

**Minutes of Playford Parish Council meeting held at Playford Village Hall
7.00pm on Wednesday 4th September 2024**

Present: Ben Evans – Chairman
Steve Hicks - Councillor
Martin Hill – Councillor
Colin Hedgley - District Councillor
Elaine Bryce – County Councillor

In attendance:
Marian Hedgley – Clerk

Apologies for Absence:
Joan Metcalfe – Vice-Chairman

Chairman Ben Evans opened the meeting at 7.01 pm and welcomed everyone.

- 1. **Declarations of Members’ Interests in any items on this Agenda - None**
- 2. **To approve the Minutes of the meetings held:**

3rd July 2024	<u>Proposer</u> BE <u>Seconder</u> MH
7 th August 2024	<u>Proposer</u> BE <u>Seconder</u> SH

The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Review of actions arising – none

Action Point Review:

- ❖ **AP93 - Unregistered FP from C330 to C3311 to be reinstated.** Evidence from the PC, from JM and from Co Cllr EB was submitted to the Inspectorate by the deadline of 20th August for consideration at the landowner’s appeal on 12th Nov 2024 at Endeavour House .
- ❖ **AP155 - C324 traffic priority/drainage problems:** Co Cllr EB has escalated this case with Highways manager Paul West as we still do not have a start date for the traffic priority works. The drainage works were put on hold as Highways had too much on their work schedule after last years’ floods but EB has also raised this with Paul West and the leader of SCC, Cllr Matthew Hicks as this work was promised a very long time ago. We await a decision.
- ❖ **AP178 - Boules Piste repairs** – work for this should commence on Sat 7th September.
- ❖ **AP184– Drainage ditch beside Butts Road in front of Village Hall needs digging out after heavy winter rainfall.** Work on this is long overdue – groundsman at ES Services has said that they’d had difficulties with workloads and getting the right equipment for this task but hoping to get it done in October before the winter.

Signed

- ❖ **AP186 – Loose netting on track of wooden footbridges in the Alder Carr on FP20**
– this was reported in Jan 2024 but has still not been fixed. All four bridges need attention. Clerk will chase up.
- ❖ **AP190 – fallen tree fouling an OpenReach cable in Butts Road** – originally reported in Dec 2023, OpenReach will not act unless the cable has parted. Still looking precarious but nothing can be done for the moment.
- ❖ **AP193 – large round pothole in Church Lane**
This has been reported many times in the past and never been satisfactorily resolved. Highways appeared to have mended the wrong pothole in July and came back to do this one in August but the problem of continuous water running down the road on both sides of the carriageway still persists. A nearby resident claims there is a water pipe below the road surface which was broken by builders about 10-12 years ago and not properly fixed – this has been relayed to Highways and Co. Cllr EB has been asked to escalate this.
- ❖ **AP194 – large potholes in Butts Road** – most (but not all) of these have been repaired up to a point but large, deep wheel ruts are still left on the outer edges of the road, which is not satisfactory. The Clerk has contacted Co. Cllr EB who has said she will put pressure onto Highways to remedy this.
- ❖ **AP195 –large shrub fallen into lay by in Spring Meadow**
First reported in July 2024, then again in August – eventually SC Highways replied 2.9.24 and said they will clear it in 20 days.
- ❖ **AP196 – Report received that a grit bin was smashed by verge cutting equipment at southern end of Butts Road in July** – this has been denied by Suffolk Highways who have stated it is the PC’s responsibility to replace this.

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

3. **County Councillor’s report:**

Cllr EB gave her report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. She further answered questions on:

C324 Drainage works:

She has escalated this issue with Paul West of SC Highways as this work has been promised for a long time and keeps being shelved – floods last October meant that scheduled work had to be put back but she is hopeful of a good outcome eventually.

C324 Traffic Priority works:

Likewise this issue is also well overdue and we are still awaiting a start date – Cllr EB has asked for an immediate escalation on this also and will continue to press for some action.

Potholes in Butts Road:

Cllr EB has asked for some action on the deep wheel ruts left at the edges of the road where repairs have been effected, but the edges fall away steeply and are increasingly dangerous.

