

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

palgravepc@gmail.com

Present: Cllrs Collins, Cooper, Fausset, Hollowday, Prendergast, Pudney, Sneddon and Wheele.

Also in attendance: The Clerk; 4 members of the public.

- 02.06.01 **Welcome:** Cllr Cooper welcomed everyone to the meeting which was not being recorded.
- 02.06.02 **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies accepted and approved from Cllr Hopkins. Late arrival apologies received from Cllrs Pudney and Fausset.
- 02.06.03 **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.
Cllr Pudney arrived and took over as Chair.
- 02.06.04 **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 12 December 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 02.06.05 **Matters arising:** Various matters not listed elsewhere on the agenda as follows:
a) Wortham Ling: ownership details confirmed post December meeting. Owner is reticent to work with BMSDC to maintain the Ling's uniqueness. BMSDC monitoring the situation.
b) St John's House purchase: chased Trent Healthcare again re usage - no response to date.
- 02.06.06 **Reports for Information:** Apologies received from County Cllr Fleming. Report circulated. No report available from Dist Cllr. Weller.
- 02.06.07 **Public Forum:** Members of the public present to express concerns re the Pylon project were invited to speak at that specific agenda item. Interest shown in converting the BT Phone box by a resident for a year-round usage plan. - further information to follow. Planning permission refusal complaint by a resident. Various teenagers undertaking Duke of Edinburgh scheme - will be litter picking or similar tasks.
- 02.06.08 **Statutory Business and General Governance:**
a) To nominate a representative for the DDNP- suggested it be done on a rolling rota. Clerk to check if this acceptable.
b) Note Cllr Whitehead has resigned due to a change in circumstances. There are now 2 vacancies on the Parish Council
c) Consultations: Documents distributed in advance for all 3 Consultation topics.
Suffolk Devolution; Suffolk have been approved on the Devolution priority scheme meaning Norfolk and Suffolk will have one (1) elected mayor in May 2026. As a result, local elections might not happen in May 2025 – awaiting final confirmation. The mayor will take control over strategic policy areas e.g. transport infrastructure, economic development, health improvement and blue light services - along with devolved government funding to deliver positive change. More information can be read at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution>
Joint Local Plan; Clerks notes will be appended to the website minutes. BMSDC PowerPoint presentation previously circulated.
Norwich to Tilbury Pylons; (Note this was discussed later in the meeting to accommodate the late arrival of Cllr Fausset. Kept within this minute item for simplicity). Detailed discussion resulting in draft proposed feedback / comments to the current consultation to be circulated post meeting for approval and submission. Topic contribution from members of the public. Online Parish Council Webinar Wednesday 12 February 7.30pm. All to attend if possible.
- 02.06.09 **Planning:**
a) The following planning applications were reviewed:
DC/24/05377 & 05378: Erection of a single storey lean to extension following demolition of existing and erection of a 3- bay cart lodge @ Garnet House, The Green
DC/25/00396: Works to Trees subject to TPO's re various ash trees @1 Burlington Close
Both applications were approved by the Council.
b) The following planning determinations were approved by BMSDC:
DC/24/05141: Erection of a rear extension @ Applegarth, Upper
DC/24/05275: Works to trees @Palgrave Village Green.
c) Solar Farms updates: Grange Farm – Skylark mitigation measures approved.
Marsh Farm – representatives have approached local residents to garnish more support. No date yet for the planning committee meeting re a final decision.

- d) Planning enforcement: EN/23/00593 Caravans in Wood opposite St Johns. Draft enforcement order still to be ratified and issued.
- e) No other planning matters for information.
- 02.06.10 **Finance:**
- a) Payments totalling £2012.87 approved and signed by Cllrs Collins and Wheele. Can be viewed on website under Finance.
- b) Receipts: £65 cemetery donation; £1205 County Broadband wayleave agreement; £730 Locality Grant cemetery work; £360 expected soon re Pride in Your Place grant.
- c) Bank reconciliations for the periods to 31 December / 31 January approved. Signed by Cllr Hollowday.
- d) The accounts / budget information to 31 January 2025 (previously distributed) noted.
- e) Proposed Budget with Precept circulated. Precept approved at £23525, a 9% increase, with revised budget. Precept form signed by the Chair, countersigned by the Clerk. Council Tax will show an increase in a Band D property of £53.14 to £57.93 for local services.
- 02.06.11 **Palgrave School:** No update from WP, next meeting in March. Play equipment insurance and tree maintenance responsibility will be agenda items as per information circulated post December meeting. Parking at school times: Cllr Fausset updated everyone on meeting of 29 January and actions. Clerk to arrange a second meeting with the PDCC. Flyer printed for distribution to school alongside the pdf proof for the school to use by email. Approximately 60 families with pupils at the school. Cllr Hollowday took parking flyers for church users.
Action: Clerk to email school pdf and arrange flyer drop off
- 02.06.12 **Flooding:** Clerk gave update on latest response from BMSDC who are investigating watertight doors. Referred residents to www.floodmary.com for useful information.
Blocked smelly drain outside Oak Tree Cottage, Crossing Road. Reported to Highways, ref 490542.
- 02.06.13 **PDCC:** Cllr Hopkins currently unable to attend meetings – stand-in required. Cllr Hollowday to attend the AGM on 19th February as our representative. Thereafter a possible rolling rota if acceptable. Clerk to advise.
- 02.06.14 **To consider matters and any actions required for those relating to the Community of Palgrave -**
- a) Highways & road related issues; cars continue to drive up the No Access road. Uneven footpath opposite the school reported to Highways but not deemed as urgent for immediate repair.
- b) Speeding: Speedwatch on hold in the short term.
20mph campaign was approved in December. We await the next step from Highways.
- c) The Green and pond updates -
- i. Drainage out of the pond to Lows Lane – work should be done end February / early March.
 - ii. Pond – luminous signage ordered. Hopefully will not require LED lights. Cllr Wheele to install.
 - iii. Open Reach damage – pursuing claim through their insurance company. Additional signage to be ordered and installed specifically for Open Reach, and additional No Parking signage elsewhere.
 - iv. Access Road tree canopies – 2 quotes received. Question over epicormic growth to be resolved before going any further. Clerk to seek alternative advice and another quote.
- d) Other Open Spaces: Noted the Lows Lane footpath was free of ice in the recent cold snap. Our thanks once again to the Working Party for their hard work on this project.
The Spinney re Himalayan Balsam – conversation with Giles West who will liaise with D Mortlock.
Bus Timetable case replaced by Suffolk Transport.
- e) Churchyard and Cemetery no updates to note.
- 02.06.15 **Community Litter Pick** Saturday 29 March 10 -12 noon from the church. C/Forward to March meeting.
- 02.06.16 **Correspondence** –All relevant correspondence distributed
- 02.06.17 **Motion under the Public Bodies** (admission to meetings) Act 1960 – Nothing to note.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 13 March 2025 at 7.30pm. Note this will be preceded by a Cemetery Committee meeting at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Caroline Emeny (Clerk to Palgrave Parish Council)

FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 January 2025

Current account Unity Trust Bank Account No. Sort codeStatement no's 071 & 024 dd 31/1/2025

Current account statement balance	£ 3,518.71
Savings Account statement balance	£ 44,389.21
Overall Total Reconciles with Accounts Balance As Per Spreadsheet	£ 47,907.92

National Planning Policy Framework

Email from BMSDC 18 December 2024 in this regard;

New National Planning Policy Framework

The Government has set new annual housing targets.

In Babergh, our Joint Local Plan, adopted in 2023, sets out the need for 416 homes a year – but the Government has increased this to 775. In Mid Suffolk, our Joint Local plan sets out the need for 535 homes a year – increased by the Government to 734.

We all want the same thing – good quality, affordable homes in vibrant communities – and we reject any narrative that councils are ‘blockers’ to planning. We simply want to ensure we get the right homes in the right places with the right infrastructure.

We are strongly urging the government to take a collaborative approach - it must work with the housebuilding industry, housing associations, councils, and communities to address the challenges our communities face.

While we continue to work through the detail, we would again champion the benefits of towns and parishes developing an up-to-date Neighbourhood Development Plan. These are an important and powerful tool that give communities statutory influence to shape how their local area develops.

These can be time and resource intensive, but *Locality* is the main source of support nationwide. You can apply for grant funding of up to £10,000, and get technical guidance. Locality's website - neighbourhoodplanning.org – has more information.

You can also visit our website - www.babergh.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning or www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning for more information and advice.

Email 8 January 2025 from Philip Isbel, Acting Director of Planning at BMSDC

Dear Town or Parish Clerk

Last month, the Government announced its review of the National Planning Policy Framework, designed to meet its target of 1.5million new homes being built in this parliament.

In recent weeks, we’ve been analysing what this means for us here in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, and this has included taking advice from the Planning Inspectorate.

We will be inviting you to Town and Parish Briefings later this month to discuss the outcome. These briefings will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions about the Government’s English Devolution White Paper, and proposals for local government reform.

Ahead of these briefings, I thought it would be helpful to provide you with some background about the National Planning Policy Framework changes.

As you probably know, Part One of our Joint Local Plan was adopted in November 2023.

It contained annual housing requirements based on the Government’s previous housing formula. These figures are 416 new homes each year in Babergh, and 535 in Mid Suffolk.

Since then, work has proceeded on Part Two of the plan, which was set to make housing allocations, and address other matters include open space designations and Gypsy and Traveller provision.

What has changed? In December, the Government announced new housing requirements for every district and borough council in the country.

These increased the figure in Babergh to 775 homes a year (up 86%), and in Mid Suffolk up to 734 (up 37%).

To ensure housing figures can be met, councils must demonstrate there is a 'housing land supply' for the next five years. This is assessed every year, and the figures published in our Annual Monitoring Report.

But the new requirements will make this more challenging in future years and we cannot be confident that past oversupply of planning permissions will count towards future land supply calculations.

If we cannot demonstrate a five-year land supply, there is a risk that national planning policies would start to take priority over the Joint Local Plan - and the councils may find themselves in a position where they are required to approve planning applications on sites contrary to the development plan.

We are therefore acting promptly to respond to the Government's new policy and to give our communities confidence that we want our decision making to be plan-led and delivering what government expects of us.

What does this mean for Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Joint Local Plan?; We feel there is no option but to formally review the Joint Local Plan, building on the work that has already taken place.

We are extremely grateful to all partners and individuals who have taken the time to make valued contributions over the last few years.

This preparatory work is not wasted and will be considered during the review. But it is unavoidable that we will have to gather further evidence and carry out additional engagement ahead of the formal review process.

A revised timetable – our Local Development Scheme - will be brought forward to the council in February, and will be published on our website once agreed.

In the meantime, Part One of our Joint Local Plan remains very much in place and will continue to carry statutory weight when planning decisions are made in our districts, alongside Neighbourhood Plans and national policy.

What does this mean for Neighbourhood Plans? We continue to work closely with towns and parishes as they develop their Neighbourhood Plans to take account these changes to national policy. There is more information [available on our website](#).

Briefings later this month ; I am sure you have questions about both the planning changes and the Government's plans for devolution and local government reform.

We are arranging Town and Parish Briefings for later this month, January 2025, and you will receive invitations in due course.