PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

LAXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday 14 September 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Laxfield Parish Room

www.laxfield-pc.gov.uk

Peter Lowe, Parish Clerk

OPEN FORUM

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

- Local residential facilitators for the People's Climate Emergency Briefing on 9 October thanked Cllr Mittuch for the offer of providing additional information about *'Nature's Rights'* and Beaver re-introduction. However, they were keen to keep the event a-political and focus solely on the climate emergency. They also asked the Parish Council to consider an additional screening, as the event has reached the preset ticket limit, with 4 weeks to go. They also confirmed that they would be using a multiple table approach to increase participation and support individual feedback. Further information in item 26/09/11 below.
- Carlton Sands confirmed that plans were in place for the annual Remembrance Day poppy appeal, and that the road closure application had been submitted to SCC. Clerk agreed to provide payment for purchasing the Laxfield wreath.
- A number of residents complained about the noise from the Electronic Arts showcase music event that took place at Kablang Campsite between 11 to 13 September. Many residents found they could not sleep, as the music was very loud and continued playing through to 1:00am, despite the license stipulating that it should finish earlier on the Friday. Residents expressed concerns that these types of 'rave' events are increasing in frequency and are now significantly impacting the well-being of local people. Residents were advised to use the MSDC noise complaints process, as this was the only way this could be 'officially' addressed, as the Parish Council does not have any powers to intervene at this stage. However, it was agreed that councillors would look into this further and approach the campsite owner to discuss the impact on parishioners and explore possible solutions.

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:

- MSDC have reiterated their firm objection to the overground pylons project that will span Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. The Council has also become a national finalist for their nature recovery work.
- Tributes were paid to the 120 firefighters who tackled the heath fire, as well as the extraordinary response shown by rural communities. Village halls provided shelter and support, while local farmers helped transport water by tractor to areas inaccessible to fire engines. The incident has highlighted the need for better investment in wildfire-fighting equipment, including better water systems and lighter protective clothing.
- SCC are facing significant financial pressures, with a £15 million overspend in 2025/26 and general reserves falling by £14.6m. The biggest budget pressure was for SEND (Special Educational Needs), with a £70m budget overspend and a Dedicated Schools Grant deficit now reaching £164m. Borrowing also increased by around £90 million. The Council is still committed to ensuring essential services are protected and that planned investment is delivered.
- New initiative was announced through the Government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme, where eligible homeowners can receive up to £7,500 towards an air-source heat pump or up to £9,000 for replacing oil or LPG heating. The grant is applied for by the installer, so residents do not need to claim it back.
- Andrew Ramsey MP, visited Laxfield on 4 September to meet with local community organisation leaders, tour the village and discuss key issues. He will be visiting again on 25 September to meet local residents at the Royal Oak.

Main meeting started at 7:42pm

MINUTES

1. **Attendees, apologies and approval of absences:**
   Attendees**:** C Baldry, 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), P. Bicheno and S. Ellis (Laxfield Parish Council). Approved.

2. **Declaration of interests**
   None.

3. **Approval of minutes**
   26/09/01 The minutes from Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13 July 2026 were agreed.
   Proposed C. Baldry, seconded D. Martindale, AIF.

4. **Planning**

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

Planning permission granted with conditions - DC/26/01573
Proposal: Change of use of Chapel of Rest (Use Class E) to 1 no. residential dwelling (Use Class C3). *Location*: Former Chapel Of Rest, Adjacent To The Brambles, The Street, Laxfield IP13 8DZ.

Discharge of Conditions Consent - DC/26/02248
Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/26/01200 - Condition 3 (Biodiversity Enhancement Measures). *Location*: 20 Noyes Avenue, Laxfield, IP13 8EB.

Planning permission refusal - DC/26/01741
Proposal: Householder Application for an extension to existing property to form new living accommodation. *Location*: 1 Rookery Farm Cottage, Badingham Road, Laxfield, IP13 8JA.

Planning permission granted - 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.

Planning permission granted - 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.

Planning permission granted - DC/26/02360
Proposal: Householder Application - Conversion of garage to form Garden Room/Games Room; and Erection of new lean to shed to north elevation of existing Garage. *Location*: Sunnyside Farm, Gorams Mill Lane, Laxfield, Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 8DN.

Discharge of Conditions Consent - DC/26/02284
Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/24/05044 - 8 (Schedule Of Repairs), 9 Fenestration), 10 (Wall Cladding), 11 (Roof Cladding). 12 (Eaves and Verges), 13 (Rainwater Goods), 14 (Hard Surfacing), 16 (External Staircase), 18 (Bat License),19 (Great Crested Newt License), 20 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy) and 21 (Wildlife Sensitive Design Scheme).
Location: Laxfield House, Dennington Road, Laxfield, IP13 8HJ.

