

**Minutes of Playford Parish Council meeting held at Playford Village Hall
7.00pm on Wednesday 8th January 2025**

Present: Ben Evans – Chairman
Joan Metcalfe – Vice-Chairman
Steve Hicks - Councillor
Martin Hill – Councillor
Lee Knighting– Councillor
Colin Hedgley - District Councillor

Also present:
Lynne Dawes
Sally Herrington
Tracy Herrington
Glen Thimblethorpe

In attendance:
Marian Hedgley – Clerk

Apologies for Absence:
Elaine Bryce – County Councillor (retrospectively)

Chairman Ben Evans opened the meeting at 7.10pm and welcomed everyone.

1. Declarations of Members’ Interests in any items on this Agenda

JM declared an interest as Treasurer of Playford Village Hall Committee and as a Trustee of Playford Village Hall which was duly recorded.

2. To approve the Minutes of the meetings held:

6th September 2024 Proposer SH Seconder MH
11th December 2024 – these need amending /to be approved at the next meeting

The Chairman duly signed the minutes of 6th September 2024

Review of actions arising – none

Action Point Review:

- ❖ **AP93 - Unregistered FP from Butts Road C330 to Church Road C3311 to be reinstated.** Landowner’s appeal took place on 12th Nov 2024 and the decision of the inspector is still awaited – **see para 11**

- ❖ **AP155 - C324 traffic priority/drainage problems:** All work on this project has been postponed indefinitely – we are awaiting an update from Co Cllr EB to see when any of this project might be considered in future. **See para 7 Highways.**

- ❖ **AP178 - Boules Piste repairs** – this work is now complete and we await a decision from the Village Hall committee as to whether they will agree to undertake maintenance work as and when needed in lieu of their suggested donation towards costs – **see also para 11.**

Signed

- ❖ **AP184– Drainage ditch beside Butts Road in front of Village Hall needs clearing-**
Work on this is long overdue and ES Services can no longer undertake this task.
Quotes are being obtained from various other contractors. See para 6 Finance.
- ❖ **AP186 – Loose netting on track of all four wooden footbridges in the Alder Carr on FP20** – Clerk has chased this up with Highways’ PROW team - two are in the pipeline for repairs, remaining two will be added shortly. Also one bridge needs a repair to it handrail and this will be reported. Footpath warden will submit a photo.
- ❖ **AP193 – large potholes in Church Lane**
This issue has been reported many times in the past and never been satisfactorily resolved. There are still two streams of water constantly running down Church Lane. Potholes have been temporarily fixed but always erupt again quite quickly. Co Cllr EB to be again asked for her intervention and residents asked to all report the situation individually to Anglian Water again as this needs to be reinvestigated.
See para 7 Highways.
- ❖ **AP194 & AP197– large potholes in Butts Road** – most (but not all) of these have been repaired up to a point, but even where they have been repaired, large, deep wheel ruts are still left on the outer edges of the road, which is not satisfactory. Co. Cllr EB has been reminded to put pressure onto Highways to remedy this.
See para 7 Highways.
- ❖ **AP196 – Smashed grit bin at southern end of Butts Road needs replacing – Co**
Cllr EB has agreed to fund a replacement from her budget but no action from Highways has been agreed yet. Clerk to chase yet again. See para 7 Highways.
- ❖ **AP198 – Drainage issues on FP20 approaching the Alder Carr** – flooding on this FP should have been investigated by PROW team on 20th Nov. 2024 but this did not take place. Clerk has chased Highways team and has asked for a report from the PROW team who are trying to hurry this along.
See also para 7 -Highways/Footpaths issues.
- ❖ **AP199 – Overgrown path for most of its length** along the water meadow and leading towards Tuddenham parish – this has not been trimmed for a considerable time. It was escalated with Highways PROW team in Nov and they failed to send their promised report. Clerk has chased twice and will continue to do so, on a regular basis.
See also para 7 - Highways/Footpaths issues
- ❖ **AP 201** – Flooding at bottom of Hill Farm Road – This was reported and works have been ordered and this has now been carried out.
- ❖ **AP202** – Fallen tree reported in the Alder Carr on FP20 – this is to be cleared up soon.
- ❖ **AP203-** Fallen tree blocking the FP through Lux Wood has been reported to the Clerk by two members of the public who offered to contact the landowners and arrange to remove it for them.

