

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL
PARHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 7.15pm

1. **The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

Councillors Present

Michael Block (Chair)

Michael Gray

James Rogers

Charlotte Stanley

Jason Wood

Jonathan Cottrell & John Patrick sent their apologies (prior engagements) and these were accepted.

In attendance

Lydia Kindred (clerk)

County Councillor and District Councillor Vince Langdon-Morris sent their apologies.

2. **There were no declarations of interest.**
3. **The minutes of the meetings of 10th September and 18th September were approved as true records of the meeting.**
3. **Matters arising**
None

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no residents present.

A report from the County Councillor has been circulated.

4. **Chair's report**
The Chair provided a report on maintenance and improvements that the Village Hall Committee will be carrying out.
5. **Clerk's report**
The clerk reported that Stephen Burroughes has sent his apologies for the foreseeable future due to health concerns. He will remain available to Councillors via email.
The Clerk attended Suffolk County Council's recent Flooding and Drainage Forum. She found it informative and will share the presentation with Councillors for their review.
The subscription to Scribe has been cancelled, as usage was insufficient to justify the cost.
Suffolk County Council's Rural Transport Survey is still active and Councillors were encouraged to promote it among residents to increase local response.
The next SALC area forum will be held on 28th November and will feature a presentation by East Suffolk Council's Energy Projects Manager.
The clerk will be collecting Parham's allocation of bulbs awarded through the *East Suffolk in Blooms* initiative next week and a work party will then be needed to be organised to get these planted.
The extension discussed at Silverlace Farm, discussed at the meeting on 18th September, has been permitted.
The Clerk has applied to the local Community Partnership group for Z cards containing local emergency response information
7. **Responsible Financial Officer's report**
a) The following payments were approved:

Amount	Payee	Details
£40.00	Gary Whiting	Grass cutting at the Pound (Ref 7252)
£22.80	SALC	6 months payroll service

- b) Receipts since the last meeting:
£9.87 Barclays Interest
- c) Payments since the last meeting:
£970.40 L. Kindred Pay
£223.00 HMRC PAYE
- c) As at 31.10.2024, the bank balances were:
Community Account £263.38
Premium Account £2,786.67
Latest CCLA valuation £22,396
- e) The Examining Officer signed the bank reconciliation and statements.
- f) The year-to-date report on payments and receipts was noted.
- g) NALC's pay agreement for 2024-2025, to be backdated to 1st April 2024, was noted.
This is equivalent to an increase of £165/year.

8. Planning Applications

8.1 Planning reference: DC/24/3218/FUL Barn at Mill Green Farm, Mill Green, Parham
Construction of a dwelling (part retrospective)

It was agreed unanimously to support this application.

8.2 Planning reference: DC/24/3681/FUL The Old Parsonage, Hall Road, Parham,
Demolition of existing garage, erection of new cart lodge and alterations to garden layout

8.3 Planning reference: DC/24/3704/LBC The Old Parsonage, Hall Road, Parham
Replacement of porch, replacement of thatch, repair/replacement of
existing render and minor internal and external alterations.

8.4 Planning reference: DC/24/3703/FUL The Old Parsonage, Hall Road, Parham,
Replacement of porch, replacement of thatch, repair/replacement of
existing render and minor internal and external alterations.

Various concerns regarding the applications at The Old Parsonage were raised and discussed. Discrepancies were noted between perspectives in the Historical Assessment and those of the master thatcher and the Assistant Archaeological Officer. Recognising the property's "national significance," Councillors expressed a strong preference for all works to respect the building's vernacular style and preserve historical features, such as the wattle and daub, which must not be compromised during renovations. Councillor Block will prepare a response to the applications, which will be circulated to all Councillors for feedback before submission to East Suffolk Council.

9. Flood Mitigation Group:

Cllr. Patrick has met representatives from Suffolk County Council to discuss drainage issues and possible future projects, including the various natural flooding mitigation sites. SCC will try to get the culvert at White House Farm cleared out. Cllr. Patrick will speak with a relative of a resident where the ditch needs clearing and overgrown trees need maintaining.

The FMG will be meeting soon.

Letters to mark the first anniversary of Storm Babet, with updates and advice, have now been hand-delivered to most houses in the village.

10. Year-End Projection & Draft Budget 2025-2026

The draft budget figures were considered briefly. This will be looked at again in January's meeting and Councillors are welcome to send comments to the clerk in advance of this.

The clerk will work out the percentage increases for difference precept levels, noting the additional number of Band D equivalent properties following the recent second home surcharge.

11. Hedge-cutting around the greens

It was agreed to cut hedges at Silverlace Green, and from North Green to Green Farm and Home Farm.

12. Correspondence

HMRC: notice of cancellation of penalty

Rural Payments Agency Environmental Stewardship (ES) agreements: changes to hedgerow management rules

ESC Precept request 2025-2026 notification: it was noted that a 100% Council Tax surcharge on furnished second homes could support an increased precept without raising the Parish Council element of the invoice.

13. There were no additional Councillor reports or updates

14. Matters to be raised at the next meeting

2025-2026 budget to be agreed

2025-2026 precept to be set

Update from the Flood Mitigation Group

Monitor hedging status at the Orwell Housing development

15. The next meeting will be at 7.15 pm on Tuesday 7th January 2025. There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Signed

Chair

Date