Planning permission granted - DC/26/03278
Proposal: Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1- Copper Beech - Crown reduce by 1-1.5M, remove all deadwood over 25mm and crown raise over roadside by 1M. T2- Yew - Crown reduce by 0.5-1M and remove all deadwood over 25mm. T3- Yew - Crown reduce by 0.5-1M, remove all deadwood over 25mm and sever ivy at base of tree. T4- Corkscrew Willow - Re-pollard to original pollard points and sever Ivy at base. All Works carried out to BS3998, British standards for tree works. *Location*: The Old Manse, The Street Laxfield, IP13 8DZ.

Planning permission granted with conditions - DC/26/02700
Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of a single storey, flat roofed detached workshop.
Location: The Hyde, Gorams Mill Lane, Laxfield, Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 8DN.

Agricultural determination granted with condition - DC/26/03392
Proposal: Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Formation, Alteration or Maintenance of Private Ways for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General

Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6, Class A - Construction of new farm track. *Location*: Scoggings Farm, Dennington Road, Laxfield, Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 8HJ.

b. Note that comments submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the following applications are available on the MSDC website portal and Laxfield parish council website:

Application for planning permission - DC/26/02996
Proposal: Householder Application -for a timber framed, single storey, detached cartlodge for use as secure parking, digger store, logstore, and workshop. *Location*: Martins Badingham Road Laxfield Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 8HT.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/03197
Proposal: Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for DC/26/01200 (Householder extension) for the variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents).
Location: 20 Noyes Avenue, Laxfield, IP13 8EB.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/03358
Proposal: Application for works to a tree in a Conservation Area - T1: Beech- Reduce branches back to 3 Elm Lodge Northern boundary fence line. T1 forms part of an unmanaged hedge line to the rear (South) of 4 Guildhall Cottages IP13 8DU. *Location*: 3 Elm Lodge Road, Laxfield, IP13 8ET.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/03356
Proposal: Application for works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 2 No. Thuja (T1 and T2), Fell 1 No. Prunus (T3). *Location*: 3 Elm Lodge Road, Laxfield, IP13 8ET.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/00905
Proposal: Householder Application for erection of a garage and shed. *Location*: Birdcage, Pump Lane, Laxfield, IP13 8FA.

Application for planning permission - DC/26/03245
Proposal: Full Planning Application - Construction of garage (Addition to Plot 3 of commenced planning permission DC/20/05953). *Location*: Plot 3, Land at Pump Lane, Laxfield, Suffolk.

5. Finance

a. 26/09/02 BACs payments, direct debits and receipts as listed in Register of Payments for July and August 2026 were agreed. *Proposed S. Sutton, seconded L. Sharman, AIF.*

b. 26/09/03 Bank reconciliations for July and August 2026 were agreed. *Proposed H. Scorey, seconded Z. Rushmore, AIF.*

c. 26/09/04 Performance vs budget forecast based on 5 months spend and income was reviewed. Operational spend stands at £21,394 (33% of the annual budget), and CIL spend for the year to date is at £4,746 (5.5% of the remaining CIL budget). Total income for the year now stands at £37,596, which needs to increase through applications for external funding. The following projects were identified and the clerk will develop applications over the next couple of months:

- Replacement signs and finger posts, including signs for quiet lanes
- Refurbishment of the playing field cricket pitch and practice nets
- Fish pond improvement
- Funding support for repairs to the local the playground (see item 26/09/15 below)

6. River Blyth pollution

a. 26/09/05 Test results from August 2026 are available on the Parish Council website. Much of the Blyth was dry in August and pollution hot spots remain downstream from Laxfield sewage treatment works and upstream towards source of the Wang river. The Blyth Water Quality Testing Group will do two more collections in Sept & Oct, prior to undertaking a full 6 months results analysis, which will be verified by the Environment Agency. Residents can access the official website www.sas.org.uk/sewage-map/ to view the live discharges for Laxfield.

7. Resignations and recruitment

a. 26/09/06 The Parish Clerk & RFO vacancy advert has been posted on the PC website, SALC vacancies site and Suffolk Jobs Direct, with a closing date of 25 September. An interview panel was agreed and interviews will take place in early October, with a new clerk appointment to approved at 12 October Full Council. Cllr Sarah Ellis is also stepping down as a Parish Councillor, which means there will be a vacancy on the Full

Council, as well as on the *Grounds* and *Planning* committees. Clerk to notify MSDC electoral services and display a *Notice of Vacancy* on the Parish Council noticeboard and website.

8. Emergency Planning for Laxfield

a. 26/09/07 LPC agreed to develop a Community Emergency Plan for Laxfield, to respond and recover from potential crisis events and emergencies. This includes identify emergency contacts, local volunteers with the required skills and resources, as well as identifying venues to be used as a crisis centre. Ther final CEP will be adopted as part of the regional *Suffolk Prepared* initiative and will link into national emergency framework. Clerk to set up new project team of lead councillors: *S. Sutton, O. Hackett, H. Scorey and D. Martindale*.

