

# **PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of meeting

On **WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2026**

at St Catherine's Church, Pettaugh (start time 6.30 pm)

## **Present:**

Councillors Belinda Bulsing, Ruth Crane, Margaret Marlow, Stephen Rowe (Chairman) and Esther Thornton

### **1/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

### **2/01 MINUTES OF MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2025**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 December 2025 be approved and confirmed.

### **3/01 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS**

None received.

### **4/01 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present.

County Councillor M Hicks was present and gave a report based on that which he had previously circulated. He mentioned in particular the recent Government financial settlement which was less favourable than had been anticipated. The shortfall would be met out of reserves without any cuts to front line services. He also mentioned the significant increase in fires caused by batteries in gifts, Christmas cards etc when crushed during normal refusal disposal processes. He urged safer disposal including receptacles provided in most supermarkets. He then drew attention to the campaign to recruit more female firefighters. Finally, he wished to clarify the 'red rating' given to the County Council in regard to the use of funding received for pothole fixing, something which had attracted adverse publicity. He said that the County Council had been denied the opportunity to fact check the data on which the findings had been made. Due to some early preventative work, the County Council had in fact spent well in excess of the total amount of funding received.

District Councillor N Hardingham was also present and spoke to his report which had been received and circulated earlier that day. Particular mention

was made of the delay to the election of a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk, progress on the construction of the new Skills and Innovation Centre at Gateway 14, the setting up of a new Youth Council for Mid Suffolk, the Cost of Living Support Scheme, changes to the recycling and bin collection arrangements, and the Rural Support Fund. Questions were then raised regarding development matters at Stonham Barns, and also the outstanding planning application for traveller accommodation at the Crowfield Rose.

## **5/01 FINANCE**

The Parish Council considered the following matters:

### **(a) Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation**

A statement showing the position at 17 January 2026 regarding the Parish Council's bank accounts and reconciliation of recent payments was received and noted. The balance of the Community Account with no unpresented cheques was £6,107.94, and the Business Premium Account was now £1,095.53. Expenditure to date totalled £2,666.46.

### **(b) Accounts for payment**

The following accounts were received:

Clerk's salary and expenses - £234.85  
St Catherines Church PCC (Use of Church for Meeting) £18.00

**RESOLVED** that the above accounts be approved for payment.

### **(c) Budget Review 2025/26 and Budget 2026/27/Precept**

An updated budget review statement was received showing the actual and estimated final expenditure for 2025/26 and a provisional budget for 2026/27.

It was noted that an estimated final amount of £600 had been included in the current budget to cover the committed expenditure for the speed survey and also the new SID (device) post, both on the A1120. The cost of the speed survey was to be shared between the Parish Council and a contribution from Councillor M Hicks' Locality Budget.

Given the projected carried forward of funds, consideration was given to earmarking a sum from reserves for either the purchase of a new SID (device) or contributing to further signs/lines depending on the outcome of the speed survey which the Clerk reported was due to begin in the next few days.

## **RESOLVED**

(i) that the budget review for 2025/26 and provisional budget for 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix A to these Minutes be accepted and approved;

(ii) that a sum of up to £2,000 out of reserves carried forward be earmarked for the possible purchase of a new SID (device) or a contribution towards the provision of additional speed management signing/lining on A1120 depending on the outcome of the proposed speed survey;

(iii) that having regard to (i) and (ii) above, including the implications of earmarking a sum out of surplus funds for the stated purpose(s), the Parish Council's budget requirement will result in the issue of a precept for 2026/27 in the sum of £2,750.00.

### **(d) Donations and Financial Assistance**

It was agreed that a final decision on this, including further information being sought on the Debenham Project, be reached at the next meeting,

#### **6/01 PARISH AMENITIES**

No further matters were discussed.

#### **7/01 TRAFFIC SPEED THROUGH THE VILLAGE AND OTHER RELATED HIGHWAY MATTERS**

No further matters were discussed

#### **8/01 NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting be fixed for Thursday 12 March 2026 at 6.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.46 pm.

Chairman  
12 March 2026