

## DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

**Minutes of the Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm**

## Attendance:

Councillor Gary Peachey      Chair  
 Councillor Alan Vickerage      Vice Chair  
 Ms Jane Spenser      Clerk  
 Councillor James Bailey  
 Councillor Jamie Howard  
 Councillor Steve Murrow

Members of the electorate and other attendees:

2 members of the electorate

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

The Chair held a minute's silence for former Councillor Mo Murkin who has sadly passed away after a long illness.

A reminder to everyone that the meeting was being recorded for accurate writing of the minutes.

6106	<b><u>Apologies and consent to acceptance for absence</u></b>  Apologies requiring consent to acceptance approved for Councillor Paul Stannard, Councillor Gary Harrison, Councillor Philip Haylock and Councillor Sue French	
6107	<b><u>To receive member's declaration of interest and dispensations relating to items in this agenda.</u></b>  None were received.	
6108	<b><u>To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024 are a true and correct record.</u></b>  It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 were a true and correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.	
6109	<b><u>Public participation session (15 minutes) to include Police, District and County Councillors' Reports.</u></b>  a. <b>Tim Passmore – Suffolk Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b> Mr Passmore was pleased to be invited to attend the meeting. He reported that Suffolk has the third lowest level of recorded crime per capita nationally and Suffolk has a record number of police officers with the establishment now standing at 1,425.	

