



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

LAXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday 13 July 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Guildhall Parish Room

www.laxfield-pc.gov.uk

Peter Lowe, Parish Clerk

OPEN FORUM

Two members of the public attended the meeting, with the following point raised:

- Donald Mlambo presented proposals to set up a Laxfield junior cricket team and expand it into a formal club, recognised under the ECB National Programme. This included information on a new local committee, made up of local resident members. Progress to date on meeting the requirements of ECB affiliation was reviewed and it is estimated that around £30,000 of funding is required to re-establish a wicket on the playing fields, renovate the cricket nets and purchase kit/equipment. Further information on this proposal is covered in item 26/07/11 below.
- The road/driveway that comes down from Sunnyside Farmhouse onto Gorams Mill Lane has become unsafe to walk on, due to a build-up of stones and debris. Cllr Baldry to speak to owners and sweep the drive. Agreed that this may need to happen a couple of times per year to maintain pedestrian safety.

Reports were previously received from Cllr Linder, Cllr Mittuch and MSDC, and these are available to view on the Parish Council website. Key headlines this month include:

- Suffolk Trading Standards, Suffolk Constabulary and local businesses have teamed up to launch 'Suffolk Against Fraud', which will collaboratively investigate, share information and prepare campaigns to raise awareness and protect vulnerable people and small businesses from the effects of fraud, which now accounts for over 40% of criminal offences in Suffolk. If you think you may have been a victim of fraud or a scam, you can report it at www.reportfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.
- Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has invested over £3 million for eleven new fire engines which will be added to the existing fleet, as part of the service's ongoing fleet renewal programme. The new engines will be active from November. SFRS's control room has also been shortlisted for the International Critical Communications Awards, under the category 'Best Use of Critical Communications in Public Safety'.
- MSDC Licensing are recommending that all roads except the A14, be designated 'Consent streets' for the purpose of street trading. At present there are about 50 street traders active in our district.
- Consultation for scoping a new Joint Local Plan is currently underway and will finish at the end of July. Residents and businesses can complete a questionnaire to give their views on where new housing should be built, what types of jobs/businesses are needed and key transport issues. The first draft Local Plan is planned for early 2027. For more information go to www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/joint-local-plan-scoping-consultation

Main meeting started at 7:22pm

MINUTES

1. Attendees, apologies and approval of absences:

Attendees: P Bicheno, C Baldry, S Ellis, O Hackett, D Martindale, Z Rushmore, H Scorey, L Sharman, R Smith, R Sutton (Chair), S Sutton, P Lowe (Clerk).

Apologies were sent by Cllr Anders Linder (MSDC) and Cllr Sally Mittuch (SCC).

2. Declaration of interests

None.

3. Approval of minutes

26/07/01 The minutes from Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 9 June 2026 were agreed. It was noted that since the last meeting, Pen Bicheno became a member of the Planning Committee.

Proposed L. Sharman, seconded R. Sutton, AIF.

4. Planning

- a. The following decisions made by Mid Suffolk District Council were noted:

Application for planning permission - DC/26/01741

Proposal: Householder Application - Extension to existing property to form new living accommodation.

Location: 1 Rookery Farm Cottage Badingham Road, Laxfield, Suffolk, IP13 8JA.

Parish Council comments: No objection in principle for the single storey build. However, there is some concern, given the size of the extension, it may be out of proportion to the existing building footprint.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/02179

Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity including those in breach of a Planning Condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). Use of land as residential garden. *Location:* Land At Pump Lane, Laxfield, IP13 8FA.

Parish Council comments: No objections.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/02423

Proposal: Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1- Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)- crown reduce over extended portions of the canopy by approximately 0.5- 1M to balance. Crown raise by 1m.

Location: Dairy House, High Street, Laxfield, IP13 8DU.

Parish Council comments: No objections.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/02360

Proposal: Householder Application for conversion of garage to form Garden Room/Games Room. New lean to shed to North elevation of existing Garage. *Location:* Sunnyside Farm Barn Gorams Mill Lane, Laxfield, IP13 8DN.

