

Bildeston Parish Council

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held Monday 14th September 2026, 7.30pm, at Chamberlin Hall, Chamberlin Close, Bildeston.

Present:	
Cllr Richard Lester	County Cllr Robert Lindsay
Cllr Ray McCann - Chairman	District Cllr Deborah Saw
Cllr Stuart McCreddie	
Cllr Robin Sidgwick	Clerk – Angela Chapman
	3x residents
Apologies: Cllr Philip Alcoe, Cllr Robin Sidgwick	

C734/26/27 Chairman's Welcome & Apologies

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

C735/26/27 Co-option of Councillors.

Ian Ireland and David Noble were co-opted onto the Parish Council. Chairman Ray McCann welcomed both to the Parish Council.

C736/26/27 Acceptance of Office forms

Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms signed by both new Councillors.

C737/26/27 Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. Cllr Richard Lester – Treasurer St. Mary's PCC, Trustee Kings Pightle Nature Reserve, Trustee Sports Field/ Pavilion committee.

C738/26/27 Requests for dispensation in respect of pecuniary interests. None.

C739/26/27 Minutes of Last Meeting held 6th July 2026. Resident would like it noted that James Cartlidge MP had a hand in securing the resurfacing of the High Street after the Anglian Water works, as well as CC Robert Lindsay, C727/26/27. Otherwise, approved as a true record of the meeting.

C740/26/27 Public Session – to include County Councillor and District Councillor reports.

Adjourned 1933hrs 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 separately in the Bugle and on <https://bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/>

Resident asked about the new Konnect bus timetable, due to the High Street closure. CC Lindsay has requested the bus company put up boards at the bus tops with the timetables on. This has yet to be carried out. Clerk to ask the Bugle editor to publish the up-to-date timetables in the Bugle each month. Cllr Ray McCann to post on Facebook, the PC page and the Bildeston Noticeboard page.

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/>

Resident – asked if the ditch along **Weavers Grove** had been surveyed as it appears to be running the wrong way with any rainwater coming out of the ditch and down the road to the Ipswich Rd/ High Street junction. The ditch now has a hedge one side and a fence the other, making it impossible for a digger to get near enough to carry out any work.

DC Deborah Saw offered to arrange an on-site meeting with Will Harvey/ Orbit to discuss the footpaths from the site.

The properties on Weavers Grove have not been connected to the waste water system due the High Street closure. Ipswich Road cannot be closed whilst this work is going on. No more properties on the site can be occupied until this work is complete.

Reconvened 2010hrs.

C741/26/27 Planning Applications

Planning Appendix A - Items for comment

APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - **DC/26/03580**

Proposal: Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1 No. Portuguese Laurel (T1) by 2ft and reshape, Reduce 1 No. Viburnum (T2) by 2ft and reshape and fell 1 No. Ash (T3)

Location: 142 High Street, Bildeston, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 7EF

Comments: No objections

Planning Appendix B – Items determined by Babergh District Council

None.

C742/26/27 Clerks Report

Ashtons Solicitors – the Deed of Grant for the Chamberlin Close access into the new development have been returned by Ashtons due to a substantive amendment. Ashtons Legal, the Parish Council's solicitor, have suggested the wording is left as before, and the PC is minded to agree. It is hoped the Deed of Grant will be finalised before the end of the month (September).

Smith of Derby – the PC have secured a further 1 years guarantee on the work carried out on the clock wef 6th July 2026.

Bench on Market Place behind Clock Tower – Cllr Robin Sidgwick has repaired it after it was reported damaged by a resident.

Website - I received several emails forwarded from the Bildeston village website, some of which were several months old. I have suggested that the email queries from the website are forwarded to the PC email address, which I can then deal with in a timely manner. James from Parish Council Website, the host company, has arranged this. PC approved this.

Finance & Governance

All finances are in order.

PKF Littlejohn/ external auditors – the conclusion of the external audit has been received. This will be noted on the October agenda.

The **Finance Group** will need to meet in the next 6-8 weeks to review the budget for the 2027/28 year.

