

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28th July 2025 at the Village Hall, Church Hill, Monks Eleigh at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Alan Braithwaite (Chairman), Sarah Bennett, James Hodges, Rupert Perry and Stephen Penney
District Cllr Bryn Hurren

Attending: Lucinda Rogers (Clerk) and ten members of the public

30/25 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Angela Forrest and County Cllr Robert Lindsay.

31/25 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

Cllrs Braithwaite and Perry declared their interest in agenda item 9 due to connection with St Peter's church.

32/25 Minutes of the meetings held on 19th May and 4th June 2025

The minutes of the meetings held on 19th May and 4th June 2025 were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

33/25 Report from County Cllr Robert Lindsay

County Councillor Lindsay's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 2)

34/25 Report from District Cllr Bryn Hurren

District Councillor Hurren's report was circulated to the Councillors (appendix 3)
Councillor Hurren reported about Local Government Review. Babergh and Mid Suffolk favour three unitary authorities rather than Suffolk County Council's one large unitary authority.

He advised that grants for the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans have been withdrawn. He also remarked on the growing problem of homelessness.

In that context he noted that the 12 houses in Northcote Drive are occupied. The 5 remaining are for sale as affordable homes at a 20% discount. It was noted that one is sold subject to contract.

Cllr Hurren kindly allocated a Locality Grant of £350 towards new football goals for the recreation field.

35/25 Public Forum

There was a discussion about flooding at Scripps Cross bridge. The root cause of the problem of regular flood risk is silt and old bricks and rubbish which has been significantly added to by regular damage to the bridge parapet. The two side spans of the bridge are badly clogged which causes the water to back up. The Environment Agency and Suffolk Highways are not working together to address this issue; in fact neither has responded to formal requests from the Council. It was agreed to ask

James Cartlidge MP to get involved to help resolve the problem. There is some urgency to get the blockage removed before the winter rains come and to enable the water to flow and prevent flooding. The residents will make the approach to the MP – clearly indicating the Council's support. It was agreed the correspondence will be exchanged and reviewed.

Allotments – Just 2 of the 6 allotments are taken up and the site is not in good shape. It was agreed to publicise the allotments in the village to see if further demand can be stimulated. The lack of water provision to the site is a barrier to take up. We will look again at options.

36/25 Planning Matters

- a. DC/25/02505 Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement of x5 1980's single glazed casement windows to the rear of the property and 1x bay window to the front. Bay window to front of property is rotten and cannot be repaired see attached from joiner. Replacement of back door.
- b. Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/24/03311 - Conditions 3 (Biodiversity Enhancement Measures) and 4 (Retaining Wall Finish) Location: Fen Cottage, Brent Eleigh Road
- c. PRIOR APPROVAL has been granted for - AGRICULTURAL TO DWELLING - DC/24/05287 Notification under Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 Proposal: Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses(C3) which may include extensions of the building and/or for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of steel-framed agricultural building to form 1 No single dwelling. Location: Tye Farm, Tye Road
- d. APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/25/03092 Proposal: Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Golden Lawsons Cypress/Reduce in height by 35 % T2 Golden Lawsons Cypress/ Reduce in height by 35% T3 Lawsons Cypress/Reduce in height by 40% T4 Lawsons Cypress/ Reduce in height by 25% T5 Thuja Cypress/ Reduce in height by 30% T6 Golden Lawsons Cypress/Reduce in height by 30% T7. Golden Lawsons Cypress/Reduce in height by 30% T8 Thuja Cypress/ Reduce in height by 30% T9 Italian Cypress/Reduce in height by 35% T10 Golden Lawsons Cypress/ Reduce in height by 30% T11 Common Juniper/Reduce in height by 25% Location: Travellers Joy, Back Lane, Monks Eleigh
- e. APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/25/03093 Proposal: Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1, T2, T3....All Scots Pine/Reduce all 3 in height by 30% Location: Travellers Joy, Back Lane, Monks Eleigh
- f. APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/25/03061 Proposal: Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Silver Birch...Reduce crown by up to 30%. T2 Walnut Reduce crown by approximately 50% to limit the possibility of failure due to Bifurcation at

approximately 1 metre from the base. T3 Field Maple Crown lift to 5 metres over lawn. T4 Oak Crown lift to 5 metres over lawn Location: Orchard House, The Street, Monks Eleigh

