeting than the Annual PC Meeting which is held in May. Cllrs agreed to this proposal.

(iv) Other Finance and Admin matters

- (a) The Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed.
 (b) Other matters – a quotation for £711 plus VAT has been received for a replacement noticeboard in Lower Street, as the current one has rotted. This amount will be financed by a grant from EB's Locality Budget.

17. Correspondence – none

18. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 11th May 2026 - Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30pm in Bealings Village Hall followed by refreshments. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place immediately afterwards.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed.....
 Chairman