

Oulton Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th May 2025 at 7.00pm in Oulton Community Centre

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| Parish Councillors (6) present | Jo Illingsworth (Chairperson), Peter Bryant (Vice Chair), Tony Knights, Chris Smith, Peter Collecott & Peter Waring |
| County Councillors | Keith Robinson |
| District Councillors | Andree Gee |
| Also in attendance | Rebecca Morris (Clerk) |
| Members of the public | 3 |

1. **The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and to give a warm welcome to our new Councillor Faith Brown**
2. **Chairman to stand down, re-elect new Chairman:** After housekeeping instructions, Cllr J Illingsworth formally stood down. The Clerk continued meeting to re-elect new Chairman. Cllr J Illingsworth was nominated by Cllr P Bryant for the position as Chairman, second Cllr T Knights. Unanimous decision. Cllr J Illingsworth then resumed the meeting as the newly elected Chairman.
3. **Elect Vice Chairman:** Cllr J Illingsworth proposes Cllr T Knights stands as Vice Chairman. All in favour, with unanimous decision
4. **To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Cllr E Back
5. **To receive any declarations of interest from Members & consider requests for dispensations**
Cllr T Knights & Cllr J Illingsworth declared a non-pecuniary interest as Trustees of Oulton Community Centre.
6. **To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st April 2025.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2025 were agreed after a proposal by Cllr T Knights and second, Cllr J Illingsworth all in favour. The minutes were signed by the Chairperson.
7. **Updates and progress from previous meeting:** Cllr P Bryant has completed clerks appraisal, just need hard copy signatures. Cllr C Smith is waiting go ahead and is liaising with Events Team and Oulton Community Centre. Suggest having a working group, to get some direction. C Smith to arrange dates. New logos to be chosen, narrowed down to 2, one with the horse (b), one without (a) 5 votes for (a) and 2 for (b), with the public also in agreement. New logo to be added to email signatures, webpage, name placements and ready to add to the new Facebook page.
8. **Adjournment for Public Participation (15 minutes allowed for)**
This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions and comment (no more than 3 minutes each).
Lorries coming through the village is a big issue. After the gull wing bridge opening, it seems to be less cars and more HGVs. Concerned about the impact these lorries are having on our roads and homes. Cllr K Robinson says there is no legal emphasis, but we can recommend they use Millenium Way and onto Somerleyton Road. Still trying to get the 7.5t weight limit through the street and up to Rackhams Corner. Clerk to check minutes from 2021 onwards to find details on conversation between GXO and OPC and send to Cllr Robinson. Clerk to also forward minutes of meeting from the 7.5t working group to member of public.

9. Reports from:

- **Parish Clerk:**
 - 1) Unity Trust is now up and running, with correct authorisations. All payments are now up to date.
 - 2) Received an email from ESC regarding road names for Phase 6 Woods Meadow – Oldman Homes. I've been doing a little research and had this confirmed by Brian Hunter. Jim Goodhew, he was a prominent figure at the Old Lothingland Hospital and a former Cllr at Oulton Parish Council. Homework project for all to come up with names
 - 3) Received an update on Lime Avenue Retail Development. Still waiting on contracts between Persimmon and Midpoint Developments for the sale of the land, so nothing is moving forward.
 - 4) Blister Pack recycling, OCC have agreed for this recycle box to be on site, we just need to agree if we are happy to pay the £100.00 each time to have it replaced. Cllr J Illingsworth proposed and seconded by Cllr T Knights. All in agreement.

