

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

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

**Also present:**  
Tracy Herrington  
Paul Martin  
Ben Wale

**In attendance:**  
Marian Hedgley – Clerk

**Apologies for Absence:**  
None

Chairman Ben Evans opened the meeting at 7.10pm 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 meeting held: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Proposer JM Secunder 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.** A date for the landowner’s appeal was set for 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 but has since been redacted - we are still awaiting another date for this.
- ❖ **AP155 - C324 traffic priority/drainage problems:** These works have been delayed - see para 8 - Highways
- ❖ **AP174 - “Unsuitable for Heavy Traffic” signs for Church Lane** –still anticipated that installation work of new signage will be carried in the Spring when the weather improves.
- ❖ **AP178 - Boules Piste repairs** – See para 11 for details

Signed .....

- ❖ **AP184– Drainage ditch beside Butts Road in front of Village Hall needs digging out after heavy winter rainfall.** East Suffolk Services to undertake this task in April.
- ❖ **AP186 – Loose netting on track of wooden footbridge in the Alder Carr on FP20** – this was reported in Jan 2024 and has yet to be dealt with.
- ❖ **AP189 – large amounts of silt/sand at top of Church Lane still persist despite being partly cleared last year** – this was re-reported to Highways in Jan 2024 and we were subsequently advised this is Dist Council’s responsibility. Operations at East Suffolk were then contacted and undertook to look at it but have not done so yet despite being chased by emails .....(update since the meeting: a visit has been promised for w/beg 11<sup>th</sup> March).
- ❖ **AP190 – fallen tree fouling an OpenReach cable in Butts Road** – originally reported in Dec 2023, situation has become worse but OpenReach will not act unless the cable has parted.
- ❖ **AP191 – Large linear pothole in Butts Road opp driveway to Archway House** – this has been reported to SCC Highways “Report a Pothole” but does not meet their intervention criteria (despite being 4m long x 150mm deep) but it will be monitored and assessed again their next inspection. Co Cllr EB will intervene if possible to get it fixed sooner – see para 8 Highways.

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

### 3. County Councillor’s report:

Cllr Elaine Bryce’s report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and is appended at the end of these minutes. Elaine Bryce further explained that;

- 82% increase in reporting problems with roads and potholes, please let her know if anything needs her intervention
- Vast increase in floods being reported this year and Highways crews have been increased by 70% to deal with this.
- A “Dragon Patcher” which runs on bio fuel is being trialled on road repairs.
- The county council budget was approved on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb; housing /vulnerable adults/children/education/adult social care takes up 77% of the budget leaving not much else for funding other issues.
- Public consultation on SCC Devolution deal for Suffolk starts 18<sup>th</sup> March and runs for 10 weeks – see [www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution)
- Public views being sought on active travel schemes in Woodbridge –see <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a5255b1b7fa34d148a8caf75c3d78d7b>
- The recent Ofsted report for SEND was woeful – changes now being undertaken by Andrew Reid who is the new cabinet member for SEND and Education.
- A new Loft Insulation Scheme is now in place on a first come, first served basis. See

Signed .....

**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:

- Colin also mentioned that loft insulation funds now available again
- The increase in Council Tax has been confirmed at 2.98%.
- The tourist industry support is continuing for another 3 years
- A Model District Council meeting has been arranged in the Council Chamber at East Suffolk House for school children from the district to take part in.
- A funding gap has forced the Flood Barrier scheme in Lowestoft to stop as £124m is needed to continue the work
- Results of the East Suffolk photo competition now published are worth a look.
- As always, Colin is happy to help constituents with any council-related problems – please contact him

**5. Planning Application DC/24/0503/FUL – Cherrybank, Church Lane, Playford**

The plans for a proposed single storey rear extension with replacement of the existing roof, fascia, and guttering to the whole building were displayed on the large screen TV and a discussion ensued. Installation will include new roof-mounted photovoltaic panels and roof lights, enlargement of existing window openings to accommodate replacement doors and changing the building facade to timber and brick cladding with new slate roof covering.

The applicant was unable to be present. No objections were voiced. BE proposed acceptance of the plans in their entirety and this was seconded by UR.

The clerk will convey the council's response to the East Suffolk planning dept.

**6. Public Forum**

Tracy Herrington commented that there would be a diversion along the C324 when the new mains sewage system is installed in Lt Bealings. This will be ongoing during April – September 2024 and the main route through Lt Bealings could be closed in both directions at times.

**7. Finance**

Reporting and authorisation of cheques/online payments

Already paid:

<b>Date/Chq no.</b>	<b>Payable to</b>	<b>Reason for payment</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
15.1.24	HMRC	Tax Q3 (Clerk's salary)	agreed in budget
15.1.24	M Hedgley	Stationery expenses/ink cartridges	63.28
15.1.24	SL & CL Webber	Donation re Bottle Bank repairs	100.00
15.1.24	ES Services	Grass & hedge cutting	1117.19
22.1.24	M Hedgley	Clerk - January salary	agreed in budget
1.2.24	CAS	Web hosting	42.83
22.2.24	M Hedgley	Clerk - February salary	agreed in budget
22.2.24	P E Holmes	Domain name registration	35.99

Signed .....

