

Monks Eleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026 at the Village Hall, Church Hill, Monks Eleigh at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Alan Braithwaite (Chairman), James Hodges, Stephen Penney, Angela Forrest, and Sarah Bennett

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

87/25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Rupert Perry

88/25 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation

None received

89/25 Public Forum

No comments made

90/25 Neighbourhood Plan – It was agreed that we will move ahead with the development from the People and Place Plan into a full Neighbourhood Plan with legal status.

It was noted that the People and Place Plan is a very good base and with AI we can accelerate the process. SP Farms have agreed to fund the Housing Needs Survey.

The following timeline was agreed:

- CAS Housing Need survey to take 6 months (September/October) – should this cover Kettlebaston
- Appoint an Independent Planning Expert (September/October)
- Connect with Babergh
- Press on with technical issues
- Report on the People and Place Plan and the future process at the Annual Parish Meeting and add the current document to Facebook & website

Cllr Braithwaite to attend Kettlebaston Parish Council meeting to discuss collaboration on this work.

91/25 Footpath on A1141 between Millennium Green Steps and Brent Eleigh Road; Junction of Church Hill and The Street – The status of this project and the quite complex dependencies was reviewed.

Feedback on an option from a parishioner was summarised. It is part of a solution that will be discussed with the Community Surveyor.

It was agreed that the next steps are as follows and the project will be reviewed at the Council meeting in May

- Meeting with Suffolk County Council Highways Community Surveyor 4/3
- Carry out Highways Boundaries search – Clerk in progress

- Advice from planning about making the planning application – already received but may revisit following surveyor meeting
- Budget estimate for work – clerk to progress after survey or meeting.
- Formal approach to the United Reformed Church
- Develop full application
- Legal responsibilities
- Tendering process
- Grant application

92/25 Floodlighting at the Recreation Field – Three quotes have been received and range from £20,000 to £9,500. It was agreed to explore other ways to light the area with a view to having an affordable approach in place for the autumn. Cllr Braithwaite agreed to do this

93/25 Fencing for Allotments and Recreation Field – the quotes were reviewed and the Councillors agreed to use Clarke Fencing for the fence to the rear of the Recreation Field and James Smith for the fencing at the allotments – the lowest quote in each case.

It was noted that a 10-year rental agreement is required to apply for grant funding at the allotments. Cllr Braithwaite will confirm this with SP Farms and liaise with Jeff Ford and existing allotment holders to ensure the new scheme meets their needs.

94/25 Date of next meeting: 23rd March 2026

The meeting closed at 8.30pm