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b.	<p>15 recorded speeding offences in Beck Row recently. They are looking for extra resources to bring into the area to carry out speed checks and the potential use of motorbikes for less accessible areas.</p> <p>With regards to the jewellery theft that took place in Beck Row recently, the culprit has been caught. The individual was from the Birmingham area.</p> <p>Mr Passmore has arranged funding for the road signage around the base to be reinstated. This has been approved.</p> <p>The Clerk will email Mr Passmore regarding the state of the A1101 including the roundabout with its lack of signage and general state.</p> <p>Mr Passmore is keen to receive correspondence from anyone wishing to contact him regarding local matters for attention that he may be able to help with.</p> <p><b>Squadron Leader Andy Bell – RAF Mildenhall</b></p> <p>90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – What a year! A huge thanks to everyone involved. In October, local civic leaders were able to engage with the Red Arrows and we unveiled the new station crest featuring the King’s Crown on 09 Oct– believed to be the 1st time the USAF has ever displayed a King’s Crown on one of their aircraft: there can be no better demonstration of the close relationship between the US and the UK than the military aircraft of 1 nation displaying the badge of another.</p> <p>Everyone will be acutely aware of recent instances of severe congestion in the area, particularly whilst the West Row Gate was closed for development. We apologise for this but were as frustrated as anyone by the emergency works: we have re-energised dialogue to try to prevent reoccurrence. West Row Gate has now reopened to one-way traffic: inbound 0600-1430 &amp; outbound 1500-1800 daily until 06 May 25. Closed 12 May – 16 Jun 25 then open normally.</p> <p>We are meeting Highways on Thursday 12 December 24 to discuss the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing just to the East of Tolly Cobbold entrance to enable our staff (&amp; others) to cross the A1101 safely. We are also discussing the need for a safer crossing of the A1101 for access and egress to the Child Development Centre. Options for this are still being generated and some further engagement with WSDC and Highways is needed to identify what is feasible.</p> <p>PC Andy Green recently attended USVF newcomers training and, I’m told, was very impressed with what the US currently receive. That said, we will continue to work with the Police to improve road safety as much as we can.</p>	
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c.	<p>You will have seen media reports that several small unmanned aerial systems (UAS) were recently spotted in the vicinity of MoD sites including RAF Lakenheath, Mildenhall and Feltwell.</p> <p>The numbers of UAS fluctuated over several days and they ranged in size/configuration: all were actively monitored, and none of them were assessed to impact on base, residents or critical infrastructure.</p> <p>I cannot discuss specific force protection measures, but I can tell you that many visual sightings were discounted, and restraint was shown throughout. We will continue to monitor airspace around us and to work with authorities and mission partners to ensure the safety of all concerned.</p> <p>Plans and ideas still firming up for the significant re-development of the Base to make it fit for purpose out to 2050. The 'Old General's House' will be demolished in Spring 2025.</p> <p>Regarding the Bird in Hand, the decision to close the pub was a commercial one not taken by MoD. Until the land and property has been fully surveyed and assessed, there are no firm plans for its future use. We have looked at whether we could use the land for community purposes, but many of the outlying buildings are beyond repair and full of asbestos so totally unsuitable. The pub itself is also in very poor condition and a considerable amount of work would be required to bring it into a usable condition compliant with current regulations. We fully recognise your interest in this matter but, at this stage, it's just too early to say whether the Base can conserve the building or not: we are eager to try and will work closely with you and WSDC as more info becomes available. That said, the decision to purchase the land was taken to improve security on the Base; therefore, early 2025, you will see a more permanent security fence installed. We are currently finalising diagrams, drawings and the specific location of the fence so that these can be included with our notification to WSDC. We note concerns regarding the visual impact of the fence: choices of security fence design which the US can employ in this situation are limited, but the team will look at ways of mitigating the impact as much as is possible. Since the MoD acquired the site, it has regularly been broken into by local youths, so the erection of a proper fence is a priority. The area is now Crown Land &amp; the people concerned have been given suitable advice by the Police; but it's important that people understand we will have to start viewing trespassing the same as anywhere else on the Base.</p> <p><b>PS Pete Maxfield – Community Policing Seargent</b></p> <p>Apologies received - Reported that there have been a few incidents of anti-social behaviour relating to youths on the roof of a vacant premises, however this seems just another isolated incident and there have been no further reports. Obviously, the issue of the drones will no doubt be of interest and concern for the Parish. There</p>	
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	<p>have been no further recent reports. Norfolk and Suffolk Police, USAF, RAF and MOD Police have all been involved and working together on this matter. I cannot offer any further information than this.</p> <p>d. <b>Councillor Colin Noble – Suffolk County Council</b> Not present, no report received.</p> <p>e. <b>Councillor Don Waldron – West Suffolk Council</b></p> <p>Regarding Devolution, they are waiting for the white paper before making decisions.</p> <p>In relation to the questions raised regarding the solar panel grant funding for the Parish Hub, the life of the batteries is approximately 20-25 years. They are individual units. They are roughly the size of a car battery. They can be monitored by Suffolk Streetlighting. The contract for the solar panels is for 25 years. We would be leasing them the roof space. The option is there to buy out of the contract after 3 years.</p> <p>Councillor Waldron has confirmed that The Thursday Club will receive £200 from him and £200 from Councillor Bradshaw towards a new projector.</p>	
6110	<p><b><u>Progress reports for information</u></b></p> <p>a. Chair's report</p> <p>The Chair reports that the Christmas trees were put up and thanks to Councillor Bailey and David Bacon for their help doing that. This year there is an additional tree at Kenny Hill making a total of 6 trees around the Parish.</p> <p>b. Clerk's report</p> <p>The Clerk has spoken to Suffolk Streetlighting regarding Unit 85 – St John's Street, which was meant to be removed following the works to the new development there. They are aware of this and the light will be retained for use elsewhere in the Parish. The Clerk will carry out a full streetlighting review with Suffolk Streetlighting to check for any outstanding LED upgrades and potential areas where the now Unit 85 could be used.</p> <p>The Clerk has emailed West Suffolk Council Parks Department regarding the 'moat' on Parkside. The email has been acknowledged and passed to the Landscape Manager and the Green Spaces and Heritage Services Manager to investigate and respond.</p>	

