

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

**Minutes of the Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7.30pm**

Attendance:

Councillor Gary Peachey	Chair
Councillor Sue French	Vice Chair
Ms Jane Spenser	Clerk
Councillor Philip Haylock	
Councillor Jamie Howard	
Councillor Steve Murrow	
Councillor Paul Stannard	
Councillor Alan Vickerage	

Members of the electorate and other attendees:

5 members of the electorate
West Suffolk Councillor Don Waldron
Squadron Leader Owen Crossby

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

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

6345	<u>Apologies and consent to acceptance for absence</u> Apologies requiring consent received from Councillor Gary Harrison and Councillor James Bailey	
6346	<u>To receive member's declaration of interest and dispensations relating to items in this agenda.</u> None were received.	
6347	<u>To resolve that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 are a true and correct record.</u> It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 10 th March 2026 were a true and correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.	
6348	<u>Progress reports for information</u> a. Chair's report The solar panels are now up and running on the Parish Hub. The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success and thank you to everyone involved who gave up their time. The event gets better and better	

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b.	every year and runs so smoothly and it is enjoyed by so many people, with such positive feedback. Well done to everyone involved. The social evening is next Wednesday 29th April at the Parish Hub and the interest has been fantastic so it should be a very successful evening. The trees at the Bird In Hand will now remain. It shows that the Parish Council really should make their voices heard regarding planning matters as our objection to the removal of the trees made the difference. Having attended a meeting on site to discuss this further, the outcome is that new trees will be planted behind the existing trees so that if root damage does occur when the perimeter fence is installed, the new trees will already be grown enough to stand in place of the older trees in years to come. Clerk's progress report on previous agenda items (Appendix H) 1) 6 monthly fire alarm service was arranged for the flat and the Hub and completed on 18.03.26. Cllr Stannard organised new smokes and heat detector for the flat (awaiting invoice). Everything is in order. Fire log is maintained with routine testing by the Clerk. 2) Solar panel installation is complete, carried out w/c 23.03.26. All certification has now been received, the balance invoice paid (£12729.30) and the grant money deposited into Hub bank account from WSC (£6629.84). There will be VAT to recover on the purchase. Please remember WSC pay the grant on the NET amount. All is operating well. A new contract for electric or an 'export tariff' now needs to be sought out to make the most of the panels in selling back any surplus energy to the supplier. 3) The Clerk met Creative Play on 25.03.26 for a site survey re the Jungle Climber install. They will need around 1000 litres of water on site for the install. The Clerk has spoken to Cllr Haylock about this. Cllr Peachey will assist. The supply needs to be on site for work to commence on 27.04.26. 4) On 27.03.26 the Clerk met with the Parish Keeper and Brian Sulman to discuss the way forward in assisting the Church with the graveyard grass cutting. It was concluded that the Church would apply for the maximum grant from the Parish Council and that the Parish Keeper would be invoicing the Church independently for the grass cutting contract. 5) Further damage to the Youth Shelter and called by Play Area Inspector on 03.04.26 to advise it was damaged and very dangerous. Very kindly Ken Crist saved the day and went and removed the damaged panel from the Shelter. The Shelter would still pose a low risk due to the metal structure but less of a risk than the jagged smashed panel. Decision needs to be made whether to claim and replace the panels or leave them off. On another note, the Play
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	Area Inspector is pleased to see the amount of attention that is paid to the park in attempting to maintain and improve it. We discussed the works planned at the end of April and the new Jungle Climber installation. 6) The Easter Egg Hunt was once again a huge success; 220 maps were returned in exchange for eggs and dairy free options. All the craft supplies were used up. 120 hot drinks made. Donations received for these were around (£50.00 – covers cost). We had interactive stations this year with additional treats and goodie bags for the children. We repurposed left over bags from the Queens Jubilee event! There was no wastage – around 10 eggs left which were handed out to the team of helpers without whom the event would not run as smoothly as it does. Every year Anna is still willing to prepare and organise this event with me from the start to the finish on the day. Thank you to Anna, Angela, Josh, Katie, Nicky, Sarah, Cllr Peachey and Cllr Bailey for their time on the day and Sarah from Made By Mower for her annual donation of Easter Balloons. The event has so much to offer from the trail to the crafts, treats and eggs. It is so well received by all (queuing up before 10am for their maps!). With the grant money from Cllr Waldron and the match funding from the PC the event comes in under budget. The Beacon – Councillor French The next cut off for article entry is 14th May for the June to July edition. Cllr French asks if the Parish Council would like to consider increasing the number of copies printed as the usual 2300 were all delivered on the last run and, with new build homes, there may not be enough without an increase in print. SID monthly data (Appendix I) The SID data was shared with Council Members ahead of the meeting. This now includes a total of 6 signs. This data will be shared with the police and the speed camera team directly.	
6349	<u>Public participation session (15 minutes) to include Police, District and County Councillors' Reports.</u> A member of the public asked if it was possible to consider the addition of a couple of streetlights namely around the bus stop on Aspal Lane and by the bus stop on Holmsey Green. The Clerk will look into this further. Councillor Don Waldron – West Suffolk Council Waiting for the outcome on the devolution bill, 21st May is the Annual General Meeting of West Suffolk Council and then a meeting will follow regarding the outcome of devolution. Cllr Waldron is asking the question as to whether they may be any further grant funding available from the Decarbonisation Grant Fund and will let the Clerk know if there is any news on that.	