To be Paid:

due now	M Hedgley	Clerk's stationery expenses	£48.51
due now	P E Holmes	Web hosting	30.00
to be agreed	FLN	Annual donation towards costs	200.00

All of above payments were proposed by JM and seconded by BE

Credits received since last meeting: 4.3.24 Interest on Bus Prem account £38.74

Bank balances:           Current a/c       **£1560.62**  
                                   Bus Premium       **£8946.34**

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

Proposer SH        Seconded UR

Remaining budget for 2023-24 was found to be on track –unanimously agreed

East Suffolk Services quote for grass and hedge cutting in 2024-25

New figure for 2024-25 is £1020.00 +VAT – unanimously agreed

Possible increase to FLN donation for 2024-25 – currently £200 pa

It was resolved to keep this to the same level for the current year as it has been raised by £25 last year

Proposer JM        Seconded MH

Budget for 2024-25 – Will be down by approx £200.00 after paying for ditch clearance (£402 +VAT) and increase in grass & hedge trimming costs (£1020+VAT)

## 8. **Highways**

Traffic priority and drainage issues on C324 – Co Cllr EB explained that remedial works for the drainage improvements re-scheduled for this Spring have been put back further as serious flooding during the Winter months has thrown all of Highways' programme out. Works for the traffic priority alterations will be done first and the drainage works has been put on hold until 2025/26. Elaine will continue to monitor the situation and press for it all to be carried out as soon as practical. See AP155

Road signs in Church Lane to deter use by large vehicles - See AP174

Potholes in Butts Road – several dangerously large linear potholes are causing consternation – some have been reported to Highways but didn't meet their intervention criteria as only the very worst get dealt with. Co Cllr EB will take this up on our behalf. –See AP191

Footpaths issues: School path (FP8) has recently been cut unnecessarily – this is ironic as we struggle to get it cut in the summer months when it's full of nettles! Clerk to investigate why it was done at this time of year.

Signed .....

SIDS update –Tracy Herrington submitted figures for February – traffic volumes are up and average speeds found to be 32.5 mph. SIDS will be back in Playford in April – SAVID is applying for another SIDS device – their next meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> April.

Speedwatch scheme in Playford – despite repeating December’s advert in the FLN for volunteers, no-one has come forward.

**9. Review of Internal Controls**

- Risk assessment
- Financial Risks
- Parish Standing Orders
- Safe guarding policy

All the above policies were circulated for scrutiny before the meeting and no amendments were felt necessary.

Proposer JM Seconder BE

**10. Emergency Plan**

UR has consulted Courtney Walsh at SCC and obtained a template for parish council use. There are many aspects for consideration i.e. Insurance, Recruitment, a specific list of volunteers and how to contact them.

Mark Ward of the Rapid Response Team is willing to be a representative for Playford in addition to Gt Bealings.

**11. Neighbourhood Plan – update**

The draft N/Plan has been submitted to East Suffolk Council and passed on to the Examiner for scrutiny. The Examiner’s final report was received on Mon 4<sup>th</sup> March and looks quite promising. Consultant Ian Poole will make the recommended amendments before preparing the Plan for the Referendum - this will probably take place in June this year.

**12. Boules Piste repairs**

Sam Webber has been approached for his help and advice but is unavailable until May this year. Clerk will contact him before the annual meeting to arrange a site visit to assess the situation and report to the meeting.

**13. Bee Cafés in Playford**

Paul Martin and Ben Wale explained how the Bee Cafés would work; there are 12 kits which will be assembled at a workshop to be held at the village hall on Sun 17<sup>th</sup> March then planted up with bee-friendly plants supplied by Katie’s Garden. One of these units will be placed on the playing field at Playford to provide a feeding place for bees and to link up with other similar units to form a corridor of pollinators across the countryside.

**14. Website issues**

No further progress as yet – the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan will be added to the present website as and when amendments have been finalised before the referendum takes place.

**15. Any other Planning Issues: None**

Signed .....

16. **PC Vacancies** – Two vacancies still exist.

17. **Correspondence** – received up to 6th March 2024

1	6.2.24	Ipswich Boro Council	Notice of Adoption- IBC statement of Community Infrastructure	James Mann- Head of Town Planning & Development IBC
2	21.2.24	Lighthouse Women's Aid	Making us aware of them.....	Deborah Johnson- Business coordinator
3	12.1.24	East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA)	Newsletter etc. giving details of 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Conference at 2.30pm on Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024 in G'burgh V Hall	ESPA Steering Committee

18. **Councillors' Comments**

- SH enquired about sand/silt deposited in Church Lane by floods in October last year which still has to be removed – clerk has chased this several times and is currently awaiting replies from Operations at East Suffolk Co – see AP189
- BE spoke of the Network Rail Corridor Bio diversity route along the railway line – there is an online survey aimed at landowners which he is investigating.

19. **Items for next agenda**

- Emergency Plan
- Repairs to Boules Piste

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Annual Parish Meeting to commence at 6.30pm followed immediately by Annual Parish Council Meeting.  
Refreshments will be served.

Signed .....