

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

**Minutes of the Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm**

Attendance:

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:

5 members of the electorate
Suffolk County Councillor Colin Noble

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

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

6327	<u>Apologies and consent to acceptance for absence</u> Apologies requiring consent received from Councillor Philip Haylock and Councillor Paul Stannard Other apologies received PC Scott Cameron – Community Policing, West Suffolk Councillor Don Waldron and Squadron Leader Owen Crossby.	
6328	<u>To receive member's declaration of interest and dispensations relating to items in this agenda.</u> None were received.	
6329	<u>To resolve that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 are a true and correct record.</u> It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 10 th February 2026 were a true and correct record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.	
6330	<u>Progress reports for information</u> a. Chair's report	Cllr Murrow arrived 7.43pm

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b.	<p>Cllr Peachey has offered to make a new wooden village noticeboard for outside the Hub. It will be done at cost. The existing board is not fit for purpose and the Clerk cannot fit all the required audit paperwork on it when required to display annually. A new board will have space to display Hub events and governance paperwork at the same time. Expected cost around £200.00.</p> <p>One social gathering has taken place at the Parish Hub. A few games of darts were played. Cllr Peachey will get an advert in the Beacon with plans for the next date.</p> <p>Clerk's progress report on previous agenda items and SID data (Appendix F & G)</p> <p>1) A VAT 126 claim has been completed. July 2024 - March 2025 £2450.57 and April 2025 - January 2026 £4805.77. The claim was processed and £7256.34 has now been received into the Parish Council bank account.</p> <p>2) The solar panels are scheduled for install w/c 23.03.26. The isolator switch install took place on 05.03.26 – Greenscape sourced an installer and I cancelled the job with British Gas who refunded the £308.75. Greenscape have carried out the work free of charge.</p> <p>3) Creative Play will carry out a site inspection on 26.03.26. Repairs to the zip wire and pirate ship along with the install of the jungle climber are scheduled for the end of April.</p> <p>4) The Easter Egg hunt event is all in hand. Craft activities have been ordered. Volunteers are now in place. The map and clues are now set. Obviously, if there are any other Councillors willing to help with the event please do let me know.</p> <p>5) Suffolk Streetlighting have prepared draft costings for the year. I have queried a small amount of lights not listed as LED so potential revisions to be issued. Invoices will be issued from w/c 09.03.26 but I have shown the likely cost in blue on the payments book to get approval for payment before the end of March (year end).</p> <p>6) A resident in Holywell Row has asked if the conifers interfering with the wires and streetlight on The Street could be tended to and asked if the Parish Council can help with this as they haven't had any luck so far.</p> <p>7) The Hub bookings are still coming in, with bookings for weekends right up to July. The regular Pilates class – Tuesday and Thursday evening with some Saturday mornings is very well attended. The Hub is booked for 07.05.26 – elections.</p> <p>8) Can I please request to purchase a heavy-duty shredder for the office. I need to sufficiently destroy paperwork spanning numbers of years and need to make sure that is done safely to comply with data</p>	
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	<p>protection. The incinerator previously purchased some years ago has rotted away and I would sooner have something I can use daily in the office. Can I also request the purchase of a monitor to use as a second screen as I'm finding it quite difficult to operate just using the laptop when it comes to spreadsheets and accounts. I have found shredders from £70-£100 and monitors from £80-£120. I have put this item on the agenda.</p> <p>9) There have been several incidents with fires being lit on the play area (one inside the youth shelter). It may be worth considering CCTV again if only as a deterrent and for insurance purposes.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>The Beacon – Councillor French</p> <p>A price rise for advertising in The Beacon will take place from April 2026 to try and align to the 50% increase in printing costs per issue. Cut off for entry in the next edition (April-May 26) is 12.03.26.</p>	
6331	<p><u>Public participation session (15 minutes) to include Police, District and County Councillors' Reports.</u></p> <p>A member of the electorate raised concerns over the look of the playing field at the Primary School currently. Cllr Bailey mentioned this is down to the Opal scheme and, although it doesn't look tidy, it at least allows for children to play outside and experience different materials and imaginative play along with risk management.</p> <p>a.</p> <p>Councillor Colin Noble – Suffolk County Council A 4.99% rise for the County Council which Cllr Noble thinks is extremely high but somewhat dictated by the Government. Adult and Child Social Care takes president. It's clear that everyone would like to see more money spent on the roads. County Council elections will now take place on 7th May this year. Cllr Noble has not be selected to stand for this area again so would like to say farewell and thank you for the working partnership over the years, having seen some success stories such as securing the Parish Hub with the Parish Council and the speed reduction on the C602.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>Councillor Don Waldron – West Suffolk Council Nothing of significance to report at this time.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>Squadron Leader Owen Crossby – RAF Mildenhall The British American Committee met on 18 February at RAF Lakenheath. Topics of discussion included the potential road safety event at Beck Row hub, Police findings during traffic checks at RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath, and drone detection and response in the local area. We stand ready to help publicise and support the planned road safety event once a date has been agreed between the Fire Service and the Parish Council.</p> <p>Since the last few days of February, RAF Mildenhall has been very busy with operations supporting aircraft movements from the USA to</p>	