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b.	Squadron Leader Owen Crossby – RAF Mildenhall Local Police and MOD Police activity has increased slightly in the area due to protestor activity at RAF Lakenheath and aviation enthusiasts keen to see some of the visiting aircraft. Whilst most of the increased activity has been harmless, there have been examples of illegal activity, and some arrests have been made. We would welcome any reports of suspicious or unusual activity by members of the public, either through the Police or via the base online message service - together we can help to keep everyone safe. RAF Mildenhall has remained very busy with ongoing operations both in the UK and into the rest of Europe. We again thank the people of Beck Row for their understanding and support. The US personnel are continuing to plan and run events with the local community where possible, although participation may be reduced in some cases. Base Civil Engineers and members of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation met with West Suffolk planning case officers and Cllr Peachey last week to discuss amendments to the planning application for fencing on the old Bird in Hand site. The amendments seek to retain the existing trees in place whilst also planting additional trees to ensure the amenity value is preserved. The amendment should come to the Council for review shortly. Design of a new search facility at the base main entrance is progressing. The intent is to separate contractor vehicles earlier and give more space for queuing prior to search to avoid delays at the main entrance. This work will start earlier than the proposed redesign of the main entrance on the A1101 but takes account of the planned changes.	
c.	PC Scott Cameron – Community Policing Not present – nothing received at this time.	
6350	<u>Planning matters</u> DC/26/0449/HH – a. single-storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) b. detached outbuilding. Location: 26 St John’s Street, Beck Row, IP28 8AA. SUPPORT DC/26/0288/FUL – one dwelling and vehicular access. Location: Land adj to Hornbeam Lodge, Whitegate Farm, Skeltons Drove, Beck Row. SUPPORT DC/26/0328/HH – a. front open porch b. alterations to fenestration c. convert part of the outbuilding to enlarge residential annexe, d. replace outbuilding roof tiles. Location: Stanley Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row, IP28 8BT. SUPPORT DC/26/0192/FUL – one self-build dwelling and vehicular access. Location: 18 Lamble Close, Beck Row, IP28 8AF SUPPORT	Clerk

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	DC/25/0497/FUL – Re-consultation, planning application – two dwellings with garaging (amended plans received 10/12/25 and 10/02/26. Amended landscape plans and BNG details received 30/03/26) Location: Land at, Cherry Tree Gardens, Beck Row We OBJECT to this application, the Parish Council comments made on 14.05.25 still apply. DC/26/0468/FUL - access for plots 1 and 2. Location: The Coal Yard, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk, IP28 8BL SUPPORT DC/26/0491/HH – single storey outbuilding (following demolition of existing shed) Location: Harvest Barn, 1 Holywell Farm, Holywell Row, IP28 8NL. Comment regarding this application and the LB reference below. The Parish Council neither support or object to the application but comment that if permission is granted, any outbuilding should be built sympathetically and in keeping with its surroundings given the historical value of Holywell Farm. If granted the building should be used for the purpose as stated on the planning application. DC/26/0492/LB – single storey outbuilding (following demolition of existing shed) Location: Harvest Barn, 1 Holywell Farm, Holywell Row, IP28 8NL As stated above for DC/26/0491/HH	
6351	<u>Governance and Finance</u> 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 March 2026, were received and approved. c-d. To approve payments - i. Parish Council - Appendix C ii. Parish Hub - Appendix D Approved and authorised for payment. Appendix items can be found in the minute folder with signed minutes relating to this meeting. e. To receive the comparison for Qtr 4 of 2025-26, Appendix E The final budget comparison for the financial year end 2025-26 was circulated to Council Members ahead of the meeting for review. The Parish Council finishes the year in a healthy position in line with planned budget spending. f. To consider and approve the grant application from St John's Church, Appendix F Following on from discussions regarding the maintenance of the churchyard, St John's Church are requesting a grant towards the grass cutting. Council Members resolved to approve the grant for £250 towards the 2026 grass cutting season.	

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g.	To consider and adopt Financial Regulations following annual review, Appendix G The Financial Regulations were circulated to Council Members ahead of the meeting for review. There have been no changes to the adopted document from 2025. It was resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations circulated for the 2026 financial year.	
6352	<u>To discuss style/type options for village gateways and any quotes obtained</u> Cllr Haylock asked if there was evidence that they slow drivers down. Cllr Murrow said that there is actual documented evidence that they do. It was agreed that more quotes and style options need to be obtained and that it would be sensible to hold back for a few months to potentially approach Suffolk County Council for any grant funding after May elections have taken place and we have a County Councillor to speak to. It was agreed to look at pricing up 4 gates. 2 for the C602 coming into Holywell Row from Eriswell and from Mildenhall, and 2 gates for the A1101 coming into Beck Row from Mildenhall and from Kenny Hill.	Clerk/Cllrs
6353	<u>To consider and approve quotes for wildlife cameras</u> It was agreed to purchase 2 cameras – one on the land at Holywell Row and one on the Toc-H land. Cllr Murrow will send details of the suggested cameras to the Clerk. .	Cllr Murrow/Clerk
6354	<u>To decide a date in May for Love Your Village litter pick and clean up</u> It was agreed that a May date didn't leave much time to publicise the event. Cllr Haylock suggested it was held on the same date as a Parish Council meeting. Tuesday 9th June 2026 was agreed. Time to be confirmed. The Clerk will order litter pickers and bags from West Suffolk Council. Cllr French will ask Cllr Bailey for a poster for the Beacon.	Cllr French/Cllr Bailey/Clerk
6355	<u>To discuss criminal damage to Youth Shelter and whether to repair/claim</u> It was resolved not to claim on the insurance for the vandalism to the youth shelter as this would cause a further increase to the premium. The Parish Council will look at replacing the Perspex panels after the Summer and once the CCTV camera is in place.	
6356	<u>Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda</u> None at this time.	

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6357	<u>Date of the next meeting</u> The next meeting which is the Annual Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12 th May 2026.	
6358	<u>Meeting closed</u> The meeting closed at 8.40pm.	

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