



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

LAXFIELD ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

www.laxfield-pc.gov.uk

Peter Lowe, Parish Clerk

OPEN FORUM

3 members of the public attended the meeting, with the following points raised:

- There is a concern that evening events at the Kablang campsite will continue to breach noise and license compliance. In the past 2 years the music from the event has been very loud and has continued well beyond the agreed finish time, with some events playing music until 1:30am. It was acknowledged that the event was important for the village and that pre-event communication with local residents has always been undertaken. The issue will be discussed with Richard Flack (campsite owner), prior to this year's event.
- Request that the footpath on Bickers Hill is inspected, to check if it needs cutting back and clearing to the width of the tarmac.
- Whether river pollution in Laxfield is getting formally reported every time it happens. It was confirmed that 4 key monitoring points along the river Blyth were now being tested and reported by local volunteers, as part of the *Four Rivers Project*. All results get analysed and reported.
- Concern about light on the Bickers Hill footpath not being bright enough to allow safe passage at night, mainly due to tree growth obscuring the light. Clerk to investigate and report back to Highways Working Group.

Reports were previously received from Cllr Linder, Cllr Lloyd and MSDC and these are available to view on the Parish Council website.

- The Government has provided £27 million to support residents who are struggling with the increase in rising energy bills, as a result of the ongoing war in the Middle East. The money will be distributed by MSDC and more information is available at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities>. Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau can also provide assistance on 01449 676060.
- As part of the LGR three authorities model for Suffolk, the new regions will be called 'Eastern and Central Suffolk'. The number of Councillors was set at 60 by the government, but Councillors per ward within the Unitaries is still to be consulted upon. Unitary Councillors elected in May 2027 will not engage with any ongoing matters until after the 1st of April 2028. The existing District and County Councils will continue work until they are dissolved. As part of the transition, departments will be broken up and reformed under a merged delivery model, and it is likely this will result in changes to staff numbers and organisation capacity.
- Residents are encouraged to ensure their children get their Measles vaccinations. Take up in Suffolk is slightly above the UK average, but as measles cases rise nationally, the UK could now lose its official measles elimination status.

Further information from SCC, including how households to save money, eat well and reduce food waste, can be found at the following link: <https://www.henrylloyd.co.uk/p/april-county-report-be1>

MINUTES

1. Attendees, apologies and approval of absences:

Attendees: C Baldry, P Bicheno, S Ellis, O Hackett, D Martindale, Z Rushmore, H Scorey, L Sharman, R Smith, R Sutton (Chair), S Sutton, Anders Linders (MSDC), Henry Lloyd (SCC), P Lowe (Clerk). No absentees.

2. Declaration of interests

None.

3. Approval of minutes

26/04/01 The minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 9 March 2026 were agreed.

Proposed P. Bicheno, seconded S. Sutton, AIF.

4. Planning

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

Consent Granted - DC/26/00489: Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/22/03993 - Condition 5 (Cycle Storage) and Condition 7 (Wildlife Sensitive Lighting). *Location:* Little Meadows Farm, Banyards Green.

Planning permission refused - DC/26/00247: Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act for DC/25/02580 - Erection of 5 dwellings (following demolition of buildings and grant of planning permission DC/22/05731) for variation or removal of Condition 2 (approved plans) for the erection of rear extension on Plot A. *Location:* Fourwinds Farm, Badingham Road, Laxfield.

Consent granted subject to conditions - DC/26/00362: Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/00453 - Condition 4 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy); Condition 8 (External Facing Materials); Condition 12 (Construction Management Plan); Condition 13 (Contamination Investigation and Remediation); Condition 15 (Parking and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure); Condition 16 (Cycle Storage and Electric Vehicle Charging); and Condition 17 (Refuse Bins). *Location:* Mill House, Gorams Mill Lane, Laxfield.

Consent granted - DC/26/00625: Application of works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Apple Crown reduce by 0.5-1M and deadwood. T2,T3- Lilac- Target prune and raise where needed to bring into shape. *Location:* Pansy Cottage, Gorams Mill Lane, Laxfield.

- b. Note the following planning decisions under consideration by Mid Suffolk District Council:

Planning application - DC/26/00905

Proposal: Householder Application for the erection of a garage and shed.

