

**Minutes of Playford Parish Council meeting held at Playford Village Hall
7.00pm on Wednesday 6th November 2024**

Present: Ben Evans – Chairman
Joan Metcalfe – Vice-Chairman
Martin Hill – Councillor
Colin Hedgley - District Councillor

Also present:
Sally Herrington
Tracy Herrington
Lee Knighting
Lynne Dawes

In attendance:
Marian Hedgley – Clerk

Apologies for Absence:
Steve Hicks - Councillor
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:

4th September 2024 Proposer BE Seconder MH

The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Review of actions arising – none

Action Point Review:

- ❖ **AP93 - Unregistered FP from Butts Road C330 to Church Road C3311 to be reinstated.** Landowner’s appeal will take place on 12th Nov 2024 at Endeavour House starting at 10am when witnesses’ statements will be heard and witnesses may speak if they wish.
- ❖ **AP155 - C324 traffic priority/drainage problems:** All work on this project has been postponed indefinitely - Co Cllr EB has established this with Highways since the floods caused by Storm Babet in October 2023 severely put back their schedules and strained their budget.
- ❖ **AP178 - Boules Piste repairs** – this work was completed on Sat 7th September by Sam Webber and his team who have made an excellent job.

Signed

- ❖ **AP184– Drainage ditch beside Butts Road in front of Village Hall needs digging out after heavy winter rainfall in 2023.** 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. It was hoped to be done in October before the winter but has still not been completed – Clerk will chase once again.
- ❖ **AP186 – Loose netting on track of all wooden footbridges in the Alder Carr on FP20** – this was reported in Jan 2024 but has still not been fixed. Clerk has chased this up with Highways’ PROW team and is awaiting a report.
- ❖ **AP193 – large potholes in Church Lane**
This issue has been reported many times in the past and never been satisfactorily resolved. There are still two streams of water constantly running down Church Lane. A third large pothole has now broken out and work is scheduled to fix it by mid December however as the root cause has not been established, it was resolved that Anglian Water should again be contacted and asked to investigate as SCC Highways has not achieved a permanent solution.
- ❖ **AP194 & AP197– large potholes in Butts Road** – most (but not all) of these have been repaired up to a point, but even where they have been repaired, 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 – we are still awaiting an update on this. Several reports of punctured tyres have also been received, caused by potholes not deep enough to warrant SCC’s intervention.
- ❖ **AP196 – Report received that grit bin at southern end of Butts Road was smashed in July** – Cllr EB has kindly agreed to fund a replacement from her budget.
- ❖ **AP198 – Drainage issues on FP20 approaching the Alder Carr** – flooding has been reported here and will be investigated by PROW team on 20th Nov.
- ❖ **AP199 – Overgrown path for most of its length** along the water meadow and leading towards Tuddenham parish – this has not been trimmed for a considerable time. It has been escalated with Highways PROW team who will send a report. Clerk to chase if this is not received within two weeks.
- ❖ **AP200 – FP3 has become very overgrown** – this has been reported to the farm manager and should be attended to soon.

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

3. **County Councillor’s report:**
None

Signed

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:

- The planning team is still short of staff – one of the team, Rachel Smith had sadly died suddenly and left another vacancy.
- There is controversy over a proposed new gravel pit at Westerfield. If approved, excavations could last for 16 years and would mean 160 lorry movements per day over this period – the land would then probably evolve into a brownfield site and become an industrial site.
- A new recycling scheme is to be introduced soon – this will mean a new time table for collections, an extra bin and a food caddy for cooked food scraps – details will be published nearer the time.
- Free car parking for Remembrance Sunday has been announced.
- A rural transport survey is currently taking place in the area.
- A Tea-dance has been arranged at Snape Maltings on 11th December with discounted prices for members of care homes and care-giving organisations.
- ESC is offering help with pension credits, winter fuel issues and help is also available from Citizens Advice East Suffolk.
- Loft insulation grants are now available again.

5. Public Forum

Tracy Herrington reported that the sign post at the junction of the C324 and Church Road was unsteady – she will report it online on the SCC reporting site.

General damage, thought to be caused by large lorries and potato harvesters, was mentioned but no specific incidents reported.

Pothole issues were discussed at length.

6. Finance

Reporting and authorisation of cheques/online payments

Already paid:

Date/Chq no.	Payable to	Reason for payment	Amount £
11.9.24	Gyles Horner	Boules Piste restoration	1042.54
11.9.24	M Hedgley	Clerks' stationery expenses	42.28
23.9.24	HMRC	Tax Q2	agreed in budget
23.9.24	M Hedgley	Clerk - September salary	agreed in budget
21.10.24	Westcotech Ltd	SIDs equipment	4401.60
22.10.24	M Hedgley	Clerk - October salary	agreed in budget
28.10.24	G Thimblethorpe	Replacement Defib pads	81.54
28.10.24	CAS	Domain name annual charge	60.00

To be Paid:

Due now	S J Webber	Donation re Boules Piste work	100.00
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All of above payments were proposed by JM and seconded by MH

Credits received since last meeting:

27.9.24 2nd instalment Precept £5500.00

27.9.24 Hire of Playing field £50.00

Signed

Bank balances:

Current a/c	£2034.98	
Bus Premium	£11,513.38	(Reserve account)

Bank reconciliation – This will be carried out by SH at a later date as it needs to be done by a non-signatory to the bank account

Budget 2024/5 - this was found to be on track

Proposer BE Secunder MH

Acceptance of NALC-recommended pro rata increase to town & parish clerks' salary
NALC has recommended a salary increase for all clerks which equates to an extra 63p per hour in this case, to be back-dated from 1st April 2024.