Parish Council comments: No objections

Application for planning permission - DC/26/02361

Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent for conversion of garage to form Garden Room/Games Room. New lean to shed to North elevation of existing Garage. *Location:* Sunnyside Farm Barn Gorams Mill Lane, Laxfield, IP13 8DN.

Parish Council comments: No objections.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/02515

Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent. Installation of replacement signage and painting of building exterior. *Location:* Royal Oak Inn, High Street, Laxfield, IP13 8DH.

Parish Council comments: No objections.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/02466

Proposal: Application for Consent to Display Advertisements. Retention of installation of replacement wall mounted signs, amenity boards and poster signs. *Location:* Royal Oak Inn High Street, Laxfield, IP13 8DH.

Parish Council comments: No objections.

5. Finance

- a. 26/07/02 BACs payments, direct debits and receipts as listed in Register of Payments for June 2026 were agreed. *Proposed S. Ellis, seconded P. Bicheno, AIF.*
- b. 26/07/03 Bank reconciliations for June 2026 were agreed. *Proposed C. Baldry, seconded D. Martindale, AIF.*
- c. 26/07/04 Performance vs budget forecast based on 3 months spend and income was reviewed. Operational spend stands at £15,237 (23.6% of the annual budget). The majority of last month's spend was the first 6 monthly payment of £5,645 for the Public Works Loan. There were additional receipts of £281 in June for bank interest, bringing the current income total to £35,165. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

spend so far this year is at £4,544, representing the costs of the village gateway signs, new SID batteries, and improvements to the village pond.

6. River Blyth pollution

- a. 26/07/05 The recent hot weather resulted in most of Laxfield's water quality test sites being dry. However, samples were taken from 2 sites at the footbridge below Kablang camp site at the river on Gorams Mill Lane. These showed very high readings for Ammonia and this has been reported to the Environment Agency for further testing. Laxfield Pumping Station continues to release illegal spills directly into the river off Vicarage Road, despite no rainfall. Residents can track the list of spills on the "*Data from surfers against sewage*" website: www.sas.org.uk/sewage-map/ which shows live discharges for Laxfield.

Last incident > Sewage discharge 14:53 on 24.06.2026 16:47 on 24.06.2026 1 hr and 54 mins

The usual pollution maps for the whole of the Blyth river network are available on the Parish Council website, showing current levels of ammonia, phosphates, nitrates, and E.coli.

7. Community Funding Request

- a. 26/07/06 The Parish Council considered a funding application from the Laxfield and District Museum for £75.00 funding to pay the Village Hall booking fee for an event on 17 October. The application was rejected, due to it being seen as operational spend. LPC would like to thank the Museum for the application and reiterated its commitment to supporting this valued charity with other request in future.

8. Roads, Footpaths, Infrastructure, Green Areas

- a. 26/07/07 *Village Pond Aerator* – A new pond aerator was installed at the pond on 26 June and has been in constant operation, due to the ongoing heatwave. The cost and installation of the compressor and aerator was provided free of charge by Les Cotton Contractors. Cllr Ollie Hackett installed an electric point via connection to a nearby resident's home, along with a meter, so the Parish Council can pay ongoing energy costs. The cost of installing the power supply was £123.53 (excl VAT). *Proposed S. Sutton, seconded S. Ellis.* The position of the aerator in the pond will be moved to a more central location and raised up off the pond bed, to reduce silt displacement. Councillors expressed their gratitude to Les Cotton.
- b. 26/07/08 *Consultation with young people* – Grounds Committee have developed an online questionnaire aimed at engaging with Laxfield's young people on the proposed improvements to the playing fields and pavilion. This will be used to inform the pending CIL project bid to MSDC in October. The proposed timing and comms for the consultation are:
- Launch at end July and run until end September.
 - Grounds Committee analyse results and report back to Full Council on 12 October.
 - Feed results into playing fields and pavilion CIL bid, which will be submitted end October.
 - Adverts and questionnaire link on PC website, noticeboard, village hall, pubs and in Newsletter
 - Direct letter and leaflets to local schools about the consultation after summer break
- c. 26/07/09 *Dog litter bin for Wilby Lane* – Agreed to purchase a new 25ltr bin at the end of the lane, at the junction with the B1116 junction near Framlingham Road junction, as this is a popular dog walking route. The estimated cost will be £140 (excluding VAT). There will also be a small increase in the annual MSDC bin emptying charge. *Proposed S. Ellis, seconded S. Sutton, AIF.*
- d. 26/07/10 *People's Climate Emergency Briefing film screening* – Agreed that LPC would host a National Emergency Briefing film screening about the climate and nature crisis the world is facing. This involves showing a 40 min film, followed by open discussion on how the climate crisis impacts farmers, food supply chains and health - and what actions local communities can take to help mitigate the effects. The event will take place on 9 October at 6:30pm in the Village Hall. Clerk to sort advertising.
- e. 26/07/11 *Proposed formation of cricket club and improvements to playing fields* – The newly formed Laxfield Junior Cricket Team want to set up a cricket wicket in the middle of the playing fields and need support to seek funding to renovate the 2 old cricket training nets. It was agreed that funding for this would be considered by the Grounds Committee, to consider incorporating it into the CIL Playing Fields and Pavilion project plan, due for submission to the MSDC Infrastructure Team in October. Other sports and lottery

