

Rumburgh Parish Meeting
28 May 2025
Minutes

1. The meeting started at 7pm, Paul Spill (Parish Council Chairman) welcomed those present. The clerk took the minutes. One member of the public was present.
2. Apologies received from ES Councillor Anthony Specca
3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 1 May 2024 were approved and signed.

RESOLVED

4. Reports

Rumburgh Parish Council: Paul Spill Chairman – as Chairman of Rumburgh Parish Council it is my privilege to present this annual report reflecting the work of the Council over the past year. It has been a year of both challenges and achievements and I would like to thank all the Councillors, our Clerk, volunteers and the Village Hall trustees for the use of the hall for Council meetings and community members for their continued commitment and support.

The Council has met regularly throughout the year to ensure effective governance and to represent the interest of our community. We have maintained a transparent approach with minutes and agenda published on our website. Attendance has remained strong and we continue to welcome input from residents during public sessions.

Key Achievements

Planning: the Council has reviewed and responded to several applications of which the largest has been the application for the solar farm in it.

Environment and Maintenance: our village maintenance team along with volunteers has done an excellent job and keeping public spaces clean and attractive we have also introduced an initiative to support pollinators and biodiversity.

Events and Community engagement: the Council supported several local events including Mayday fete and the future event for VE/VJ Day. These events strengthen our community and are valued by residents of all ages.

Financial overview

The council has managed its budget prudently, ensuring value for money across all projects and services. A detailed financial statement is available separately, but I'm pleased to report that we remain in a stable financial position but under the current financial circumstances we are constantly reviewing every expenditure.

Looking Ahead

Over the coming year we plan to maintain the village assets and raise funds for replacing the children's play equipment

Acknowledgement

"I would like to extend my thanks to the Parish Clerk who ensures the smooth day-to-day operation of the council, and to all counsellors for their dedication. Thank you also to our district and county councillors who support and represent us at higher levels of government.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to every resident who has participated in Parish life over the past year - whether by attending meetings, volunteering time or simply taking pride in our community. Your involvement makes a real difference."

Table Tennis - Andrew Lindqvist

The Table Tennis Club meets in the Village Hall from 2pm - 3.30pm on Tuesdays and regularly has 10 attendees. All equipment is provided. The group welcomes new attendees and is renowned for being friendly and welcoming. Fees are £1.50 per session, payable on the day.

Chess Club - Andrew Lindqvist

ChessClub meets at 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at The Buck. New members are welcome to drop in.

Village Litter Pick - Cllr Evans

The most recent Litter Pick in April resulted in 10 bags of rubbish being collected from around the village. There seems to be a change in the type of litter being found from food cartons to disposable cups and cans. At the end of day two everyone was invited to meet at the Village Hall for free refreshments including scones provided by Cllr Williams and scones made by Cllr Evans.

The decision about a second Litter pick this year will be decided in the Autumn. Notices will be displayed on the website and Village Notice boards.

Grays Lane Solar Farm - Cllr Fenner

As you are aware planning permission was granted by East Suffolk Council at the Planning Committee meeting on the 11th February 2025.

The Save Grays Lane Campaign made a formal complaint to East Suffolk Council and also an independent investigation into their concerns. This was a lengthy 10 page document highlighting all of their concerns as raised by the three parish councillors at the meeting.

Chris Bally, Chief Executive of East Suffolk Council responded having consulted Ben Warner Head of Planning and Control. He explained the process and referred to a recent complaint made by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

The lawfulness of the decision can only be challenged via a Judicial Review.

The complaint was investigated to stage one of the Council's complaint procedure and escalated to stage two.

The next stage will be for the Save Grays Lane Campaign group to refer the matter to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. However the Ombudsman cannot overrule the planning decisions.

Save Grays Lane Campaign Group further responded on the 15th of April this year. They reiterated their case and emphasised the public's engagement. Conditions to the planning permission were also highlighted.

Chediston Solar Farm has since come to notice, if approved, will treble the size of the existing 70 acre site at the other end of it at Bonners Farm.

The pre-application for this proposal was known to Suffolk Council prior to the planning meeting but not disclosed to the East Suffolk Councillors at the Grays Lane planning meeting.

The Save Grays Lane Campaign group will decide whether to take the matter further, to the Ombudsman, MP or the media. You may also be aware of further plans for Solar farms locally at Barsham and Flixton.

Allotment Update- Cllr Hitchcock

For those who were unable to get to the Chelsea flower show the Rumburgh allotments could be an alternative (and cheaper)

Whilst the allotments may lack the extravagance of Chelsea, they both have a lot of effort and work put in.

It has been a difficult year for allotments with cold nights slowing growth and dry weather a serious problem.

Local wildlife has also been a challenge but at least the dry weather reduced snail and slug activity, sure they will now appear.

We would like to thank Roger Wharton for helping with much needed water.

The allotments are a rewarding (usually) and healthy occupation.

We are a friendly group always ready to help and accommodate, although be prepared for the odd dig (sorry for the pun) sarcastic comment.

You cannot get much for £10 these days and the allotments are very good value.

We are lucky to have them and the more that are allocated will keep them going.

When the products of the toil reach the table, the efforts are very worthwhile.

Pleasure Ground Play Equipment - Cllr Fenner

The original play equipment and football pitch & goalposts have been supplemented over recent years by the addition of the boules pitch, picnic bench and couples seats.

The original children's play equipment has been maintained by the Parish Council over the years, is regularly inspected by ROSPA trained assessors and insured by Community Action Suffolk.

Thanks to councillors Paul Spill and Steve Stannard for all of their work maintaining the equipment.

However the equipment is now starting to show its age.

Equipment providers must be accredited to ROSPA standards for insurance purposes.

Initial site meetings between the providers and councillor Paul Fenner have resulted in an extensive report and quotes. A "like for like" replacement retails at about £30K.

The Parish Council has ring fenced funds towards the replacement over recent years and also for the first time this year held a stall at the May Day fete purely to fund raise for this equipment.

We plan to apply for grants towards this project as well.

We are looking to the village for ideas as to how the project proceeds.

Do we in fact replace "like for like"?

Is there other play equipment which would be preferred?

Your opinions and ideas are most welcome.

Bowls Club - Cllr Williams


Bowls Club meetings every Friday from 2 - 4 in the Village Hall. Usual Price £2 per person, but a free Taster Session is on offer for all newcomers. All equipment provided although most attendees bring their own refreshments. There are 20 or more regular attendees, creating a fun and informal atmosphere.

5. Open Forum –

Cllr Fenner provided an update on the repair works to the Church. Scaffolding remains in place to support the back wall, meanwhile bore holes and soil samples have been taken to try to establish why the subsidence is happening.

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended and took part in the meeting.

Meeting closed at 19.40

Signed as an accurate record of the meeting: 

Position: 

Date: 20/5/2026