

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday
10 April 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre**

palgravepc@gmail.com

Present: Cllrs Bremner (DB), Collins (EC), Cooper (WC, Fausset (RF) (late arrival), Hollowday (SH), Prendergast (CP), Pudney (VP), Robinson (JR), and Wheele (MW).

Also in attendance: The Clerk; District Cllr Weller (TW) late arrival for some of the meeting, 1 member of the public.

04.10.01 **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was not being recorded.

04.10.02 **Apologies for Absence:** No apologies - all present.

04.10.03 **Declarations:**

1. There were no Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests declared and no requests for dispensations.

2. Councillors were reminded of their obligations under the new Code of Conduct.

04.10.04 **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

04.10.05 **Matters arising:** The internal control was outstanding due to Cllr Sneddon's resignation. It was carried out today, presented for approval and signed by the Chair.

04.10.06 **Reports for Information:** No report and apologies from County Cllr Fleming. Dist Cllr. Weller's report circulated ahead of the meeting was reviewed. His statement re the Aura application was also circulated.

04.10.07 **Public Forum:** Member of the public present re Pylon query which the Clerk will address. Two complaints received, dealt with under relevant Highways agenda item.

04.10.08 **Statutory Business and General Governance:**

a) Vacancies / Co-Option on the Parish Council: Two vacancies which can be co-opted.

b) Gov.uk domains / associated email addresses will be mandatory in this financial year. Not in our budget as previous advice was to the contrary. CAS's reduced fees amount to approx. £313 p.a. to move to a Gov.uk domain and email facility. Clerk will discuss with the internal auditor and report back.

04.10.09 **To consider matters relating to planning for Palgrave -**

a) The following application was considered: DC/25/00707: Conversion of garage, erection of 2-storey extension, new replacement windows, entrance canopy and car port, and terrace structure @ Fairfax House, Crossing Road. The PC approved the application with the caveat of asking for an explanation re the tall chimney shown on some drawings.

b) There were no planning determinations to note from BMSDC.

c) Solar Farms updates: MP updated as follows: **Pace** have been replaced by PS Renewables and awaiting a meeting confirmation. Liaison Group scheduled to meet in the next few weeks pending that meeting. No parcels of land are allowed to be sold off re biodiversity. **Aura** application approved by committee 9 April. Official acknowledgement not yet received from BMSDC. The Liaison Group to be the focus for both solar farms. Working Party made up of VP, CP, MW, DB, (possibly RF), to document the land in its current state and at various build stages including photographs both aerial and land views. Local residents to be included for comments and to ask the photography group to be involved. Aim is to produce a historic document that can be referred to in the future. **Action:** Clerk will put initial ideas down for WP to then add to

d) Planning enforcement: No further update re EN/23/00593 Caravans in Wood opposite St Johns. TW to seek response on our behalf. EN/25/00094 nr. The Woodyard confirmed as Jewson's buildings, awaiting response.

e) Government housing target potential figures: BMSDC briefing pack distributed advising of *potential* housing targets over the next 20 years. Palgrave *could* see 124 more houses over this period over and above 6 already approved. BMSDC working through the Joint Local Plan as a result.

f) Other planning matters for information: St John's site visit will be arranged when building is complete.

04.10.10 **Finance:**

a) Payments totalling £2610.75 approved and signed by Cllrs Wheele and Hollowday. Can be viewed on the website under Finance.

b) Receipts: £65 cemetery donation; £435 cemetery fees; £886 VETS income; £360 Pride in your Place grant; First precept instalment of £11,762.50 due this week.

c) Bank reconciliation for the period to 31 March 2025 approved. Signed by Cllr Cooper.

d) The end of year accounts to 31 March 2025 (previously distributed) noted.

e) The Accounting Statement for y/e 31/3/25 was approved and signed by the Chair.

f) The annual CIL statement was approved and signed by the Chair.

g) Noted dog bin emptying costs increasing to £50 per bin; CAS Website hosting increasing to £66 p.a. Street lighting costs reduced, after upgrades mid 2024 from £1690 previous bill to £621 current invoice.