C743/26/27 Projects and Progress Reports

- a. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Philip Alcoe sent a short report in his absence. The Steering Group have been awarded £8,000 funding from Babergh District Council towards the cost of the plan. The group have a dedicated email, web page, and treasurer, Tim Hooper; are covering GDPR compliance, and are in the process of appointing a consultant from Onyx. Awaiting data from the Enquiry By Design workshops, which may be useful to save cost and time. The NP will be run alongside and in parallel with the Buckle family and other landowners.
- b. SIDS – report from Cllr Robin Sidgwick in his absence. The two machines have arrived and installation will begin next week.
- c. War memorial cleaning – Cllr Ian Ireland has contacted the War Memorial Trust who advised, after viewing pictures sent to them, that the stone should be cleaned with water and a soft brush. Cllr Ireland will undertake the work.

- d. Water standpipes – Cllr Robin Sidgwick reported in his absence. After an unpromising start from Anglian Water, they have now had evidence of the Brettenham village standpipe. The latest email was more promising.
- e. Sports field container – it is understood that a new container will be purchased for the new tractor and placed where the old barn used to be. The original container remains in place. The rationalisation of the contents together with the sports field committee, B Natural and the playgroup toys. Cllr Richard Lester will report further on this at the October meeting.

C744/26/27 Administrative, Finance and Governance Reports

- a. Payments for approval - authorisation Cllrs Ray McCann and Richard Lester.

Payee	Description	Net of VAT
JULY		
Parish Council Websites	Website maintenance	60.00
An Accounting Gem	Accountancy fees	34.12
SMS	Microsoft 365 subs	87.78
Babergh District Council	Litter and dog waste bin emptying	1,512.00
Babergh District Council	Annual play area inspections	131.06
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	7.00
AUGUST		
An Accounting Gem	Accountancy fees	34.12
Chamberlin Hall MC	Hall hire	75.00
Parish Council Websites	Website domain renewal	15.00
KGT Fencing	Environmental management	153.00
Excel Products	Materials play area remedial works	114.99
MK Leeder Ltd	Remedial work labour	140.00
P Barham	Environmental management	287.00
HMRC	PAYE & NIC	451.62
Elan City-UK	SIDS speed indicator machines	4,678.97
A Chapman	Clerks salary	-.--
A Chapman	Clerks admin expenses	78.00
R Sidgwick	Materials - maintenance work Market Place	90.97
Synergy Audio Ltd	B Natural grant	1,000.00

- b. Approval and signing Scribe of monthly accounting reports – checked and signed
- c. Chamberlin Close – see C740/26/27. Cllr Ray McCann further explained he met with Nick Dodson, the wording has been agreed in principle, and the matter should be finalised by the end of the month.
- d. SIDS donation - a local benefactor who has arranged the SIDS project will donate the cost of the machines to the Parish Council.
- e. Playground inspection rota - Cllr Robin Sidgwick reported in his absence. A brief inspection regime has been drafted for the short weekly inspection and a rota agreed with Cllrs Philip Alcoe, Stuart McCreddie and Ian Ireland. Until co-ordination is underway he will continue the inspections.
- f. Community First Responder grant request – Cllr Ray McCann explained the situation and the necessity for funds to assist with the running costs. It is hoped to find a resident to train as a first responder. Ray will bring a report/ proposal next month. Oct agenda.
- g. Meeting dates for 2027 – approved.

C745/26/76 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

Cllr Richard Lester reminded the Kings Pightle AGM on 24th Sept at the sports field pavilion, 7.00pm.

An interesting observation was noted that lorries do not go through the High Street as a short cut, only as a necessity. It was pointed out that the lorries must be finding alternative routes whilst the High Street is closed. The PC wish to congratulate the B Natural group for another fantastic festival.

C746/26/27 Items for next agenda to be sent to the Clerk for consideration.

Email the Clerk.

Meeting closed 2055hrs.

Date of next meeting: Monday 5th October 2026 7.30pm, at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston.

Village website: www.bildeston.org