

**Minutes of Playford's Annual Parish Council Meeting held at
Playford Parish Hall on Wednesday 3rd September 2025**

Present: Ben Evans –Chairman
Steve Hicks - Councillor
Lee Knighting - Councillor
Colin Hedgley - District Councillor
Elaine Bryce – Suffolk County Councillor
Dan Clery – District Councillor

In attendance:
Wendy Cook - Clerk

Also present:
20 members of the public for all or part of the meeting

1. Welcome and Introduction:

The meeting started at 7.08pm

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr J Metcalfe who was away on holiday

It was **RESOLVED:**

- To accept the apology

3. Co-option of Parish Councillor

There have been vacancies on the Parish Council for some time. East Suffolk Council have not received notice from electors requesting an election, co-option was therefore appropriate to fill a vacancy.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- That Mrs Alison Lynne Dawes (known as Lynne Dawes) be co-opted to the Council

Mrs Dawes has signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

It was **RESOLVED:**

- For payment of £66 be made to SALC for new Councillor Training

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

There were no Declarations of Interest

5. Public Participation Session

- Resident Elinor Wombwell spoke item 8 the importance of a Tree Warden and how she can help the parish.
- Two residents spoke about item 12 Devolution.

Signed.....

6. Minutes of Meetings held on 2nd July 2025 and 16th July 2025

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To approve the minutes as drafted

Action Points Review

- ✧ **Smashed grit bin at southern end of Butts Road needs replacing** – New Grit Bin is now in situ and due to be filled.
- ✧ **Drainage Ditch beside Village Hall** – The Drainage Ditch still requires digging out ahead of the winter months. Clerk contacted ES Services who are unable to complete the work an alternative solution will be investigated
- ✧ **Uncut Grass Verge corner of Church Road and Church Lane** – This has been reported to Suffolk Highways and now on their list to complete
- ✧ **Drainage issues FP20 near Alder Car** – There is still water running down a small makeshift channel, this will cause issues as we head into winter months. The Clerk will report to Suffolk Highways

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

7. Reports

District Councillor Colin Hedgley reported that the Westerfield Quarry planning application is now available on the Suffolk County Council's website and that you don't have to live in Westerfield to send an objection if you wish to. Cllr Hedgley also spoke at length about having a unitary authority and what that could mean for Playford. He is not in favour of three unitary councils and he is not in favour of Playford coming under Ipswich and will be voting against it. He said that there is more information on one unitary authority on the Suffolk County Council website "One Suffolk" and the plans for the three system unitary authorities are on the East Suffolk Council website "Shaping Suffolk Together". He said that he will be talking about this subject more in future meetings. (for Cllr Hedgley's full report – www.playfordparish.gov.uk)

County Councillor Elaine Bryce spoke about the Stop the Quarry Campaign and how professionally it was being managed. She stated that she had been against Westerfield Quarry from the start.

Cllr Bryce also reported on the new council boundary proposals, stating that she was not in favour of Suffolk being split into three council areas. This would see Playford and surrounding villages being grouped together with Ipswich and be known as South Suffolk.

Cllr Bryce also talked about the Northern Bypass and what implications having three unitary councils would have on this. The proposed boundaries would include Felixstowe, with the Port being pro Northern Bypass. Cllr Bryce strongly objects to a Northern Bypass and will continue to do so. She is for a One Suffolk council, but only if it enough representation at the equivalent of her level. (for Cllr Bryce's full report (www.playfordparish.gov.uk))

District Councillor Dan Clery stated that he was in favour of having three unitary councils saying that the three new councils would be able to collaborate with each other and that a Northern Bypass is just a likely with one big council as it was with three unitary councils. He stated that he would not be voting when this came to full council as he would not be attending the meeting.

Signed.....

Due to the public feeling around the subject of both the Northern Bypass and Devolution, Cllr Bryce, Cllr Hedgley and Cllr Clerly offered to take questions from the floor. Chairman Cllr B Evans proposed that under Standing Order 26a that the meeting be temporarily suspended.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To suspend the meeting for fifteen minutes to allow for the public to speak.

