

PAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Nick Davey

Clerk: Claire Usher

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19th February 2026

In The Pavilion, Pakenham

Councillors Present: Cllr Davey (Chairman), Cllr Bagnall, Cllr Berry, Cllr Palfrey, Cllr Sargent and Cllr Sidebotham

Others in attendance: Claire Usher (Clerk), District Councillor Speed and 24 members of the public

190226/01 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Dorling.

190226/02 **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** Councillors noted no declarations of interest were made.

190226/03 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

Public Forum:

190226/04 **Presentation by John Dagg representing LAR Dew's Discretionary Settlement 2011 Trust:**

Mr Dagg had been invited to the meeting to discuss the future of The Depot Site, Fen Road. Mr Dagg was attending as the representative of the Trustees and was also a Town Planner. He advised that at this stage he was interested in what residents, especially neighbouring properties thought about the future development of this site for a small housing development. No plans had been produced at this stage, and no discussions had taken place with West Suffolk Council Planning.

The current site had been leased for many years by a firm supplying agricultural machinery, for the repair and stocking of agricultural commodities and the planning permission for the site was limited to this activity, therefore any future development would require a change of use and would need to be set against West Suffolk Council's Local Plan policies. This site was designated as a brownfield site. The site is just outside the housing settlement boundary, but national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework gives substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes.

The Trustees were of the view that a well-designed housing development for this site was their preferred option rather than a commercial use and were proposing 9 homes to be compatible with the existing street scene and will include native species landscaping. This was felt by the Trustees that this would enhance the character and appearance of the village edge.

A member of the public highlighted that there were several policies that the development of this site would need to meet within the Local Plan, but felt that because of the size of the site, that 9 homes would be an over development and would prefer to see upto 5 homes on this site. There were questions also raised by residents as to whether the site had been considered as a training site, or some kind of employment use. Mr Dagg said these options had been considered but Trustees were still of the view that a housing development was more appropriate. A question was raised about drainage on this site as there were flooding issues, especially as the river ran along the rear of this site and neighbouring residents gardens were flooded most winters.

Neighbouring residents who attended the meeting and the Parish Council felt that 5 or 6 homes would be more acceptable but were overall supportive of a small development. Mr Dagg thanked everyone for their comments. The next stage will be for the architect to produce some plans and he would welcome the opportunity to attend a future meeting to discuss the plans before they were submitted to West Suffolk Planning.

190226/05 **Presentation from representatives of the Anglia Care Trust:**

Helen Gillies gave a brief presentation regarding the Trust and how they support the NHS to get people home as soon as they can. The Good Neighbour scheme offers assistance to vulnerable patients who lack support at home, helping them manage daily tasks like shopping, collecting prescriptions, and attending appointments. The Good Neighbour Scheme in villages is a volunteer led group within the village who can offer the support needed. The Trust would help to set up a scheme and supply material to help. Cllr Berry would be happy to assist with this scheme and asked for information to be sent to the Clerk. Cllr Speed would be happy to assist financially from his locality budget.

190226/06 County Councillor Report: Cllr Hopfensperger had sent her apologies.

190226/07 District Councillor Report: Cllr Speed reported that the County Council elections would take place on 7th May 2026. Once these elections had taken place the government will consider devolution. He was investigating the decision made by West Suffolk Council Planning regarding planning permission at Dareleen that had recently been refused under delegated authority especially as the Parish Council had supported approval. The Chairman confirmed that he had also written to the Planning Department to ask for an explanation.

190226/08 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th January 2026 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes.

Planning:

190226/09 DC/25/1759/HH – Cross boundary application – Storage barn for mowers and tractors – Nether Hall Farmhouse, The Street – Councillors supported this application.

DC/26/0170/TPO – One Horse Chestnut – Installation of two single bracing systems at 10 and 14 metres from ground level and the reduction of a limb on the eastern side by up to 4 metres – 1 The Greenwoods – Councillors supported his application.

190226/10 Councillors noted that DC/24/1308/HH – Deraleen, Baileypool Road – had been refused planning permission under delegated authority by West Suffolk Council.

Finance:

190226/11 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 30th January 2026.

190226/12 All Councillors noted that there had been no receipts since the last meeting.

190226/13 All Councillors noted that there were no payments to authorise.

190226/14 **Grass and Hedge Cutting Contracts:** All Councillors agreed to continue the grass and hedge cutting contract for 2026 with Countryside Conservation and Tree Services for £2,646 excluding VAT, this represented a 5% increase.

190226/15 **Governance:**

All Councillors agreed to adopt the following policies – Data Protection, Data Breach, Document and Electronic Data Retention, IT, Freedom of Information Scheme, Freedom of Information Requests Policy, Guide to the Publication Scheme, Internal Control Report, Pay Procedure, Safeguarding and reviewed the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders.

190226/16 **Outstanding Actions:** All Councillors had received the outstanding actions report.

190226/17 **Allotment – Clearing of Plots:** Councillors noted that there was a particular plot that needed attention. It was agreed that when the Clerk requests allotment rent in April that this includes a note asking plot holders to keep their allotment plots tidy and manageable. It was also requested that a note be placed on the gate asking all allotment holders to keep the gate shut.

190226/18 **Chairman's Report:** There were no items to report.

190226/19 **Councillors Reports:** Cllr Berry asked if the Parish Council could discuss the church wood and The Dell on the next agenda.

190226/20 **Councillors to note any items for inclusion in a future meeting:** None.

190226/21 All Councillors noted that the next meeting will be on Thursday 19th March 2026 to be held in the Village Hall.

190226/22 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm