



MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 commencing at 7pm held in Crowhurst Suite at Brantham Leisure Centre.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED INCLUDED AT APPENDIX B

PRESENT: Cllrs Mal Bridgeman (Chair), L Cherry, M Clark, C Donaldson, J Heywood, A Edevane, J Heywood, E Osben, T Lancaster & A McCraw & S Harley.

Also in attendance: S Keys (Clerk), F Coley (Assistant Clerk), and 1 member of the public.

PC 01.25.01- OPENING INCLUDING STATEMENT

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7pm and thanked all for attending. The Chair also expressed his thanks to everyone for all that had been achieved throughout the year.

A statement was then read out by the Chair indicating that, in accordance with legislation, the public and councillors were permitted to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of the meeting. A full transcript is on the Council's [website](#).

The Chair reminded the public that a Council meeting is not a public meeting, it is a meeting conducted in public. Members of the public, the press, and District, Borough or County Councilors are invited to attend our meetings and contribute during the public forum. Comments from the public during the remainder of the meeting should be by invitation from the Chair only.

PC 01.25.02 - APOLOGIES

- a) Council to receive apologies for absence – Cllrs A Kanaris
- b) Council to consent to accept apologies received -**These apologies accepted, aif.**

PC 01.25.03 - DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- a) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other registerable interests as detailed in Appendix B of the LGA Model Code of Conduct – there were none declared.
- b) To receive notifications of gifts of hospitality exceeding £50 – there were none submitted.
- c) To receive requests for dispensations – None

PC 01.25.04- MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 4th December 2024 – **LC proposed, AM 2nd aif.** The Chair duly signed the minutes as approved.
- b) Council to note Draft and Approved minutes of the Finance Committee are available to view online – **Noted**

PC 01.25.05- REPORTS FOR INFORMATION - to receive written reports for information from:

- a) County Councillor Simon Harley – Cllr Harley provided an overview in relation to the Devolution and Council Reorganization. He explained that there is a meeting taking place on the 9th January 25, and the decision of that meeting will be sent to Jim McMahon on Friday. Cllr Harley advised that it is likely that elections would be cancelled and that this may have been the last chance to vote for a County Councillor. Cllr Harley advised that budget was 4.99%.
- b) District Councillor Alastair McCraw – Cllr McCraw explained his report and provided his view on Devolution. He advised he met with planning inspectorate and that they need to revisit the whole of part 1 of the JLP. AM advised that there is a meeting on Teams on the 20/01/2025 and it would be good if people could attend. He advised that the budget increase would be 2.99% which would amount to 11p per week. No questions.



PC 01.25.06 - PUBLIC FORUM

- a) To receive any questions or comments from members of the public – None received.
Member of public enquired about some fuel receipts that he had submitted to the PC – SK advised that they were on the agenda for this evening.
Member of public expressed concern about Cinder Path as it was getting very overgrown. **It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for this to be cut by Dave Childs.**

PC 01.25.07- CLERK'S REPORT (Paper 1)

- a) To review actions from the previous meeting
- PC 12.24.07 Put advert in the Bugle about dog faeces. – SK explained that this would be done in the next edition.
 - PC 12.24.06 Suggestions on how the village could support a Charity event. – SK advised that this was on the agenda for tonight.
 - PC 12.24.11 Arrange meeting with MB, LC and Clerk about next steps – Ongoing
 - PC 12.24.12 Publish the abridged version of the Brantham 2034 plan – Completed and no questions asked.
- b) To receive the reports of items actioned under delegate powers
- Arranged removal of Christmas tree – Completed
 - Grit bin on Private Road replaced and grit to fill ordered – Completed
 - Purchase of new Grit bin for near Westerns End – Completed
 - Arranged date for next Affordable Housing meeting with BDC/CAS – 13 January 2025, 11am - Completed
- c) To note the new correspondence for noting only or for consideration/agreement of next steps
- Item 1 – Bailey Gardens – MB no further action needed.
 - Item 2 – Travel Voucher – MB states that this is a matter between the resident and Taylor Wimpey
 - Item 3 - Email about fete committee – EO is going to be meeting with Lou and moving things forward.

