

**Minutes of the Rendham Parish Council Meeting
Held in Rendham Village Hall Monday 10th March 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present – Cllr. Willett (Chairman), Cllr. McFawn (Vice Chair), Cllr. Field, Cllr. Morford, Cllr. Silvester, Cllr. Bennion, Cllr. Stollery.

Also, in attendance: Rendham Parish Council Clerk/RFO

A Public Forum – no one in attendance

1. Apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr. Gleeson and accepted

2. Declarations of Interest/Register of Interests: none

3. To approve/ sign Minutes of the PC meeting held on 6th January 2025

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6th January 2025 had been circulated to all councillors, and it was resolved that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed and dated by the Chairman. All agreed unanimously.

4. Correspondence for information – circulated accordingly.

The Clerk has noted Councillor comments regarding correspondence sent on the day of the Parish Council meeting.

5. District Cllr. and SCC Cllr. reports for information

District Cllr. Owen Gray not present or report sent.

County Cllr. Stephen Burroughs couldn't attend the meeting, report sent. His full report available on Rendham Village website rendham.onesuffolk.net. The main headings of his report are:

- New cabinet role to lead on devolution and local government reform
- Suffolk prepares for another significant solar farm proposal
- £1.6 million investment proposed following inspection of Suffolk fire and rescue service
- funding made available for safer, healthier and accessible travel around Suffolk
- Suffolk county council confirms 2025/26 budget
- arts organisations and museums across Suffolk get £500,000 funding boost
- Suffolk communities to suffer from lack of energy project coordination
- Suffolk's 45 libraries to remain open and see new investment as Suffolk County council plans to take service back in house
- Suffolk county council cabinet approves local transport plan
- Suffolk county council cabinet approves £2.7m funding for Benacre flood protection scheme
- county leaders to propose one council for Suffolk
- Octopus energy and Suffolk county council trial 'zero bills' upgrade on existing homes

6. To receive Reports/updates for information:

a) VHMC – report received, and the Parish Council noted the Chairman's of Rendham VHMC report regarding the subsidence issue affecting the village hall wall as well as a raised issue of long-term improvements to the effluent disposal system. The PC acknowledged the importance of addressing this issue and will consider the matter further (full report is available on Rendham Village website rendham.onesuffolk.net).

It was agreed that the Clerk will prepare and send a reply to a Chairman of VHMC as appropriate.

b) Parochial Church Council – report received and noted (full report available on Rendham Village website).

- c) Tree Warden – Cllr. Gleeson – no report sent.
- d) PARK – Cllr. Field – no report sent. The Parish Council noted that the PARK Committee is planning a VE Day 80 event (10th May 2025) on the playing field. The proposed Open Garden event did not generate sufficient interest, so the PARK committee will not proceed with it. Additionally, there are plans to lay a path from the entrance of the playing field to the boules court. It was also noted that additional events may be planned, which could require extra funding from the Amenity Fund.

Cllrs were informed that grass cutting on the playing field will commence in April.

- e) ESPA meeting (24.01.2025) – Cllr. McFawn – no report sent. It was noted that one of the concerns discussed at ESPA meeting was a concern that higher housing target will lead to open up greater amount of land (Knodishall and Kelsale more impacted). It was also noted that a discussion took place regarding devolution and its potential impact on parishes, towns, and local governance.

It was noted that wind farms and solar farms were not discussed during the ESPA meeting.

Cllr McFawn commented that he found the meeting insightful, as it provided an opportunity to learn about the challenges faced by local parishes and the various approaches taken to address them.

- f) Village Website – it was noted that the information on the village website is up to date.

7. Election of Representatives:

- a) Community Partnership – It was agreed that Cllr. Silvester will again contact one of the potentially interested Rendham villagers to become a representative of the Community Partnership.