Location: Birdcage, Pump Lane, Laxfield, IP13 8FA.

Comments: No objections from the Parish Council

Planning application - DC/26/01200: Householder Planning Application - Erection of rear extension; Demolition of existing rear conservatory and part of the existing garden wall.

Location: 20 Noyes Avenue, Laxfield, IP13 8EB.

Comments: No objections from the Parish Council

- c. The following planning points were also discussed:

- i. *Pig Farm off Badingham Road:* The Planning Committee held a special discussion on the development on 1 April, with District Cllr Anders Linder in attendance. It was agreed that a formal response from Laxfield Parish Council should be developed and sent to MSDC Planning, to formally put on record concerns about the impact on local residents and business, as well as to ensure that when the farm starts operating, it doesn't cause wider transport, air quality, light pollution and ecological issues for the Parish. More information can be found in the planning committee minutes, available online.

5. Finance

- a. 26/04/02 BACs payments, direct debits and receipts as listed in Register of Payments for March 2026 were agreed. *Proposed L. Sharman, seconded P. Bicheno, AIF.*
- b. 26/04/03 Bank reconciliations for March 2026 were agreed. *Proposed S. Sutton, seconded R. Sutton, AIF.*
- c. 26/04/04 Year-end spend and income for 2025/26 was reviewed. Total spend was £74,822, which equates to 95% of overall budget (including additional grants, fees and income), or 141% of the annual precept. Approx £31,986 (excluding VAT), was spent on infrastructure projects in 2025/26, which is 27% of the total CIL Budget. Remaining CIL funds for 2026/27 onwards are currently £87,822, although there is potential to increase this by £45,000 via a successful application to MSDC to release Section 106 funds.
- d. 26/04/05 Cemeteries Fees & Charges for 2026/27 were approved. *Proposed H. Scorey, seconded S. Ellis, AIF.*
- e. 26/04/06 Councillors gave approval that the Clerk will be the Responsible Financial Officer for 2026/27. *Proposed S. Ellis, seconded L. Sharman, AIF.*

6. Community Infrastructure Levy

- a. 26/04/07 The Neighbourhood CIL Expenditure Report for 2025/26 - totalling £31,986, together with remaining funds, was approved. This has been submitted to the MSDC Infrastructure Team.
Proposed O. Hackett, seconded C. Baldry, AIF
- b. 26/04/08 Councillors agreed that the following PIIP (CIL) projects would be prioritised to start or get delivered over the next 12 months:
 - Installation of 2 x Village Gateway signs (planned for May 2026)
 - Village pond improvements (starting with new lifebuoy unit installation at end April)
 - Final phase of New Cemetery improvements – including water connection and tap and Garden of Contemplation
 - Playing Fields access road and car park resurfacing
 - Playing Fields Pavilion renewal or repurpose
 - Village Heritage Trail Sign

Next steps will be to develop one page scoping documents for each project and allocate lead responsibility at a future Full Council meeting. Clerk to send £1,000 grant funding back to DMBC Shared Prosperity Fund, as the Heritage Trail Sign project will not be completed within the required delivery timeframe.

7. Improving future Full Council meeting accessibility and effectiveness

26/04/09 Further discussions need to take place to find a venue that is available from 7pm and also accommodates County/District Councillors attendance at other regional parish Council meetings. As an interim arrangement, this year's APM meeting will be held in the Baptist Church, to ensure better access.

8. 2025/26 APM meeting and booklet

26/04/10 Meeting to take place on Monday 18 May in the Baptist Church. Final booklet to be ready for print by Tuesday 24 April and Leiston Press have been contracted to produce 600 copies by the end of April. The Booklets will be delivered to all Parish household in the first week of May. Four Councillors have volunteered to help with the delivery.

9. LPC Funding Application Form

26/04/11 A draft community funding form designed to gather basic information from local community groups and charities was reviewed and approved. This will allow Councillors to make better decisions on where money is allocated, from contributions collected via the annual fund raising and collections, such as the Scrap Metal Collection, Good Neighbour Scheme and local authority grants. It is important that funds are distributed to the community organisations that need it most, and that we can assess benefits/outcomes for the village.

10. Grounds committee update

26/04/12 O Hackett provided an update on *Playing Fields Masterplan* meetings that have taken place to ensure any capital improvement schemes delivered over the next 18 months, match the long- term strategic development aims of the whole playing fields site. This was in response to feedback at the Village Hall consultation event in January. The Grounds Committee is also planning further consultation with young people across the parish, to ensure their needs are considered as part of improvements.

11. Roads, Footpaths, Infrastructure, Green Areas

- a. 26/04/13 *Playground Annual Inspection* - MSDC carried out the annual inspection in March and identified defects in the wooden frame of the swing apparatus. We are still awaiting the final report. S Ellis to contact contractors about repair/replacement under the warranty agreement.
- b. 26/04/14 *Registered green space and flood mitigation for Gorams Mill* – C Baldry provided an overview of a potential CIL project in this area of the village, which is prone to flooding and feeds surface water down to one of the main flood risk zones in front of the Kings Head. Some pockets of unused land could be used to develop attenuation areas, which could form part of a wildlife area would also double up as a green space/pond for nature recovery. This could also link up to a popular existing footpath for walkers. Funding is currently available from the Mid Suffolk Nature Recovery Grant scheme (currently £0.5m) and it was agreed that an initial application will be made for carry out a feasibility study for this project.

- c. 26/04/15 *SIDs* - Approval was given to purchase 4 new batteries for Laxfield's two Speed Indicator Devices, at a cost of £457 (£380 excluding VAT). *Proposed P. Bicheno, seconded S. Ellis, AIF*
- d. 26/04/16 *Village pond* - Approval was given to purchase a replacement Guardian Lifebuoy for the pond, at a cost of £351 (£293 excluding VAT). This was recommended in the recently completed RLSS risk and safety inspection report. *Proposed S. Ellis, seconded L. Sharman, AIF*

12. Correspondence and other issues

- a. 26/04/17 *Parish Council Spring Market Stall* – this year, a significant amount of the engagement was focused around the work of the Wildlife Group. Some residents asked about changing the rules on dogs entering the playing fields, as a few parents are complaining about not being able to take their children to the playground, whilst also out walking their dog. This will be reviewed, but there are also potential risks for dogs attacking or biting children in the playground, which should be a safe area for recreation.
- b. 26/04/18 *Heveningham Hall Country Fair* – There will be a temporary road closure from the entrance to the Hall to the junction at Walpole on 27th and 28th June, from 3.30 to 4:00pm. Local residents can volunteer to help for a designated period and then get free entrance to the event. The parish regularly receives grant funding from Heveningham Hall, as a result of the help Laxfield residents provide each year.
- c. 26/04/19 *Local Election* – Voting takes place on Thursday 7 May 2026, with the Village Hall in Laxfield designated as the Parish polling station. Statutory notices have been posted online and on the noticeboard.
- d. 26/04/20 *Laxfield 800 anniversary* - Preparations for the event are progressing well, with all event activities/acts booked. The £1,000 funding provided by the Parish Council and MSDC Localities grant, has been used to purchase event leaflets, banners and posters. Local residents have already received the 800 Acts of Kindness tags, which will be posted around the village over the event weekend.
- e. 26/04/21 *New 482 bus service* - from Framlingham to Diss (via Dennington, Badingham, Laxfield, Stradbroke and Eye) started running on 13 April 2026. There are 4 buses per day throughout the week and on Saturdays. Clerk to post timetable in Parish Newsletter. Local residents are encouraged to use the service as much as possible, to ensure it remains financially viable and keeps running.
- f. 26/04/22 *Spring Litter Pick* – there was a large turnout on 28 March. Thank you to Sally Clarke for organising the event and to the Royal Oak for providing bacon sandwiches, tea and coffee.
- g. 26/04/23 *Scrap metal collection dates* – Rae Smith proposed that this year's dates for scrap collection would be 27/28 June and 4/5 July. R. Sutton suggested that a small trailer is placed at the side of the Co-op on community market day and over the weekend, to allow residents to leave items over a longer period.

13. Next meeting

- a. The date of the next meeting is **Monday 11 May 2026 at 7:00 pm** in the **PARISH ROOM**. There will also be an Annual Parish Meeting held in the Laxfield Baptist Church at 7pm on Monday 18 May.

Meeting finished at 8:40 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.

Peter Lowe (Parish Clerk), 21 Talbot Road, Laxfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 8FP

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