



Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Hundred Acre Way, Red Lodge, Suffolk, IP28 8FQ 01638 551257
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Minutes of the Meeting of Red Lodge Parish Council.

Date: Tuesday 25 November 2025

Time: 19:00

Venue: St. Christopher's Church, Boundary Road. Red Lodge. IP28 8JQ.

Present: Cllr. Rachel Ahmed
Cllr. Michael Berry (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Jonathon Burns
Cllr. Sandra Dwan (Chair)
Cllr. Patricia Judd

In Attendance: Clerk/RFO

Non-Attendee: D.Cllr. Dawn Dicker

Absent: Cllr. Andy Drummond

Members of Public: 1

	Item	Action
1.	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Noted	
2.	All those present are reminded of The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and that the meeting may be filmed or recorded by any members of the public. Noted	
3.	Apologies received and accepted by all Members: D.Cllr. Dicker – Family Commitments. Noted	
4.	Election of a Vice-Chair Members all agreed to elect Cllr. Berry as a Vice-Chair. Cllr, Berry duly signed Acceptance of Office. Resolved	
5. 5.1	Declaration of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests (i) To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interests and personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature including gifts of hospitality exceeding £50. None received. Noted (ii) To receive requests for dispensation None received. Noted	
6.	Members of the public are invited to speak on any item on the agenda for up to 3 minutes. (Public session is maximum 15 minutes) No members of the public spoke. Noted	
7.	Confirmation of Minutes of the meetings held on 30 September 2025 and the Confidential Report. The minutes for the above meeting and Confidential Report were agreed as accurate records and duly signed by the Chair. Resolved (Note: Cllr. Burns joined the meeting at 19:06)	Clerk

<p>8. Reports and Invited Speakers:</p> <p>8.1 County Councillor: The parish newsletter from C.Cllr. Drummond has been circulated to all Members. Noted</p> <p>8.2 District Councillors: D.Cllr Dicker has remaining funds available within the Locality Budget for which local groups may apply. Members agreed to request confirmation of the amount outstanding so this information can be shared with interested community groups. Noted</p> <p>8.3 Police Newsletter has been circulated to Members. Noted</p> <p>8.4 Events Working Party (EWP) Cllr. Berry informed the meeting that the plans for the Christmas event are progressing well. Discussions will be commencing for the summer community event in 2026. Noted</p> <p>8.5 Finance Working Party (FWP) The latest financial investment rates were circulated to Members. The FWP met to discuss potential investments and discuss the draft budget. These items will be discussed in agenda item 9.8. Noted</p> <p>8.6 Play Areas Working Party (FWP) Members agreed that a working party will be set up after Christmas, to discuss the maintenance of the play areas. Resolved</p> <p>8.7 Emergency Planning Working Party Members have yet to establish a working party. Noted</p> <p>8.8 Turnpike Newsletter Members agreed that Cllrs. Burns and Dwan will undertake the publication of a village newsletter. Members have yet to establish a working party. Resolved</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>EWP</p> <p>Members</p> <p>Members</p> <p>JB, SD</p>	
<p>9. Financial and Clerk Reports</p> <p>9.1 Members noted that the bank reconciliation statements for September 2025 and October 2025, have been verified and signed by Cllr. Thompson. Noted</p> <p>9.2 Members approved the Receipts and Payments in September 2025 and October 2025, for the following:</p>		

	<p>(i) Parish Bank Account (ii) Deposit Bank Account (iii) Petty Cash Council (iv) Petty Cash Pavilion (v) Credit Card</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>9.3 Members noted the Bank Balances on 18/11/25, for the following accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Bank Account £455,524.65 • Deposit Account £110,037.47 <p>Noted</p> <p>9.4 Members noted the Ear Marked Reserves at 31/10/25. Noted</p> <p>9.5 Members noted a VAT return for 01/08/2025 – 31/10/2025, for a claim of £4013.11 was submitted to HMRC on 14/11/2025 and received on 20/11/2025. Noted</p> <p>9.6 Members all agreed to appoint Cllr. Burns for Internal Controls. Resolved</p> <p>9.7 Members reviewed and approved the budget for the second Quarter 2025-26. Resolved</p> <p>9.8 The Finance Working Party (FWP) met to consider financial investments and to prepare a draft budget for 2026–27, which was subsequently presented to the Full Council.</p> <p>Members approved the virement of £50,000 from the General Reserves to an Ear Marked Reserve for the planned refurbishment of play areas.</p> <p>Members also agreed to transfer £125,000 into accounts protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) to ensure financial security, generate modest income, and maintain liquidity.</p> <p>The following financial investments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSBC - Fixed-term deposit, 9 months, £15,000 at 3.38% Gross AER • NatWest - Community Business Account, 95-day notice, £85,000 at 3.25% Gross AER • Cambridge Building Society - Council Saver Account, £10,000, rolling investment at 1.7% Gross AER • Lloyds Bank (existing provider) - £15,000 at 1.4% Gross AER <p>Members reviewed the draft budget for 2026–27 and agreed that any increases should be kept to a minimum given the current economic climate.</p> <p>Members resolved to set the 2026–27 budget with a precept demand of £279,807, resulting in a Council Tax Band D charge of £140.77; an annual increase of £7.28 per Band D property, equivalent to a 5.45% rise.</p> <p>Resolved</p>	Clerk
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10.	Discuss and approve any purchase (LGA 1972, s.111).	
10.1	Members ratified the quote for LED Lighting installation on External Sports Pitch, AB Electrical and Commercial Services Ltd., £2350 exc. VAT. Resolved	Clerk
10.2	Members discussed the safety of lone-working employees. Members approved the quotation from AB Electrical and Commercial Services Ltd., for the installation of a wall hatch at a cost of £1450 excluding VAT. Resolved	Clerk
10.3	Members noted that West Suffolk Council approved a £1000 grant, received on 10 th November 2025, from the locality budgets of D.Cllrs. Dicker and Drummond, to support the purchase of portable football goal posts. Members expressed their thanks to D.Cllrs. Dicker and Drummond, for their contribution. Noted	
10.4	Members considered the purchase of a pair of Portable Goals (12x6ft): (i) Live4Sport, Mini Soccer Champion Portable Goal, £1050 ex. VAT (ii) Line Marker Paint, MH Goals 7v7 Football Goals, Heavy duty wheeled, 1097.10 ex. VAT (iii) Line Marker Paint, MH Goals, 7v7 Football Goals, Self-weighted Wheeled, £2185 ex. VAT Members agreed to proceed with quote (ii). Resolved	Clerk
10.5	Members noted that Suffolk County Council has approved a £1179 grant, from the locality budget of C.Cllr. Drummond, towards the purchase of a portable tennis ball launcher. Noted	
10.6	Members considered the purchase of a portable tennis ball launcher to encourage greater participation in tennis, whether individually or with a partner.: (i) Amazon, PT-Smart Tennis Ball Machine, £1179 (ii) Amazon, PT-Max C Tennis Ball Machine, £1358 (iii) Amazon, Pt-SmartPro Tennis Ball Machine, £1299 Members agreed to proceed with quote (i). Resolved	Clerk
10.7	Members noted that a recycling bin has been installed for small electrical items, at the Sports Pavilion. Noted	
10.8	Members ratified the report submitted to West Suffolk Council, regarding the future funding for Red Lodge. Resolved	

