

**Minutes of the Rendham Parish Council Meeting
Held in Rendham Village Hall Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm**

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

Also, in attendance: Rendham Parish Council Clerk/RFO

A Public Forum – no one in attendance

1. **Apologies for absence and approve reasons for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr. Dabrowski and accepted, no apologies received from Cllr. Morford

2. **Declarations of Interest/Register of Interests:** none

3. **To approve/ sign Minutes of the Rendham PC meeting held on 10th November 2025**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th November 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 and noted.

- Cllrs discussed a letter from a Rendham resident regarding concerns about flooding and the blockage of the River Alde, and the request for it to be cleared. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a reply outlining the Council's position on this matter.
- Cllr McFawn advised that information received regarding funding available for Suffolk householders to improve home energy efficiency (from Suffolk County Council in partnership with Warm Homes Healthy People) should be circulated via the neighbourhood email list.

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

District Cllr. Vince Langdon-Morris not present, December report received for discussion and January report received after the PC meeting. Both of his reports are available on Rendham Village website rendham.onesuffolk.net

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

- New heating solution for central Ipswich
- Inspectorate satisfied with Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's improvements
- New Sizewell C skills bursary open to applications
- Suffolk secures more than £26 million bus funding over three years
- SEND data shows improvement, but impact not felt by everyone
- £12m active travel funding over four years announced for Suffolk
- One Suffolk best for most vulnerable, say county's safeguarding leaders
- 67 new skills bootcamps launched in Suffolk and Norfolk
- Firefighter applications surge as Suffolk boosts female representation
- How Suffolk is investing in our roads' by councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Operational Highways, Flooding & Ipswich
- Suffolk residents urged to apply quickly for free home energy upgrades
- LionLink consultation launching and communities encouraged to take part

It was noted that information had also been received from Suffolk County Cllr regarding Suffolk Highways' intention to improve the Rendham/Saxmundham junction, as part of ongoing discussions with Sizewell C about traffic issues. A meeting between involved parties is scheduled for 31 January 2026.

6. To receive Reports/updates for information:

- a) VHMC – report received, and the Parish Council noted the Chairman's of Rendham VHMC report covering the following: subsidence monitoring showed minor movement in the wall by the road, with further readings due in February before the consultant advises on remedial action. Roofing repairs remain scheduled for spring, and temporary repairs are holding well. Community café mornings start in January, the hall continues to be well used, and finances remain stable, including a £1,000 ringfenced grant for roof repairs.
- b) Parochial Church Council – no report was received
- c) Tree Warden (Cllr. Gleeson) – no report was received. It was noted that Cllr Gleeson proposed appointing an additional Tree Warden for the village, and all councillors agreed. Cllr Gleeson will prepare the necessary paperwork for the appointment of a second Tree Warden, proposed as village resident Pauline Carol.
- d) PARK – no report was received. At the meeting, Cllr Field (PARK Committee Chairman) noted that several volunteer activities are planned for the end of March on the playing field, including cutting back ivy on the top hedgerow, planting small replacement trees, and other general maintenance tasks to support the rejuvenation of the children's play area. He also confirmed that £1,500 of funding from SCC Cllr S. Burroughes is available to support improvements, including creating an easy-access path to the boules court.
- e) Village Website – it was noted that the information on the village website is up to date and photos from various village events uploaded.

7. Finance/Accounts

- a) Financial Report and Budget assessment on 01.01.2026 - 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 and bank statements signed by the Chairman.
- b) Amenity Fund Financial report on 01.01.2026 was presented to councillors and main expenses noted and all agreed.
- c) Amenity Fund Cheque confirmations: Newsletter - The Street (Dec/Jan) £60 - the payment was noted and agreed by all the councillors. It was proposed that future payments for the Newsletter be made directly from the BoS account, with the total amount paid to Leiston Press during the financial year to be transferred back to the BoS account from the Amenity Fund account by cheque at year end. All councillors agreed unanimously. It was noted that lost cheque cancelled for the previous newsletter (Sept/Nov) payment (£56) and new cheque issued – letter was sent from Leiston Press as confirmation, lost cheque will be refunded by Suffolk Building Society.
- d) To confirm online transactions (payments) made:
 - Payments to Clerk:
 - £120.42 (Dec'25) – net salary £118.05, printing expenses (Oct-Nov) £1.50 (incl. VAT £0.25) and postage 2nd class £0.87
 - £118.05 (Jan'26) – net salary £118.05
 - PAYE (Dec'25) – £0.60
 - PAYE (Jan'26) – £0.60
 - RBL Poppy Appeal (poppy wreath) (claimed on 19.11.25) – £27.50

Payments were noted and all agreed unanimously.

