

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

**Minutes of the Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.30pm**

Attendance:

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

Members of the electorate and other attendees:

One member of the electorate
Chair, West Row Parish Council
Clerk, West Row Parish Council
Squadron Leader Owen Crosby

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

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

6297	<p><u>Apologies and consent to acceptance for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies received requiring consent from Councillor James Bailey and Councillor Paul Stannard. Apologies accepted.</p> <p>Other apologies received from Suffolk County Councillor Colin Noble, West Suffolk Councillor Don Waldron and PC Scott Cameron – Community Policing.</p>	
6298	<p><u>To receive member's declaration of interest and dispensations relating to items in this agenda.</u></p> <p>None were received.</p>	
6299	<p><u>To resolve that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025 are a true and correct record.</u></p> <p>It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 9th December 2025 were a true and correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.</p>	

Signed by Chair of meeting:

Date signed:

6300	<p><u>Progress reports for information</u></p> <p>a. Chair's report</p> <p>Cllr Peachey reported he had taken down the Christmas trees and that the Parish Council had donated to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) as part of their Christmas tree collection service.</p> <p>b. Clerk's progress report on previous agenda items</p> <p>The Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) in relation to the solar panel install at the Hub is taking place on 14.01.26.</p> <p>The EICR is also due on the Flat. The Clerk is making arrangements with Cllr Stannard for this to take place. The Clerk has now taken over the Flat Management from Beatrice Carter who were extremely helpful in the handover and further offer their services and assistance in the future when required.</p> <p>The Clerk has extracted data from the Holmsey Green SID successfully. This took some time due to going back to the installation date of the sign. The Clerk will extract and clear all data from the rest of the signs before compiling a current report for submission to the Police.</p> <p>c. The Beacon – Councillor French Cut off for entry in next edition (Feb-Mar 26) is 14.01.26. If there are any Christmas or other reports to submit, please do so by the deadline of 18.01.26</p>	
6301	<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, the below report was provided –</p> <p>Suffolk Connected:</p> <p>The platform continues to grow. I encourage all local residents to sign up and stay informed. It can be accessed at www.suffolkconnected.org.uk. We will use Suffolk Connected to push timely alerts, seek feedback on local priorities, and advertise Street Meets/engagements. Please sign up at suffolkconnected.org.uk.</p>	

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	<p>Speeding and road safety:</p> <p>Context: Recent checks have shown that there are still ongoing issues with speeding in and around the area.</p> <p>Actions we're taking: Targeted roadside operations over the coming weeks focusing on speed enforcement and document checks (insurance/MOT/tax). These will be intelligence-led and at peak complaint times/locations. Partnership working with RAF Lakenheath/Mildenhall on local safety briefings and compliance with their driving policies near the bases to reduce collision risk. High visibility patrols and, where appropriate, use of detection equipment at problem locations based on recent reports.</p> <p>Local crime picture & policing priorities:</p> <p>Context: Suffolk Police list of our priorities in the surrounding area: (a) disrupting drug supply, (b) reducing acquisitive crime (burglary/vehicle crime) (c) tackling anti social behaviour (ASB).</p> <p>Actions we're taking: Drugs: Intelligence led stop/search, warrants, arrests and safeguarding of those at risk of exploitation; school inputs on drug harm/exploitation. Burglary/vehicle crime: Targeted patrols ("Pulse"), house to house prevention advice, and distribution of SmartWater kits. ASB: Problem solving plans with partners, pop up engagements, and proportionate enforcement where necessary; recent charges for criminal damage linked to vehicle offences.</p> <p>How residents can help: Sign up to Suffolk Connected for local alerts and quick surveys that directly shape patrol plans and operations: Report concerns (non emergency via the Suffolk Police website/101; emergencies via 999).</p> <p>d. Squadron Leader Owen Crosby – RAF Mildenhall</p> <p>RAF Mildenhall Report to Beck Row Council December 2025 Squadron Leader Owen Crosby</p> <p>I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year and thank you for your support and understanding over the past year. Colonel O'Dell, the Deputy Base Commander, made clear in his Christmas message that the support of the local community is essential to the smooth delivery of operational effects here at RAF Mildenhall. We look forward to continuing our good relationship in 2026.</p> <p>I greatly enjoyed meeting some pupils in the Beck Row Primary Academy during our Radio Santa event last month. It's always heart-</p>	
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	<p>warming to see the looks of joy and wonder on children's faces at Christmas!</p> <p>RAF Mildenhall played a key role in the seizure of a Russian-flagged tanker in the North Atlantic this month, an operation that was also supported by RAF surveillance aircraft and a Royal Navy support ship. The UK government position is that we are stepping up activity against shadow vessels, and the US thanked the Ministry of Defence for its "unwavering support" during the operation.</p> <p>Work to erect a permanent fenceline around the former Bird in Hand site was delayed both by the US government shutdown and consultation related to a Tree Protection Order on the site. The design of the new fenceline has been selected so that no trees under a TPO need to be felled, although a request for pruning either has or shortly will be submitted to enable the works.</p> <p>As a summary of community activities by RAF Mildenhall in 2025 (all areas, not just Beck Row), Natalie Murphy (Community Relations Advisor) has provided the following statistics. It's worth noting that this activity is despite the pause during the 42 days of US government shutdown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 56 civic invitations supported <input type="checkbox"/> 27 World War Two memorial requests supported <input type="checkbox"/> 56 volunteer opportunities fulfilled <input type="checkbox"/> A total of 748 Airmen out in the community over the year 	
6302	<p><u>Planning matters</u></p> <p>DC/25/1926/FUL – multi-use games area with associated fencing. Location, Beck Row Primary School, The Street, Beck Row. SUPPORT</p> <p>DC/25/1942/HH – conversion of garage into annexe. Location, Stanley Farm, Annexe, Wilde Street, Beck Row. SUPPORT</p> <p>DC/25/2023/VAR – please review application online for the alterations proposed. Location, The Coal Yard, Wilde Street, Beck Row. Previous support was given to the application and still stands but the Parish Council feel it is a shame that the affordable housing has been removed from the plans therefore removing the need for the much-needed footpath.</p> <p>DC/25/2051/VAR - Planning application - variation of condition 2 of DC/25/0638/FUL to enable use of amended plans for one self-build dwelling (following demolition of existing dwelling) Location, De Creke Farm The Common Beck Row Suffolk IP28 8BU SUPPORT</p>	Clerk
6303	<p><u>Governance and Finance</u></p> <p>To receive and approve the bank reconciliations -</p>	

