

Oulton Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7.00pm in Oulton Community Centre

Parish Councillors (5) present	Jo Illingsworth (Chairperson), Darren Ansdell (arrived at 7.30pm), Pete Bryant, Faith Brown & Chris Smith
County Councillors	Keith Robinson
District Councillors	Andree Gee
Also in attendance	Clerk
Members of the public	1

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Unable to welcome Grahame Emmerson as new Parish Councillor at this meeting.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence: T Knights, P Waring & V Toleman. No contact from P Collecott.

3. To receive any declarations of interest from Members & consider requests for dispensations:

Cllr Jo Illingsworth declared a non-pecuniary interest as Trustee of Oulton Community Centre.

4. To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd March 2026.

Minutes were not signed by chair. Section "County Councillor Update" regarding 7.5t wight limit. Should read "from Bridge Road roundabout up to Rackhams Corner" Minutes to be reissued and presented at next meeting.

5. Matters Arising

F Brown been collecting tombola prizes for our Fete in August.

P Bryant & J Illingsworth have been trying to promote our grant funding, but with no success. We will look at ways to promote better when funding becomes available again in September.

F Brown to look into how we can get our funding out to the residents of Oulton.

Clerks' appraisal, to be signed off after meeting once chair has approved.

6. Adjournment for Public Participation (15 minutes allowed for)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions and comment (no more than 3 minutes each). Nothing raised.

7. Reports from:

Parish Clerk:

- 7.1.1 Fete planning is going very well, have lots on board already. Clerk to contact fun fair person to check he has a generator.
- 7.1.2 C Punt, Internal Auditor is collected accounts next Tuesday. Will ask if he can return prior to our next meeting
- 7.1.3 Battery for defib at Camps Heath, provide 2 quotes for next meeting, as this needs replacing quickly. This maybe expensive as the unit is quite outdated.
- 7.1.4 We are still waiting for the proof of our new noticeboard. Email received prior to the meeting, asking for further information, i.e. colour, shape of header panel and colour of writing. Responded with answers.
- 7.1.5 Paul Easter at ESSL has been contacted regarding bench and library installation. Still no date given.
- 7.1.6 Bus shelter on Sands Lane. Clerk to contact First Bus and Go East Anglia to see if they can help us. This could alleviate issues with cost and installation. Parish to decide whether to replace or leave old one in situ.
- 7.1.7 Clerks 1 to 1, set for 6th May at 10am

Chairman's Report:

- 7.2.1 Had productive fete meeting with all of Parish Council
- 7.2.2 Been on top of Facebook postings – 390 followers now
- 7.2.3 Attended Networking with Federation of Small Businesses

County Councillors update from Cllr Keith Robinson:

Has some official work still to attend to but mainly has to give time for electioneering.

District Councillors update from Cllr Andree Gee:

Government decreed how the LGR will work. There will be 3 councils, Western Suffolk, Ipswich & Southern Suffolk and Centre. We will have Northern part of East Suffolk, lose extreme Southern part but will take over some of Mid Suffolk, which will go over to Stowmarket. Lowestoft will be the Centre.

Oulton Community Centre update: None

8. Planning

To receive new planning applications and make comment: None

To receive results and updates on outstanding applications:

- Update from P Waring circulated before the meeting.
- P Waring would like to nominate himself as tree warden for OPC.
- P Waring and Clerk to arrange meeting with Richard Fox, Arboricultural Officer at East Suffolk Council. To open a line of good communication.

9. Finance: Income & Expenditure as at 31st March 2026 received

Payment Schedule

Payee	Value	Description
Oulton Community Centre	£47.25	Room Hire March 2026 – OCC2468
NPTS	£349.27	Subscription April 26 – March 27
Noticeboard Online	£1156.80	New Noticeboard Somerleyton Road (CIL)
Holly Farm (P Waring)	£79.68	Tree Guard Somerleyton Road (CIL)
J Illingsworth	£100.00	Lound Garden Centre Gift Card
Clerk	£819.12	Salary March 2026
Unity Trust	£7.00	Service Charge
Total	£2559.12	

To agree payment of invoices and other expenses: Payments – Proposed by Cllr P Bryant and second by Cllr C Smith - All approved.

Income Received: £206.00 Interest on CIL & Instant Access Accounts

To Consider Grant Applications: None

10. To receive an update of the purchase of Assets using CIL money: Raised in Clerks report.

11. Federation of Small Businesses Membership: Cost of membership is £195.00 each year. This doesn't give us anything extra that must have already, so perhaps this isn't a good offer for us.

12. Co-Operative Bank: Clerk to contact and arrange to have all 3 accounts moved over to Co-op Bank. Proposed J Illingsworth and seconded by F Brown. All in favour.

13. To receive updates from individual Council Members (for information only):

Cllr T Knights provided SID camera results: -

Wood Lane Southbound – average daily traffic 302, average speed 30 mph.

Sands Lane Westbound – average daily traffic 2706, average speed 30.7 mph.

14. To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda (for information only) –

WW1/WW2 memorial

Vote on Charity who will be in receipt of our fete money this year.

Set date for our Christmas Fayre, Carols around the tree.

15. To confirm date of the next Parish Council AGM meeting as Tuesday 5th May 2026, 7pm at Oulton Community Centre.

End The meeting closed at 19.55 and everyone was thanked for attending.