

**Minutes of Playford’s Annual Parish Council Meeting held at  
Playford Parish Hall on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Present:** Ben Evans –Chairman  
Joan Metcalfe– Vice Chair  
Steve Hicks – Councillor  
Lynne Dawes – Councillor  
Eileen Stennett – Councillor  
Lee Knighting – Councillor  
District Councillor Colin Hedgley

**In attendance:**  
Wendy Cook - Clerk

**Also present:**  
0 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:**  
none
- 3. Declarations of Members’ Interests in any items on this Agenda**  
Cllr E Stennett: Non-Registerable interest as applicant of item 7.1 Planning Application DC/25/3197/FUL
- 4. Public Participation Session**  
There were no Public comments.
- 5. Minutes of Meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

It was **RESOLVED:**  
• To approve the minutes as drafted

**Action Points Review**

- ✧ **C324 – Traffic Priorities and drainage** – see item 9.1
- ✧ **Drainage Ditch beside Village Hall** – The drainage ditch is not causing any issues at present and it was decided to wait until the summer months for the ditch to be dug out and cleared.
- ✧ **Water running down Church Lane** – This has been an ongoing issue. PC has received correspondence from a resident stating that in the icy weather the water had frozen causing the area to become dangerous. The Clerk has again reported the issue to Suffolk Highways. The Parish Council encourages residents to regularly photograph and report this themselves online using Suffolk Highway online reporting tool
- ✧ **Drainage issues FP20 near Alder Car** – Clerk has been monitoring the situation and visited the site to take some more photographs. The Clerk will report again to Highways and talk to landowner.

Signed.....

- ✧ **Over grown footpath between Church Land & Spring Meadow** – This footpath is still an issue. Clerk will contact Suffolk Highways again.

## 6. Reports

District Councillor Colin Hedgley wished the Councillors a Happy New Year. He reported that the bin collections had been postponed due to bad weather. That a decision about the Planning Application for Westerfield Quarry was still pending. On Devolution, Cllr Hedgley reminded the Parish Council that the cut off date for sending in individual comments to the Minister for Local Government is January 11<sup>th</sup> 2026, he urged anyone who hasn't yet commented to do so. He stated that he would prefer the One Suffolk system as opposed to the three Suffolk proposal put forward by East Suffolk Council. As he does not wish to see Playford become part of Ipswich. He also said that 2026 will see the introduction of a new bin collection system and that the First Light Festival will go ahead again this year. Full report can be found at [www.playfordparish.gov.uk](http://www.playfordparish.gov.uk)

## 7. Planning

### 7.1 Applications

Cllr E Stennett left the meeting at 7.16pm in accordance with her declaration of interest.

**DC/25/3197/FUL** Lux Farm, Playford Road, Playford, IP5 1DA, Conversion of Building to 1No. Dwelling

After a brief discussion

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the Parish Council had no further comments to make and had no objection to the application.

Cllr E Stennett returned to the meeting at 7.19pm

### 7.2 Other Planning Updates

DC/25/3410/FUL Hakewell House, Playford Mount, Playford, IP13 6PH Alterations to existing house and conversion of existing outbuilding to an annexe - Pending Decision

DC/25/3338/LBC Hakewell House, Playford Mount, Playford, IP13 6PH Listed Building Consent - Alterations to existing house and conversion of existing outbuilding to an annexe - Pending Decision

Signed.....

**8. Finance**

**8.1 Income and Expenditure**

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

Already paid:

<b>Date/Chq no.</b>	<b>Payable to</b>	<b>Reason for payment</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
22.11.25	W Cook	Clerk – November Salary	agreed in budget
22.12.25	W Cook	Clerk – December Salary	agreed in budget

It was **RESOLVED:**

- That the following expenditure be incurred

To be Paid:

Due	HMRC	Employer Contributions	Agreed in budget
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Credits received since last meeting:

- No credits received

Bank balances:

Current a/c	<b>£5411.09</b>
Bus Premium	<b>£7663.64</b>

**8.2 Budget 2025/25**

Bank balances were checked and signed in accordance with Financial Regulations

**8.3 Precept 2026/27**

The clerk had circulated the draft precept and proposed that the precept raise by £500 to £12,500 for 2026/27 this is to take into account employer’s national insurance, which was not included in last year’s budget.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- To approve the figure of £12,500

**8.4 Internet banking signatories**

It was **RESOLVED:**

- To add Cllr E Stennett to the list of approved signatories for the Barclays Bank accounts
- For the clerk to arrange for this to happen

**9. Highways**

**9.1 C324 Traffic Priority problems/new road signs**

The parish Council had received correspondence from Cllr Bryce. She has now signed off the payment for the works to C324 Playford and she has received confirmation that the works have now been designed and ordered and that they will be completed by 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026, subject to any reactive works or adverse weather

Signed.....

**9.2 Footpaths**

Nothing to report

**9.3 SID**

Cllr L Knighting reported that he is checking the SID every three weeks and changing the battery. There is still an issue downloading the data, however he is looking at ways to resolve this.

**10. Devolution**

Playford Parish Council have been invited to submit a joint response to the consultation along with Little Bealings Parish Council and Great Bealings Parish Council. All three PCs are against the three council proposal and favour One Suffolk.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- To agree with Little Bealings and Great Bealings and submit a joint response
- For Playford Parish Council to also submit their own response to the consultation
- For Chair Cllr B Evans and the Clerk to complete and submit the online form on behalf of the Council.

**11. ESC Community Partnership**

Cllr E Stennett had expressed an interested in representing Playford Parish Council as the ESC Community Partnership.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- For Cllr E Stennett to represent the Council at the ESC Community Partnership meetings.

**12. Box for Sports Equipment**

Cllr Knighting is still looking at suitable boxes and costing. Once this has been completed the Clerk will apply for the grant for the box for sports equipment

**13. PC Vacancies**

There is one vacancy for a Councillor.

**14. Correspondence**

Correspondence received: a Christmas card from Patrick Spencer MP

**15. Items for next agenda**

None

**18. Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Playford Village Hall. There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.56pm

Signed.....



