

**Minutes of Playford's Annual Parish Council Meeting held at
Playford Parish Hall on Wednesday 17th September 2025**

Present: Ben Evans –Chairman
Steve Hicks - Councillor
Lee Knighting – Councillor
Lynne Dawes – Councillor
Colin Hedgley - District Councillor

In attendance:
Wendy Cook - Clerk

Also present:
No members of the public for all or part of the meeting

1. Welcome and Introduction:

The meeting started at 7.00pm

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Joan Metcalfe who was away on holiday

It was **RESOLVED:**

- To accept the apology for absence

3. Declarations of Members' Interests in any items on this Agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest

4. Public Forum

There were no Public comments.

5. Local District and County Councillors' Reports

District Councillor Colin Hedgley updated the Parish Council with the latest information about Devolution and how it could affect Playford. He expressed that he was unhappy about the lack of information for Parishes about the proposed three unitary councils and that the proposed boundaries would mean rural villages would come under Ipswich if the proposals were to go ahead. He stated that he would be making his feelings clear when the matter goes to full council next week and that he will be voting against. He urged those who are also opposed to the changes to write to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government Alison McGovern MP.

6. Devolution

After a brief discussion about Devolution and the proposed boundaries by the three unitary councils, Cllr B Evans proposed that the Parish Council write to Council Leaders sending a previously drafted letter that had been circulated to Councillors stating that the Parish Council were not in favour of the proposed boundaries.

Signed.....

It was **RESOLVED**:

- For Cllr B Evan to send the letter as drafted.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To send correspondence to Alison McGovern MP along with a copy of the drafted letter.

The Parish Council are unhappy about the lack of information about the proposed three unitary councils and do not agree with the proposed boundary changes. The Parish Council considers Playford to be a rural parish that does not identify with a large town such as Ipswich, feeling the village aligns more with Woodbridge.

7. Bus Shelter

The Parish Council have received correspondence from a resident requesting a bus shelter at the Bottom of Church Lane for school children.

Due to the costs involved in installing a bus shelter, including the groundworks that would be required and, that the Parish council does not own sufficient land to site one, or the funds available to purchase a bus shelter.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That it installing a bus shelter was not feasible at this time

8. Councillor Resignation

Cllr M Hill has resigned as a councillor. Electoral Services have been informed and the Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor has been published

9. PC Vacancies

There are now 2 Councillor Vacancies. A resident has expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor and can be co-opted.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- For the Clerk to make contact with her and invite her to the next meeting.

10. Items for Next Agenda

Devolution – Consultation period

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 5th November 2025 at the Playford Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.42pm

Signed.....

