

BLYFORD AND SOTHERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 16th September 2024 at 6.30 pm
In the Meeting Room of Wenhaston Village Hall

Councillors Present: Mr G Walker (Chairman), Mrs R Parry, Mrs L Sharman, Mr B Goldbart, Mr V Bucknell, Mrs S MacDonald and Mrs A Donnachie (Clerk)

*Barry MARTIN
9th*

In Attendance: East Suffolk District Cllr Geoff Wakeling

Public Forum 0 members of the public were in attendance.

To receive reports from County & District Councillors: Our District Councillor presented his September Parish Report. The reports were duly received. **Action: Clerk to publish reports on our website.** Cllr Bucknell raised the issue of the footpath between Blyford and Blythburgh still remaining closed following works scheduled to finish May 2024. District Cllr Wakeling will bring this to the attention of our Suffolk County Councillor.

- 1 **Welcome, apologies and receipt of absences:** Suffolk County Cllr Annette Dunning and District Cllr Beth Keyes-Holloway due to prior engagements. The apologies were recorded and accepted.
- 2 **Receipt of declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed:** None
- (5) **It was agreed to move Item 5: Appointment of new Parish Councillor:** The Parish welcomed Cllr Sally MacDonald who has been elected to this office following nominations process. Cllr MacDonald has signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting:** Resolution that minutes of Blyford and Sotherton Parish Council meeting held on 15/07/24 was a true record, proposed by Cllr Parry and seconded by Cllr Sharman Cllr Martin and Cllr MacDonald abstained as they were not in attendance at this meeting, remainder of council in favour and minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 4 **Chairman and Clerk's report on progress of actions from last meeting(s):** All actions completed/designated to other Agenda items below but following noted:
Item 15 (15/07/24): Defibrillator Funding: Application to the Sizewell C Community Fund (SCCF) to purchase a defibrillator delayed as awaiting policies required to make an application. Cllr Goldbart will approach SCCF to set up a one-to-one appointment for help and advice. **Action: Cllr Goldbart**
Item 8 (15/07/24): 2024 Asset Inspection: We thank Cllr Martin for carrying out this inspection and for volunteering to undertake renovation work on the Sotherton Parish Noticeboard and Cllr Goldbart for agreeing to undertake revarnishing works to the Blyford noticeboard and cleaning of the telephone box, both when weather allows.
- 5 **Parish Council Vacancy:** Item moved to earlier in meeting
- 6 **Finance:**
- 6a **Approval of Bank Reconciliation from 12/07/24 to 12/09/24:** The balance on the Current Account stands at £5,489.53 and the balance on the Latitude Restricted Account at £5,352.65 with combined total on accounts being £10,842.18 which was verified against bank statements. Payments during this period over £100 were Clerk Salary & allowances. SALC subscription £212.40, donation to SARS of £100 and from our Latitude Account payment of £140 for Bouncy Castle and £500 a deposit to The Racehorse Community Pub for Community Event on 11/09/24. Reimbursement of £140 for Bouncy Castle cancellation due to weather conditions awaited. The Clerk/RFO advised that the interest paid on our Latitude account will be reduced as from 21/10/24.
- 6b **Approval of online payments:** £392.88 to Clerk/RFO (net salary and home office allowance), £3.15 Clerk expenses, £66.40 to HMRC. From Latitude Account £721.00 + deposit of £500 to The Racehorse Community Pub and £140 Little Jumpers (event 11/09/24); Bulbs for communal planting £206.48 All payments approved by Council. **Action: Clerk/RFO to action online payments.**