PC 01.25.08- STATUTORY INFORMATION

- a) To receive nominations for the vacant posts of Councillor (3) – none received – Clerk to advertise the post.

PC 01.25.09 - FINANCE REPORT

- a) To receive a report from the Finance Committee – Cllr Osben advised that there had been no meeting in December, therefore no report provided.
- b) To note and approve the balance of accounts as of 31st December 2024: - **aif**
- Current account: £5001.00 - **Agreed**
 - Deposit Account: £191,419.19 - **Agreed**
 - Salaries Account: £0.45 – **Agreed – JH proposed and EO 2nd aif**
- c) To approve the accounts awaiting payment including those coming forth (PAPER 2) – **All were in agreement to approve those items as submitted - aif**
- d) To note the accounts paid since 4th December 2024 (PAPER 3) – **All were in agreement to approve those items as submitted - aif**
- e) To note receipts allocated since the last meeting (PAPER 4) – **All were in agreement to approve those items as submitted - aif**
- f) To note Bank Reconciliation to 31st December 2024 (PAPER 5) - Council noted the overall bank balances of £196,420.64 across all accounts held in the name of the Parish Council. **All were in agreement to approve those items as submitted - aif**
- g) To note the CIL report for December 2024 including nominal sums for potential CIL expenditure for the coming year (PAPER 6) - all noted the current CIL position which showed committed expenditure to date and available funds of £100.10.27.
- h) To note the donations approved to date in 2024-25 (PAPER 7) – Noted



PC 01.25.10 - PLANNING MATTERS

- a) To consider and approve response to the following planning matters relating to Brantham – None
- b) To note the following planning decisions relating to Brantham - None

PC 01.25.11 - BRANTHAM GARAGE SALE

- a) To review possible support for Brantham Garage Sale from Brantham Parish Council
- b) To formally approve any support, if appropriate – After discussion and a couple of suggestions Cllrs agreed that they would be willing to support the event by funding some (or all) of the printing costs of the maps that are provided on the day if that is something that the Committee would find helpful. Clerk to email Committee.

PC 01.25.12 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) To receive a report from the Parish Chairman and agree any actions as necessary – MB advised that he had approached Taz, in order to establish if she would be willing to do some seasonal displays for the village at the corner of Palfrey Heights and she was agreeable to this. **MB proposed, LC 2nd, aif**
- b) To receive any other points to note from committees, sub-committees & working groups – MB thanked CD and JH for their work.
- c) To consider/approve any proposals or next steps as appropriate – Clerk is to set up a meeting with MB, Clerk and Taz to discuss seasonal displays and then report back to PC.

PC 01.25.13 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a) Finance Committee meeting – Wednesday 22 January 2025, 7pm
- b) Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 08 January 2025, Crowhurst Suite, Brantham Leisure Centre, 7pm

The meeting closed to the public at 8.03pm.

SIGNED.....DATED.....



ACTIONS

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	WHO
PC 01.25.06 - Cinder Path	Arrange for the hedge to be cut back.	Clerk
PC 01.25.08 (a) - Vacancy	Advertise Councillor Vacancy.	Clerk
PC 01.25.11 – Garage Sale	Email to offer printing maps.	Clerk
PC 01.25.12 – Seasonal Display	Set up meeting with MB, Clerk and Taz.	Clerk



APPENDIX A

Accounts submitted for payment – 08 January 2025

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. 2104)	BACS	260.00		260.00
Brantham Village Hall	Hall Hire – December 2024 (Inv. 1112)	BACS	24.00		24.00
HMRC	P30 Q3	BACS	2148.25		2148.25
SALC	CLlr Training – AKanaris (Inv. 29393)	BACS	32.00	6.40	38.40
Dennis Hyatt	Fuel Costs (Brantham Open Spaces Group)	BACS	107.11		107.11

