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## **Minutes of the Red Lodge Annual Parish Meeting**

This is an informal meeting for all local government electors registered in the parish.

**Date:** Tuesday 5 May 2026

**Time:** 19:00

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

**Present:** Cllr. Rachel Ahmed  
Cllr. Michael Berry (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. Jon Burns  
Cllr. Sandra Dwan (Chair)

**In Attendance:** Clerk/RFO  
D. Cllr. Dawn Dicker

**Non-Attendee:** Cllr. Andy Drummond  
Cllr. Patricia Judd

**Members of Public:** 2

	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>Chairperson's welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those present for taking the time to attend the meeting. The Chair looked forward to hearing about the activities during the last 12 months. It is the groups and activities which continue to pull the village together and create a vibrant, family feel as the village continues to grow.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	
2.	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted for the following: Red Lodge Scouts</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	
3.	<p><b>Report from the Chair of the Parish Council</b></p> <p>The Chair read out the following report:</p> <p>Issues arising during the civic year for the Parish:</p> <p><b>PRECEPT:</b> As costs continue to rise the precept realistically has to take account of this - however Members are aware of how difficult things are for many families at the moment and the precept for 2025-6 was kept as low as possible.</p> <p>The Finance Working Party also decided to invest monies in secure accounts to gain a small amount of additional funding.</p> <p><b>PLAYGROUNDS:</b> The Working Party has taken the decision to go forward and seek to improve and replace playground equipment in the playgrounds which it is responsible for. The current situation is that a number of potential suppliers have already visited the site and are preparing 'schematic' drawings. After a shortlisting process the remaining 3 or 4 suppliers will present their ideas for the public, including children, to comment on before a final decision is taken on the type of design. The Parish does have ear marked funding available, but the costs are extremely high and will require further significant funding.</p> <p><b>PLANNING:</b> An application for a further 50 houses on the Turnpike was refused by the Parish due to serious concerns about the impact on existing levels of traffic, the condition of the highway and proximity of the SSSI. All other Planning Applications were considered in detail, discussed and dealt with transparently.</p>	

## SPORTS PAVILION

Maintenance to the Veranda has now been completed, work to ensure that pitches are of a satisfactory condition which continues as usual.

Football activities have been even busier this year with a wide range of teams using the Pavilion from both local and neighbouring villages. The Pavilion also facilitates inclusive Football opportunities such as the Red Lodge Walking Football Club.

What's New: The new tennis ball launcher is easy to use and delivers consistent shots at adjustable speeds - this makes it perfect for sole practice, team games or a quick workout. This is a great addition to the Pavilions existing facilities.

## EVENTS

### Fun Day - June 2025

Initially the attendance was high and the giant inflatables were popular, unfortunately the weather changed into an extremely wet day and this made it impossible to use the inflatables under HSE Regulations.

Thank you to both District Councillors for their continued support.

Not to be deterred we have a completely new theme this year 'The Wild West' which we hope will give everyone in the village a good day out.

### Christmas - Santa's Grotto

This remained as popular as ever with Father Christmas in attendance with gifts and goody bags for the children.

## POLICE & SECURITY

Unfortunately, due to the behaviour of a small number of teenagers it has been necessary to employ a security company to prevent nuisance and damage to the Pavilion building.

Police are aware of the situation which seems to be improving at present. A request will be made for the Police to visit the Schools and explain the consequences of bad behaviour.

Recent meeting of 'Coffee with a Cop' held at the Pavilion was well attended

## DONATIONS

The following donations were made by the Parish Council:

4 x £250.00

Lightwave - Holiday Club, Plus £1,000 funding for Summer Holiday Club

Sewing Angels

Red Lodge under 11's Football

Millennium Centre over 60's Christmas Party.

Devolution – The Government has yet to clarify the Parish Council's role in devolution.

