

# Bedfield and Monk Soham Community Club Committee AGM

## Meeting Notes 2026

<b>Attendees</b>	Graham Mobbs (GM) – Chair Person, Lisa Crane (LC) – Vice Chair Person & Secretary, Alison Manning (AKM) – Facilities Manager, Andrew Manning (AM) - Treasurer, Nigel Billington (NB), committee member  Members of the community
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Topic / area	Discussion	Action
<b>1. Welcome</b>	GM welcomed 11 members of the community and outlined the agenda	
<b>2. Minutes of previous meeting</b>	Published on the website: <a href="#">2019-07-24 ASW development group minutes template</a>	Accepted as true record Outstanding item – sign at the front, we are continuing to look at where this will be sited. Thanks to Mike for offering help with this.
<b>3. Treasurers Report and Financial position</b>	<p>AM introduced report, financial year ends September. Highlighted essential running costs which we slightly do not meet after income (approx. £300)</p> <p>Raised around £6000 funding/ Winter warmth grant covers 30 sessions in the hub. £1000 mid Suffolk grant for container, and £100 from BTE for Care Café</p> <p>Purchased heaters, marquee and loaned £8000 to Tennis Club via PC for resurfacing.</p> <p>Made real profit. of £3700, similar to last year.</p> <p>This year, expenses may be more, with private hires being less. Fete is always weather dependent. Previously the fete money was used to cover costs, however coffee shop helps now to cover costs.</p> <p>Political uncertainty locally is a concern due to grants.</p> <p>Thank you to all who helped in the community, to Mid Suffolk, Matthew Hicks and committee. Paul Burrows for his auditing of the accounts. Alison for the coffee shop and everything she does, Nigel for continuing renovations and fixing things! Lisa for pub and quiz night.</p>	
<b>4. Election of Officers</b>	<p>The following were elected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair – GM</li><li>• Vice Chair and Secretary - LC</li></ul>	

Topic / area	Discussion	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasurer - AM</li> <li>• Facilities Manager - AKM</li> <li>• Maintenance Officer – NB</li> </ul> <p>AM asked the community if anyone would like to be a committee member, Ed and Ros Hughes and Marion Harvey agreed to join. Thank you to both.</p>	
<b>5. Reports from Regular users/groups</b>	<p>Reports were shared from: Art and Craft Club, Care Café, Our Club, Tennis Club, Garden Club, Football Club.</p>	<p>See end of agenda for reports from groups Tennis Club and Our Club to provide up to date information for village website</p>
<b>6. Hub development, next steps</b>	<p>This has been explored over a number of years and we have gained pro bono services from a local architect who specialises in developing village community spaces. Now at the stage to apply for planning permission which is at a cost. Exploring future grant funding. Recent lease has been signed however issues around length of lease will be a barrier to large funding amounts Project for redevelopment is very much still going on!</p>	<p>Discussions taking place with Parish Council, Charity Commission and Bedfield Town Estate Exploration of a partnership agreement will be looked at</p>
<b>7. Fete 2026</b>	<p>This year taking place on July 11. AKM has emailed last year supporters to ascertain if they would like to support this year. Thank you to those who have offered to help so far.</p>	<p>Date will be set by AKM for meeting re the Fete</p>
<b>8. AOB</b>	<p>Glass recycling – Mid Suffolk have advised that its likely that these will leave the Hub due to changes in recycling, we will have a loss of £250.</p> <p>Michael has kindly offered to run the book room – thank you.</p> <p>Notice Boards have been a success in the Hub.</p>	

## **Reports from Regular users/groups:**

### Our Club

Our Club continues to fulfil its purpose of providing opportunities to socialise and participate in a range of activities for members of the community at no or low cost.

It is a completely informal set up with Debbie Pritchard and Claire Miles managing the organising of the programme calling on others to help as required.

Our activities this year have included the popular trips out for sea side fish and chips, places of historical interest and gardens. The film afternoon continues to be popular and this year we showed The Dig which tied in brilliantly with a visit to Sutton Hoo.

We also like to include activities that provide information, knowledge and support to people. One of the most well attended events this year was a talk by a representative from the local legal firm Fairweather Law on wills, power of attorney and trusts. We are hoping to hold a repeat of this one evening very soon.

There has been an interesting spin off following these informative events. Conversation during car journeys or over afternoon tea, which we have after every event held at The Hub, now includes chat about people's success with applying for an allowance, getting their will updated or completing their Power of Attorney application. It is lovely to see this empowerment in people.

Our costs are covered in the main by the grant from MSDC and we continue to be grateful to Andrew Manning for managing this on behalf of Our Club.