For more details see Action Log appended at end of the Minutes.

Signed

3. County Councillor's report:

None

4. District Councillor's report

Cllr CH's report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and is appended at the end of these minutes. Colin also explained the following points:

- Devolution plans: A new unitary authority with a mayor is proposed for Suffolk – this would replace the present Suffolk County and East Suffolk Councils. The next elections due in 2027 are likely to be postponed until 2028 to allow time for the changeover.
- Proposed new gravel pit at Westerfield: As Playford is not a neighbouring parish it is not being directly asked to comment. When the planning application is finally presented, there will be scope for any member of the public to air their views. An anti-gravel pit campaign has been formed and is gaining momentum.

5. Public Forum

Nothing to report

6. FinanceReporting and authorisation of cheques/online paymentsAlready paid:

Date/Chq no.	Payable to	Reason for payment	Amount £
11.11.24	SL Webber	Donation re Boules Piste work	100.00
21.11.24	M Hedgley	Clerk - November salary	agreed in budget
23.12.24	M Hedgley	Clerk - December salary	agreed in budget

To be Paid:

due now	M Hedgley	Clerk's stationery expenses	51.90
Jan 2025	HMRC	Tax Q3	agreed in budget

All of above payments were proposed by BE and seconded by JM

Credits received since last meeting:

2.12.24	Quarterly interest on Reserve account	£37.61
24.12.24	ESC grant – Re gov.uk domain name changes	£250.00

Bank balances:

Current a/c	£904.77	
Bus Premium	£11,550.99	(Reserve account)

Bank reconciliation – Carried out by SHBudget 2024/5 - this was unanimously found to be on track

Signed

Setting the Precept

After much discussion a Precept of £12,000.00 was unanimously agreed for 2025/26 although the clerk would have preferred to see a larger increase to cover inflation and other unpredictable increases. The request will be passed to the Precept office.

Ditch clearance

East Suffolk Services have been unable to fulfil their contract of clearing out the ditch between Butts Road and the front of the village hall. Alternatives have been sought but nothing agreed so far – more quotes are needed.

ES Services Hedge trimming/Grass cutting contract –

The hedges around the playing field were not cut in October, grounds manager of ES Services had hoped they could be done the week before Christmas, but this did not happen. Clerk to enquire when this can be put right and to ask when next year's quote for grass and hedge trimming services will be forthcoming.

7. **Highways**

Traffic priority and drainage issues on C324

We await Co Cllrs EB's input on this. **See AP155.**

Potholes in Butts Road and Church Lane

All reported potholes in Church Lane have been fixed but will probably erupt again as the underlying problem has not yet been solved. The clerk has pointed this out to SCC Highways who have undertaken to escalate the issue. It was suggested that Anglian Water should be contacted again to investigate – residents are being encouraged to do this themselves as they are on the spot to answer any questions which may arise.

See AP193.

Cllr EB is to be further asked to escalate both this issue and the many potholes in Butts Road. – **See AP194 and AP197**

Footpaths issues:

FP1 along the north side of the water meadow has needed clearing of vegetation for most of last year and has been reported several times to Highways. Clerk has spoken again to Highways who have admitted this has slipped their schedule but promised a report very soon.

FP20 was flooded badly last Autumn and should have been investigated on 20th Nov but this was not carried out –clerk has chased an update on this.

(Later update – both of the above issues should be done by mid Feb).