	<p>Sunnica – The Parish Council has ongoing support for the Town and Parish Alliance.</p> <p>The litter-pick organised in April 2026 was well attended.</p> <p>The Turnpike newsletter will be distributed on a quarterly basis</p> <p>The Chair thanked the County Councillor, District Councillors, Parish Councillors and all employees.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>																									
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Reports from County Councillor</b></p> <p>None.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>																									
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Reports from District Councillors</b></p> <p>D.Cllr. Dicker informed the meeting that it had been an eventful year with the Local Government Reorganisation. The Government’s decision to have 3 unitary councils will give more local representation.</p> <p>Better recycling will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, recycling bins are still being distributed.</p> <p>With current hikes in prices, in conjunction with Suffolk County Council, the Crisis and Resilience Funding, will assist the vulnerable in the community, financial support is available towards the cost of oil as a fuel.</p> <p>The locality budget has provided funding for the following:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Applicant</th> <th>Funding Description</th> <th>£ Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Red Lodge Millennium Centre</td> <td>petting farm</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red Lodge Youth football</td> <td>Training kit</td> <td>325</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St, Christopher’s School</td> <td>Community Fun Day</td> <td>395</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red Lodge Millennium Centre</td> <td>Over 60’s Christmas Party</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red Lodge Sports Pavilion</td> <td>Moveable goal posts</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red Lodge Millennium Centre</td> <td>Toddler Group-Children’s toys</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quilting Angels</td> <td>Workshop</td> <td>200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Grant application forms will not be sent out until after 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	Applicant	Funding Description	£ Amount	Red Lodge Millennium Centre	petting farm	400	Red Lodge Youth football	Training kit	325	St, Christopher’s School	Community Fun Day	395	Red Lodge Millennium Centre	Over 60’s Christmas Party	500	Red Lodge Sports Pavilion	Moveable goal posts	500	Red Lodge Millennium Centre	Toddler Group-Children’s toys	300	Quilting Angels	Workshop	200	
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<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Reports from Mildenhall Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team</b></p> <p><u>Crime reported from 30/07/2025 – 02/05/2026</u></p> <p>Investigations recorded - 209  ASB – 5 : Nuisance 2 – Personal 3  Non crime investigations – 81 (including child and adult protection investigations and DV non-crime investigations, ASB)  Arson and criminal damage – 11 (includes arson, damage to residential property, business premises and vehicles) (including)  Burglary - 1 (offender arrested and believed to have previous links to property)  Drugs offences – 2</p>																									

Non – notifiable – 3 (including H&S at work, drink driving and communications act offence)  
 Possession offensive weapons – 4  
 Public order offence – 7  
 Robbery – 1  
 Sexual offence – 8  
 Vehicle offences – 5  
 Violence against the person – 66 (includes assaults common assault ABH, stalking, attempted kidnapping, dangerous dog out of control)  
 Theft – 12  
 Misc – 3

Crime series

Exposure – December 2025 – one suspect was arrested and released on bail and no further action is being taken. Through further work a second male was identified and arrested. He was also bailed. Work is continuing and the case is being sent to CPS for a charging decision.

ASB – sports pavilion – criminal damage – ASB Red Lodge –  
 7 ASB stage 1 letters issued  
 2 words of advice  
 DOCO completed.

Speeding – Red Lodge mobile speed van

Locations A11 and Turn Pike Road (it does not give location on which results were in which position)

Sept	No data
Oct	97
Nov	146
Dec	61
Jan	107
Feb	175
Mar	149
April	No data
May	No data
Total	735

12 in October in at Turnpike Road (6 were residence of Red Lodge) between the speeds of 35-41mph.