Signed

Cllr EB was asked about what could be done about the length of time between roads being closed and work commencing as there is often a seemingly unnecessary delay before work is started especially in rural areas – she will look into this.

Cllr EB was also asked about confusing signage and meaningless signs regarding road closures being placed in inappropriate locations and various other needs for more care to be exercised when closing roads without regard for other closures in the area. She agreed it all needed monitoring more carefully but the Highways budget is very tight at the moment.

It has been reported that the grit bin at the southern end of Butts Road had been smashed. Cllr EB has offered to fund a replacement, clerk to send details of what is required.

4. District Councillor's report

Cllr CH's report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and is appended at the end of these minutes. In brief, Colin also stated that:

Planning applications are being delayed as the planning team is short by three members and delays are to be expected with planning decisions. Former head of Planning Philip Ridley is now occupied with Sizewell C matters, his place has been taken over by Ben Woolnough and they are experiencing problems filling the vacancies.

5. Public Forum - No public present

6. Finance

Reporting and authorisation of cheques/online payments

Already paid:

Date/Chq no.	Payable to	Reason for payment	Amount £
3.7.24	HMRC	Tax Q1 (Clerk's salary)	agreed in budget
19.7.24 D/D	ICO	Annual Subscription	35.00
23.7.24	SAVID	Annual donation	50.00
23.7.24	M Hedgley	Clerk - July salary	agreed in budget
23.7.24	M Hedgley	Clerk - August salary	agreed in budget

To be Paid:

due now	M Hedgley	Clerk's stationery expenses	£42.28
Sept 2024	Westcotec	Purchase of new SIDs	£3668.00+VAT

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

Credits received since last meeting:

30.8.24	Funds from SAVID	£3270.00
2.9.24	Interest on Reserve account	£33.58

▪ Bank balances:

Current a/c	£6066.30
Bus Premium	£9013.38

Signed

- Bank reconciliation was completed by SH
- Budget 2024/5 was found to be on track
Proposer BE Secunder SH
- Grass cutting contract – an enquiry has been received from NSK Landscapes, this was considered and the clerk will enquire costs and whether they would also maintain hedges and ditches, before a decision can be made.

7. Highways

Traffic priority and drainage issues on C324 – Co Cllr EB has escalated both these issues with Highways manager Paul West. See AP155

Potholes in Butts Road and Church Lane

We are trying to get to grips with all of these. See AP193 and AP194.

Footpaths issues: Non-slip netting on surfaces of all four bridges in the Alder Carr needs replacing/refixing – clerk to chase. See AP186

Also problems on FP1 which badly needs clearing of vegetation –this will be reported.

Safety of small children in Butts Road area

Worrying reports of children playing in Butts Road around the junctions of Church Lane and Brook Lane have been received. A warning message has been published in the Fynn Lark News and Lightwave leader Ben Wale has undertaken to contact parents and make them aware of the dangers.

SAVID/SIDS update –There was no traffic report for this meeting.

A new SIDS device has been ordered for Playford’s use (although it may be occasionally requested elsewhere). Funds have been transferred from SAVID to pay for the equipment. Plans for unveiling it will be discussed when it arrives.

Speedwatch scheme in Playford – As no more volunteers have come forward, this cannot proceed. James Wright of Rushmere PC has offered to operate a Speedwatch scheme in Playford and this would have been welcomed if volunteers could be found.

New Grit bin required at southern end of Butts Road. Co Cllr EB has offered to fund this from her budget as Highways did not accept responsibility for the damage.

8. Thermal imaging in Playford

A scheme is underway to allow thermal imaging equipment to be made available in villages to detect the efficiency of house insulation etc. More details to follow.

9. Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Men’s Cycle Race

Stage 6 (from Lowestoft to Felixstowe) of this tour is to come through Playford on Sunday 8th September and roads will be closed temporarily, preceded by lead cars and police motorcycles.