funding options would also be examined, as these often provide money for equipment. Local or regional businesses could also be approached for sponsorship.

9. Correspondence and other issues

- a. 26/07/12 *Insurance renewals* – Agreed to purchase the following insurance policies from NFU, which are due for renewal in July, as both premiums have reduced since 2025/26. *Proposed C. Baldry, seconded R. Smith.*
 - Vintage agricultural vehicle insurance – Massey Ferguson Tractor (OGV796) at £78.78.
 - Maintenance vehicle insurance – Iseki Ride on mower (SXG216) at £155.18.
- b. 26/07/13 *Laxfield Online domain name* – Agreed not to renew the annual charge for the '*laxfield.online*' domain website, as this is no longer used by the Parish Council. Clerk to inform the *Pear Space* IT contractor.
- c. 26/07/14 *Parish Council Market Stall* – Agreed to facilitate a stall at the 5 September 2026 Community Market. As usual, it will be an open engagement and discussion point, however information will also be provided on river pollution and to advertise the young people questionnaire and Climate Emergency screening in October.
- d. 26/07/15 *Laxfield Full Council meeting venue* – Agreed that the venue for Full Council meetings should be moved to the Laxfield Baptist Church, to ensure the Parish Council meets disability access requirements of residents and future councillors. The venue also has toilets, a kitchen for refreshments and a projector screen to allow meetings to go paperless. The cost will be £35.00 per meeting, with the next meeting taking place on 14 September at 7pm. Other Parish Council committees and working groups will continue to take place in the Museum Parish Room, until further notice. The village hall was considered as the most ideal venue for the change - however, it was not available on the week days that match with County/District Councillor availability and meetings would need to start at 8pm.
- e. 26/07/16 *Hedge maintenance request at village Hall* – A number of hedges at the hall are now overgrown and encroaching onto the pavement. It was agreed that the Village Hall Trust should procure and pay for the maintenance services. Clerk to provide any assistance required.
- f. 26/07/17 *Autumn Litter Pick* – This year's event will take place on Saturday 10 October 2026, to coincide with black bin collection on the following Monday, so bin bags can be collected from Church Plain. Cllr Hackett agreed to help facilitate and Clerk to contact Sally Clarke to ask if she would be willing to organise the event.
- g. 26/07/18 *Scrap metal collection update* – Final amount collected is still pending and will be reported at the September committee.
- h. 26/07/19 *Heveningham Hall* – Zoe Rushmore and Hayley Scorey have now replaced Sally Clarke as the Laxfield representatives on the Heveningham Hall Country Fair Committee.

10. Next meeting

- a. The next meeting will be Monday 14 September 2026 at 7:00 pm in the LAXFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH.

Meeting finished at 8:37 pm

If you would like to attend a parish council meeting, please come along. Alternatively, if you would like to raise a matter of concern, please do not hesitate to contact the parish clerk or a member of the council.

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