We had a very positive visit from Lily Ginger from MSDC. Her interviews and photographs confirm the popularity of Our Club and its value in the community. We have nearly 40 people who participate regularly or on an ad hoc basis. Some people participate in everything on offer, others are more selective and that is absolutely fine. We have attracted three couples who have recently moved into the village. This year we had our Christmas Lunch at the Dennington Queen and it was very well attended and a lot of fun. Our programme for 2026 is very varied. We have already held a games afternoon and seated yoga and we have a good range of trips out, talks and a film of local interest to come. Our full programme will be available very soon in the village magazine, community newsletter and the Our Club notice board and WhatsApp group.

*Debbie and Claire.*

## Garden Club

The Garden Club has remained a small diligent group of enthusiasts- all interested in keeping the group going.

Having sadly lost dear Barbara and her love of the wild flower meadow and all things green, we have endeavoured to keep 'her' GC going. Mandy Bright from Worlingworth, Margaret Baldwin and Laura Hickman make up a team of 4 to achieve this aim.

Last year we visited the Meadow patch in Worlingworth, with a tour around Victoria's fields and gardens of bulbs etc at this stage. One member took on building a potted garden while we indulged in tea/lovely chocolate cake! 2 gardens (no warts at all) at Su & Chris Gill's (fascinating pond and Cardoon spread) with an amazing treat of goodies to enjoy on a sunny evening, Pam Pickard and Margaret's garden with Pimm's and cake, equally interesting, all going home with willow cuttings etc.

We had Julie Giles guiding us around the wildflowers and trees in the meadow followed by a picnic and also running a GC stall at the Fête (Thank you so much for everyone's superb plants that they donated- we raised (and donated) £132)

A visit to Henstead Exotics near Beccles. Then two evenings with our bug Man Dr Ian Bedford - an interesting evening all things entomology! The last meeting of the year was with Suffolk Prickles. Great attendance / all things hedgehog.

Thank you for all the cakes supplied over the season. We have begun this year, with firstly a plan to plant a tree on the wildflower meadow in memory of Barbara for her campaign and nurture. Our first meeting was very popular as it involved roses - we had Simon White (ex Peter Beales) talking/selling - a lovely evening.

Lots to come this year - Helen Chen - Chinese Gardens, a private visit to Ashe Park in Campsea Ashe, a photography evening hopefully at Honeysuckle Holidays, a flower/fruit/vegetable competition/quiz night..... and two further evenings with very established presenters, Jim Paine and Tim Fuller (Naturalistic Gardens).

Thank you for support and encouragement- new members welcome or come along ad hoc, £3! Thank you to the Hub, a great place to meet / facilities .. Everyone is welcome to our lovely group .... Thank you to treasurer Jenny Smart who kindly does all the financial admin.

## Bedfield and Monk Soham Tennis Club

This last year has witnessed a transformation of the court and the Club.

### *Resurfacing of the court*

The main event has seen the laying of a new surface to the court, thanks primarily to a major grant from the Parish Council's CIL income. Smaller grants were received from the Bedfield Town Estate Trust, Matthew Hick's Locality Fund and the Adnams Community Trust. The balance of the total cost of over £15,500 was raised by local fundraising efforts. The court was opened by Cllr Matthew Hicks on 27th August last year. The new court is playing well and has been much admired.

### *New Structure for the Club*

After three years of being managed by the Community Club on behalf of the Parish Council, the Club has reverted to being independently run by a Committee of five members, Chaired by John Ault. The Club has renewed its affiliation to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), with membership, payments and bookings systems all managed through the Club's website set up by ClubSpark on behalf of the LTA.

### *Membership*

The new membership year starts tomorrow (1st April), with four categories of membership and annual fees staying the same as last year – Family (£50), Adult (£30), Junior (£15) and Supporters (£10). Membership has increased from 38 last year to 43 paid up so far this year.

### *Junior Coaching*

Two coaching programmes for Juniors took place last year – an After School one in March for primary age children and a Summer Holidays scheme in August for 6 to 16 year olds. From 23rd April this year there will be another five After School coaching sessions run by our very popular LTA qualified Coach, Kari Poacher. These will take place from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm and everyone is invited to come and support our aspiring young tennis players.

### *Club Sessions*

Three regular Club Sessions take place every week, weather permitting, currently on Wednesday, Friday (for beginners and returners) and Saturday mornings. With the arrival of Spring and the promise of Summer we are hoping that more members will enjoy the opportunity to meet and play socially with other members, with the Wednesday session moving to the evenings.

### *Gentle Doubles Ladder Competition*

This new, successful initiative was organised to encourage members to meet and play others in a friendly, competitive spirit. The Club is looking to increase the number of Ladder competitions to build on this encouraging start and enable more members to take part.