Proposer JM Secunder BE

Donation to Sam Webber's team in respect of boules piste renovation.

As this work was carried out at cost and no labour was charged, it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £100.00 to the team, to be spent on a charity of their choice – see AP178.

Grass cutting contract – The quotation received from NSK Landscapes was found to be considerably more than the present cost of maintaining the grass and hedges and was therefore rejected. Clerk to thank them for their time in putting the quote together.

7. Highways

Traffic priority and drainage issues on C324 – It seems the work required to remedy these issues cannot go ahead in the foreseeable future - see AP155.

A query was received to ask Cllr EB whether damages could be claimed from Highways if an accident occurred along this stretch of road, caused by the work not having been carried out.

Potholes in Butts Road and Church Lane

Another large pothole has erupted in Church Lane further uphill from where the two previous potholes have been recently been filled (but are already breaking out again). It was suggested Anglian Water should be contacted again to ask if they would investigate – clerk to take this further – see AP193.

Cllr EB is to be further asked to escalate the issue of the many potholes in Butts Road.

Footpaths issues: Problems on FP3 reported – the path is badly overgrown between Brook Lane and Bransons. JM has asked the farm manager to clear this and will report back in two weeks' time. See AP 200.

For other FP issues, please see Action log points AP198 and AP199

SAVID/SIDS update: SIDs data was not available at the time of writing these minutes.

Signed

- The new SIDs device is now in use and gives more flexibility – there are four positions to use it in Playford and it will be moved around every 3 weeks.
- It was agreed that SIDs batteries should be taken to the Village Hall to be charged.
- Road Safety Week is 17th – 24th November and banners will be displayed locally
- SAVID's AGM is on 14th November 2024 at The Community Hall, Martlesham.
- SAVID does not presently have a rep from Playford
- A date is to be arranged for a photo of the new SIDs equipment in action, together with Tracy Herrington, James Wright, Colin Hedgley and a representative from Playford PC.

New Grit bin required at southern end of Butts Road. Funding has been promised by Co Cllr EB and we are awaiting official confirmation before going ahead with this – see AP196.

8. Thermal imaging in Playford

A scheme is ongoing to provide the use of thermal imaging equipment in Playford to detect the efficiency of house insulation etc. The equipment will be available from 31st January to 10th February 2025. Please contact Glen Thimblethorp at thimblethorp@gmail.com or phone 07754 877070 to book this.

9. Gov.uk Domain Name for the PC's website and gov.uk email addresses

Quotes for this were looked at and discussed. JM will contact Suffolk Cloud to investigate further and to obtain a quote from them. A government grant of £100.0+VAT towards the cost of registration is available up until February 2025 but the funding is limited and on a first come, first served basis.

It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with a gov.uk domain name for our website and gov.uk email addresses for the clerk and individual councillors as recommended by NALC served basis. The cost for this is likely to be in the region of £720.00 but additional funding may be available from the District Council.

10. Emergency Plan

The template for our E/Plan has been circulated to all councillors. The date for a public meeting to be held to update residents was discussed and will possibly be held immediately prior to our next meeting on 8th Jan 2025 if the hall is available and necessary representatives are able to attend. Clerk to arrange this.

11. Boules Piste repairs

This was very satisfactorily completed on 7th September and it was unanimously agreed that a donation should be made to the team carrying out the work, to be spent on a charity of their choice in lieu of their labour costs not being charged. It was further agreed that the Village Hall Committee should be requested to arrange for future maintenance of the pitch in lieu of making a contribution towards the cost of the renovation, as residual funds from Dist Cllr CH's grant for repairing the Bottle Bank had been used for this – see AP178.

12. Appeal of reinstatement of FP26

The appeal is to be held on 12th November at Endeavour House in Ipswich at 10am – see AP93.

Signed

13. 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. Community Officer Andy Jolliffe is to be asked whether these funds can be used for repairing the rubber matting forming the safety floor of the play area.

14. Any other Planning Issues:

DC/24/2618/FUL – Little Oaks, Butts Road.

Modifications to the location of a garden room at Little Oaks, Butts Road.

A response was sent to the planning team saying that the PC had no objections to the new amendment.

15. PC Vacancies

It was formally agreed that Lee Knighting should be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Forms were completed and signed by him and the clerk. The clerk will duly advise the Elections Office at ESC.

16. Dates for PC meetings in 2025

The following dates were agreed by all councillors present:

Weds 8th January

Weds 5th March

Weds 7th May - APM (starts 6.30pm) & APCM

Weds 2nd July

Weds 3rd September

Weds 5th November

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

	Date	From	Subject	Ref
1	17.10.24	East Anglian Air Ambulance	Requesting donations	Tarryn Stuart Community Fundraiser
2	18.10.24	ESC Planning	Re: Climate Change: Neighbourhood Plan guidance workshops Workshop 23.10.24 10.00am-12.00pm	Ruth Bishop Senior Planner, Policy & Delivery
3	31.10.24	ESC T&P Precept Requests	Details of Council Tax Base and how we should decide Precept requirements for 2025-26	Lorraine Rogers Chief Finance Officer

18. Councillors' Comments -

Dates for Emergency Plan presentation to be agreed

Date for photo demonstrating the new SIDs equipment to be agreed

Decisions on domain name change to be agreed

19. Items for next agenda - ongoing items to be brought forward

The meeting ended at 8.51pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7pm

Signed