- g. Planning Permission has been granted to application Reference: DC/25/01644 and DC/25/01645 - Demolition of existing 20th century lean-to, alterations to existing openings and erection of conservatory. (re-submission of DC/24/03671) Manor Farmhouse, Tye Road, Monks Eleigh
- h. Planning Permission has been granted to Application Reference: DC/25/02057 Full Planning Application - Erection of 2No. Dwellings on Land At, 3 Swingleton Hill, Monks Eleigh
- i. DC/25/02068 Householder Application - Erection of a 3m x 2.5 aluminium and glass greenhouse and the erection of a 4.8m x 3m log cabin Location: Little Guildhall, The Street, Monks Eleigh

37/25 Finance

- a. The Councillors approved the financial report and noted income received.
- b. The Councillors approved the RFO's financial report and noted income received and recent expenditure – see Appendix 1. The councillors authorised payments since the last meeting to be made.
- c. Financial Regulations – The Councillors approved the Financial Regulations. These will be posted on the website and the Facebook page.

38/25 To consider Grants to Local Organisations

The Councillors agreed to donate to the following local organisations based on a strong focus on community welfare and sustainability and putting the cash where it is most needed:

- MESCAL £1,000
- Go Start £1,000,
- Village hall £500,
- Sudbury CAB £500,
- Kernos £500,
- Bildeston Foodbank £1,000,
- St Peter's Church £1,000
- Roundabout £259
- A total of £5,759

39/25 Updates / decisions on current topics

- a. **Flooding at Scrips Cross Bridge** – It was agreed that Mike Evans will raise the problem as discussed during the public forum with James Cartlidge MP
- b. **The Causeway including repairing the Back Lane Green** - The bridge on the Causeway has been mended and now needs to be painted. Cllr Braithwaite to find volunteers for the work. The green triangle has a dead patch of grass. Cllr Braithwaite to ask the contractor about this. The Causeway will need a trim in the autumn.

- c. **Hedge on Brent Eleigh Road** – Cllr Braithwaite to ask Adrian Keitley-Webb to cut the hedge beside the road. It needs to be cut back hard.
- d. **Footpath and traffic calming on A1141 Brent Eleigh Road; Junction of Church Hill and The Street** – Following the site meeting with Cllr Hurren and Katherine Davies of BDC, she undertook to test the ideas with her contacts at SCC. There has been no feedback from Katherine Davies probably caused by inter-council tensions caused by the reorganisation issue. The parish council recognises that it is a problem and need a strategy for proposals. The impact is most on this living on the west side of the village. It was agreed to form working party of six, three Councillors (Braithwaite, Forrest & Bennett) and 3 from the village lead by David M.
- e. **Brett Valley Digi Bus** – Suffolk County Council have finally agreed a contract with the software providers Padam and we expect to hear shortly that this is available for modelling and analysis of possible schedules and service options. Fintan is primed to support this work when the solution will be available.
- f. **Five-a-side Football Pitch** – The Councillors agree to purchase install goals on the recreation field. Clerk to progress this.
- g. **Community Speedwatch** –The Councillors thanked Chris Eames for his dedication and hard work organising and running the Speed Watch and SID for the village, He will be handing over to Mike Evans for Speed watch soon and then the SID from the New Year.
- h. **Footpath lighting on Church Walk** – Clerk to chase SCC street lighting for an update and Mortimers for some pathway repairs
- i. **Moving from MEPC Gmail to a specific named account** – The Councillors agreed to ask CAS to organise one new email for the parish council as required. This will also involve a corresponding domain name for the website to monkseleighparishcouncil.gov.uk. The cost will be £49 per year

40/25 Policies / Controls / Governance

- a. **Standing Orders** – these were agreed subject to Cllrs Braithwaite and Hodges doing a final check on the alignment of the proposed changes. The SOs will be put on the Website and Facebook.
- b. **Policies** – The Councillors reviewed and approved the following policies subject to a cross check by Cllrs Braithwaite and Hodges: GDPR, Complaints and IT Policy. These will also be posted.
- c. **Community Governance Review** – the Councillors agreed not to submit a response for this review as there is such a wide range of viewpoints in circulation. It was concluded that we had little to add, albeit a lack optimism was expressed about the inevitable disruption to services in any transition.
- d. **People and Place Plan > Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Hodges to forward the current People and Place Plan to Cllr Braithwaite. It was noted that this will need to be upgraded to a full Neighbourhood Plan to carry any weight in the

system. Cllr Braitwaite to meet with Kettlebaston Parish Council to discuss a possible joint effort and we will then decide our approach at the September meeting.

41/25 Action List Review

Actions from the previous minutes have been completed unless otherwise stated.

