



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

LAXFIELD ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday 14 July 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Guildhall Parish Room

www.laxfield-pc.gov.uk

Peter Lowe, Parish Clerk

OPEN FORUM

Four members of the public attended the meeting. Cllr David Alchin was also present.

Reports had been received from Cllr Linder, Cllr Lloyd and MSDC and these are available to view on the website.

The survey period for feedback on Local Government Reform across the Suffolk area closes on the 25th of July. It's been agreed that the voting system for new Mayor will use a *first and second choice* ballot, rather than the usual *first past the post* system.

Both County and District local authorities have given their support to villages who want to introduce lower speed limits, including more 20mph zones. The County Council is also introducing a plug-in Suffolk car loan club, which offers pool cars to drive for a day. Visit - www.co-wheels.org.uk/Suffolk

Suffolkonboard Passenger Transport is considering introducing a new circular bus service route between Framlingham, Stradbroke, Eye and Diss. The Parish Council will be attending future Enhanced Partnership Passenger Interest Group meetings to make the case for Laxfield to be included in the new route. Our village is very poorly serviced in terms of public transport and residents can never use their concessions, given that the daily bus only calls through the village at peak times, to service commuter workers and students.

MINUTES

1. **Attendees:** C Baldry, P Bicheno, S Ellis, O Hackett, D Martindale, L Sharman, H Scorey, R Smith, R Sutton (Chair), S Sutton, P Lowe (Clerk).
2. **Apologies and approval of absences**
None.
3. **Declaration of interests**
None.
4. **Approval of minutes**
25/07/01 The minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 9 June 2025 were agreed. Proposed R Sutton, seconded S D Martindale, AIF.
5. **Planning**
 - a. **The following decisions made by Mid Suffolk District Council were noted:**

CONSENT GRANTED: DC/25/02061
Householder Application for the installation of Ground Mounted Solar Panels on rear garden
Location: 5 Bickers Hill Road, Laxfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 8EZ

CONSENT GRANTED: DC/25/01870
Planning Application for the construction of a new classroom facility with external undercover deck area.
Location: Laxfield Pre School Group, Framlingham Road, Laxfield, IP13 8DH

CONSENT GRANTED: DC/25/02416
Notification of works to trees in a conservation - Fell to ground level semi-mature Horse chestnut and Acer.
Location: Rose Cottage, High Street, Laxfield, Suffolk IP13 8DX

b. **The comments submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the following applications were noted:**

APPLICATION PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/02580

Application to erect 5 dwellings (following demolition of buildings and grant of planning permission DC/22/05731). The development site lies in close proximity to the settlement boundaries of Laxfield and Framlingham.

Location: Building Yard Fourwinds Farm, Badingham Road, Laxfield, IP13 8HT.

The Parish Council supports the application, as the site being developed was previously an eyesore, with contaminated buildings containing asbestos. The proposed plans will provide much needed housing to the area and the 5 dwellings will also match the footprint of the buildings that were there previously. To see the more detailed response provided by the Parish Council, please see the Planning Committee minutes from the 2 July 2025.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/02920

Notification of works to trees in a conservation area - T1- Common Lilac (*Syringa Vulgaris*)- 0.5M-1M Crown Reduction, Crown Raise to 2.3M over path and driveway, reduce away from house.

Location: Cringles High Street Laxfield Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 8DX.

No Objections.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/02676/

Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/21/01133 dated 02/06/2021 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to reflect the as-built status of fencing as per plans and documents submitted.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/02679

Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/21/03051 dated 21/06/2021 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - to vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to reflect the as built status of fencing, brick piers and a clocktower as per plans and documents submitted.

Location: Land At Corner Farm Banyards Green, Laxfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 8ES.

Comments on both applications 02676 and 02679: Laxfield Parish Council feels that this development has not complied with 'Policy H17', which states that a development should reflect local characteristics. For the applicant to apply for retrospective planning permission to retain the 1.8m fencing panels, for the brick piers and for the clock tower, after the applicant had accepted/agreed the spec of 1m high post and rail or estate fencing, and after no permission had been either applied for or granted for either the brick piers or the clock tower - this illustrates a considerable lack of respect for the planning process and for the planning committee. Laxfield Parish Council strongly objects to this application. To see the more detailed response provided, see the Planning Committee minutes from the 2 July 2025, which is available on the Parish Council website.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/02662

Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 - Silver birch reduce over hang by 1m to growth points canopy size from 7m x 5m to 7m x 4m T2 - Hornbeam reduce overhang to boundary line - Canopy reduced from 9m x 9m to 8m x 6m T3 - Lime tree - Lower limb over garden removed T4 - Mature ash reduced by 3m all over - canopy 20m x 15m reduced to 17m x 12m T5 - Willow felled to allow for acer to fill out as the higher amenity tree. T6 - Sycamore growing towards house felled.

Location: 1 Pump Lane, Laxfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 8FA.

No Objections.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/02874

Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area - 1-2m crown lift & target prune of over extended limbs into the existing canopy of T1 Medium Walnut (*Juglans Regia*) and reduction in height by 1m and trimming into shape of T2 Mixed Hedge.

Location: The Old Cycle Shop Market Street Laxfield Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 8DR.

No Objections.

c. The following planning point was also discussed:

- a. DC/21/05042: Issues with start times and ongoing disruption in relation to the development at Sunnyside Barn on Gorams Mill Lane. Communications have taken place between the parish clerk, Blue Door Construction and some of the key neighbouring residents impacted.

6. Finance

- a. 25/07/02 BACs payments, direct debits and receipts as listed in Register of Payments for June 2025 were agreed. *Proposed R Sutton, seconded D. Martindale, AIF.*
- b. 25/07/03 Bank reconciliations for June 2025 were agreed. *Proposed S. Sutton, seconded S. Ellis, AIF.*
- c. 25/07/04 Performance versus budget and cumulative monthly spend up to June 2025 were reviewed.

7. River Blyth pollution

25/07/05 Wil Harvey from Wilder Wenhaston River Group delivered a presentation on pollution in our local river Blyth, particularly from its source at Laxfield to Blyford Bridge. He talked about the impact of pollution from sewage treatment plants and household septic tanks on river quality and ecology. Anglian Water is now the worst performing water company in the UK for Combined Storm Overflows (CSOs), ranked 14th out of 14. The Blyth now has huge amounts of nutrients and algae, including sewage fungus. Nitrate levels in the river are three times higher than the national average and testing also reveals toxic levels of mercury. Approximately 20-30% of the river flow is made up of sewage.

ACTION: The Parish Council has agreed to work closely with the river group to keep monitoring our local river pollution levels every quarter and lobby the government to take action to reduce future CSOs. Clerk to ask about delivering the presentation at the Village Hall, or having information available at the September Parish Council community market stall. *The presentation can be viewed on the Parish Council [website](#)*

8. Councillor recruitment

- a. 25/07/06-07 New Parish Councillor – Colin Baldry was officially welcomed onto the Parish Council as a new councillor, following the recent extraordinary Council meeting on 7 July. A new parish councillor vacancy has also opened up, due to Cllr David Alchin resigning. A 'Notice of Vacancy' has been posted to notify local residents, with an applications deadline of 28 July 2025.

9. Roads, Footpaths, Infrastructure, Green Areas

- a. 25/07/08-09 Action points from the *Highways Working Group* meeting held on 13 June 2025 and the *Green Spaces Working Group* meeting held on 23 June 2025, were noted with no comments.
- b. 25/06/10 *Village pond safety and improvement* – Over the past couple of months, the Parish Council has been looking at ways to improve safety and improve the condition of Laxfield's village pond. This has become even more urgent since the appearance of dead fish again, mainly caused by the heatwave conditions and the accelerated spread of pond weed. After consultation with the Environment Agency and National Fisheries Trust, fishing at the pond has been temporarily suspended. This is due to concerns about the welfare of fish and safety of unaccompanied children at the venue. Their view is that the pond has too many fish to support a healthy aquatic ecosystem and that the majority are ornamental species. The pond should ideally become a wildlife venue only and urgent maintenance work needs to be carried out, including reducing the thick layer of silt that has built up over the decades. The Parish Council will undertake a safety and risk audit, followed by an ecological improvement assessment. *Proposed S. Ellis, Seconded H. Scorey*
- c. 25/07/11 An additional dog litter bin will be installed on Gorams Mill Lane, given the popularity of the route for dog walkers. The preferred location is opposite High Barn Drive. Clerk to get formal permission from the resident and Suffolk County Council Highways before installation.