Accounts paid since 04 December 2024

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Parish Council staff	December 2024 Salaries, Clerk & Assistant Clerk Office Allowance (incl. back pay for Clerk & Assistant Clerk)	BACS	3291.88		3291.88
Microsoft	Monthly Subscription Charges – December 2024	DD	20.60	4.12	24.72
Brantham Village Hall	Support for running costs – December 2024	BACS	416.67		416.67
Virtual Landline	Phone number for Parish Council		7.29	1.46	8.75
Smarty.co.uk	CCTV SIM Cards	Direct Debit	27.00		27.00
GiffGaff	Assistant Clerk SIM card	Direct Debit	6.00		6.00
Raydon Christmas Trees	Christmas Tree 2024	Debit Card	112.00		112.00
Collier & Catchpole	Fixing for Christmas Tree	Debit Card	TBC		11.98
NEST	Clerk's Pension	Debit card	102.29		102.29
East of England Co-op	Drink/food – Xmas celebration	Debit Card	87.28	11.38	98.66
1 st Brantham Cub Scouts	Donation for Daffodil bulbs	BACS	35.98		35.98

Receipts allocated since 04 December 2024

Who	Detail	Method	Amount
Brantham Management CIC	Quarterly Rent	BACS	412.50
Highcliff Veterinary Clinic	Quarterly Rent	BACS	1365.15
Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	BACS	148.18



APPENDIX B – List of common abbreviations used.

Aif	All in favour
AGAR	Annual Governance and Accountability Return
APM	Annual Parish Meeting
APCM	Annual Parish Council Meeting
ASB	Anti-social Behaviour
BACS	Bankers Automated Clearing Services
BDC	Babergh District Council
BLC	Brantham Leisure Centre
BMCIC	Brantham Management Community Interest Company
BOS	Brantham Open Spaces Group
BMSDC	Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council
BPC	Brantham Parish Council
CEP	Community Emergency Plan
CAS	Community Action Suffolk
Chq	Cheque
Cllr	Councillor
Cttee	Committee
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
FC	Finance Committee
FOI	Freedom of Information
FR	Financial Regulations
GPoC	General Power of Competence
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LPF	Lower Playing Field
LSC	Legal Sub Committee
NHS	National Health Service
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
PC	Parish Council
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
RFO	Responsible Finance Officer
RFSC	Recreation, Footpaths and Services Committee
SALC	Suffolk Association of Local Councils
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SID	Speed Indicator Device
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SNT	Safer Neighbourhood Team
SO	Standing Order
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
VAS	Vehicle Activated Sign
VCSE	Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations
HMC	Village Hall Management Committee



APPENDIX C

Report for January 2025

to the Parish Councils of Peninsula Division from Simon Harley (SCC Councillor)

Motions Passed at Council

At Council on Thursday 12 December, three motions were passed more or less unanimously by councillors. The first was a Conservative motion opposing government's changes to Agricultural Property Relief, which mean that from April 2026, Suffolk farmers will only have relief from inheritance tax for up to £1m of combined agricultural and business property. Above this £1m, they will have to pay inheritance tax at half the usual level (20% rather than the usual 40%). The change has inspired protests since it was announced by the government, including farmers driving hundreds of tractors into Westminster and in Suffolk, along the A14 from Ipswich to Felixstowe at 5mph. The Conservative motion also opposed industrialization of the countryside by major energy projects, including solar farms.

The motion brought by my group also related to solar farms, specifically the need to prioritise rooftop solar over solar farms and lobby for changes to planning so that new housing and commercial developments have solar panels, and priority is given to retrofitting solar to buildings or brownfield sites over new solar farms which take good quality farmland out of food production. For example, in France solar panels are often mounted on canopies above car parks to maximise space. As well as contributing to the country's net zero targets, solar panels could significantly reduce energy bills for Suffolk schools and libraries.

The final motion was tabled by the Conservatives on knife crime and proposed that a knife crime action plan for Ipswich be discussed at the next meeting of the Safer, Stronger Communities Board in March 2025.

