



**GISLINGHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**



Working for our Community

Email: clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 21st July 2025 at 7.00PM**

Present: Cllr C Tranter, Cllr C Calver, Cllr K Chapman, Cllr C Fell, Cllr F Oliver, Clerk/RFO – S Budd, 2 members of public, DC Cllr R Warboys arrived at 7.05pm, CC Cllr J Fleming arrived at 7.10pm

Apologies: Cllr C Saunders

1 Chair welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence

Cllr C Tranter welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Cllr C Saunders and approved unanimously.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

None Received.

3 To consider requests for Dispensations on agenda items

None Received

4 To resolve the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th June 2025 are a true and correct record.

The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th June were approved unanimously.

5 Report from County Councillor

CC Cllr Fleming's report can be found as an addendum to the minutes.

6 Report from District Councillor

DC Cllr Warboy's report can be found as an addendum to the minutes

7 Public Participation Session

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the Solar Farms and National Grid projects. He reported seeing two purchase orders placed on footpaths—one on Mill Street and another on Coldham Lane—and expressed unease about their proposed use. He highlighted that the village has experienced notable flooding in recent years and fears that works involving land drainage may further elevate this risk.

Additionally, he reported a 500-year-old oak tree being earmarked for removal to accommodate the proposed route, citing the environmental and heritage impact. He requested that Solar Farms and National Grid be included as a standing agenda item at future meetings and inquired about the level of support being provided by the local MP. DC Cllr Warboys responded by stating that Richard Rout is actively engaging with Suffolk County Council (SCC) behind the scenes and has sought legal advice concerning the matter.

He asked for this to be an agenda item at each meeting and asked what our MP is doing to help villages, DC Cllr Warboys said Richard Rout is working with SCC behind the scenes and have been taking legal advice.

Cllr J Fleming suggested that it would be beneficial to maintain a record of potential damage to the village's environmental assets, such as habitats and trees, to support ongoing consultation responses.

The Parish Council noted that it had not been made aware of certain purchase orders and will investigate the matter further. Additionally, two members of the council have joined the Ecopower community group and will report back following the August meeting.

8 Chair's Report

Nothing additional to report which is not an agenda item, Chair request Councillors respond to emails of importance.

New prospective Councillor documents circulated to all Councillor's prior to the meeting, approved unanimously, they will formerly be co-opted at the next meeting.

9 Clerk/RFO Report

- Accounts for June were sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting
- Quarterly account file checked and signed off by Cllr C Tranter.
- Email regarding switching to.gov.uk emails, the internal auditor confirmed that as we own our domain name i.e. gislinghamparishcouncil.com that should be sufficient to meet the new AGAR requirements for 2025/26.
- VJ Day, we do not have time to arrange a celebration, but we will ask David Braybrooke if he will raise the flag.
- Triangle Flowers, Emma Bryant has replaced some of the lavenders in the triangle
- Email received regarding the hedge adjacent to the school is over growing onto the footpath, Martyn Bryant has been to look, and he is going to trim it back.
- Flagpole for Village Hall, Cllr Felix is going to attend Village Hall meeting to discuss.

10 Neighbourhood Watch Report

No reported incidents in our Village,

Reports of an assault at the station in Stowmarket and theft from a shed in Thurston.

11 Footpath Warden's Report (Martyn Byrant)

Footpath report can be found as an addendum to the minutes

12 SID (Speed Indicator Device) (Stuart Wells/Anthony London)

No SID report received

13 Allotments

Cllr C Fell is liaising with Eamonn Malone to arrange a convenient day.

14 Bus Services

Funding for the bus service Gislingham to Diss on Friday's has been confirmed and it is due to start on 5th September; I am waiting to confirmation of route times.

I am still waiting for confirmation on the service to Stowmarket on Thursday's

ACTION: Clerk to circulate route and times

15 Planning

None received.

16 Weather

Cllr F Oliver raised the issue that while the current weather is favorable, autumn and winter are fast approaching. The village has previously experienced severe flooding, resulting in some residents being stranded and temporarily accommodated in the Village Hall. In light of this, Cllr Oliver proposed that a dedicated box of supplies—such as drinks and biscuits are purchased by the council. This would serve as a small but thoughtful provision for anyone affected in the event of a future emergency.

Councillors discussed and felt it was a very good idea, Cllr C Tranter was concerned about the shelf life of the products are short, after a discussion it was agreed that £50.00 can be spent in the event of an emergency, proposed by Cllr C Tranter seconded by Cllr Fell.

17 Play Area

Quotes have been received for the nets and stepping logs. A Table Tennis table was requested, Playdale will be attending the site to assess the equipment and provide further quotes. It was noted that the Occupational Licence has only seven years remaining; however, GUC has agreed to extend the licence. The associated costs will be covered by the council

ACTION: Clerk to get quotes for occupational Licence and play equipment

18 Finance

Payments	Amount	Proposed	Seconded	Approved
Admin payment for July	£407.20	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Expenses S Budd – Microsoft 365	£84.99	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Calver	Unanimous
Information Commissioners Office annual fee	£47.00	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Fell	Unanimous
Gislingham Village Hall	£20.00	Cllr Oliver	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous
Inn-House Technology – July	£25.00	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Fell	Unanimous
Gipping Press Playground Signs	£102.00	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Oliver	Unanimous
Expenses E Bryant – Triangle Flowers	£20.00	Cllr Calver	Cllr Oliver	Unanimous
Suffolk Timber Frame – Bench Installation	£846.00	Cllr Tranter	Cllr Chapman	Unanimous

19 Training

Cllr C Fell has completed Councillor training sessions.

20 In Camera

The position of Vice Chair was discussed by Councillor's, Cllr C Tranter proposed Cllr Oliver, seconded by Cllr Chapman approved unanimously.

Staff appraisal discussed and a meeting will be booked at the Village hall in August.

Date of the next meeting is **18th August 2025** at 7.00pm in Gislingham Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm