

Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council meeting

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Minutes

Present: Cllr William Pipe, Cllr Jim Bird, Cllr Kate Lindsay, Cllr David Lugo, Cllr Harry Brightwell, Sophia Charalambous (Clerk & RFO) County Councillor Elaine Bryce, District Councillor Colin Hedgley and 2 members of the public.

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence.
Apologies were sent from Cllr Pauline Procter and Cllr Hayden Beckett.
2. To receive declarations of interest.
None.
3. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2026
The minutes were approved by the councillors.
4. Matters arising from the minutes which are not covered in the agenda
None.
5. Comments from members of the public on matters on the agenda
A member of the public raised some points and concerns for the following:
 - Keightley Way development begun on the 10th August and by the 11th August the following were reported: There was no acoustic fencing, no tree protection fences were in place and no dust suppression. There has not yet been a response or outcome to the reports.
On the 26th August the lack of use of the lorry route was reported.
 - Suffolk Highways were contacted regarding the use of the £100k fund to be used for the 30mph speed limit reduction however it is to be used for Keightley Way.
 - Reports from parents in the community were received regarding the play area, which they stopped using due to noise and dust.
 - Anglian Water have noted that the Donkey Lane sewage works needs to be upgraded. A report with further details will be provided at the next Parish Council meeting.
 - The village sign is looking like it needs some maintenance.The Parish Councillors acknowledged these concerns.
6. Reports from the County and District Councillors.
County Councillor Elaine Bryce discussed the current status of the proposed Westerfield quarry, informing the Parish Council that the Economic Impact Report is not yet complete. Therefore, the plans will not be discussed by the Planning Committee until later in the year. The exact date is yet to be confirmed.
Elaine has escalated the ongoing overflowing drain and spring at the end of The Granaries to the cabinet member of Suffolk Highways, and has commissioned

further jetting of the site. This was previously carried out in 2022 and 2025. Elaine will request a schedule of works from Suffolk Highways.

The Parish Councillors requested a twice yearly clean of the drains, instead of once a year and in some parts of the village once every 2 years.

County Cllr Elaine Bryce recommended to look into joining the Community Help Scheme, and is able to offer funding for this.

Elaine spoke of the Energy Efficiency Scheme which is available throughout winter, with £7.5k help towards energy bills and £9k to help towards oil costs.

ACTION - Clerk to look into joining the Community Help Scheme and contact Elaine Bryce about funding support.

District Councillor Colin Hedgley spoke about a very prominent topic in East Suffolk, the waste and recycling bins. Colin has received complaints from members of the community since June and they are still ongoing.

It has been recorded from online public reports and the binmen that there were 3500 uncollected bins up until 18th August 2026.

Reasons provided for the missed collections over August were 2 vehicles 'out of action' and unable to be used, as well as a lack of staff, due to holidays and sadly a staff bereavement.

District Councillor Colin Hedgley expressed his frustration at the "shambolic system" and "incompetence" from the Council, and recommended to raise complaints if a response has not yet been received which can also be followed up with Colin.

Colin spoke of the Warm Home Grant scheme which will be continued again this winter 2026. You can check your eligibility and apply [online here](#).

7. Planning, including any updates on outstanding applications

a) Manor Farm DC/26/1012/FUL – Still awaiting a decision.

We approved your holding objection and noted that the applicant was proposing a further amendment, which when received, we will consider if appropriate.

b) Larks Hill DC/26/1106/FUL – Still awaiting a decision.

Acknowledged by the Parish Councillors.

c) Sunny Farm DC/26/1517/P3Q, DC/26/1518/P3Q, DC/26/1519/P3Q, DC/26/1520/P3Q, DC/26/1521/P3Q – Application refused.

Acknowledged by the Parish Councillors.

d) DC/26/0920/FUL Erection of building to ancillary residentially based physiotherapist clinic [Sui Generis] and associated works [retention of], following the grant of planning permission DC/24/1593/FUL Expiry 21st September 2026.

The Parish Councillors discussed the planning application profusely and chose not to submit a comment online as they did not wish to support or object. They could not find a reason to object to the application as it will not cause any noise, pollution, smells or traffic, but instead offer a service to the community. The Councillors agreed to take no action and will not comment.