Suffolk Economic Strategy

At Cabinet on Tuesday 3 December, a new economic strategy was tabled which followed the creation of the Suffolk Business Board earlier in 2024. The Board produced a strategy for the county for the next five years, listing the areas which are most important to the Suffolk economy, including clean energy, agriculture, tourism, and ports and logistics. It also outlined how the Board hopes that digital innovation, AI and robotics can help drive improvements and growth in these areas, along with plans to support start ups, provide business mentoring and skills projects with young people. My group asked questions about the impact of Sizewell C on the tourism industry, and the competition for workers where Sizewell was offering wages that local hospitality businesses, for example, would be unable to match. We also expressed concern that the strategy barely mentioned arts, heritage and culture, and that no arts or cultural organizations were represented on the Board. The plan was approved by the council's Cabinet, and the Suffolk Business Board will now finalise how it plans to deliver the strategy, and will report back to Cabinet every year on their progress.

Children's Services Improvement Plans

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met on 5 December to review the plan for improvement following the Ofsted inspection of the council's children's social care provision earlier in the year. The Ofsted report was published in August 2024 and the council learned it had dropped two grades, from being rated Outstanding in 2019 its current grade of Requires Improvement. The council had to produce an action plan for improvement which



it has submitted to Ofsted and the Department for Education. The Cabinet member for children's services and officers from the department attended the committee meeting to outline the actions they have taken so far, including recruitment of extra staff members to drive improvement, and arranging peer reviews with other councils. There will also be a new Strengthening Services for Children and Families Board, which will be chaired by the council's Chief Executive, Nicola Beach. The council particularly needs to improve services for care leavers and consistency of practice and quality assurance - this means reviewing interactions with children and families to make sure the council is doing the best it can to help them. This work is separate to the council's improvement work for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), which is subject to a separate inspection process by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Devolution and Council Reorganization

Following the new government's shelving of the previous devolution deal for Suffolk, the Government has published a white paper outlining the approach they wish to see in reforming local government, including the abolition of district councils. Elected mayors and large (500,000) unitary authorities are the goal for the largest local government reform since 1972, when the two (three including parish councils) tier local governance structure was introduced.

While there are obvious benefits to having a 'one stop shop' for all things local government, if this is to be introduced without losing the 'local' from local government the minimum resident number needs to be more flexible. With the recommended figure in the paper being a minimum 500,000 residents per council, this means for the whole of Suffolk (760,000 residents) the 4 District Councils currently are at threat of being taken over by the Unitary Authority and very significant changes as a result. It is possible that a merger with Norfolk could also take place in some areas.

We will know more about how this reorganization will happen over the coming months, but at present there are signs that the County Council elections due for May 2025 may be postponed until the new local government structures are in place. This has led to obvious concerns about the strength and accountability of local democracy as your Councillors are normally elected for a 4 year term before coming up for re-election.

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

Wishing you all a safe and prosperous New Year

Simon Harley Suffolk County Councillor for Peninsula Division



APPENDIX D – District Council report, January 2025

Leader's response to Devolution White Paper

Leader of Babergh District Council, Cllr Deborah Saw, said: "Local government must remain genuinely local..."

Council's funding warning as budget proposed to protect vital services

Babergh District Council's Cabinet is set to consider a 2.99% increase to the district's share of council tax bills - as councillors warn of a £10.9 million budget gap over the next five years due to a 'broken' funding system.

New affordable homes in Lavenham

Keys to eight affordable new-build homes in Lavenham were handed over to Babergh District Council this month, with tenants now able to look forward to a New Year in their new homes.

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group endorse the Suffolk Economy Strategy

New strategy aims to propel Suffolk's economic growth and position the county at the forefront of the UK's green evolution.

HOWZAT! Cash boost agreed for Babergh community projects

A cricket club and a village solar power project are to receive a cash boost just shy of £90k, thanks to funds collected from developers by Babergh District Council.