

# Bildeston Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 19:30hrs,  
at the Chamberlin Hall, Chamberlin Close, Bildeston.

<b>Present:</b>	
Cllr Virginia Tuck - Chairman	County Cllr Robert Lindsay
Cllr Ray McCann	District Cllr Deborah Saw
Cllr Alex Banks	Clerk – Angela Chapman
Cllr Richard Lester	0x residents
Cllr Robin Sidgwick	
<b>Apologies:</b> None.	

## **C540/24/25 Chairman's Welcome & Apologies**

Chairman Tuck welcomed all to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year. No apologies.

**C541/24/25 Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.** Cllr Lester – Kings Pightle Nature Reserve; St. Mary's Church PCC; Bildeston Sports Field & Pavilion.

**C542/24/25 Requests for dispensations in respect of pecuniary interests.** None.

**C543/24/25 Minutes of Last Meeting** held 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 approved as a true record of the meeting.

**C544/DC/24/25 Public Session – to include County Councillor and District Councillor reports.**

**Adjourned 1934hrs to receive reports from County and District Councillors, and consider any matters raised by local parishioners.**

### **CC Robert Lindsay**

Full Report from **Suffolk County Councillor Robert Lindsay** can be seen on [www.bildeston.org](http://www.bildeston.org) / Parish Council/ Meetings/ 2024/ Documents.

Main points –

- SCC called an extraordinary general meeting regarding **devolution**; Labour wants to fast track it. CC elections could be postponed, possibly for 2-3 years with Councillors being asked to stay in post until that time. When authorities become larger, they become less effective locally. Under the proposed unitary council there would be one mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk, who would have no extra powers over current county powers. Planning is a big issue, Labour want to build more houses. Councillors would be below the elected mayor. County Councillors will vote – CC Lindsay is minded to vote against. Financial matters could be difficult as central Government don't seem to understand rural living. Norfolk & Suffolk have an aging demographic. CC Lindsay advised some PC's have organised themselves into a cluster of 4 in one ward, to be more effective and try to get a better response from District and County Councils. What will happen to PCs and Town councils? Presently, it is stated they will remain the same with a 're-wiring' of communication between them and the unitary authority.

Full Report from **Babergh District Councillor Deborah Saw** can be seen on [www.bildeston.org](http://www.bildeston.org) / Parish Council/ Meetings/ 2024/ Documents.

Main points -

**The tree trunk in the brook** – Environment Agency, Anglian Water and BDC are now involved in this situation. There is one redundant pipe, and another one going across the brook which the trunk will hit soon. The flow of water around the pipes and trunk is eroding the bank, which is an EA issue, and could cause flooding. The pipes need removing and it's believed AW should carry out this work. The District Council Director of Operations contacted the County Council, advising to cap off pipes and get trunks removed. The landowner will also be contacted and asked to remove trunks by Babergh DC.

**Orbit Housing/Ipswich Rd development** – there have been complaints about the mess on the road and noise. Orbit Housing do not appear to be working outside of the approved hours. Babergh DC have written to Orbit, inviting another meeting between Orbit, Babergh and PC.

**Orwell Housing and Aaron Services** – Aaron Services carried out work on an Orwell Housing dwelling, as their contractor, and fly-tipped their rubbish on the grass verge outside the house. After communications, by DC Saw and the PC, with both Orwell Housing and Arron Services the rubbish remained, and the issue was reported to BDC who removed the rubbish, and will charge Orwell/ Aaron for removing.

DC Deborah Saw received a complaint the council houses that have been decorated on Wattisham Rd had not been finished. DC Saw confirmed the works will be carried out soon to finish the work.

BDC are granting funds for the **Well People Healthy Places** initiative.

**Car parking charges** starts Mon 13<sup>th</sup> January in Hadleigh, Lavenham & Sudbury.

The **Digi-bus** has been awarded funding from District Council to do a pilot of software.

**Parish & Town Liaison** meeting being held, in person, in Feb, to include devolution discussion.

Reconvened 2015hrs.

### **C545/24/25 Planning Applications**

#### **Planning Appendix A - Items for comment**

None.

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

None.

### **546/24/25 Projects and Progress Reports**

- a. Motorising the Clocktower clock – Cllr Sidgwick confirmed an engineer came and examined the clock mechanisms to obtain another quote, once received, will then look at grant funding.
- b. Trailer – approved retention for village organisations use, continue to be stored in Chamberlin Hall container.
- c. Update on village amenities –  
playgrounds – Chamberlin Close – Cllr Sidgwick has obtained and replaced the shackles on swing;  
graffiti on skate park to be removed. PC approved purchase of remover.  
Coronation Park – confirmed 2 dead trees removed by contractor.

### **C547/24/25 Administrative, Finance and Governance Reports**

- a. Payments for approval – authorised by Cllrs Tuck and McCann. November meeting payments ratified.

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Net of VAT</b>
SMS	Microsoft 365 subs	£44.60
O2	Mobile phone	£16.84
Bildeston Village Store	Christmas tree installation	£50.43
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	£6.00
Ac Accounting Gem	Accountancy fees	£31.25
Hudson Media Partnership	Cemetery signs	£80.00
Online Playgrounds	Parts	£57.17
P Barham	Environmental management	£256.00
Rougham Estate Sales	Christmas tree	£260.00
A Chapman	Clerks salary	-.-
A Chapman	Clerks expenses	£39.00

- b. Approval and signing Scribe monthly accounting reports – Cllr McCann checked and signed. Ratified November meeting reports.
- c. Budget sheet for 2025/26 considered and approved. Precept amount approved at £36,000.

- d. Finance – to move funds between accounts by Finance Working Group to benefit from improved interest rates. Approved. Clerk/RFO to submit, 2 signatories to authorise.
- e. Asset Register – update reviewed and approved.
- f. Note NALC salary award – noted.
- g. Clerk’s appraisal – recommendations by HR Working Group approved.
- h. Chamberlin Hall – lease/ agreement. Cllr McCann awaiting meeting decision on roadway access.
- i. Chamberlin Hall – letter for Living Well in Winter grant. Ratified.
- j. Chamberlin Hall – EV chargers to be installed in the Hall car park, PC approved location as the plan from installers. Legal documents will be discussed with CH Management Committee by Cllr McCann. PC agreed CHMC can keep any income from the chargers.
- k. Support letter – Chamberlin Hall MC in support of capital funding grant. Approve in principle. Cllr McCann to follow up. Support mail/letter to be sent.
- l. Chamberlin Close development access - meeting Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Jan.
- m. Approve instructing a solicitor for Chamberlin Close roadway legal documents – Fisher Jones Greenwood approved.
- n. Approve date for Annual Parish Meeting – Mon 12th May 2025, to be held with the Annual Meeting of Parish Council. Date moved forward a week due to Bank Holiday.

**C548/24/25 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**

None.

**C549/24/25 Items for next agenda**

Clocktower clock motorisation

Chamberlin Hall – lease agreement; EV chargers

Chamberlin Close roadway access

Meeting closed 2129hrs.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025, 7.30pm at Chamberlin Hall.**

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