8. Clerk's report including financial update, approvals, and correspondence
- Bank balances and payments since last meeting

Community Account £90.12 Business Saver Account £25,015.24

23/07/2026	Information Commissioners Office	£52.00
23/07/2026	Deben Climate Centre donation	£100.00
31/07/2026	S Charalambous Clerk Pay June/July	£481.26
10/08/2026	PKF Littlejohn - Late payment fee (24-25)	£96.00
17/08/2026	HMRC	£140.28

ACTION - Clerk to email bank statements to Cllr Kate Lindsay along with the bank reconciliations for review.

- **Internal audit**

The internal audit was submitted in June; however, the chosen auditor Heelis & Lodge has not responded to any correspondence. The clerk has therefore searched for a different auditor to complete the audit and has found an independent auditor, Trevor Brown who is happy to complete this.

ACTION – Clerk to chase up Heather Heelis at Heelis and Lodge again and in the meantime check Trevor Brown's prices and agree if within reasonable amount with Cllr Bill Pipe.

- **Footpath 15a**

The clerk has contacted Debbie Adams at Suffolk Highways regarding the closed footpath; requesting this be dealt with more urgently with a reduced completion time of less than the current suggested 6-month closure. We are awaiting a response.

Cllr Jim Bird spoke of the frustrations with the prolonged closure of footpath 15a, County Councillor Elaine Bryce will look into this further.

- **Road Sweeping & Drain Maintenance**

The clerk contacted Josh White at Suffolk Highways regarding the lack of road and drain maintenance. The reply back stated 'Highways has a maintenance regime to regularly clean all gullies in the County, depending on their road classification and usage.

This maintenance regime is enhanced in areas of known flooding where properties or widespread flooding is common, due to a lack of adequate infrastructure, outfalls or where soakaways are present.'

High Street – Last visited November '25 (Yearly Visit)

Main Road - Last visited January '26 (Yearly Visit)

The Street - Last visited March '25 (2 Yearly Visit)

Fynn Road - Last visited November '25 (Yearly Visit)

Grundisburgh Road - Last visited March '25 (2 Yearly Visit)

Westerfield Lane – Last visited March '25 (2 Yearly Visit)

Keightley Way – Last visited March '25 (2 Yearly Visit)

County Councillor Elaine Bryce acknowledged the cleaning of the drains which was previously carried out in 2022 and 2025 and will look into how to prioritise these projects.

ACTION – Clerk to respond to Josh White at Suffolk Highways regarding increasing the cleaning schedule to twice a year as once or every two years is not adequate due to the drains being blocked, which will therefore cause flooding and additional costs.

9. Keightley Way

Councillor Kate Lindsay reported back the recent communications between Howards has been positive, with any concerns and complaints raised being rectified promptly.

Cllr Kate Kindsay thanked Howards, Martin Williams and Sam for their help and support.

Problems that have been raised were:

- Lorries arriving before the agreed time of 8am
- Lorries using the high street instead of the agreed route
- Acoustic fencing had not been installed – This has now been purchased and is being installed.
- No tree protection fencing installed

ACTION – Councillor Kate Lindsay to follow up the problems with fencing and dust suppression on the site.

Clerk to write to Martin Williams to thank him for supporting Cllr Kate Lindsay.

10.To discuss plans for the use of the £100k from Bennett Homes

The clerk contacted Neil McManus and Carl Ashton at Suffolk Highways. Carl Ashton has stated that the funds have not yet been received from Bennett Homes and are not due to be received until the first dwelling is occupied.

ACTION – Councillor Kate Lindsay is to follow up with Bennett Homes to check if funds of £100k has yet been paid.

11.Playground/playing field

The ROSPA inspection is due to be completed this month.

Councillor Jim Bird and Councillor David Lugo have removed the damaged parts of the play equipment; however, the fort still requires some attention and maintenance which is due to be completed.

12.To review the following policies

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations

ACTION – Clerk to forward completed documents to the Councillors before submitting online.

13. Items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

- Donkey Lane Anglian Water sewage works
- Village Sign maintenance

14. Date of forthcoming meeting: Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 7:30pm in the village hall.

Meeting closed at 9:26pm

Sophia Charalambous – Clerk Tuddenham St. Martin