Police events

Coffee with a cop – pavilion 27/04/2026  
 Tesco express pop up 20/04/2026

In the coming months –

The next coffee with a cop date to be confirmed  
 Tesco express pop up date to be confirmed

	<p>Work at the Pines 8<sup>th</sup> May Road safety with St Christopher's dates to be confirmed</p> <p>If you have any upcoming events, you would like us to attend please let us know and we can add this into our calendar.</p> <p>With thanks Red Lodge Community Policing Team</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p> <p><b>7.1</b></p>	<p><b>Reports from Groups attending the meeting</b></p> <p>Red Lodge Conservation Group read the following report</p> <p>The Red Lodge Conservation Group has continued its regular programme of work parties throughout the year. Footpaths have been cleared of obstructions, invasive bracken and gorse have been removed, and some areas of meadow mowed to increase the spread of wild flowers. The group also removes litter and fly-tipped items from the site and maintains the information boards.</p> <p>The group was pleased to find the boundary fence and railings along the footpath at White Mullein Drive had been replaced and that some of the fly-tipped items on the SSSI had been removed. However, it was concerning to learn that when some members of the group were replacing damaged bolts to the metal railings one of the residents mentioned that other residents are deliberately using bolt cutters to move the railings so that children can retrieve footballs that have gone into the SSSI and that fences have been deliberately broken. The group has asked if anything can be done to stop this behaviour.</p> <p>The group is also concerned that children are riding electric scooters on the sandy area. This could damage the Breckland Thyme which is an important feature of the SSSI.</p> <p>Residents of Red Lodge need to be made aware of the importance of the site for wildlife and to treat it with respect. New signage would be helpful and the group is seeking funding for this. The employment of a ranger would reduce inappropriate activity on the site.</p> <p>The broken horse gate at Turnpike Road has been reported to West Suffolk County Council but has yet to be repaired.</p> <p>The group was pleased to welcome a new member to the group who has experience in conservation work. The members of the group are committed to maintaining the site for the benefit of wildlife. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries so sites such as Red Lodge Heath SSSI are a vital refuge for wildlife, particularly the rare species that are only found within this area of England. It is to be hoped that residents will recognise this and enjoy the peace and beauty of the site and that some might join the group in their work to help to preserve it for the future.</p> <p>Chairperson, Red Lodge Conservation Group</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	

**7.2** Red Lodge Lightwave read the following report:

**Lightwave Red Lodge Hub — 2025/26 Review**

Serving Every Age and Stage

The Lightwave Community in Red Lodge now serves every age and stage of life — from toddlers and mums, to primary-aged children, youth, young adults, and pensioners. Most of our programmes meet weekly, offering consistent, relational spaces where people can belong, grow, and receive support. Through schools, after-school clubs, community groups, and targeted wellbeing initiatives, Lightwave continues to be a trusted presence woven into the everyday life of our villages.

Leadership and Growth

- Diane Grano appointed Lead of Lightwave across Suffolk
- Kirk Matthews appointed Chief Operations Officer
- Youth work expanded significantly through a full-time youth worker engaging in schools, running weekly groups, and hosting a summer session for 30 young people
- 78 primary-aged children attended the *Starship Discovery* holiday club, supported by 40 volunteers, including 15 secondary-aged young people
- 8 youth volunteers regularly serve through Duke of Edinburgh and Prince's Trust placements, and some have continued to volunteer after they have finished the scheme.

Partnerships Making a Difference

We are deeply grateful to the organisations and individuals who have enabled us to offer practical support to families and individuals in need.

