

# Bildeston Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026, starting at 8.50pm, at Chamberlin Hall, Chamberlin Close, Bildeston.

<b>Present:</b>	
Cllr Philip Alcoe	Clerk – Angela Chapman
Cllr Richard Lester	3x residents
Cllr Ray McCann	
Cllr Virginia Tuck	
<b>Apologies:</b> County Cllr Robert Lindsay, District Cllr Deborah Saw, Cllr Robin Sidgwick, Cllr Helen Alcoe.	

## **C697/26/27 Election of Chairman**

Cllr Richard Lester nominated Cllr Ray McCann, seconded by Cllr Virginia Tuck.

## **C698/26/27 Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Ray McCann accepted the role of Chairman. Declaration of Acceptance of Office form signed.

## **C699/26/27 Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Ray McCann nominated Cllr Richard Lester, seconded by Cllr Virginia Tuck.

## **C700/26/27 Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Richard Lester accepted the role of Vice Chairman. Declaration of Acceptance of Office form signed.

## **C701/26/27 Chairman's Welcome & Apologies**

Chairman Ray McCann welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies noted.

Chairman advised Cllr Helen Alcoe had resigned from the Parish Council. Also noted this is Cllr Virginia Tucks last meeting. This now leaves 4 vacancies.

**C702/26/27 Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.** Cllr Richard Lester – St. Mary's PCC, Kings Pightle Nature Reserve, Sports Field/ Pavilion committee.

**C703/26/27 Requests for dispensation in respect of pecuniary interests.** None.

**C704/26/27 Minutes of Last Meeting** held 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 approved as a true record of the meeting.

**C705/26/27 Public Session – to include County Councillor and District Councillor reports.**

**Adjourned 1937hrs to receive reports from County and District Councillors and consider any matters raised by local parishioners.**

Both reports given in the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **DC Deborah Saw**

Full report from Babergh **District Councillor Deborah Saw** can be seen separately in the Bugle and on <https://bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/>

### **CC Robert Lindsey**

Full report from Suffolk County Councillor Robert Lindsey can be seen separately in the Bugle and on <https://bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/>

Reconvened 9.05pm.

## **C706/26/27 Planning Applications**

**Planning Appendix A - Items for comment**

**DC/26/01599**

71 High Street Bildeston Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7ER

Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Ash tree at the back of the garden against fence and overhanging neighbours' property. Tree is a lapsed Pollard, I propose to re-pollard it back to original points, leaving the main bole.

No objections.

### **Planning Appendix B – Items determined by Babergh District Council**

#### **DC/26/00304**

Proposal & Location of Development:

Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement of 5 no. windows; Removal of cement and sand render and replace with lime render; Repaint the render original cream colour; and Repairs and maintenance as per Design and Access Statement.

129 High Street, Bildeston, IP7 7EL,

Granted.

#### **C707/26/27 Clerks Report**

**Ashtons Solicitors** – the Deed of Grant for the Chamberlin Close roadway has been sent to the solicitor of the owners of the land in Chamberlin Close. The plan that accompanied the Grant was marked up incorrectly; the PC is awaiting the amended copy. When this is complete, the landowner's solicitor should accept the Deed of Grant.

**Welcome pack** – distribution is underway and should be completed by the middle of the month.

**Smith of Derby** – The engineer is visiting to fit the new sprocket on 20th May. This should allow the clock to continue to work without stopping or losing time. I will contact Andy Burdon/ Smith of Derby after this date to confirm an extension of the guarantee.

**Environmental Improvement project** – see Cllr Robin Sidgwick report. I forwarded an email from Richard Parmee/ Babergh to all Cllrs and understand that Robin has contacted him to arrange a meeting to discuss areas in the village for the planting of trees and hedges.

#### **Finances**

The insurance renewal is due. The documents need to be reviewed before renewal is accepted.

AGAR is complete and ready for approval and signing at this meeting. The internal auditor will complete the audit on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.

CIL annual report completed, ready for signing.

#### **C708/26/27 Projects and Progress Reports**

- a. Anglian Water, High Street closure. AW have made parking arrangements and will advise residents by letter. Works due to start 22 June 2026. Details can be found at
- b. Neighbourhood Plan – meeting held, admin progressing.
- c. Orbit Housing, Weavers Grove – DC Deborah Saw advised this is being dealt with by Orbit and SCC.
- d. Village Environmental Improvement project – worksheet updated, Cllr Robin Sidgwick left a report in his absence advising bramble clearance on Wattisham Rd almost complete. Also arranging to meet with Richard Parmee/ Babergh officer to arrange tree and hedge planting around the village. Cllr Sidgwick asked if Councillors would give him suggested locations so they can be added to the list.
- e. Playground monthly report – Cllr Robin Sidgwick advised in his report a swing shackle has been replaced. Also filled some depressions in the ground. He has removed graffiti from the skate park. The multi-play in Chamberlin Close play area needs a new platform. The PC agreed for Cllr Sidgwick to purchase the necessary materials for up to £250.00. Cllr Philip Alcoe has a contact who may be able to assist with the necessary regulations for the repair. He will contact Cllr Sidgwick. The chain link fence into the CC play area had been lifted again. Cllr Sidgwick has secured it to the ground with metal ground anchors.
- f. Bugle – printing update – Tim Hooper gave figures and data. A decision will be made and advised at the next meeting.
- g. update on village amenities –

Brooks path – this project has been ‘green lit’. The project will be led by SCC and an officer from Babergh DC will complete the final application forms. The PC approved the works with all the spoil being taken away at £24,695. Cllr Sidgwick will negotiate the PC’s contribution, which will be between 20% and 25%. The PC will consider funds from the John Artiss fund.

**C709/26/27 Administrative, Finance and Governance Reports**

- a. Payments for approval – authorised by Cllrs Lester and Tuck.

Payee	Description	Net of VAT
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	7.00
An Accounting Gem	Accountancy fees	34.12
SALC	Annual subscription	449.04
A Chapman	Salary	-.-
A Chapman	Clerks expenses	39.00
Parish Council Websites	Website maintenance	60.00
KGT Fencing	Environmental management	319.50
P Barham	Environmental management	324.00
HMRC	PAYE & NIC	225.71
ICCM	Annual subscription	110.00
Babergh District Council	Waste bin emptying - cemetery	213.00

- b. Approval and signing Scribe of monthly accounting reports – checked and signed.
- c. AGAR Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 3 –
  - i. AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 – reviewed, approved and signed by Chairman McCann
  - ii. AGAR Section 2 Annual Accounting Statement 2025/26– reviewed, approved and signed by Chairman McCann
- d. CIL report – approved and signed
- e. Insurance renewal – documents received, Cllrs Ray McCann and Richard Lester to review the documents along with the Clerk.
- f. Go-Start grant request - £500.00 approved
- g. B Natural grant request – defer to June meeting
- h. Community First Responder Initiative – with Chelsworth and Monks Eleigh – defer to June meeting

**C710/26/76 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**

Cllr Virginia Tuck – advised the Grove Cemetery support has been handed over to Cllr Robin Sidgwick. The water bowser will be stored in the village container.

Cllr Ray McCann – advised the start of a sink hole in the High Street near the allotment entrance. Report to SCC.

**C711/26/27 Items for next agenda**

- Neighbourhood Plan
- Village environmental improvements
- Bugle grant
- Playground report
- Parish Councillor vacancies

Meeting closed 2150hrs.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 7.30pm, at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston.**

Village website: [www.bildeston.org](http://www.bildeston.org)