9. Roads, Footpaths, Infrastructure, Green Areas

a. 26/09/08 *Cemeteries Maintenance* – Following a recent review by the Finance Committee to improve the way the contract operates, including benchmarking other similar Parish Council cemetery maintenance contracts, a draft cemeteries contract was approved. This will now be shared with the current contractor (KCR Landscaping), before agreeing an annual fixed charge. Once in place, the contract will include in-year service level agreement checks and a 3-year review cycle.

b. 26/09/09 *Water supply for cemetery* - A water connection and tap are to be installed at the New Cemetery, to support maintenance and provide visitors with water for graveside flowers and plants. Estimated cost is £5,565, but an initial payment of £563 is required to start the application (first part payment of the full fee). This was approved. *Proposed O. Hackett, seconded L. Sharman, AIF.*

c. 26/09/10 *Consultation on playing fields* – An online questionnaire was launched in early September, with a flyer sent to parish households and a promotion at the Laxfield community market. Over 50 responses have been received so far and the early headlines have been reviewed by councillors. The proposed resurfacing of the access road and car park, as well as the need to renovate the pavilion indicate universal support. Discussions with the MSDC Infrastructure Team suggest that we can develop a modular District CIL submission, informed by the results of this survey.

d. 26/09/11 *People's Climate Emergency Briefing film screening* – Following points made in the open forum, it was agreed that a second screening should not be set up until after the event on 9 October. Any additional event might also be better held at a smaller neighbouring parish, where any waiting list bookings can be redirected. Clerk to increase ticket limit to 80, in line with advice from Village Hall and as a maximum limit to still ensure effective small table facilitation.

e. 26/09/12 *Cricket club lease* – Item deferred to October full council meeting.

f. 26/09/13 *Speed Indicator Devices update* – The Vicarage Road SID stopped working in August and has now been repaired by Westcotec and reinstalled. A SID has been installed on Framlingham Road and set to 20mph, to calm traffic approaching the Primary School. The new SID purchased earlier in the year has been installed on Station Road. A resident has asked if the location of this SID can be moved nearer to the New Cemetery, to stop cars speeding until they approach the war memorial junction. Highway Working Group to review this at their next meeting.

g. 26/09/14 *Village pond improvement update* – A number of options regarding the next steps for the village pond were discussed by Councillors, including relocating fish using local volunteers, building a new pond near the playing fields orchard and transforming the existing pond into a small village green. The current pond aerator will kept running until the end of September, before further improvement options are considered by the Green Spaces Working Group. Local residents will be consulted on any changes.

h. 26/09/15 *Playground apparatus repair quote* – Following the annual MSDC playground inspection report, LPC have now received contractor quotes to carry out the repair work. The company that installed the new playground went out of business and many of the required repairs are now not covered by warranty. The inspection report highlighted a number of red (high risk) issues, which to be addressed as a matter of urgency, and *Sovereign Play* have quoted £8,558 to carry out the work. Clerk to get advice from MSDC Public Realm team and carry out further work to identify local contractors, or volunteer work that could be then certified by specialist companies at a much smaller fee. Agreed that we should also benchmarking other Parish Councils, to find out what contractors they use.

i. 26/09/16 *Secure storage unit for Public Rights of Way maintenance tools* - Item deferred to October full council meeting.

10. Correspondence and other issues

a. 26/09/17 *Insurance renewals* – Councillors approve the renewal of LPC's annual business and public liability insurance at £2,320, which increased by 2% (+£47) on 2025/26, with no change in policy. *Proposed R. Smith, seconded H. Scorey, AIF.*

b. 26/09/18 *Parish Council Market Stall on 5 September* – Useful feedback was received from a number of residents, but the majority of engagement at the stall related to the playing fields consultation survey and a street capture exercise about the forthcoming People's Climate Emergency Screening on 9 October. Next LPC engagement stall will take place in April 2027.

c. 26/09/19 *Autumn Litter Pick* – The event will start at 9:30am on the 10th October. Meeting point is the Royal Oak and bacon sandwiches with a cuppa will be provided. Clerk to contact MSDC about black bin collection from Church Plain.

d. 26/09/20 *Scrap metal collection funds update* - This year's collection raised over £700 and the proceeds are to be used to support local community groups and charities. Councillors wanted thanked Rae Smith and Ollie Hackett. Clerk to send out e-mail with application form to ask for funding requests for local projects.

e. 26/09/21 *Dog litter* - A new dog litter bin has been installed on Wilby Lane, near to the entrance junction with the B1116. The annual MSDC fee for bin collection will increase slightly.

f. 26/09/22 *Committee membership* – Zoe Rushmore agreed to join Planning Committee, following Cllr S. Ellis's resignation.

Date of next meeting

a) Date of the next meeting will be Monday 12 October 2026 at 7:00 pm at Laxfield Baptist Church.

Meeting finished at 8:52 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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