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	<p>the Middle East and Mediterranean. Security of the base and personnel is always under review and the decision has been taken for US personnel not to wear uniform when off base for any reason, including civic events, for the time being. There are more aircraft than usual on the base and the frequency of flying has increased. We would like to thank the people of Beck Row for their understanding and support at this time.</p> <p>The Base Commander's direction is to continue the planning and running of events as usual where possible, although we will need to remain flexible depending on operational commitments that could change at short notice.</p> <p>Ex AGILE WARRIOR is underway until the end of this week. This exercise is about UK homeland defence and has seen additional flying activity in the region not directly linked to the US bases.</p> <p>d. PC Scott Cameron – Community Policing Nothing to report at this time but is in regular contact with the Parish Clerk regarding local issues raised.</p>	
6332	<p><u>Planning matters</u></p> <p>DC/25/1907/TPO – TPO 003 (2020) tree preservation order – two lawson cypress (marked G4 on plan and within G1 on order) and eight silver birch (marked G3 on plan and within G1 on order) fell OBJECT The trees being removed due to roots interfering with the fence line is not a reason the Parish Council can support.</p> <p>DC/25/1927/FUL – construction of new outdoor classroom – Beck Row Primary School, The Street, Beck Row. SUPPORT</p>	Clerk
6333	<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 February 2026, 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>	
6334	<p><u>To discuss and resolve future grass cutting at St John's Churchyard</u></p>	Clerk

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	<p>Prior to the last few years, St John's Church had always received a grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. Over the last few years, the grass cutting was undertaken by the Parish Keeper. Maintaining the graveyard had become increasingly difficult for the previous Parish Keeper and not representative of the grant funding previously given. Cllr French and Cllr Vickerage suggested a return to the annual grant of £250.00. Cllr Peachey was keen to explore aiding the Church more with the Parish Keeper cutting the grass.</p> <p>The Clerk will meet the Parish Keeper at the Churchyard to obtain costings and communicate with Brian Sulman regarding this. The Parish Council will contribute via grant funding or providing the service via the Parish Keeper if the Church can match fund the cost.</p> <p>A number of cuts and cost per cut will need to be worked out to give a clear total for the year. The Clerk will report back at the next meeting.</p>	
6335	<p><u>To discuss and resolve the ride on mower upgrade</u></p> <p>Cllr Haylock had asked the Clerk if the option of the use of West Row's ride on mower could be discussed with them. Cllr Murrow mentioned that this was ruled out from the start. Quotes obtained by Cllr Murrow were discussed. It was agreed that to obtain a mower of good standard, the Parish Council would need to be prepared to spend upward of £5000.00 plus VAT. Currently the ride on mower is used to cut the Toc-H land (play area). Cllr Peachey said the idea was for the Parish Keeper to be able to cut various other parts on the way to the Toc-H land and to future proof should the Parish Council end up responsible for any other areas within the Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk will speak to West Row first before going further with a purchase. The current ride on mower has had a new battery and is operational albeit ready for renewal and not particularly efficient.</p>	Clerk
6336	<p><u>To discuss and resolve maintenance of Holywell Row K6 kiosk – book exchange</u></p> <p>The book exchange is very well taken care of on a day to day basis by Gillian who volunteers her time to keep the box tidy and organised. New shelving is now needed and potential repairs to the door. Cllr Peachey volunteered to go and see what needs doing and replace the relevant shelves and look at the door. Cllr French will ask if there are any volunteers willing to repaint the box. Funds were approved for the cost of repairs and replacement shelving.</p>	Cllr Peachey
6337	<p><u>To discuss the options of village gateways for the A1101 and C602</u></p> <p>Discussion was had regarding this recurring topic. Cllr Murrow looked up prices for village gateways again and they appear to be more reasonably priced than they were in the past. It was agreed</p>	Clerk/Cllr Murrow

