

**Minutes of Playford Parish Council meeting held at Playford Village Hall  
7.00pm on Wednesday 10th January 2024**

**Present:** Ben Evans – Chairman  
Joan Metcalfe – Vice-Chairman  
Steve Hicks - Councillor  
Martin Hill – Councillor  
Ursula Richards - Councillor  
Colin Hedgley - District Councillor

**Also present:**  
Glen Thimblethorpe

**In attendance:**  
Marian Hedgley – Clerk

**Apologies for Absence:**  
Elaine Bryce – County Councillor

Chairman Ben Evans opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone.

**1. Declarations of Members’ Interests in any items on this Agenda.**

JM declared an interest as Treasurer of Playford Village Hall Committee and as a Trustee of Playford Village Hall which was duly recorded.

**2. To approve the Minutes of the meetings held: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

Proposer BE                      Seconder UR

The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Review of actions arising – none

**Action Point Review:**

- ❖ **AP93 - Unregistered FP from C330 to C3311 to be reinstated.** A date for the landowner’s appeal was set for 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 but has since been redacted - we await another date and need to be prepared for this.
- ❖ **AP155 - C324 traffic priority/drainage problems:** Two main blocked drains were cleared in December - works for the traffic priority alterations and remedial drainage works scheduled for mid November have been put back due to recent atrocious weather and flooding and we await an update on when this may be carried out.
- ❖ **AP174 - “Unsuitable for Heavy Traffic” signs for Church Lane** –it’s hoped that installation work of new signage will be commenced in the Spring when the weather improves.
- ❖ **AP178 - Boules Piste repairs** – See para 11 for details

Signed .....

- ❖ **AP181/182– two fallen trees blocking FP23 following recent floods** – These have been reported and subsequently cleared.
- ❖ **AP183/188 Fallen tree near wooden bridge in the Alder Carr on FP20** – this was reported on 24.10.23 and has been cleared but another has been reported close by.
- ❖ **AP184 – Drainage ditch beside Butts Road in front of Village Hall needs digging out after heavy rainfall.** East Suffolk Services undertook to carry this out but heavy rainfall in October threw their schedule out. Clerk to chase this up.

For more details see Action Log appended at end of the Minutes.

### 3. County Councillor’s report:

Co Cllr Elaine Bryce sent her apologies for non attendance. Her report is appended at the end of these minutes. Cllr CH offered to relay any messages to Elaine if necessary.

### 4. District Councillor Colin Hedgley’s report:

Cllr Colin Hedgley’s report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and is appended at the end of these minutes.

Further to Colin’s main report he stated that:

- There is a commotion over power coming from wind farms on the East coast being transmitted overground by pylons. The proposed route for these pylons is displayed on the national grid website.
- The proposed increase in Council Tax for 2024/25 is 2.98% - this has yet to be voted on by the district council. The Police and Crime Commissioner also wants to increase funding for the Police element of the council tax.
- Colin is happy to help constituents with any problems – please contact him

### 5. Public Forum

JM spoke on behalf of Ben Wale who would like to set up some bee cafés in Playford at the Village Hall. He would like to involve local children in making planters out of natural materials and plant them up with bee friendly plants to encourage pollination. This would help encourage bees to flourish and to connect with other bee cafés in the area to form a bee corridor. Ben will attend the next meeting in March to discuss this further.

### 6. Finance

Reporting and authorisation of cheques/online payments

Already paid:

Date/Chq no.	Payable to	Reason for payment	Amount £
6.11.23 no.834	HMRC	Tax Q2 (re Clerk’s salary)	agreed in budget
21.11.23 Online	SL Webber	Bottle Bank repairs	£281.60
22.11.23 Online	M Hedgley	Clerk - November salary	agreed in budget
22.12.23 Online	M Hedgley	Clerk - December salary	agreed in budget

Signed .....

To be Paid:

9.1.24	HMRC	Tax Q3 (Clerk's salary)	agreed in budget
9.1.24	ES Services	Grass & hedge cutting	£1117.19
9.1.24	M Hedgley	Clerk's stationery expenses	£63.28
10.1.24	Sam Webber	Donation re Bottle Bank repairs	£100.00

All of above payments were proposed by MH and seconded by SH

Credits received since last meeting: 4.12.23 Interest on Reserve account £42.06

Bank balances /Bank reconciliation

Current a/c **£2435.27**  
 Bus Premium (Reserve) a/c **£10907.60**

SH checked and initialled the bank statement against budget sheet in reconciliation of figures

Vote to accept NALC recommended increase in Clerk's salary wef 1.4.23 (backdated)

Proposer SH Seconder UR

Donation to Sam Webber for his team's work on repairs to the Bottle Bank area

This was discussed and an amount of £100.00 agreed

Proposer JM Seconder MH

Budget 2023-24 – The budget was found to be on track and was unanimously agreed.