- 04.10.11 **Palgrave School:** RF gave update re second parking meeting with PDCC. Two spaces will be allocated in the PDCC car park for teachers on Thursdays & Fridays at present with no capacity on other week days, with caveat that this can be revoked at any time if deemed not to be working well, or increased if there is capacity. Clerk to produce parking permits. Additional actions will include changes to road markings, questionnaire to all parents, liaising with the industrial estate owner and improved parking along Lion Road. The new school playground plans were well received at the VH Event on 22 March and are now in the Church for anyone wishing to view.
- 04.10.12 **P.D.C.C:** SH advised meetings going well with no issues. Lounge area being revamped. Fete under discussion.
- 04.10.13 **D D N P:** DB provided update. Meeting focussed on major concerns over 50 planned solar farms in Norfolk and Suffolk. Solar panels on roofs only provide local electricity, not further afield. Brome will generate enough electricity to power 35K homes, the equivalent of half the output of 1 offshore wind turbine. Campaign for Rural England doing a lot of work to try and protect the countryside.
- 04.10.14 **Flooding update:** BMSDC alongside SCC Flood & Water Management team carrying out further investigative works on the potential causes of flooding. Residents at 1 & 2 Goulds Close have been contacted by the team.
- 04.10.15 **To consider matters and any actions required for those relating to the Community of Palgrave -**
- a) Highways & road related issues; (i) Grass verge outside Malt House should be repaired over Easter. Malt House resident kindly offered to water, our thanks to him for this. (ii) Road surfacing overnight 7pm – 5am from 22 – 25 April, weather permitting. Diversion route in place. (iii) Blocked drain outside Oak Tree Cottage, Crossing Road. Conversation with Highways who advise of a blocked manhole in the verge causing the issue. Clerk to talk to the residents. (iv) Complaint re abusive drivers on Priory Road, clerk has responded. Situation should improve once the 20mph zone is actioned. (v) Minibus parking issues continue, initial response sent by Clerk. Note residents can legally park vehicles on their drive, as they would a car, with no enforceable action by any other party long as long as they don't block traffic and don't cause a danger to pedestrians or other road users. **Action:** Clerk to send details to Cllr Weller asap
 - b) Speeding and associated matters: (i) 20mph campaign - Clerk unable to source any funding opportunities. Possibly only County and District Councillor Locality / Highways monies available. Clerk to acknowledge estimate before the deadline. (ii) ANPR camera dates have gone out by one week.
 - c) The Green and pond updates: (i) Drainage out of the pond to Lows Lane – should be done end April. Pond risk assessment will be updated once work complete. (ii) Access Road tree canopies and all skirts work will be done in May.
 - d) Other Open Spaces: (i) Reported hedge cut on Millway Lane, TW to provide enforcement update. (ii) BT Kiosk – a second idea has been received. Clerk to put resident in touch with the other artist to incorporate into the overall revamp of the Kiosk. (iii) More teenagers doing DofE or similar. DofE protocol working well.
 - e) Churchyard & Cemetery: Cemetery consecration documents approved. Ceremony on 9 May ay 10am.
- 04.10.16 **Village Halls Day 22 March:** Poor turnout possibly as residents didn't understand its aims. Thanks to all Cllrs who did a turn on the rota.
- 04.10.17 **Litter Pick 29 March:** Good result with over 20 volunteers with additional collections earlier in the week. Our thanks to all volunteers who helped before and on the day itself to collect well over 20 bags of litter.
- 04.10.18 **Correspondence** –Adoption in March 2025 of the BMSDC Biodiversity and Tree Planting Supplementary Planning Document noted. Further information can be viewed via the links below:
<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/supplementary-planning-documents>
<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/supplementary-planning-documents-guidance-briefs>
- 04.10.19 **Motion under the Public Bodies** (admission to meetings) Act 1960 – Clerk confirmed the new NIC contribution payable by the PC has increased from £14.63 pm to £67.05 p.m. We budgeted for about £60 p.m.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 8 May 2025 at 7.30pm. Note this is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AGM). This will be preceded on 2 May by the Annual Meeting of the Parish (APM), at 7pm in the main PDCC Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 2135 hours.

Caroline Emeny (Clerk to Palgrave Parish Council)

FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 March 2025

Current account Unity Trust Bank Account No. Sort codeStatement no's 073 & 026 dd 31/3/2025

Current account statement balance	£ 5,684.24
Savings Account statement balance	£ 44,668.68
Overall Total Reconciles with Accounts Balance As Per Spreadsheet	£ 50,352.92