<p>10.9</p> <p>10.10</p> <p>10.11</p> <p>10.12</p>	<p>Members ratified painting the Sports Pavilion decking during spring-time 2026, by Newmarket Decorators Ltd. Resolved</p> <p>Members all agreed to proceed with the application of funding, towards the purchase of an automatic line marking machine. Resolved</p> <p>Members all approved the quote for Accounts Year End Closure 2025-26, Rialtas Business Solutions, £980 exc. VAT. Resolved</p> <p>Members considered the potential future replacement of the MUGA lights. Members agreed to replace the lights individually as needed. Resolved</p>	<p></p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>11.</p> <p>11.1</p> <p>11.2</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>DC/25/1523/HH Proposal: Householder planning application - two storey rear extension Location: 4 Hyacinth Drive Red Lodge Suffolk IP28 8YY</p> <p>Members all agreed a No Comment. Members</p> <p>DC/25/1608/HH Proposal: Householder planning application - a. single storey side extension b. installation of French doors to side elevation (following removal of existing windows) Location: 4 Horseshoe Drive Red Lodge Suffolk IP28 8ER.</p> <p>Members agreed a No Comment. Resolved</p>	<p></p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>12.</p> <p>12.1</p> <p>12.2</p>	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>Members reviewed and approved the Play Area reports for September 2025 and October 2025, from West Suffolk Council. Resolved</p> <p>Members received an update on the road safety meeting with Suffolk County Council, held on 15 October 2025 in Moulton. The meeting was attended by representatives from approximately 20 Parish and Town Councils. A general consensus emerged that Cambridgeshire County Council provides a higher standard of Highways services compared with Suffolk County Council. The Highways representative suggested that all villages would have implementation of a 20mph speed limit. Noted</p>	<p></p>

<p>12.3</p> <p>12.4</p> <p>12.5</p> <p>12.6</p> <p>12.7</p>	<p>Members noted the consultation on proposed changes to the West Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026-2027. Noted</p> <p>Members considered the road safety concerns on Thistle Way, raised by a resident. Members agreed to refer this matter on to C.Cllr. Drummond. Resolved</p> <p>Members noted the correspondence from West Suffolk Council, regarding preventing homelessness and reducing rough sleeping. This scheme has prevented 216 households from becoming homeless. Members praised West Suffolk Council for this achievement. Noted</p> <p>Members noted the correspondence from Suffolk County Council advising that Connected Kerb is no longer able to fulfil its contract with the Council in relation to the Plug in Suffolk scheme. The Council is currently seeking an alternative supplier. Noted</p> <p>Members noted the correspondence received from the Town and Parish Alliance and the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Sunnica project. It was acknowledged that the project currently lacks financial backing. Significant concerns were raised about the risk of battery fires and the associated potential for hazardous chemical pollution, further compounded by the proposal to construct the development above a gas pipeline running through Red Lodge. It was also observed that Sunnica has requested non-material changes to the project and is restricting the range of consultees involved. Noted</p>	<p>AD</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>To confirm the date of the next Red Lodge Parish Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 19:00, St. Christopher’s Church, 2 Boundary Road, Red Lodge, IP28 8JQ.</p> <p>The next meeting was confirmed as above. Noted</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>14.</p> <p>14.1</p> <p>14.2</p>	<p>Members resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Resolved</p> <p>Members to consider correspondence received, regarding an organisation. Refer to Confidential Report 251125. Resolved</p> <p>Members to consider a maintenance update. Refer to Confidential Report 251125. Resolved</p>	<p>SD</p>

15.	Close of the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:17. Resolved	
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