- e) Budget Setting – accept budget and precept for 2026/2027
 - To note price increase for SALC membership (included in the budget)
 - To note price increase for PARK maintenance (included in the budget).

Price increases provided by SALC and East Suffolk Services were noted and accepted to be included in the budget.

In preparing the draft budget for 2026/2027, the Clerk reviewed all costs incurred to date, allowed for expected changes, and included items the Parish Council may be liable for in the future, as previously discussed at earlier meetings. Councillors considered the draft budget and, following discussion of each expenditure line, agreed a final budget of £4,225.54 for 2026/27. This represents a modest increase from last year’s planned expenditure of £3,642.06, reflecting inflation, service requirements, and community needs.

After considering anticipated expenditure, existing reserves, and expected income from VAT returns, councillors agreed to approve a precept request of £4,094.00.

To accept budget and precept 2026/2027 proposed by Cllr. McFawn, seconded by Cllr. Gleeson, all agreed unanimously. Clerk to submit request for precept to East Suffolk Council by 20th January 2026.

8. Planning Matters

- a) Planning application Ref. No: DC/25/3476/FUL – Rendham Barnes Farm Bridge Street Rendham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2AB - Single storey extension to converted residential outbuilding. Status: permitted – PC no objections sent.
- b) Planning application Ref. No: DC/25/4304/FUL – West Mead, Bridge Street, Rendham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2AD - Construction of single storey side extension. Status: permitted – PC no objections sent.
- c) Planning application Ref. No: DC/25/4174/FUL - The Pines, Bridge Street, Rendham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2AD - Single storey extension together with replacement flat roof over Living Area. Status: permitted – PC no objections sent.
- d) Planning application Ref. No: DC/25/4467/FUL – 2 Bruisyard Road, Rendham, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 2AG - Side and rear extensions (removal of existing rear extension and single storey porch / wc). Status - awaiting decision - PC no objections sent.

Status of each application was noted by Cllrs.

9. Update on dog fouling and to consider the introduction of dog waste bins/bags within the parish

It was agreed to install an additional dog-waste bin on the verge of Sandy Lane, just before Rookery Farm Lane. The Clerk will apply to Suffolk Highways for a street-furniture licence, as the proposed location falls under their authority. It was noted that the licence cost will be £170.00 if approved.

10. Village Sign – to consider renovation/costs

Cllrs discussed the condition of the Village Sign and agreed to consider its renovation during the 2027/2028 budget preparation, as the work is likely to be costly and would place an additional burden on the budget.

11. Update on Rendham PC document storage at the Village Hall

It was noted that, following discussion between the PC Chairman and the VHMC Chairman, it was agreed that Parish Council document storage may be located in the outbuilding near the Village Hall, within the secure document cabinet.

12. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting held on 10th November 2025 that are not listed above:

It was agreed to send a letter of concern from Rendham Parish Council for SCC Cllr S.Burroughes to raise at the forthcoming meeting on 31 January between Suffolk Highways, Sizewell C, and other involved parties. The letter will address junction safety, increased traffic, possible traffic-redirecting options, and inconsistent speed limits on the A12

during roadworks, with particular reference to issues at the Friday Street crossing and the Rendham/Saxmundham junction. The Clerk will prepare a draft letter.

13. Any other business for discussion not listed above - items for the next PC meeting Agenda

- Grit bins – It was agreed to include this item on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. The Clerk will obtain costs for installing and maintaining grit bins.

- It was discussed and agreed to make a £50.00 contribution to Helen Greenberg, who is resigning after over 10 years of voluntary service editing and compiling The Street newsletter. Cllr McFawn will arrange the contribution, and the Clerk will reimburse from Amenity Fund. Proposed by Cllr McFawn, seconded by Cllr Field, all agreed.

14. To note the dates of upcoming meetings.

The date 09.03.2026 of the next PC meeting was agreed. Dates for the further PC meetings were noted.

Parish Council Meeting	9 th March 2026	7.30pm
Annual Parish Meeting	11 th May 2026	7.00pm
Annual Parish Council Meeting	11 th May 2026	7.30pm

The meeting closed at 21.08 hrs.