8. Accounts

- a) Financial Report and Budget assessment on 01/03/2025 – bank’s balances according to bank statements were reviewed and noted as expenses are in line with the Budget and therefore, it was agreed that the expenses were within acceptable parameters. Main transactions were explained.
- b) Amenity Fund Financial report on 01/03/2025 presented to councillors and main expenses noted.
- c) Amenity Fund Cheque confirmation – Newsletter “The Street” £38 (Jan) – the payment was noted and agreed by all the councillors.
- d) To confirm payments made by cheque from HSBC account – Payment to Clerk £164.06 incl. backpay (Jan) and £132.72 (Feb), PAYE £9.20 (Jan) – the payments made were noted and confirmed.
- e) To confirm online transaction made (BoS account) – payment to East Suffolk Services (grass/hedges cutting on the Rendham playing field) – yearly payment £407.10 (inc. VAT £67.85) - the payment made was noted and confirmed.
- f) Online transaction authorisation (BoS account) – Payment to Clerk £116,62 (salary £114.92 (Mar) and postage expenses £1.70) - the payment was reviewed, and all Councillors unanimously agreed the transaction to be authorized online to proceed with the payment.
- g) Update on internet banking (signatories) – It was noted that councillors designated as signatories need to resubmit their completed applications. These should be given to the Clerk for signing and submission to the Bank of Scotland to complete their registration for Internet Banking.
- h) To note Grass and hedge cutting price increase from East Suffolk Services (£427.50+VAT) – the price increase has been noted and accepted.
- i) To note Website hosting price increase (£48) – the price increase by £6 has been noted and accepted.
- j) To agree on internal auditor – it was agreed to conduct the internal audit with the previous internal auditor, Mr. J. Carrington. The Clerk will contact him and submit all necessary paperwork for the audit.

9. Planning matters:

Removal of conservatory, new single storey extension to side and beyond rear of existing bungalow. Four Seasons, 2 Chapel Road, Rendham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2BX (Planning reference DC/25/0642/FUL) – Councillors unanimously agreed that there are no objections to this application. The Clerk will prepare the Council's decision and submit it to the Planning Authority.

10. The Knoll (Oak Tree) – Cllr Bennion – It was noted that the Oak tree is continuing to grow significantly, with overgrown branches extending onto the road. Additionally, The Knoll requires a more effective maintenance strategy. A discussion took place regarding the challenges posed by overgrown grass, the difficulties of cutting it afterward, and issues related to grass clearing.

It was agreed that Cllr. Silvester will inquire with the Parochial Church Graveyard maintenance team to determine whether they can commit to grass-cutting duties for The Knoll.

It was also noted that the telegraph pole on The Knoll has begun to lean. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Open Reach to report the issue.

11. To discuss the situation with River Alde flooding problems – it was noted that the River Alde continues to experience recurring flooding. Concerns were raised that the Environment Agency has not implemented the promised flood prevention measures for properties near the river, despite multiple requests from residents and the Parish Council.

It was agreed to contact the Environment Agency again and to inform District Councillor Owen Gray about the matter. The Clerk will prepare the letter.

12. To note Sandy Lane issues – it was noted that Cllr. McFawn had reported the flooded road to Highways, and the drains were cleared, improving the road's condition. However, it was discussed that water may clog the area again, as silt continues to be washed onto the road from the nearby field during heavy rain. Additionally, concerns were raised that the ditch appears too high, causing rainwater to overflow onto the road.

Councillors also discussed the issue of overgrown hedges along Sandy Lane, belonging to a Rendham resident. Concerns were raised regarding branches being struck onto the road by passing lorries. It was agreed to contact the owner/resident of the property to address the issue. The Clerk will prepare a letter and send it to the owner/resident.

13. To consider to adopt Co-option Policy – the policy project was noted and proposed by Cllr McFawn, seconded by Cllr Silvester, and unanimously agreed by all. The Clerk will upload the policy to the Rendham Village website (rendham.onesuffolk.net).

14. Matters arising from the January PC Meeting – none

15. Any other business for discussion not listed above – on the behalf of Rendham Parish Council Chairman expressed his deepest thanks to Trevor Salmon for his dedicated service as a volunteer for the neighbourhood watch and community updates. It was noted that as Trevor steps down from his role, Mary Gregory will be taking over this important volunteering responsibility. It was agreed to present to Trevor memorabilia from Rendham PC as a Thank you for his outstanding contributions.

16. Note the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting and Annual PC meeting – both meetings will be held on Monday 12th May 2025 starting with Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm – the date of these meetings was noted.

Dates for the further PC meetings noted.

Parish Council Meeting	7 th July 2025	7.30pm
Parish Council Meeting	8 th September 2025	7.30pm
Parish Council Meeting	10 th November 2025	7.30pm

The meeting closed at 21.35 hrs.