

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday
12 February 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre**

clerk@palgrave-pc.gov.uk

Present: Cllrs Charman (KC), Collins (EC), Cooper (WC), Coulson (PC), Hollowday (SH), Pudney (VP), Whele (MW) and late arrival Cllr Fausset (RF).

Also in attendance: The Clerk. County Cllr Fleming and District Cllr Weller for some of the meeting.

- 02.12.01 **Chair's Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was not being recorded.
- 02.12.02 **Apologies for Absence:** No apologies received.
- 02.12.03 **Vacancies and Co-Option** of Councillors: Cllr Bremner has resigned with immediate effect. Cllr Whele offered his resignation due to re-locating imminently but remained in post until the close of the meeting. This will result in 3 vacancies on the Parish Council once the reduced requirement under the Community Governance Review (CGR) is approved.
- 02.12.04 **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.
- 02.12.05 **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 18 January 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 02.12.06 **Matters arising:** The Clerk again reviewed the responses from previous meetings as expedited with TW which are minuted under enforcement where applicable.
- 02.12.07 **Reports for Information:** Reports from both County Cllr Fleming (JF) and District Cllr Weller (TW) were received and distributed. Both Councillors reviewed their reports in detail.
- 02.12.08 **Public Forum:** No members of the public present and no issues to report.
- 02.12.09 **Statutory Business and General Governance:**
- a) The following policies were reviewed, updated and approved en bloc: Internet Banking; General Reserves; Standing Orders, and Financial Regulations.
 - b) Trevor Brown was approved as the Internal Auditor for 25/26 Financial year.
 - c) Charles Flack was approved as a Trustee for the Palgrave Welfare Trust as the second Parish Council representative on the Charity.
 - d) SH confirmed she will remain our representative and Trustee on the PDCC. Annual membership of £10 being paid under Finance.
 - e) The following consultations and updates were discussed: (i) update re Norwich to Tilbury Pylon scheme – the hearings began this week. **Action:** *JF to send us notes from the first hearing*
(ii) Devolution and LGR update – JF provided a detailed update. Awaiting the Government's decision in March. (iii) Ecopower Solar Suffolk Scoping Opinion as statutory consultee – it was resolved we would submit comments regarding the envelopment of Palgrave by these energy projects. **Action:** *Clerk to do*
(iv) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the BMSDC Joint Local Plan Review – *c/forward to March*
- 02.12.10 **To consider matters relating to planning for Palgrave -**
- a) The following planning application was considered: DC/26/00035: Erection of extension to front porch @ Willow House, Draycott Rise. The PC resolved not to comment on the application.
 - b) The following BMSDC Planning Determination were received as approved:- DC/26/00039; Works to Trees in a Conservation Area @ Land south of Rose Lane. (Note this was approved under delegated powers by the Chair and Clerk on behalf of the PC as received too late for the January agenda). DC/25/03607; Consent to install a Tourist Information Board with waterproof leaflet dispenser @ Land adjacent to BT Phone Kiosk, Manorial Waste Land south of Lion Road.
 - c) Solar Farms update: **Grange Farm** – detailed update distributed from the Liaison Group Chair. Discharge of Condition 19 – Land & Soil Management Plan. Application for a non-material amendment re Condition 28 to reflect an updated noise assessment. Delays over the finalising of the Community Benefit deed - the Clerk and PLG Chair are endeavouring to resolve asap. Various complaints about the security lights at the site which are reflecting into people's homes. Will the lights only be used for the duration of the build? **Action:** *Clerk to pass concerns onto the PLG for resolving*
 - d) Planning enforcement issues: TW confirmed the following are all being dealt with by enforcement officers; removed hedge at Millway Lane; caravans at The Woodyard.
 - e) No other planning matters for information.