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	that the gates are effective at creating a visual reminder to slow down. The Parish would need a minimum of four gates, two on the A1101 and two on the C602, initially with the potential to consider more. Council Members agreed using recycled plastic rather than wood for longevity. Prices will be obtained for discussion and resolution at the April meeting.	
6338	<p><u>To discuss request made for Christmas tree sponsorship</u></p> <p>Cllr French reported that one of the Beacon advertisers had asked whether the Beck Row village Christmas tree could be funded by sponsorship as they would be keen to be considered for this idea.</p> <p>The Parish Council pay for the trees throughout the Parish. Councillors discussed whether it was suitable but were all in agreement that it wasn't something that they wanted to pursue as it's something that the Parish Council like to provide for the Parish and the Churches each year. A total of 6 trees are now provided and placed in Holywell Row, St John's Church, Beck Row Parish Hub, Methodist Church and Baptist Church, Kenny Hill.</p> <p>The Council Members did however thank the enquirer for their interest and will perhaps consider other areas where sponsorship may be possible for local businesses. Cllr French will pass this on.</p>	Cllr French
6339	<p><u>To discuss and resolve purchase of wildlife cameras for Holywell Row land</u></p> <p>Having wildlife cameras on the land at Holywell Row was discussed. The potential to also install an owl box or bird box with cameras was also suggested. Cllr Murrow suggested a brand of camera he has used and would recommend operated by solar power and sim card. He will share this information with the Clerk. The Parish Council have a CCTV Policy and the Clerk will review this Policy for amendment once the cameras are installed. Relevant signage will need to be placed on the land stating who the data controller is and who to contact. It was agreed to purchase two of these cameras.</p>	Cllr Murrow/Clerk
6340	<p><u>To receive and discuss the February play inspection Appendix E</u></p> <p>The February 2026 report was circulated to Council Members ahead of the meeting. The Clerk reports that the area where the Wicksteed play equipment was removed will be fenced off by the Parish Keeper and he will be removing the stumps and returning the area to grass. This will remedy the concerns in the report. Work to the pirate ship and zip wire are scheduled for the end of April along with the install of the new equipment. Creative Play will conduct a site survey on 26.03.26.</p> <p>The alteration to the zip wire requested on the play area inspection was dealt with by Creative Play under warranty.</p>	

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6341	<p><u>To discuss and resolve purchases of office equipment requested</u></p> <p>The Clerk has requested a heavy duty shredder for the office, around £70-£100 as well as a monitor to work from in addition to the laptop screen £100-£200. Council Members approved these purchases.</p>	
6342	<p><u>Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda</u></p> <p>Village Gateway quotes</p>	
6343	<p><u>Date of the next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21st April 2026.</p>	
6344	<p><u>Meeting closed</u></p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.16pm.</p>	

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