- 6c Budget for 2025/26 – Initial consultation:** Clerk/RFO advised that we increase our Reserves for Election Costs in the event of a by-election, estimated in the region of £1,950. Council will consider this and make a decision once the full draft budget is submitted to them in November.
- 6d Latitude:** Cllr Goldbart asked why there was no written policy for the allocation of tickets. Cllr Parry directed him to the Latitude poster and supporting documents stating our policy. Cllr Bucknell proposed acceptance of our current policies which was seconded by Cllr Sharman and a majority of the Parish Council. Cllr Goldbart expressed his disappointment at this decision and expressed his concerns regarding what he perceived as unacceptable behaviour by certain members of the Parish Council, requesting a written apology which was duly noted.
- 6e Requests for Donation from our 2 Parish Churches from Latitude Funds:**
Sotherton Parochial Church Council towards maintenance of the churchyard and insurance costs;
All Saints Church, Blyford towards urgent maintenance works.
Any donation would benefit the Parishes residents with a community facility.
The Parish Council agreed to a donation of £500 to each Parish Church from our Latitude Account.
Citizens Advice East Suffolk: Request for donation to allow them to meet the demands for advice in the local area. They now have hubs set up in Halesworth, Southwold and Bungay. The Parish Council agreed to a donation of £100. **Action: Clerk to action online payment.**
- 7 Planning – Public Access Link - <https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications>**
- 7a New Applications:**
DC/24/2586/14J – Prior approval solar PV non-domestic fitting of 20 solar panels on barn at Pastures Farm, Beccles Road, Sotherton: The Parish Council had no objections to this application.
- 7b Update on Previous Applications:** There are currently no outstanding planning decisions.
- 7c National Planning Policy Framework – Consultation for Town/Parish Councils:** Noted by Parish Council.
- 7d Pre-application advice service from East Suffolk Council:** Noted by Parish Council.
- 8 Matters Arising since last meeting:**
Response to letter from local resident re future spending by PC on road safety issues in Blyford:
Unfortunately, Latitude monies are ringfenced for community projects across both parishes. Spending on highways issues requires to be paid from our Precept. Over the years the Parish Council has been actively engaged in finding affordable solutions to this problem. We are currently seeking volunteers to participate in the Police Community Speedwatch Scheme which requires a minimum of 6 participants. Please contact either Cllr Goldbart at berl.dorffbart@gmail.com or the Parish Clerk at clerkblyfordandsothertonpc@gmail.com if you wish to engage with this project.
- 9 Purchasing of Bulbs for Planting on verges on Kings Lane:** Bulbs have been purchased. Cllr Bucknell will organise planting when bulbs delivered. **Action: Cllr Bucknell**
- 10 Neighbourhood Plan:** No plans towards this at present due our being such small parishes. Look into the possibility of getting together with another group of Parishes.
- 11 Moving to a .gov.uk domain:** After discussion it was decided not to go forward with this at the present time due to cost implications.
- 12 National Grid Ventures: LionLink - Ground Investigation Survey Works & report on Meeting between East Suffolk Council and Parish/Town Councils 22/07/24:** Cllr Goldbart attended this meeting for East Suffolk Council to update and hear the views on the LionLink's proposed onshore cable route and landfall. East Suffolk have submitted objections to LionLink's current proposals. The Statutory Consultation will take place in the early quarter of 2025. LionLink ground investigation surveys started late August. Letters will be issued to households and businesses close to the survey locations to provide details on the works.

Proposal and draft letter received from Anglian Energy Planning Appliance (AEPA) to write a letter to the new Secretary of State, signed by as many town and parish councils as possible who are effected by the proposed energy projects planned for our area, seeking a commitment to direct dialogue and recognition of the

Signed: G.A. Walk
Mr G Walker, Chairman

significant and inadequately addressed cumulative impacts of the energy NSIPs proposed for the area.
Agreed by Council to sign this letter. **Action: Clerk to contact AEPA.**

- 13 Review of Governance Documents:** The Internal Control Statement and Internal Control Report were both reviewed and adopted by the Parish Council.
- 14 Correspondence Received:** All correspondence distributed to the Parish Council. Items of public information posted on our website/noticeboards. The following was noted:
- 13a SALC East Suffolk Area Forum: 01/10/24 Action: Cllr Goldbart volunteered to attend**
- 16 Any Items of Information:** The Community Party on 11th September 2024 was well attended and feedback from those who attended was very positive. Cllr Parry proposed and all in favour of writing to thank The Racehorse Community Pub staff for providing us with a superb event. **Action: Clerk**
- 20 Date of the next meeting of the Parish Council:**
Monday 18th November 2024 at 6.30 pm – to be held in the Tardis Room of the Wenhaston Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.30 pm