The Parish Council meeting was suspended at 7.55pm

Following fifteen minutes the Parish Council meeting resumed at 8.10pm

Cllr B Evan proposed to move agenda items 12 and 13 to be next on the agenda

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That agenda items 12 Devolution and 13 Northern Bypass be moved

12. Devolution

Cllr B Evans had some questions to the District and County Councillors about Devolution and what impact that could have on Playford. And, what the Parish Council could do to ensure the voice of residents was heard as the proposed boundaries are unable to be changed.

13. Northern Bypass

A Northern Bypass meeting is being held at Tuddenham Village Hall on the 9th September Cllr B Evans will be in attendance.

8. Tree Warden

It was **RESOLVED**:

- For Elinor Wombwell to become the Tree Warden for Playford Parish Council

9. Planning

9.1 Applications

No Planning Applications have been received

9.2 Other Planning Updates

DC/25/2487/FUL Rivendell, Spring Meadow, Playford, IP6 9ED Single story rear extension to dwelling - Application Permitted

DC/25/2359/FUL Mill Cottage, Butts Road, Playford, IP6 9DX Construction of single storey extension - Application Permitted

DC/23/3143/FUL 2 Brook Cottages, Brook Lane, IP6 9DZ

Side two storey extension to superseded previous DC/19/3344/FUL – Application Permitted

DC/25/1573/FUL 2 Hill Farm Cottages, Hill Farm Road, IP6 (DT Change of use of Home Office to Holiday Let including change to fenestration – Still Pending Decision

Signed.....

10. Finance

10.1 Income and Expenditure

Reporting & authorisation of cheques/online payments since last meeting:

Already paid:

Date/Chq no.	Payable to	Reason for payment	Amount £
22.7.25	W Cook	Clerk – July Salary	agreed in budget
22.8.25	W Cook	Clerk – August Salary	agreed in budget
18.7.25	ICO	ICO	£47.00

It was **RESOLVED:**

- That the following expenditure be incurred

To be Paid:

Due	Little Bealings	Contribution to Clerk’s CiLCA	£398.50

Credits received since last meeting:

- No credits received since last meeting

Bank balances: Current a/c **£3619.16**
 Bus Premium **£7616.07**

10.2 Budget 2025/25

Bank balances were checked and signed in accordance with Financial Regulations

11. Highways

11.1 C324 Traffic Priority problems/new road signs

Cllr Bryce had left the meeting so no update

11.2 Footpaths

The Parish Council have had a report of an overgrown footpath between Church Lane and Spring Meadow

It was **RESOLVED:**

- For the Clerk to report this to Suffolk Highways

11.3 SID

Cllr L Knighting reported that he had moved the SID but at present he is unable to download the data. The SID will continue to store information and can be downloaded at a later date.

14. ESC Community Partnership

It was **RESOLVED:**

- To move this item to the next meeting

Signed.....

15. Website

The old website hosting will cease in October and will not be renewed

16. Meeting with Patrick Spencer MP

It was **RESOLVED**:

- For the Clerk to Contact Patrick Spencer’s secretary to arrange a visit

17. Box for Sports Equipment

The Parish Council has £514.82 available under section 106 play budget. The proposal is for there to be a lockable box with sports equipment that can be used by residents on the field.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That Cllr L Knighting to obtain more information as to costings etc and report his findings to the clerk.

18. Playing Field Hire

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That as Cllr J Metcalfe was absent from the meeting to move this item to the next meeting

19. Village Contact List

The Parish Council wishes to find a way to ensure that residents are better informed and to create a contact list of people in the parish that wish to be included in communications.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- For Cllr B Evans to create a form that can be circulated and for Cllr L Knighting to assist him

20. Westerfield Quarry

Correspondence had been received from the Westerfield Quarry Campaign

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the Parish Council was not in a position to support the Campaign financially, the Parish Council does object to the planning application.

21. PC Vacancies

There is a vacancy for one councillor

22. Correspondence

No additional correspondence received

23. Items for next agenda

- Community Partnership
- Playing Field Hire

24. 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 8.42pm

Signed.....