### *Safeguarding*

The Club's Welfare Officer has drawn up a range of policies and procedures which reflect the seriousness with which the Club takes its safeguarding responsibilities. These can all be found in full on the Club's public website and are publicised extensively on local notice boards and Club communications and literature.

### *Maintenance*

A new notice board has replaced the worn out, old one and plastic edging has been placed around the bottom of the whole fence to prevent balls escaping and rabbits entering through the gaps.

### *Whats App Groups*

All members are invited to join the main Club's WhatsApp group to communicate with other members and keep up to date with information and events. Other WhatsApp chats have been set up to cover Safeguarding, Ladder competitions and Committee matters.

Finally, a mention of two other events:

Bedfield Flower Festival: The Club entered a splendid display called 'Treasure Island' under the Festival theme of 'Children's Literature Through Time'.

Bedfield Fete: the Community Club kindly made a stall available to the Club. The court was open for anyone to try out the new surface and practise their skills. A competition was also held for juniors to test their prowess at serving.

With thanks to everyone who has supported the Club over the past year.

## Care Café

The Care Cafe goes from strength to strength. Word seems to be getting out - in addition to advertising on Eye, Debenham, Hoxne, Framlingham and Saxtead Facebook Community pages and Nextdoor we have links with Hartismere House and the Debenham Project both of whom have our flyers.

We now get between 17-22 people on average and they say it is their favourite 'club'. Most managed to come to our Christmas party and we had 30 people turn up. One man who had been coming for 2 years moved to be near his son near Bury St Edmunds and he has had his carer bring him back 3 times - he misses us. We have a number of regular helpers who, I think, enjoy it as much as the customers. We have much laughter and wonderful buzzing chatter.

We couldn't do it without the support of Andrew and the Community Hub and are so grateful for the time he puts in to support us. We also appreciate the grants given to us by Mid Suffolk and Bedfield Town Estate. All this enables us to offer the Care Cafe free.

Jenny Hinchey

## Art and Craft Club

The club was created five years ago by an ex-Bedfield resident who wanted a place where crafters could meet and work together.

Our membership is growing and we now have 17 members from Bedfield, Monk Soham, Kenton, Bedlingfield, Southolt and Worlingworth. We are a mixed group ranging in age from early 20s to late 70s. Many crafts are represented: knitting, crochet, costume making, cross-stitch, tapestry, painting, card making, jewellery making, sewing, patchwork and quilting,

We normally meet once a fortnight on a Wednesday morning between 10-12. Thanks to the Winter Warmth Grant from Mid Suffolk Council this has been increased to weekly from January to April. It also enables us to invite speakers or other craftsmen to demonstrate their skills. However, this year it has proved difficult to engage anyone, but we are still hopeful. Individual members of the group have done workshops to share small projects and more are in the pipeline.

It is a very sociable group, with very varied topics of conversation. Sometimes members come just for the social activity and to enjoy the company with a coffee and sometimes cake. Members also help each other learn new skills and solve problems with any project that may need help.

If there are interesting exhibitions that a number of us would like to visit we arrange car shares for an outing. These have included the Reveningham Sculpture Trail (where a local artist was exhibiting) and exhibitions at Snape Maltings.

We welcome new members and if you are interested, please pop along on a Wednesday morning between 10-12.

## Football Club

This is Bedfield Football Clubs fourth season in the Bury and District Sunday League. The club have won a trophy every season. Currently there are three players that were born in the village and they haven't missed a game this season!!

The team are on schedule to finish third in the First Division this season with one more league match to play. The team are playing in the Suffolk County Cup final for the first time despite reaching the semi final on two previous occasions.

The County Cup final will be played on Sunday 10th May at 10.30am at Bury Town FC – all supporters are welcome. Finally, a big thank you to Andrew and Alison Manning for their continued support to the football club and the running of the Hub.

**Bedfield & Monk Soham Community Club  
Income and Expenditure 01/10/24 - 30/09/25**

Opening balance, 1/10/24	
Current account:	£ 453.49
Deposit account	£ 39,437.78
Cash in hand	£ 172.31
	<u>£ 40,063.58</u>