- **Chairmans Report:**
 - 1) Went to visit a resident in Birch Close regarding the discourtesy of site drivers pulling into the road. Will speak to Debi Sharman at Persimmon Homes and ask her to escalate.
 - 2) Been invited to East Suffolk Community Partnership meeting on 27th October, attending with Clerk.
 - 3) Chairman has volunteer day on 2nd June, will be spending day the day with the clerk, clearing out all old paperwork and have all professionally shredded and digitalising the rest.
 - 4) Gary Bennett is removing the old goal post on Thursday 29th May.
 - 5) Chair and Clerk spent a morning going round the play areas around Oulton and liaised any concerns with Louis Clarke at ESSL. Especially the removal of the bench in the corner of Oulton Community Field, due to anti social behaviour and the installation of the lending library.
 - 6) Social evening at the Blue Boar, with OPC and OCC to build relationships. Date to be confirmed.
 - 7) Councillors Surgery, potentially restart these. Either an alternate month Saturday morning or an hour before the Parish Council meeting starts. To put on Facebook page to gain interest.
- **County Council:** - Cllr K Robinson handed all a brochure, detailing the new LGR plan (Local Government Reorganisation) Single Authority, one council, one doorway, to provide greater efficiency and save huge sums of money. Local councillors will remain, Riverside offices will remain. Agreement with last government, but new government stalled plans, only agreeing if there could be a mayor. Election for a new mayor to cover Suffolk & Norfolk potentially next year. This person will have a role, rather than a standard ceremonial mayor. Had a meeting with Suffolk Highways engineer, it was noticed that there is a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) already in place for double yellow lines on Meadow Road, but the lines were never painted. This will just run from the corner of Meadow Road and slightly past the alleyway,
- **District Council:** - Cllr A Gee has misgivings about the new LGR, she fears connectivity in smaller communities will be lost in the large conglomerate.
- **Oulton Community Centre:** - Cllr P Collecott noted a large gap in the hedge between Oulton Street and the Community Centre playing field. Clerk to contact ESSL.

10. Planning

- **To receive new planning applications and make comment** – Nothing to report
- **To receive results and updates on outstanding applications** – Nothing to report.

11. Finance: Income & Expenditure as at 30th April 2025 received.

Payment Schedules

| Payee | Value | Description |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Oulton Community Centre | £26.25 | April Room Hire – OCC1981 |
| Oulton Community Centre | £37.50 | Annual Affiliation Fee 2025 |
| Clerk Salary | £637.36 | April 2025 Salary |
| Norfolk Parish Training | £208.00 | Charing Successful Meetings training |
| Clerk Salary | £637.36 | May 2025 Salary |
| Edward Back | £65.00 | Payroll Services |
| Total | £1611.47 | |

To agree payment of invoices and other expenses: Payments – Proposed by Cllr J Illingsworth and second by Cllr P Bryant - All approved.

Income Received: £14,552.85 – 1st Precept Instalment

To consider grant applications: St Michaels Church, requested £750.00, but we would like to reduce this to £500.00 - all agreed and in favour.

12. **To consider the Internal Audit Report prepared by the Internal Auditor. Agree upon any course of action:** Provisionally agreed to approve and sign as auditor has not returned AGAR, clerk has had contact and he said there were no issues at all.
13. **To confirm, approve and sign Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 3 Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025:** Provisionally agreed to approve and sign
14. **To Confirm, approve, and sign Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 3 Section 2 – Accounting statements 2024/2025:** Provisionally agreed to approve and sign.

- 15. To appoint new Internal Auditor for 2025/2026:** C Punt has agreed to continue next year
- 16. To receive an update on the purchase assets using CIL money:** Table Tennis for Oulton Community Field. All in favour of. Clerk to contact Louis Clarke at ESSL regarding an approval pack to put the table in place. SCC has asked for condition of the bench on OCC Field, before they will consider moving it to Brendon Close play area. Clerk to provide that information and dimensions of Lending Library.
- 17. To receive updates from individual Council Members (for information only –** Cllr T Knights has a “Kill your Speed” sign ?????? Provided SID camera results. Oulton Street southbound – average daily traffic 4273, average speed 21.29mph. Sands Lane eastbound – average daily traffic 2217, average speed 31.9 mph. Results sent to PC Michelle Deal & Ben Woolnough at Planning. We think it would be beneficial to put these results on our website and noticeboard.
Cllr P Waring has been working on a Draft Planning Assessment Form, using our Neighbourhood Plan information. Essentially using it to provide planning feedback with relevant criteria, referencing our Neighbourhood Plan.
- 18. To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda (for information only) –** Approval for use of Draft Planning Assessment Form. Discuss Tree Preservation Orders.
- 19. To determine dates of Council Meetings for the next year:** All in agreement to hold meetings bi-monthly and change to the 3rd Tuesday of those months. To be published.
- 20. To confirm date of the next meeting as 15th July 2025 @ 7.00 pm in Oulton Community Centre.**

Voted to extend time of meeting @ 21.00 – All in agreement.
The meeting closed at 21.12

X

Chair