New Grit Bin for junction of Butts Road and Playford Road – this has been agreed with Co Cllr EB but not yet confirmed with SCC Highways – clerk has provided exact details of location and advised this is a replacement of an existing bin. - **See AP196.**

SAVID/SIDS update: The SIDS figures were not available at the time of the meeting but Tracy Herrington gave her report:

85th percentile figures showed 31mph & 32mph averages on Butts Road

New SIDS device will be tried in the new location on Church Road junction with C324

Next SAVID meeting is to be held on 6th February 2025 by Zoom.

Signed

Playford PC confirmed they were happy for the SIDs data for Playford to be used by Andy Jolliffe in his Community Partnership survey.

A date is still to be arranged for a photo of the new SIDs equipment in action, together with Tracy Herrington, James Wright, Colin Hedgley and a representative from Playford PC. Clerk to suggest likely dates to Tracy.

8. Thermal imaging in Playford

Glen Thimblethorp has received little response from people wanting to take advantage of this scheme. The equipment will be available from 31st January to 10th February 2025 so please contact Glen at thimblethorp@gmail.com or phone 07754 877070 to book this.

9. Gov.uk Domain Name for the PC's website and gov.uk email addresses

It had been unanimously agreed to go ahead with a gov.uk domain name for the PC's website and a vote was now held to accept the quotation from Suffolk Cloud to provide a gov.uk domain name website and gov.uk email addresses for the clerk and all councillors as recommended by NALC. This was also agreed unanimously. The government grant of £100+VAT will be used by Suffolk Cloud to offset their charges and Cllr CH's District Council grant of £250.00 will help towards the total costs.

10. Emergency Plan

A presentation was held in the main hall at 6pm prior to this meeting to demonstrate the need and how to go about forming an Emergency Plan for Playford. This was attended by approx 30 people and several volunteers came forward to offer their services, should the need arise. If anyone else would like to be included please email Ursula Richards on ursi@btopenworld.com with your details.

11. Appeal of reinstatement of FP26

The appeal was held on Tues 12th November at Endeavour House and continued into Weds 13th. The inspector then went on a site visit before deciding the outcome but details of his decision have still not been received. **See AP93.**

12. Section 106 – Play budget allocation

Playford PC is entitled to £490.18 for improving sports and play equipment in the village, from the section 106 Play budget held at ESC. No further progress with this.

13. Any other Planning Issues:

a) **DC/24/4113/FUL – Cobblers, Hill Farm Road.**

This application was discussed on 11.12.24 and approved by the PC with certain conditions pertaining to the Velux windows. An amended plan has been received to reflect these changes and the PC was happy to approve these. Clerk will pass this on to the planning team at East Suffolk House.

b) **DC/24/4179/FUL – Kiln Farm Nurseries**

Plans were received reflecting a minor amendment to lighting in the roof of the sales area – this was not thought to be a problem and the PC is happy to accept this.

Signed

c) **DC/22/3153/FUL – 2 Hill Farm Cottages**

Possible Breach of Control: Cart lodge not in accordance with plans - being used as a holiday let. The Enforcement Officer is investigating this.

14. Recruitment

Vacancies exist for two more councillors and for the position of Clerk. A notice will be placed in the FLN to advertise the clerk's vacancy.

15. Correspondence received - up to PC meeting 8th January 2025

	Date	From	Subject	Ref
1	7.11.24	Headway	Requesting donations	Helen Fairweather CEO
2	7.11.24	East Suffolk Energy Projects Traffic Monitoring + Dist, County & National Transport consultation	Update on progress achieved For information only	Victoria Hambley
3	11.11.24	ESC	Details of recycling Electricals	ESC Melton offices
4	19.11.24	East Anglia Three	Update	Edward Rees
5	20.12.24	East Suffolk Co. Planners	Details of changes affecting responses to planning applications	Emma Cankovic/Ben Woolnough Planning dept.
6	30.12.24	M J Hedgley - Clerk	Letter of resignation	
7	7.1.25	FLN - Norman Porter	Thank you/update on FLN happenings	Norman Porter – Ed FLN

16. Councillors' Comments - none**17. Items for next agenda - ongoing items to be brought forward**

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 7pm

Signed