Signed

- 10. Domain name for PC’s and individual councillors**
This is being investigated – JM has looked into implications and will report to the next meeting. Limited funding is available from SALC until February 2025. Clerk to investigate funding issues.
- 11. Emergency Plan**
The template for our E/Plan is ready and will be circulated to councillors shortly. All councillors have agreed to have their contact details published on the Plan. The Village Hall committee is to be asked for a list of their contacts. Social media groups X (Twitter) or WhatsApp are being considered as platforms to relay information. The date for a public meeting to be held to update residents is yet to be decided.
- 12. Neighbourhood Plan**
Clerk to write an official letter of thanks to be sent to N/Plan consultant Ian Poole for his tremendous help with this project.
- 13. Boules Piste repairs**
Sam Webber has given a date of Saturday 7th September to start work on this project.
- 14. Appeal of reinstatement of FP26**
Letters of evidence from the PC, Co Cllr EB and from JM as an individual, were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the deadline of 20th August. The appeal is to be held on 12th November at Endeavour House in Ipswich.
- 15. Section 106 – Play budget allocation**
Playford PC is entitled to £490.18 for improving sports and play equipment in the village, from the section 106 Play budget held at ESC. It has been suggested these funds could be used to renovate parts of the rubber surface matting covering the children’s play area. Clerk will make some enquiries and consult Sam Webber for advice.
- 16. Website issues**
We will need a new domain name for our website if we adopt a Gov.uk address – SALC is providing some funding for this but as it is limited, we need to make a decision soon. It is not compulsory yet but may be made so, but this may change.
- 17. Any other Planning Issues:**
ESPA (East Suffolk Planning Alliance) is pushing for revision of the planning rules and trying to get certain rules changed. Lord Deben recently attended an ESPA meeting along with the Chief of Planning. They have been requesting that all parish councils join up to further their cause. We do not have enough councillors at present to be able to send anyone to their meetings but the Clerk will ask that we are kept informed of their actions and send us copies of their minutes.
- 18. Attendance of County and District Councillors:**
Attendance of our County Councillor has been sporadic for various reasons and concerns have been raised but it was resolved that we should not take any action for the moment. Dist Cllr CH has asked whether we would like to swap over to being looked after by his co-district council partner Cllr Dan Clery for a period so that they
Signed

2024/25-18

could diversify the work load. The general consensus was that CH was serving us very well and we did not see the need to change but would still like to receive regular reports from Cllr Clery –Clerk will advise him of this.

19. PC Vacancies – Three vacancies still exist.

Various names have been put forward and these will be investigated as possible new candidates.

20. Correspondence – received - up to PC meeting 4th September 2024

1	5.7.24	East Anglia 3 Renewables	East Anglia Three Project update	
2	9.7.24	Environment Agency	Nuclear regulation news	EA Sizewell C team
3	16.7.24	Citizens Advice East Suffolk	Request for donation	Sally Blake Fundraising Co-ordinator
4	29.7.24	Theberton & Eastbridge PC	Draft letter to sec of State Ed Miliband	Cllr Paul Collins Energy projects T&E PC
5	5.8.24	Otley College	Suffolk Rural Freshers Event opportunity	Andy Jolliffe Communities Officer ESC
6	6.8.24	Citizens Advice East Suffolk	Invitation to AGM 24.9.24	Carole Cecil Administrator
7	27.8.24	ESC Planning	Neighbourhood Plan experience	Melanie Seabrook Planner (Policy & Delivery) ESC
8	27.8.24	SALC	Notification of their change to gov.uk domain & new email addresses for their team + updates using the SALC portal	Sally Longmate CEO
9	29.8.24	ESC Funding Officer	ECB Ref: 10ECB242 Grant for Bottle Bank repairs	Melissa Williams Funding Officer
10	3.9.24	ESC planning dept	Consultation on the Pre-Application Advice service	Katherine Scott Principal Planner, DevelopMangemt

21. Councillors' Comments -

SH commented on unnecessary signage near the EAOW 3 compound site on the C324 clerk will investigate whether these can be removed when the site is not in use.

22. Items for next agenda - No outstanding issues

The meeting ended at 9.17pm.

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

Signed