

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

**Minutes of the Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7.30pm**

Attendance:

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

Members of the electorate and other attendees:

4 members of the electorate

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

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

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| 6284 | <u>Apologies and consent to acceptance for absence</u> Apologies received requiring consent from Councillor Philip Haylock and Councillor Paul Stannard. Apologies accepted. Other apologies received from Suffolk County Councillor Colin Noble, West Suffolk Councillor Don Waldron, Squadron Leader Owen Crosby – RAF Mildenhall and PC Scott Cameron – Community Policing. | |
| 6285 | <u>To receive member's declaration of interest and dispensations relating to items in this agenda.</u> None were received. | |
| 6286 | <u>To resolve that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2025 are a true and correct record.</u> It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 11 th November 2025 were a true and correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chair. | |
| 6287 | <u>Progress reports for information</u> a. Chair's report A thank you to Dash and his colleague for taking down the play equipment swiftly and then again thank you to Dash and Josh for moving it out of the play area to allow Councillor Haylock and team to | |

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| | <p>remove it from the site. It was heavy and awkward work and the effort and time given up to doing this is appreciated.</p> <p>The Christmas trees were successfully put up on Saturday 29th November and thanks to Councillor Gary Harrison, David and Josh for your time and assistance with this. It's certainly not a one man job! Thanks also to Angela and Jane for providing bacon rolls and hot drinks back at the Hub after.</p> <p>A set of hinges are needed for the Telephone Box door and then it's ready to hang. Hopefully, once that is complete, it is over to some willing volunteers to start the renovation work.</p> <p>b. Clerk's progress report on previous agenda items – Appendix H Circulated to Council Members ahead of the meeting. Attached to these minutes.</p> <p>c. The Beacon – Councillor French Cut off for entry in next edition (Feb-Mar 26) is 14th January 2026. If there are any Christmas reports or writes up to submit, please do so by the 14th January.</p> | |
| 6288 | <p><u>Public participation session (15 minutes) to include Police, District and County Councillors' Reports.</u></p> <p>a. Councillor Colin Noble – Suffolk County Council Apologies received – Parish report circulated to Council Members ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>b. Councillor Don Waldron – West Suffolk Council Apologies received, nothing to report at this time.</p> <p>c. PC Scott Cameron – Community Policing Apologies received, nothing new to report at this time.</p> <p>d. Squadron Leader Owen Crosby – RAF Mildenhall As you may be aware, the US government was in shutdown from 1 Oct until a new spending bill was passed on 13 Nov. Here at Mildenhall we had to postpone or cancel 35 community events over this period. The Community Relations Advisor, Natalie Murphy, would like to thank everyone in the local community for their patience and understanding during this time.</p> <p>I am sorry that I missed being a part of the Remembrance Service at Beck Row this year, and I will ensure that I am available for one of the services next year. I understand that Colonel Byrum, the Base Commander, did attend in a personal capacity although sadly the government shutdown prevented him from attending in uniform. We all hope that base support to events will return to normal in 2026.</p> | |

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| | <p>For public information, the reporting mechanism for drone sightings in the vicinity of the airbase is to call 01638 542444 and give as much information as possible about the drone, where and when it was sighted, and any information about the operator and any vehicles they were using if known. The area around any airport or airbase is restricted airspace and anyone planning to operate a drone locally should seek permission from the base in advance and make contact before launching to ensure air safety is maintained.</p> <p>I'm looking forward to meeting some pupils in the Beck Row Primary Academy during our Radio Santa event on Thursday. I hope I'm able to answer any difficult questions about how Santa manages to deliver all the presents. The US Air Force help to keep track of Santa's progress, so if any children want to see where he is on Christmas Eve they can take a look at https://www.noradsanta.org for the latest information.</p> <p>-</p> <p>I'm sorry I missed you at the Lakenheath Yuletide, Ely Thanksgiving and RAF Mildenhall Tree Lighting events. Please do feel free to pass on any invites for the Chair to another councillor to attend as a representative if the dates don't work for you. I do understand that the council might have other commitments at this time of year, of course.</p> <p>-</p> <p>There are no more large-scale exercises involving aircraft from RAF Mildenhall this year.</p> | |
| 6289 | <p><u>Planning matters</u></p> <p>DC/25/1816/HH Householder planning application – rear and side extensions (following demolition of conservatory) Location: 53 Oak Drive, Beck Row. SUPPORT</p> | Clerk |
| 6290 | <p><u>Governance and Finance</u></p> <p>a-b To receive and approve the bank reconciliations - 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 2025, were received and approved.</p> <p>c-d. To approve payments - i. Parish Council - Appendix C ii. Parish Hub - Appendix D</p> <p>Approved and authorised for payment. Appendix items can be found in the minute folder with signed minutes relating to this meeting.</p> <p>e. To consider and approve the Budget proposal 2026/27 – Appendix E The Clerk circulated the proposed budget to Council Members ahead of the meeting. It was resolved to accept the proposed budget for 2026/27.</p> | |

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| f. | <p>To consider and approve the Precept application 2026/27 – Appendix F</p> <p>Following the approval of the proposed budget, the Precept application for 2026/27 was signed by the Chair. The precept applied for is £62,750.</p> | |
| 6291 | <p><u>To receive the Play Inspection report for November 2025 Appendix G</u></p> <p>The November routine play inspection report was circulated ahead of the meeting for information and review. The report was undertaken prior to the removal of the slide and climbing equipment. Work on quotes for the replacement and further necessary repairs to the existing equipment are underway. Enquiries and discussion have also been had concerning options for inclusive play equipment. This is, however, an area that may need to be revisited after seeking additional funding. The Clerk is looking into potential adaptations with existing suppliers of equipment to see if there is the potential to switch out elements for inclusive options - the swings for example.</p> | Caller |
| 6292 | <p><u>To discuss potential Churchyard/Cemetery additional land requirements</u></p> <p>Councillor Peachey was asked to attend a meeting with West Suffolk Councillor Don Waldron and St John’s Church regarding the future necessity of extending the burial area. This is something that needs looking at in preparation for the future - let’s say a 10-to-20-year plan. It may not be possible for an extension to St John’s Churchyard, factors such as Aspal Close and whether West Suffolk Council would even grant further expansion on to Aspal Close. The Parish Council, as a burial authority, has the power to provide and maintain burial grounds and Cemeteries within its jurisdiction (Local Government Act 1972) so may wish to consider a Cemetery as an option as a multi-denomination burial ground.</p> <p>Councillor Murrow asked what would happen if the Churchyard became full. Councillor Peachey said that people would have to approach Mildenhall or further.</p> <p>The purpose of making this an agenda item is to make the Council Members aware and to minute that it has been raised and may require further discussion. Councillor Peachey felt it would be short sighted of the Parish Council to not consider this topic on behalf of the residents of the Parish. All Council Members were in favour and agreement that, in the future, a Cemetery may be a suitable option and that it was a good idea to at least partake in further discussion.</p> | |

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| 6293 | <p><u>Confidential matters, resolution to be passed to move into a private session public/press excluded from meeting at this point.</u></p> <p>Resolution passed, private session entered.</p> | |
| 6294 | <p><u>Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda</u></p> <p>None at this time.</p> | |
| 6295 | <p><u>Date of the next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13th January 2026.</p> | |
| 6296 | <p><u>Meeting closed</u></p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.10pm.</p> | |

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