Proposer BE Seconder SH

Budget 2024-25/Setting Precept – This was discussed at length and an amount of £11,000.00 was agreed for the Precept for next financial year.

Proposer JM Seconder MH

## 7. Highways

- Traffic priority and drainage issues on C324 - Work schedule has been delayed by recent bad weather/flooding issues etc and we await a new start date for this. See AP155
- Road signs in Church Lane to deter use by large vehicles - See AP174
- Possibility of Church Road being designated as a Quiet Lane. It appears that Co Council funding has ended for this project.
- Reinstatement of unregistered Footpath 26 – See AP93
- SIDS update – Tracy Herrington submitted figures for December – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and show a similar picture to recent results. Maximum recorded speed for a vehicle in Butts Road was 60 mph
- Volunteers required for Speedwatch scheme in Playford – despite placing an advert in the FLN, no-one has come forward. Advert to be repeated in February issue

Signed .....

**8. Emergency Plan**

Cllr UR has drawn up a template from Gt Bealings' Emergency Plan of the type of information required – a meeting with residents of Playford is needed so that:

- Residents could be made aware of the plan
- To establish names of any volunteers who could offer emergency relief
- Names and contact details could be collected so that information could be shared

Information will ultimately be published on a suitable website but the paper copy needs to be established first, UR will circulate more information in due course.

**9. Neighbourhood Plan – update**

The draft N/Plan is in the hands of the planning dept at East Suffolk Council. An addendum has been added to include how comments from the Consultation period will be addressed. An Examiner has been chosen - the examination should commence on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024 and take approx 7-8 weeks.

**10. Bottle Bank repairs**

The final bills for the renovations have been settled and it was suggested that the resulting balance of the ECB budget funds obtained for this could be used to renovate the Boules Piste on the village playing field – see next paragraph. It was resolved that a donation of £100.00 should be given to Sam Webber for a charity of his choice, in respect of all his and his team's hard work as this project was done at cost and no labour was charged to the parish council.

**11. Boules Piste repairs**

Whilst a couple of residents are willing to help with the renovation work on this project a person is required to oversee it and cost it out. Clerk to enquire if Sam Webber might be willing to undertake this. A vote was taken and all were in favour of using residual funds left over from the bottle bank repairs, also Playford Village Hall committee has offered to contribute half of the final cost, up to a certain limit.

**12. Planning Issues:**

None at present and no enforcement issues

**13. PC Vacancies – A possible new candidate will be attending our next meeting in March 2024 but this will still leave another vacancy.****14. Correspondence – received up to 10th January 2024**

	Date	From	Subject	Ref
1	3.11.23	East Suffolk Planning Policy Team ESC	Planning App DC/22/5004/FUL Kesgrave Quarry Re building of offices, workshop etc for plant hire operators	Philip Ridley Head of Planning & Coastal Management
2	9.11.23	East Suffolk Planning Policy Team ESC	Updates re Public Access system used to view planning applications	Katherine Scott Principal Planner ESC

Signed .....

3	15.11.23	East Suffolk Planning Policy Team ESC	Draft Healthy Environments and Draft Rural Developments SPDs	Jason Beck Principal Planner ESC
4	23.11.23	Headway Suffolk	Rehabilitation charity asking for donations	Helen Fairweather
5	27.11.23	Suffolk Enhanced Bus Partnership	Details of EP meetings booked for the year	Simon Barnet Integrated Transport & Enhanced Partnership Mgr
6	8.12.23	East Suffolk Planning Policy Team ESC	<u>Local Validation List</u> – explains what documents needed to accompany planning applications etc.	Katherine Scott Principal Planner ESC
7	21.12.23	East Suffolk Planning Policy Team ESC	<u>Planning Forum for Town &amp; Parish Councils:</u> Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan at East Suffolk House Weds 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan at Riverside, Lowestoft. Need to register to attend	Head of Planning & Coastal Management
8	21.12.23	SALC	<u>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPS) Bulletin 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023</u> Details of link to website for town & parish councils to use	Kirsty White Admin SALC
9	8.1.24	SALC	a) Precept Survey – PCC proposes increase in Precept to fund Constabulary 2024-25 b) D-Day 80 on 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 80 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day	Kirsty White Admin SALC
10	9.1.24	FLN	Thanks for support over last year and request for increase of annual donation	Norman Porter

15. **Councillors' Comments** - none

16. **Items for next agenda**

- Repairs to Boules Piste.
- Bee Cafés in Playford
- Whether to increase Playford's annual donation to FLN

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7pm

Signed .....