

PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting

On **THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2026**

at St Catherine's Church, Pettaugh (start time 6.30 pm)

Present:

Councillors Belinda Bulsing, Ruth Crane, Stephen Rowe (Chairman)
and Esther Thornton

1/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Margaret Marlow, and the Clerk reported that both County Councillor M Hicks and District Councillor N Hardingham had notified him that they would be unable to attend this meeting.

2/10 MINUTES OF MEETING – 4 AUGUST 2026

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 4 August 2026 be approved and confirmed.

3/10 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

None received.

4/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

It was noted that written reports from both Councillor Hicks and Councillor Hardingham had been received and circulated. There was some interest in what Councillor Hardingham reported as to the new owners of Stonham Barns being more co-operative regarding outstanding contraventions of planning control at that site.

5/10 PLANNING APPLICATION – LAND REAR OF CROWFIELD ROSE PH

Further to the reference to this in Councillor Hardingham's report, the Clerk reported that the District Council's website clearly showed that this application was still alive and awaiting determination. It was therefore concluded that the application had not been withdrawn by the applicant, as initially advised and understood, but rather withdrawn from the agenda for

Minute 5/10 continued

the Planning Committee meeting held last week. The website also showed that further information relating to a Flood Risk Assessment had been added that day with a new consultation period ending on 29 October 2026.

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should seek clarification of the current status of the application and also the position of the District Council in relation to possible enforcement action to secure planning control over the current activity on the land.

It was not known at this point when the application would be determined or whether it would be brought back to the Planning Committee given pending changes in Planning legislation which would set national criteria in terms of what categories of application should be delegated and what should be referred to a Committee. Existing schemes of delegation and enabling Member call-in would disappear. It remained to be seen what arrangements Mid Suffolk District Council put in place to accommodate these changes.

6/10 FINANCE

The Parish Council considered the following matters:

(a) Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation

A statement showing the position at 5 October 2026 regarding the Parish Council's bank accounts and reconciliation of recent payments was received and noted. The balance of the Community Account with no unpresented cheques was £6,756.51, and the Business Premium Account was now £1,104.31. Expenditure to date totalled £1,218.34.

The Clerk pointed out a minor adjustment by way of correction to the final total expenditure for 2025/26 as recorded which was now £3,662.64. Income to date had been boosted by receipt of the second half of the precept and also a vat refund for last two years.

(b) Pay Award 2026/27

The Parish Council considered implementation of the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27 which was applicable from 1 April 2026 in relation to the post of Clerk at spinal column point 8. The award represented a 3.3% increase.

RESOLVED that the 2026/27 Agreement be implemented with effect from 1 April 2026 in relation to the post of Clerk.

(c) Accounts for payment

The following accounts were received:

Minute 6/10(c) continued

Mr S P Jennings (Clerk's salary and expenses) - £274.45
St Catherines Church PCC (Use of Church for Meeting) £18.00
CAS Insurance Services Ltd (insurance renewal premium) £461.63

It was noted that the claim from the Clerk for the period August/October reflected the new salary agreement with a back-dated adjustment to 1 April 2026 of 24.75 hours representative of the new hourly rate of £14.36.

RESOLVED that the above accounts be approved for payment.

(d) Banking Arrangements

The Parish Council reviewed the current arrangements and the possibility of moving towards electronic/on-line banking either with the existing bank Barclays or moving to another. Councillor Bulsing reported on her discussions with Barclays on this and the Clerk reported on his discussions with Unity Bank and another Parish Council already using this bank.

While the implications of continuing to use Barclays did not appear to give the Parish Council the access and control it might be seeking, and the fact that signatories needed updating, the reported experience of ease of transition and set-up offered by Unity was positive. The Clerk had established that the Parish Council would be charged £7.00 per month by Unity. The Parish Council concluded that it would be preferable to move to internet banking by starting afresh with a new bank.

RESOLVED that the principle of engaging Unity Trust Bank for the Parish Council's banking services, including the setting up of electronic/internet banking facilities, is agreed and that the Clerk in consultation with Councillor Bulsing be authorised to pursue this and report back as necessary.

7/10 PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

The Clerk had circulated details from three suppliers of these devices with prices linked to a budget in the region of £2-2.5k. There was some discussion with a clear preference for a particular supplier, and reference made to another potential supplier at a cheaper price. The Clerk would continue to make enquiries and also pursue details of suppliers of those devices in particular Parish locations identified in the discussion. He would also contact the County and District Councillor on whether a funding contribution might be available from their locality budgets. This matter would be brought back for a decision at the next meeting.

8/10- NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting be fixed for Thursday 3 December 2026 at the usual time and place, and that an item on donations be included on the agenda.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50 pm.

Chairman
3 December 2026