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c.	<p>Decarbonisation Grant funding regarding the installation of solar panels and batteries at the Parish Hub has been received and was circulated to Councillors by email. There are several questions and options regarding this initiative and some more research to do before being able to make an informed decision, so we will revisit this topic at the January meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk would like to receive some emails from Councillors with suggested commemorative benches for the VE Day bench agreed at the November meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Basics training has been booked for Councillor Howard. The training, which is a valuable tool, is open to new and existing Councillors.</p> <p>The Beacon, Councillor French Apologies received – no report at this time.</p>	
6111	<p><b><u>To consider planning applications</u></b></p> <p>None currently.</p>	
6112	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>a. <b>To receive and approve the bank reconciliations -</b> Appendix A and Appendix B - Reconciliation of Parish Council and Parish Hub bank accounts, previously circulated to members ahead of meeting, for the month ending November 2024, were received and approved.</p> <p>b. <b>To approve payments -</b> i. Parish Council - Appendix C ii. Parish Hub - Appendix D</p> <p>Payments were approved and authorised for payment. Appendix items can be found in the minute folder with signed minutes relating to this meeting and on the website.</p> <p>c. <b>To receive the grant application from Thursday Club</b></p> <p>The grant application was circulated to council members ahead of the meeting. The amount of grant requested is £250.00 towards a projector.</p> <p>Following the information received from West Suffolk Councillor Don Waldron regarding their contribution, the Parish Council members approved the remaining funding needed of £110.00 in order that they can complete the purchase for this project. The Clerk will inform the Thursday Club and issue payment of the grant.</p>	

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d.	<p><b>To consider and approve the Budget proposal 2025/26</b></p> <p>The Clerk circulated the proposed budget to Council Members ahead of the meeting. It was resolved to accept the proposed budget for 2025/26.</p>	
e.	<p><b>To consider and approve the Precept application 2025/26</b></p> <p>Following the approval of the proposed budget, the Precept application for 2025/26 was signed by the Chair. The precept applied for is £56,800.</p>	
6113	<p><b><u>To continue discussion for clearing the access to the land in Holywell Row with appropriate border marking. To make a date for this to take place with volunteers.</u></b></p> <p>Before The Joshua Tree Ltd can carry out their offer to help with this community project, the access to the land needs clearing of fencing, rubble, scrap metal, bricks and other objects.</p> <p>This needs input from volunteers. Due to several council members being absent from the meeting, it was agreed to arrange a date via communication channels when the most council members possible can meet to get this done.</p>	
6114	<p><b><u>To receive an update from Councillor Bailey regarding the website (gov.uk)</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Bailey reports that the gov.uk status has now been acquired but isn't up and running just yet. A new host service has been initiated along with the set-up of mailboxes for the Clerk and Councillors. Councillor Bailey aims to have the site operational by the January meeting so will provide a further update then.</p>	
6115	<p><b><u>To discuss request by Parish residents to re-attempt Speedwatch initiative</u></b></p> <p>There are an increasing amount of concerns raised by residents regarding the speeding through the Parish. Residents that attended the last Councillor Surgery requested that the Parish Council re-attempt to start a Speedwatch initiative. This didn't happen previously due to a lack of volunteers. Councillor Vickerage asked if there was any option to perhaps share the initiative with West Row in the hope that we could, between us, raise enough volunteers. The Clerk will speak to the West Row Clerk.</p> <p>Councillor Murrow confirmed that there still needs to be a total of 6 volunteers. 3 at a time would attend designated sites set by Speedwatch.</p>	

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	The Clerk will put the suggestion out on social media for volunteers to come forward and provide feedback at the next meeting.	
6116	<p><b><u>To discuss the renovation of the Beck Row village sign</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk has received a quote from Neil Horne at H Signs. The quote is for £800.00 to rub down to metal, re prime and re paint the pictorials on both sides of the enamel.</p> <p>It was resolved to accept the quote. The Clerk will contact Neil to get this booked in with him for completion.</p>	
6117	<p><b><u>To note the Personnel Committee have accepted the 2024 National Joint Councils' (NJC) pay award and awarded the back pay relevant from April 2024 to date.</u></b></p> <p>The Personnel Committee have accepted the NJC pay award. The relevant back pay from April 2024 to date has been awarded.</p>	
6118	<p><b><u>Matters for the next meeting</u></b></p> <p>Speedwatch Solar panels</p>	
6119	<p><b><u>Date of the next meeting</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025</p>	
6120	<p><b><u>Meeting closed</u></b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.59pm.</p>	

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