Action	Who
Meet with Kettlebaston Parish Council about People & Place Plan	Cllr Braithwaite
Initiate Neighbourhood planning process	Cllrs Forrest / Braithwaite
Paint Causeway Bridge	Cllr Braithwaite
Scripts Cross Bridge - letter to James Cartlidge	Mike Evans
Traffic problems and pavement along A1141 – create proposal – working party	Cllrs Bennett/ Forrest/Braithwaite
Install webcam to monitor traffic	Cllrs Braithwaite/Bennett
Purchase and install football goals and apply for Locality Grant	Clerk
Asset register update on website	Cllr Hodges/Clerk
Church Hill footpath lighting bollards – chase for schedule	Clerk
Defibrillator order	Clerk/John Naylor
Progress the Brett Valley Digibus Project	Cllr Braithwaite
Arrange to clear fencing and large boards from BDC land on Churchfield	Clerk/District Cllr Hurren
Dead grass patch at Causeway triangle	Cllr Braitwaite

42/25 Councillors Reports

None

43/25 Date of the Next Meetings

Parish Council meeting 22nd September 2025

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Appendix 1: Financial Report

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT 28 JULY 2025

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 19 May 2025

Income Received since 19.5.2025

13.5.25 MEPC	Transfer to reserve	30,000.00
12.6.25 HMRC	VAT refund	3,396.02
2.6.25 Barclays	Interest	166.14
		<u>3,562.16</u>

Expenditure (movement since 19.5.2025)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

20.5.25 A Braithwaite	APM & VE Day	210.92 LGA 1972
20.5.25 Mortimer Contracts	Red barrier	1,014.00 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
4.6.25 Moser Groundcare	Weed spraying	540.00 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
4.6.25 Ed Seeley	Mowing June	300.00 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
9.6.25 L Rogers	June wages	625.48 LGA 1972
9.6.25 HMRC	June Tax & NI	37.71 LGA 1972
9.6.25 L Rogers	May expenses	40.00 LGA 1972
13.6.25 Mortimer Contracts	Fence repair	312.00 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
27.6.25 Information Commissioner	Annual fee	52.00 LGA 1972
30.6.25 Hartley's Garden Services	Millenium Green gr	180.00 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
7.7.25 L Rogers	July wages	625.28 LGA 1972
7.7.25 HMRC	July Tax & NI	37.91 LGA 1972
7.7.25 L Rogers	June expenses	43.00 LGA 1972
7.7.25 Ed Seeley	Mowing July	540.00 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
		<u>4,558.30</u>

Outstanding Payments (movement since 19.5.2025)

July Information Commissioner	#SPILL!	<u>52.00</u> LGA 1972
7.7.25 L Rogers	July wages	625.28 LGA 1972
7.7.25 HMRC	July Tax & NI	37.91 LGA 1972
7.7.25 L Rogers	June expenses	43.00 LGA 1972
7.7.25 Ed Seeley	Mowing July	540.00 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
		<u>1,298.19</u>

Account	state ment date	statement balance	Balance less outstanding payments	credit/transf ers not shown
Community a/c	30.6.25	£14,078.58	£12,780.39	0.00
Business reserve	30.6.25	£64,625.15	£64,625.15	0.00
		£78,703.73	£77,405.54	

GALLETTS AND POLEBRIDGE RECREATION GROUND

M.E.P.C. is the sole trustee for the Galletts and Polebridge Trust.

To date there has been no expenditure. Income is held in the Parish Council's bank account on behalf of the Trust equates to £420 (2024-2025 inc.) and is to be used solely for maintenance of the ground £30 received 1.4.2025

Appendix 2 – Report from County Councillor Robert Lindsay

Suffolk's Nature Recovery Strategy – improving wildlife habitat in your village
The county are asking residents, parishes, landowners, community groups to comment on a detailed map they have produced which goes right down to field level in each parish with suggestions of which areas would benefit wildlife most from changes in management and in some cases suggestions. For example if you zoom into Monks Eleigh it shows an area of fenland between

Back Lane and the Street labelled “irreplaceable fenland habitat” and then it has labelled other areas between those roads and in the Brett valley as “with good potential for improved habitat” and it makes suggestions for how to improve it eg increasing scrub. Deadline is 11 June and the link is

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/local-nature-recovery-strategy>

Parishes can now apply for funding to improve bus stops

Separate to the Digibus funding you are looking at, you are probably aware that the county is now taking bids for bus stop improvements. There is no deadline.

