

MONK SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of the AGM of Monk Soham Parish Council held on Thursday 22nd May 2025 at the Bedfield Community HUB.

The meeting commenced at 19:00

05/25 - 01 Present

- Graham Wigley (Chairman - GW), Charles Bagnall (Vice-Chairman - CRB), Julian Sayer (JS), Caroline Berkley (CB), Katy Nette-Thomas (KNT) and Robert Stimpson (RS).
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- Mathew Hicks (SCC and MSDC Ward Councillor – MH). For item 02/25 – 04) below.
- There were no members of the public present.

05/25 - 02 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

- Graham Wigley and Charles Bagnall were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.
- It was agreed to try and urgently recruit a new councillor for the vacancy. CB to produce an item for the front page of the July edition of the parish magazine. GR to reciprocate with items for the website, noticeboard and newsletter.

05/25 - 03 Apologies for Absence

- None.

05/25 - 04 Report of District & County Councillor

- The recent May 2025 report from MH had been circulated and posted to the website. He highlighted the salient points, viz:
- He also mentioned SCC 's financial situation and the ever-growing cost of adult and children's social care needed to cope with increasing numbers.
- He also enthusiastically explained the devolution proposals and favoured one unitary council for Suffolk and Norfolk and explained the future is for Mayors to be at the forefront of Central Government funding. There will be start-up costs, but these will be quickly recovered by the savings. Some parish councils will also wish to take on more duties.
- County libraries will be taken back under SCC control and this was necessary to avoid cuts to the opening hours,

05/25 – 05 Declaration of Members Interests

- All councillors were reminded of the need to keep their declarations up to date for themselves and spouses/partners. No changes were declared.

05/25 - 06 Public Open Session

No members of the public were present.

05/25 - 07 Minutes of the Last Meeting (28th February 2025)

- These were agreed and then signed by GW as an accurate record.

05/25 - 08 Action Points from the Meeting

- JS will soon acquire the paint for the noticeboard and seat refurbishment, which will be completed in July or August this year.

05/25 - 09 Police Report

- GR stated that the Police National Crime Map showed no recorded crimes in Monk Soham during the period January to March 2025.

05/25 - 10 Planning Update .

- DC/23/02257. (Static Caravan at Honeysuckle Farm) – Refused by MSDC and an appeal (EN/22/0743) has been dismissed by the Inspector. The applicant had until 22nd January 2025 to comment. It appears that no comments have been received by MSDC. GR to check with MSDC Enforcement.
- DC/23/04453 (Primrose Farm – Smallholding, etc.). Refused and an appeal was now with the Planning Inspectorate against the enforcement notice.
- DC/25/00138 (Rose Hill Riffle Range Kenton) – Extended opening hours at weekends have been approved by MSDC,
- DC/25/01412 (Woodcroft Hall – Various Repairs etc) – Approved by MSDC
- DC/25/01266 (Oakfields – Erection of Porch etc) – Approved by MSDC.

05/25 - 11 Financial Update

- Expenditure since the last meeting (February 2025) in the 2024/25 financial year has been £835.97, £76.80 and £196.99 in respect of the Clerk's second-half year salary, expenses and PAYE respectively.
- Expenditure in the current financial year has been £2.10 bank charges (NatWest) and £131.43 (SALC membership renewal).
- There has been no income in the 2024/25 financial year since the last meeting.
- Income in the current financial year has been £1662.50 for the first half-year precept (MSDC), £81.20 VAT refund for 2024/25 (HMRC) and £72.00 from SCC for cutting footpath 28 across Hungers Green.
- An impending payment of £50.00 was authorized (Paul Burrows(2024/25 local audit).
- The Certificate of Governance and the 204/25 Locally audited (by Paul Burrows) accounts were approved and signed. GR to liaise with PKF Littlejohn, the national auditors .
- The 2024/25 CIL return was agreed and signed.
- The 2025/26 Financial Risk Assessment was agreed and signed.
- The Clerk's 2025/26 Contract was agreed and signed.
- GR produced an estimate for the 2025/26 financial year but made it clear that it was without prejudice to any unforeseen circumstances that could occur in the next twelve months. This shows a projected surplus of £1,845.00 on the 31st March 2026.

05/25 - 12 Hungers Green Progress Report

- Andrew Mutton had made the first cut of the footpath on Hungers and the payment from SCC had been received.
- Richard Paramee the MSDC Biodiversity Officer had confirmed that the application for wildflower seeds had been granted. The results from seeds shown last year had been disappointing but may improve in their second year.

05/25 – 13 *Other Correspondence and Any Other Business*

- Various potholes had been reported by GR and Lee Maddox had been requested to restore the footpaths FP25 and FP28 across their land, but no response had been received to date.
- GR had met with representative of SCC and MSDC regarding the possibility of creating Community Emergency Planning, but it had been far more detailed than could be foreseen for Monk Soham. He will receive a template to consider options. It was agreed to combine any such plan with Bedfield.

05/25 – 14 *Date of Next Meeting*

- The next meeting (AGM) will be Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 19:30.

The meeting ended at 19:56.

Signed.....