

# **MINUTES OF PARHAM'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**7pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

*Parham Village Hall*

## **1. Chair's welcome**

Michael Block, as Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone.

Present:

|               |                   |                              |                 |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Block | Jonathan Cottrell | Michael Gray                 | Peter Kindred   |
| Kath Kindred  | Marjorie Gibbs    | Tony Gibbs                   | Alexandra Lapot |
| James Rogers  | Jason Wood        | Lydia Kindred (minute taker) |                 |

District Councillor Vince Langdon Morris

## **Apologies for absence**

John Patrick, Phil Simmons (Village Hall) Mary Simmons (Village Hall)

## **2. Minutes 2025**

The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were noted as an accurate record of the meeting.

## **3. There were no matters arising.**

## **4. Parham Parish Council**

Michael Block outlined recent updates from the Parish Council, including regarding the Natural Flood Management projects.

## **5. Village Hall Committee**

A written report was provided, including social activities in 2025-2026, groups who regularly hire the hall, details of the management committee, the current financial situation and future plans. A report was also provided for The Parham Hut Charity providing details on its income and expenditure over the year and the management committee.

## **6. Village Recorder**

The recorder's report covered a range of village matters over the past year, including the impact of unusual weather on local agriculture, ongoing work to manage water and flooding, and various infrastructure developments. It noted several well-supported community and fundraising activities, along with progress and challenges relating to church and property projects within the parish. The report also highlighted the continued use of the Village Hall and changes in local roles and responsibilities within church and community life. It concluded with acknowledgement of the passing of a Myrle Gray, a long-standing and much-respected member of the village. The Village Recorder thanked Robin Gray for assisting him with the report.

## **7. Parham Airfield Museum**

Peter Kindred gave a verbal report on the museum and handed out museum guide booklets.

The museum has welcomed over 5,000 visitors over the 2025 season, including over 100 American descendants and friends, and several school visits. A new Nissen hut is being built to replace the two old store sheds that stood in front of the Control Tower that were not in keeping with the surrounding buildings. A new extension is being planned next to the Moller Building to house more artefacts that have been gifted to the museum.

The museum now runs as a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO). There are no paid members of staff and more volunteers are always very welcome.

#### **8. Corrance School Trust**

A written report was received from the Trust for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The Trust, established in 1992 and funded from the historic sale of Parham School, continues to support the educational and religious welfare of young people in Parham and Hacheston. The Trustees reported that the Trust's funds remain invested in a fixed-rate bond with Cambridge & Counties Bank, with interest income for the year totalling £325. A fundraiser held at Parham Airfield Museum in September raised over £800. Three grants were awarded during the year, amounting to £190, with all applications handled confidentially. The report also confirmed the Trust's aims, noted other fundraising during the year, listed the current Trustees, and noted the independent examiner, solicitors and bank.

#### **9. Parochial Council**

The meeting received the Parham PCC Annual Report for 2025. The year focused heavily on preparing for significant future challenges, particularly the need for major roof repairs. The PCC moved to online banking and introduced a card-payment machine, supported by a generous donation. Fundraising efforts included a well-attended community event on Church Meadow, regular coffee mornings, and produce sales, with further concerts planned. Severe roof leaks in November required emergency action, but services were able to continue, including a well-attended Christmas service.

There were several personnel changes during the year, including the retirement of the long-standing treasurer and the arrival of new support for services. The PCC recorded steady attendance across 25 services and marked several significant life events within the congregation. The report also noted the death of Mrs Myrle Gray, whose funeral filled the church. The PCC continues to support efforts to strengthen links with Hacheston Church and remains committed to progressing the roof project and nurturing a strong and inclusive congregation.

#### **10. Biodiversity Group**

The group hasn't met this year but hedges around the greens have been cut.

#### **11. County & District Councillors**

There was no report from the County Councillor as he had only been elected on 7th May.

District Councillor Langdon-Morris provided a written report, which will be published on the village website. He also gave a verbal update covering the recent election results and the expected timetable for future elections. He noted that a judicial review may be sought regarding the decision to create three Unitary Councils. It is anticipated that the new authority will be called Central and Eastern Suffolk and will likely comprise around 65 Councillors.

He reported on the Four Rivers Project, which continues to test water quality locally, and on Framlingham's Flood Recovery and Resilience Group. The Group recently met with representatives from Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency to discuss flood-related plans in Framlingham, which should also benefit communities further downstream.

He recommended downloading East Suffolk Council's app to help residents prepare for the forthcoming changes to recycling collections and dates.

He also provided an update on the National Planning Policy Framework, explaining that the area is currently subject to two specific provisions- the tilted balance and the presumption in favour of sustainable development. These apply because East Suffolk Council does not currently have a five-year housing land supply. This is likely to result in a significant increase in local housing development proposals.

## **12. Open Forum**

A resident shared that she is continuing to campaign for Brick Lane to be designated a Quiet Lane.

Another resident mentioned that there are two Parham Parish Councils, with the other being in Sussex, and it can be confusing navigating to the correct one. He also advised that some of the contact information on the Suffolk InfoLink website is out of date. The parish clerk reported on continued frustrations regarding getting this updated.

*Michael Block thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 7.40pm.*

*Copies of all written reports will be filed with these minutes and will also be shared on the village website.*