You can find the form on the SCC website

<https://www.suffolkonboard.com/news/2024/06/bus-service-improvement-plan-where-should-the-money-be-spent/>

Improvements can range from installing a paved area, adding raised kerbs for easier access on/off buses or small lengths of footway to link bus stops to existing routes up to new Bus Shelters. I have been assured by the officer that bus shelters are arguably more important for infrequent routes, given the waiting time.

Limits are space available and whether it impacts safety visibility for drivers.

They are asking to include photographs of the stop area if you can.

Those interested in bidding are invited to attend the next meeting of the Enhanced Bus Partnership Passenger Group this Friday, 23 rd May at 1000 where the process will be discussed.

Increasing School Places for SEND Students

On Tuesday 1 April, Cabinet voted to increase the number of school places in the county for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

1. £18.6m to be spent creating about 100 places would be created within existing mainstream schools, from next academic year.

2. Up to £12m to create 100 places the following year in “satellite” locations of existing special schools in Suffolk.

Since the Cabinet report was tabled, the government has announced that Suffolk will receive an extra £9.4m to invest in new SEND school places. Plans will now be drawn up by the Local Area SEND Partnership on how to spend the money.

£4m for “skills bootcamps”

The Department for Education has allocated Suffolk County Council up to £4m to be spent delivering free skills training to an extra 1,345 adults across Norfolk and Suffolk this year. Courses last up to 16 weeks and offer a combination of online and in-person learning. Employers can work directly with training providers to create courses that align with their needs. Those interested in taking part in the Skills Bootcamps can find more information here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/supporting-employers-training-your->

workforce/skills-bootcamps

6,000 Public EV Chargepoints Planned

Suffolk County Council will be installing around 6,000 new public electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints across the county. From the summer, many will be on residential streets, with many locations suggested by residents following the survey which was undertaken last year, or by liaison with communities and district/borough councils. The majority of installations will be bollard-style units at the kerbside, suitable for long-stay or overnight charging, when drivers will be able to benefit from an overnight off-peak tariff, and there will also be a dedicated resident's tariff which features discounted charging at all times. Public car parks will also see a number of rapid and ultra-rapid chargepoint installations, for quicker charging. This project has been made possible due to a successful £5.3 million bid by SCC to the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund. This summer's roll-out will use a proportion of this funding, with a further £16 million of funding provided by the chargepoint operator, Believe.

Appendix 3 – Report from District Councillor Bryn Hurren

First of all there has been some progress on the Local Government Review (LGR) while we now have been told that there will now be Mayoral elections across Norfolk and Suffolk on first Thursday of May 26, there has now been some progress on the unitary authorities as well, with all District Councils across Suffolk and Norfolk opting for three unitaries across each county, these proposals are currently going before each DC to be ratified before being presented to government. (BDC Last Tuesday Evening.) One shock within the last spending review was that the monies for Neighbourhood plans were to be scrapped completely, unless one had been started and was in current progress. BDC has reacted to this by amending the CIL rules to include NP within the remit for village neighbourhood CIL. This means that a revamp for an existing plan is acceptable for grant funding. In your case, while you have a good people and place plan, any move to go for full NP would mean that you would have to fund it yourselves from your own PC coffers. A very cynical move from previous promises.

The biggest problem in BaberghmidSuffolk is the terrible homelessness that now is upon us and in the villages as well as the more urban areas, the collapse of the private sector rental function is making the situation much worse and everything that

the councils have is now full and in a log jam, although the RTB is now at an end, it is 30yrs too late. Also in the long period of LGR it will be impossible for our housing function and councils to trade in the normal way.

Negotiations continue with developer to bring pressure to bear to get Primrose meadow in Boxford handed over to the Woodland Trust, I have asked our planning team to step up the pressure on them to aid a swift transfer. So much to do there. I am so pleased that Richard Parmee is assisting you with the management of the area around the causeway on both sides of the causeway and on the river Brett, he is very skilled in his profession, and we are all very lucky to have him and all his knowledge.

I have had no more known progress on the footway alongside the old chapel but will keep pursuing this matter to its conclusion, whatever that might be.

Happy to part fund the goalposts for the playingfield from my locality budget, if that is the project the PC choose, seems all the girls and women are wanting to play footie now, can't think why.

Also it seems we have quite a full house now at the old school site, the affordables remain for sale at a 20% discount to Babergh residents and have attracted interest but not sure if any takers yet (maybe look on Rightmove)

Happy to answer any questions and queries tonight, when I will be in attendance.

Kind Regards. Bryn.