- 02.12.11 **Finance:**
- a) Payments totalling £1322.31 approved, signed by WC and EC, viewable on website.
 - b) No receipts to note except £65 regular cemetery donation.
 - c) Bank reconciliation to 31 January 2026 approved and signed by MW. Up to date accounts noted.
 - d) The annual donations under S137 were approved as follows: East Anglian Air Ambulance £117; Headway Suffolk £117; Citizens Advice Diss £116.
 - e) Quotes for the grass and hedge cutting contracts were reviewed in detail. The PC resolved to appoint a new contractor pending receipt of favourable feedback and discussion with the company as to the exact contract wording. **Action:** Clerk to finalise
- 02.12.12 **Palgrave V.E.T.S.** – The PC approved the request to fund CPR combined with basic first aid training in the autumn. **Action:** Clerk to investigate prices, research PDCC hall availability and discuss with VETS
- 02.12.13 **Palgrave School:** Notification received advising the head will be stepping down at the end of the summer term. Playground - No further updates but Cllr Coulson (PC) detailed advice received from a local golf club but awaiting cost indication. **Action:** Clerk to ask PC to forward advice received
- 02.12.14 **P.D.C.C:** SH gave update as follows – PDCC celebrating 40 years this year with a function on 20 June. She requested the presence of other members of the P.Council at this event to show their support.
- 02.12.15 **D.D.N.P:** no update due to resignation of DB. **Action:** Clerk to make contact and attend online meetings in the interim and inform VP
- 02.12.16 **To consider matters and any actions required for those relating to the Community of Palgrave -**
- a) Highways & road related issues; (i) Lorries using 7.5T weight limit roads. Clerk has contacted one company collecting the sugar beet harvest off Millway Lane. KC to provide the Clerk with more information as to the recent incident on Crossing Road for reporting and contacting the company. Crossing Road flooding past railway – still waiting for the farmer to resolve this, extreme wet weather has not helped. **Action:** Clerk will expedite
 - b) Speeding and associated matters: 20mph project: **Action** Clerk to expedite for timescales
Community Speedwatch – clerk provided scheme update: Minimum 6 volunteers required, online training, minimum requirement to hold 12 speed capture sessions per annum, all equipment provided f.o.c. RF will take the old speedgun which has no further use. Speeding and noisy lorries complaint received re A143, which the Clerk has responded to in depth with contact advice
 - c) The Green update: Two oak saplings planted. Need to review purchase of metal tree guards asap to properly protect them. **Action:** Clerk to research as minuted in January and purchase. Damaged bollard on the small green triangle replaced very quickly by landowner. Our thanks to him for his prompt actions and dealing with mud on the road caused by the sugar beet hauliers.
 - d) Bird Boxes update – currently being made. PC has sourced suitable locations to site them. **Action:** Clerk to arrange for delivery to PC when ready
 - e) Other Open Spaces: Footpaths - RF to cut back foliage on path near The Lows due to reduced access as noted by a resident. **Action:** RF to do. The solar farm footpaths run alongside the fencing, plastic signage with arrows have been installed and some plastic matting for ease of walking due to the mud underfoot but more action needed. **Action:** Clerk to ask the PLG to push for more work to be done on the footpaths to make them usable again. To add to the next PLG agenda the plans for the Biodiversity land section just off Millway Lane
MSDC land on the right at the Diss end of Lows footpath – barbed wire still present. TW notified with recent photos.
Priory Wood: PC proposed we investigate taking over the wood from BMSDC which is full of wildlife due to the solar farm works. He suggested we extend the wood by a few metres so the path runs down the middle of it, not the edge, thereby providing more protection for the wildlife and enhancing the whole area. **Action:** Clerk to investigate and liaise further with PC
 - f) Churchyard & Cemetery: New bench still requires fixing. **Action:** RF / PC to liaise and action. War memorial inspected and no remedial work required at this stage.
- 02.12.17 **Out of the Box-** Our thanks to Danny Ward for levelling the phone box. Meeting was held re the Tourist Information board this week with review of the proposed footpath map. Several amendments required. Overall map approved by the PC. Thrandeston Parish Council has been contacted as a sign of courtesy as some of the walks go through their area. Clerk has requested a response from the school to get the children involved. Clerk has been informed the art group will pick up the glass painting if the school drops out so not to worry about this aspect.

- 02.12.18 **Correspondence:** Invitation to attend the Waveney Valley Sustainable Communities Conference with Adrian Ramsay MP on 13 March, 9-3pm, at Diss Corn Hall, should anyone wish to attend on our behalf. Pre-registration is required. More information received on the new recycling to begin in June 2026. **Action:** Clerk to put some additional info in *The Palgrave Star* for residents. New grant launch by MSDC for Landscape Nature Recovery which might be useful for Priory Wood as minuted under 16e above. **Action:** Clerk to discuss further with PC, landowner and MSDC
- 02.12.19 **Motion under the Public Bodies** (admission to meetings) Act 1960 – Nothing to report.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 12 March at 7.30pm. Note this will be preceded by a Cemetery Committee Meeting at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

Caroline Emery (Clerk to Palgrave Parish Council)

FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 January 2026

Current account Unity Trust Bank Account No. Sort codeStatement no's 083 & 036 dd 31/1/2026

Current account statement balance	£ 2,416.35
Savings Account statement balance	£ 45,436.21
Overall Total Reconciles with Accounts Balance As Per Spreadsheet	£ 47,852.56