INCOME	2023-24	2024-25	EXPENDITURE	2023-24	2024-25
Hire - pavilion	£ 1,100.00	£ 1,030.00	Rent	£ 250.00	£ 250.00
Hire - marquees	£ 560.00	£ 550.00	Electricity	£ 1,106.25	£ 1,173.01
Recycling- glass	£ 257.55	£ 256.70	Water	£ 125.67	£ 134.16
Recycling - fabric	£ 157.00	£ 156.78	Licenses	£ 282.00	£ 190.40
			Fire extinguisher service	£ 66.00	£ 142.80
			Cleaning/toilet supplies	£ 60.62	£ 75.28
			Internet	£ 415.68	£ 361.55
Coffee shop	£ 2,412.95	£ 2,673.40	Coffee shop costs	£ 250.60	£ 212.39
Shop sales	£ 892.03	£ 520.75	Shop supplies	£ 607.24	£ 172.29
Bar / Pub nights	£ 983.32	£ 1,329.23	Bar / Pub nights	£ 563.79	£ 732.31
Fete	£ 3,860.98	£ 4,647.23	Fete	£ 1,170.84	£ 1,428.70
Donations for foodbank	£ 81.47	£ 82.26	Foodbank donation	£ 84.47	£ 82.26
Winter warmth grant	£ 743.00	£ 1,116.00	Winter warmth expenses	£ 325.38	£ 818.99
Other donations	£ 35.00	£ 1,315.00	Loan to P.C.		£ 7,852.87
VAT refund	£ 304.63	£ 961.54	Container		£ 2,802.00
Deposit interest	£ 522.08	£ 460.06	Heaters	£ 40.00	£ 1,387.59
Repaid Loan			Marquee	£ 290.50	£ 495.97
			Planning preapplication		£ 354.00
			Tools & maintenance		£ 223.53
			Tables & furniture	£ 132.05	£ 171.38
			Signs		£ 74.79
			Keys	£ 13.50	£ 40.20
			Microwave	£ 74.99	£ 35.00
			Play area		£ 22.50
			Kitchen expenses	£ 103.54	£ 17.79
			Other	£ 322.86	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 11,910.01</b>	<b>£ 15,098.95</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 6,285.98</b>	<b>£ 19,251.76</b>

Opening balance	£ 40,063.58	Current balance	
Excess income over expenditure	-£ 4,152.81	Current account:	£ 535.67
		Deposit account	£ 5,320.35
		30-day notice account	£ 30,027.49
		Cash in hand	£ 27.26
Closing balance	<u>£ 35,910.77</u>		<u>£ 35,910.77</u>
		Of which reserved for future projects	<u>£ 35,500.00</u>
		Working balance	£ 410.77

**Treasurer's Report to the Community Club AGM, 31/03/26**

The sheet includes two sets of figures; the accounts for 2025-26 are the latest audited accounts and the ones I shall talk to. They are the right hand columns on the sheet. The figures on the left refer to the previous year for comparison.

I have split the accounts into three sections. The top section includes income from rental of the facilities and from the recycling banks and on the expenditure side the running costs (rent, licences, cleaning, and utilities). There is a shortfall of around £330 which is about the usual deficit. This shortfall will get larger in future years as the household glass collection will eventually mean the loss of the bottle banks and the associated income.

We second section covers our fundraising activities; the pub nights, fete and coffee shop as well as the small shop that operates on Tuesday mornings. The foodbank donations come from the books that are housed in the first changing room. In total we raised around £6,600 net, which is £1,000 more than the previous year. We are very grateful for the support we receive at our fund raisers.

The third section covers everything else. The winter warmth grant we receive helps fund the Care Café, Craft Club and Our Club. The £819 shown was paid directly to those organisations; the remaining £300 is kept by the Club in lieu of payment for 20 sessions by the three groups that the grant pays for.

The donations include £1000 from MidSuffolk towards the new container, £205 from various sales (mostly a number of wooden posts that were no longer required), and £100 from Bedfield Town Estate to support the Care Café. Against this we made a number of purchases as shown, including the container and new heaters plus an additional marquee. We were able to loan a significant sum to the Parish Council to help with the resurfacing of the tennis court.

So in summary, the loss over the year of £4,152 is the result of that loan; our real profit (excluding the loan of £3,700 is similar to previous years.

Some very brief observations on the accounts since October 2025:

The income from hiring etc. look likely to be lower this year, and expenses higher, creating a bigger shortfall.

The fund-raising from pub nights and the coffee shop are likely to be similar to previous years. The fete is weather dependent; we have been lucky recently, but a wet fete could result in little profit.

The Winter Warmth grant has benefitted us by increasing the use of the building as well as helping the user groups. The forthcoming local elections could lead to a change in the administration, and this will be shortly followed by a change to the local government structure. There is no guarantee that such grants will remain open to us when such changes occur; in any case, we have to apply for the grant and we can never be certain we will be successful in our bid.

Finally, thank you to:

- All those who support our events, and who give their time to help at the fete;
- To Mid Suffolk and Matthew Hicks for their financial support;
- The committee who give their time to keep the Club going, and particularly Alison for her time baking and running the coffee shop, chilli nights etc, Lisa for running the bar and the quiz night, and Nigel for many tasks of which installing the heating system is one example.
- Paul Burrows for auditing the accounts and sorting out the mix-ups I create.