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c-d.	<p>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 December 2025, were received and approved.</p> <p>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>	
e.	<p>To receive the budget comparison Qtr 3 – Appendix E</p> <p>The budget comparison for Qtr 3 was circulated to Council Members ahead of the meeting for review.</p>	
f.	<p>To consider and approve the grant application from Beck Row Methodist Church – Appendix F</p> <p>The grant application was circulated to Council Members ahead of the meeting for consideration. It was resolved to approve the application which was made towards maintenance costs of the church yard.</p>	
6304	<p><u>To discuss The Rows combined Christmas Grotto 2026</u></p> <p>The Clerk has suggested a combined Christmas Grotto event with West Row Parish Council for December 2026 to be held at the Parish Hub. West Row Parish Clerk and the Chair of West Row Parish Council attended the meeting this evening to see what our Council Members thought of this idea before discussing with their Council Members. This would be a combined Christmas event for the villages, Beck Row, Holywell Row, Kenny Hill and West Row. The proposal would be to run off the Easter Egg event template that the Clerk and former Cllr Anna Petric still put together each year given its continued success. It would be held at the Parish Hub offering a small gift for each child from Santa’s Grotto along with refreshments and craft activities. West Row could potentially bring over their sleigh which would be a static feature in the car park for photo opportunities. The event would be separate to the village sleigh and run earlier in the month to not conflict. The event will need a combined effort on funding and volunteers. Council Members were in support of the initial discussion and wait for feedback from West Row Parish Council before entering planning.</p>	
6305	<p><u>To discuss volunteers and plans for the Easter Egg Hunt 2026, Saturday 4th April 2026</u></p> <p>The Clerk and Anna will once again put together the event, theme, trail, advertising, Easter Eggs, craft activities etc. Volunteers are needed on the day of the event. Cllr Peachey offered his help again</p>	

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	<p>this year. The Clerk will reach out to friends and family for volunteers on the day.</p>	
6306	<p><u>To receive the play inspection report for Dec 2025 - Appendix G</u></p> <p>The report was circulated to Council Members ahead of the meeting for review. The highlighted issue with the zip wire has been reported to Creative Play and they are sending out a team to rectify the tension spring. However, the Clerk adds that the zip wire is being misused and regularly people are bouncing up and down on the cable which is damaging the tensioning spring and creating unwanted slack. The remedies will be carried out free of charge.</p>	
6307	<p><u>To consider and approve the quotation from Creative Play – Appendix H</u></p> <p>The proposal and quotation from Creative Play was circulated to Council Members ahead of the meeting. The Clerk reiterates the quote from Creative Play for the new options of equipment have been heavily discounted to take into account the repairs that have already been given the go ahead for the pirate ship and zip wire. The discount applies to the install of the new equipment providing the installation can take place at the same time as the abovementioned repairs.</p> <p>Cllr Haylock asked where the proposed equipment options could be viewed in situ. The Clerk will ask Creative Play for the nearest park to view the equipment. There was no decision on the evening regarding which equipment should be given the go ahead. Further conversation will take place before the next meeting.</p>	
6308	<p><u>To discuss the request for Parish salt/grit bins</u></p> <p>The Clerk has received an email and reviewed requests made on local social media regarding the requests for grit bins in the Parish. The matter was raised many years ago and the Parish Council concluded the bins were not a wise decision due to several issues regarding liability and health and safety requirements.</p> <p>Having reviewed the topic recently, the Clerk has spoken to neighbouring villages who have chosen not to supply the grit bins.</p> <p>The Parish Council would need to purchase the bins which range from £150-£450. There is the potential to obtain funding.</p> <p>The intention of the bins is that they offer a self help option however, Suffolk County Council have asked the Parish Council to ensure that the contents are used to make roads safer and onus is on the Parish Council to monitor how and where the grit is used. This involves manpower that the Parish Council does not have.</p>	

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	<p>Suffolk County Council can provide insurance for named volunteers but this would be the case providing risk assessments have been done and maintenance records are held.</p> <p>There remains a concern over potential legal liability and the bins have proven unpopular with other Parish Councils with reports of theft of the grit/salt shortly after delivery meaning the contents are not then used as intended and could be used incorrectly, potentially causing accidents.</p> <p>The bins therefore remain an unpopular option for the Parish Council who simply don't have the resources or sufficient volunteers to police the bins to maintain compliance and liability cover.</p>	
6309	<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>	
6310	<p><u>Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda</u></p> <p>None at this time.</p>	
6311	<p><u>Date of the next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10th February 2026.</p>	
6312	<p><u>Meeting closed</u></p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.40pm.</p>	

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