10. Correspondence and other issues

- a. 25/07/12 *Laxfield 800 anniversary* - David Leng provided an update on the progress of the working group, which met on 13 June. Work is now underway on various planned events, entertainment, marketing and educational schemes. Next meeting will take place on 22 July in the Village Hall.
- b. 25/07/13 *Emergency Planning* – The Parish Council have agreed to work with Emergency Planning Support Officer at Mid Suffolk District Council to develop a CEP (Community Emergency Plan). Currently there is only emergency equipment for flooding (stored near on Gorams Mill Lane, near the Low House) and Laxfield does

not have a designated emergency centre. The main aim of a CEP will be to help rural village communities become more resilient in an emergency scenario, so they can work effectively with first responders and emergency workers and prioritise those in greatest need. The CEP will identify:

- local volunteers, equipment, specialist knowledge or practical skills available during an emergency
- ways to coordinate communications throughout the community
- buildings/spaces that could be used as places of safety or assembly points
- people and buildings that may be particularly vulnerable

- d. 25/07/14 *New Cemetery scheme costs* - The Parish Council has approved £21,875 of improvement works at the new cemetery on station road, including additional footpaths, a new footbridge between the public right of way and the cemetery carpark and a water tap connection for visitors/maintenance. There will also be a Garden of Contemplation, which will feature a copper plate artworks installation made by local artist Quentin Cowen and the Kingdom Forge Blacksmith. The project will be completed in September 2025.

Proposed R. Sutton, Seconded D Martindale

- c. 25/07/15 *EV Charging Points* – Preparation work to install two EV Charging bays on the playing fields site (at back of the Pavilion) has progressed and Councillors reviewed the proposed plans, together with the Members Cluster Agreement and Lease Agreement. It was decided to defer the installation until a review is carried out on whether the Pavilion car park is the best location for Laxfield's first EV charging bays. Clerk to speak to Marcus Payne, complete the review and then report back to the September Parish Council meeting.
- d. 25/07/16 *September market stall* – Agreed that the Parish Council will have stall at the 6 September community market to talk to local residents about the latest parish news/developments, as well as gather feedback and answer questions. Cllrs P. Bicheno, S. Ellis, H. Scorey and S. Sutton have volunteered to attend the stall and a pre-meeting will take place in August to help plan/prepare. 30mph stickers for wheelie bins will be handed out at the stall.
- e. 25/07/17 *War Memorial Junction maintenance* – The Parish Council agreed to increase the unit payment for the maintenance of the grass and areas around the War Memorial. The work carried out over the previous years has been excellent and showcases this crucial landmark as people enter/leave Laxfield. The increased payment now reflects inflation over the past 8 years and the additional time taken for grass cutting and strimming around the recently installed bollards. *Proposed L. Sharman, Seconded S. Sutton*
- f. 25/07/18 *Planters for Laxfield Guildhall* – The Parish Council has agreed to provide up to £600 funding to the Laxfield Museum Trust to install a set of large planters outside the museum. The Trust have agreed to purchase the plants/soil and carry out maintenance and watering. *Proposed S. Sutton, Seconded L. Sharman*
- g. 25/07/19 *Laxfield PIIP* – Agreed to review the Laxfield Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan, given that it was last updated in March 2022. Best practice guidance suggests that PIIPs should be reviewed at least every 3 years, but ideally annually. The review will need to link up with the strategic prioritisation work, agreed at the June Parish Council meeting, so the PIIP drives the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan and action plans from the Green Spaces/Highways Working Group and the Grounds Committee
- h. 25/07/20-21 The Parish Council approved £381 of funding for Fressingfield Scout Group to purchase camping equipment for the summer Jamboree event in Norfolk. Laxfield residents were also invited to the Fressingfield Scout Open Evening on Friday 18 July at the Priory Road Headquarters.
- i. 25/07/22 Cllr R. Smith announced that £997.40 had been raised through the summer scrap collection. Thanks were given to all local residents who brought along their scrap metal and to the Councillors who gave their time to attend the stations over the 4 days.

11. Date of next meeting

- a. The date of the next meeting is **Monday 8 September 2025 at 7:00 pm** in the **PARISH ROOM**.

Meeting finished at 8:55 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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