

BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

(draft) Minutes of a Bedfield Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2025 at the Bedfield Community HUB. The meeting commenced at 19:00

11/25 - 01 *Present*

- Alison Manning (Chair - AM), John Dickson (Vice Chair – JD), Martin Abley (MA), Marion Harvey (MH), Jenny Barnham (JB), Michael Walsh (MW) and Lisa Crane (LC)..
- Geoff Robinson (GR) as Parish Clerk.
- Andrew Manning (ANM) as the Community Club representative.
- Seven members of the public.

11/25 - 02 *Apologies for Absence*

- Six members of the public.
- Matthew Hicks (MH) District and County Ward Councillor.

11/25 - 03 *Public Open Session*

AM opened the session by welcoming the members of the public and invited them to comment on agenda items. The following items were raised:

- Missing 30mph repeater signs on Long Green – GR to follow up with SCC.
- Possibility of a litter bin near Bedfield School - GR to research.
- Potential extension of 30mph limit near Bedfield School - GR to research.
- Ownership of Long Green Meadow – Confirmed as Registered Village Green and owned by the Parish Council.

11/25 - 04 *Register of Members Interests*

- All the councillors were reminded that they must notify GR of any changes affecting their Register of Members Interests. None were notified.
-

11/25 - 05 *Minutes of the Last Meeting (3rd September 2025)*

- These were subsequently agreed as accurate and signed by AM.

11/25 - 06 *Matters Arising from the Minutes*

- AM confirmed that the Manager of The Squirrels was happy to address any concerns that may arise.
- GR had informed MSDC that the PC did not wish to pursue a Community Emergency Plan, but had received no response.

09/25 - 07 *Report from Matthew Hicks, County Council and District Ward Councillor*

- MH's most recent monthly report for May 2025 had been circulated.
- GR briefly ran through the salient points presented by MH to Monk Soham Parish Council last night, These covered budgeting issue caused by an ever-increasing cost of protecting vulnerable people, solar farm proposals near the A140, the proposed pylon route and the construction of an underground water pipe from Lowestoft to Eye.

11/25 -08 Police Report

- The police national crime map shows no offences recorded in July 2025, one of “violence and sexual offence” at Bedfield Little Green during August 2025, three similar in September 2025, plus one final “violence & sexual offence” in the Southolt Road area, also during September 2025.

11/25 - 09 Planning Updates

- Limited work was continuing at the Home Farm development.
- GR had received a letter from a speculative builder asking if Long Green Meadow could be sold. He was advised of its Registered Village Green status and that it certainly was not for sale. This was then acknowledged by the builder.

11/25 - 10 HUB Lease

- GR stated that there was still quite a way to go regarding the agreement of the new lease but the BTE had agreed to date the new one from when signed rather than backdating it. They also wanted to make the PC responsible for the upkeep of trees. The BTE was also offering a tree survey for £400 plus VAT, which had been accepted.
- The need for a quick agreement was agreed, as a new lease will be vital to the forthcoming grant applications for the refurbishment of the Pavilion.
- A long and detailed discussion then took place regarding liabilities and the way forward
- It was agreed to wait and see what the tree survey produces and then meet the BTE Trustees fact to face to agree the way forward

11/25 - 11 Village VADs

- The application for the VAD at Little Green had been submitted and was awaiting consideration on the return of a member of Suffolk Highways.
- The Long Green VAD continued to be moved and supply data. This showed some excessive speeds at certain times of the day. However, when it's on Southolt Road, it is accepted that it picks up vehicles before they enter the 30mph limit. It was therefore decided to just monitor the situation for the time being.

11/25 - 12 Financial Update

- Expenditure since the last meeting (September 2025) has been £799.68, £187.92 & £106.54 for the Clerk's first-half year salary, PAYE & Expenses respectively, dog bin emptying £234.43 (MSDC) and the playground inspection £75.40 (MSDC). .
- Income since the date of the last meeting has been £0.33 interest (Barclays) and £11,593.64 in CIL payments (MSDC)
- GR had produced an estimate for the 2025/26 financial year but made it clear that it was without prejudice to any unforeseen circumstances that could occur in the next six months. This shows a projected surplus of £14,900 on the 31st March 2026.
- GR also produced an estimate for the 2026/27 financial year, with the caveat that 31st March 2027 was even more a long way off and could be subjected to unexpected events. He suggested to match inflation, an increase in the 2026/27 precept from £6,100 to £6,500 was required, which is a rise of 4.02% per Band D household, amounting to an increase from £34.29 to £35.67. This was unanimously approved.
- GR stated that this, with all other anticipated income, could produce an estimated carryforward figure of circa £33,689.00 @ 31st March 2027, which would include CIL payments of £27,716)

11/25 - 13 Community Club Update

ANM gave updates on several salient points. viz:

- The project regarding the refurbishment of the pavilion had moved forward and was at the MSDC pre-application stage. Once that has been done, grants will be sourced.
- An application to ASDA for a grant for roof repairs had not been possible due to the current uncertainty of the lease.
- A "Winter Warmer" grant had been received from MSDC and was benefitting the Care Café, Our Club and Craft Club.
- An electrical and fire inspection was planned for the near future.
- Two events, a chili evening and quiz evening, had proved to be extremely popular and a "popup pub" was planned for the 19th December 2025.
- New ideas for events are always welcome!
- The use of electricity was being monitored in relation to the new heaters remotely.

11/25 - 14 Any Other Business and Correspondence Etc.

- GR had continued to report potholes, footpaths and other ongoing matters.
- GR stated that the Health and Safety Policy had been circulated and adopted.

11/25 - 16 Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th February 2026 commencing at 19:00 at the Bedfield Community HUB

The meeting ended at 20:55

Chair.....