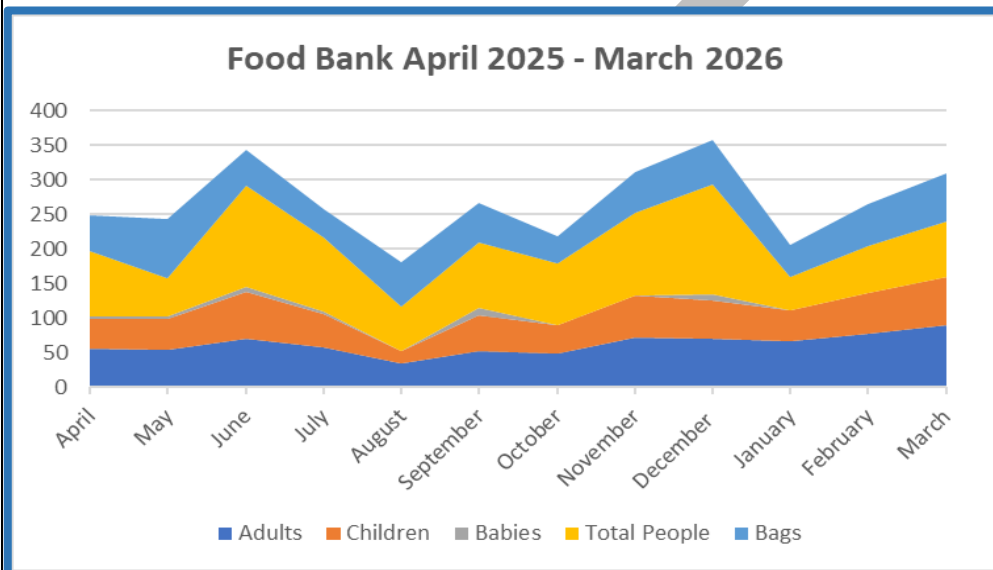
- Parish Council – support for function room hire and food bank storage and grant for the holiday club
- District Councillor – £500 grant for the food bank
- West Suffolk Council – £1,485 for community services and £1,025 for Warm Spaces
- Suffolk Community Foundation – £3,000 *Surviving Winter* grant for over-60s
- Community Action Suffolk – £3,000 for Warm Centres, plus energy advice, slow cookers, and carbon monoxide alarms
- General and Congregational Trust – £4,000 toward landscaping at St Christopher's
- National Church – a significant contribution to core overheads, enabling these services These partnerships have strengthened our ability

to be light and love in our community.

### Light in Our Communities

#### Helping Hands

Client numbers fluctuate throughout the year, but the need remains steady. Lightwave has extended our reach through partnerships with St John's Beck Row, Red Lodge Millennium Centre, St Christopher's, and The Pines Primary School. We have supported many beyond those who attend Monday sessions.



- 16 families received slow cookers and took part in demonstrations in Red Lodge and Beck Row
- A further slow cooker session is planned at The Pines Primary School in May/June
- This initiative continues to provide affordable, healthy meal **options** for families on low incomes

#### Youth and Children's Work

5 Weekly groups serving an average of 77 primary and secondary aged children, with behaviour improving dramatically

3 Young men, including two with special educational needs, have joined our technical team, growing in confidence and responsibility

87 Primary-aged children attended the "Heroes" holiday club, with 30 volunteers of all ages

#### Young Adults

- A group of 14 young adults meets regularly for food, friendship, and support
- Several face complex home situations, and the group provides a safe, stable community
- A recent highlight was a trip to the funfair, and an escape room enjoyed by all

#### Hope Community Choir

- Continues to meet weekly with 22 members, including 4 children
- A welcoming, intergenerational space where strangers become friends and friends become family
- Performs at community and seasonal events
- More men are especially needed

#### Sustainability and Future Planning

We are actively working toward a long-term, sustainable future for the mission in Red Lodge.

- Negotiations continue with a local landowner to secure a plot for a new community church building
- Planners have been engaged and revised drawings prepared, including:
  - Worship space
  - Café
  - Food bank
  - Children's nursery
  - Library
  - Charity Shop

This building will serve as a home for Lightwave and a resource for the wider area.

#### Targets for 2026/27

- Secure land for the new community church building and begin fundraising to start construction in 2028
- Expand youth and children's work into surrounding villages
- Sustain and strengthen Helping Hands and food bank services
- Enhance support for the well-being of parents, carers, children, and young people
- Increase work experience opportunities for young people
- Grow our services to connect with and support all ages in our community

#### Noted

8.	<p><b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</b></p> <p>The Minutes for the above meeting were agreed as accurate records and duly signed by the Chairman.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p>	
9.	<p><b>Public Session – General questions and discussion</b></p> <p>The Red Lodge Lightwave representative thanked D. Cllr. Dicker for ensuring that the locality budget was used in its totality to benefit residents.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	
10.	<p><b>Close of the meeting.</b></p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:37</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p>	Clerk

DRAFT