

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**HELD ON TUESDAY 6 JANUARY 2026 AT 7.00PM
AT BIRDBROOK COMMUNITY HOUSE**

PRESENT: Mr Steve Rhenius (Chair)
Mr Alan Cook
Mrs Anita Chadney
Mr Tim Chadney
Mrs Shirley Turner
Mrs Helen Castle

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs Debbie Hilliard (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 Members of the public

Mr Rhenius welcomed everyone to the meeting. Questions and statements were invited

It was noted that Mr McIver would continue to be involved in matters at the bridge but would not be as involved with matters regarding the A1017 through Baythorne End – the VAS signs and proposed tidying of village entry. Mr McIver was thanked for his assistance and input for the work at Baythorne End Bridge.

Land registry – Village Pond – it was noted that new councillors had the information needed regarding the pond and this would be shared with the Parish Council.

26/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Peter Schwier, Braintree District Councillor Diana Garrod and Michelle Harrington.

26/02 OTHER ABSENCES

None.

26/03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Cook proposed, and Mrs Chadney seconded with all in favour that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 November 2025 be approved as a correct record (as amended) and signed.

26/04 ACTION LIST

Minute	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
Questions	Agenda Local Plan Review for January meeting particularly for potential green buffer. Impact from proposals at Sturmer/Steeple/Helions and consultation	Clerk to agenda	Completed.
25/80	Pond – Contact Land Registry and see if land registered.	Clerk	Noted information already available.
	Parks – Contact DA for quote to clean play equipment twice a year.	Clerk	Completed.

	Highways – Retrospective bus shelter licence. Defer to next meeting.	Clerk	Agenda item 6
	Pothole – Finkle Green – Report in	Debbie/Alan	Completed – now on January’s agenda

26/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

26/06 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR/COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Not present.

26/07 MEMBERS’ REPORTS

- a) Pond – There was a detailed discussion regarding ownership and future plans for the pond which was noted. It was noted that there were reports that residents were keen to see the pond area fully maintained.
- b) Parks – Anita reported. There was discussion regarding the provision of play equipment, and it was noted that the ring-fenced sum was for use towards play equipment at Baythorne End. Grant information noted.
- c) Chair’s Report – Mr Rhenius advised he had considered the issues raised regarding highways issues at Baythorne End, the village pond and given the concerns raised with the local plan review and proposed that the Parish Council consider putting in place a Neighbourhood Plan for Birdbrook.
- d) Highways Report –
Retrospective bus shelter licence – The documentation was considered and it was unanimously proposed and agreed that the licence not be accepted. The Clerk will write to ECC and notify them of the decision. **Action.**
- e) Media – Nothing to report

26/08 PLANNING

25/02655/FUL - Studio 1017 Sturmer Road New England Essex CO9 4BB – After consideration it was proposed and agreed to object to the application on the basis of noise, risk of pollution of the nearby river, highways impact and impact on local residents.

26/09 BIRDBROOK COMMUNITY HOUSE

Nothing to report.

26/10 FINANCE

The following points were noted:-

- Finance Report – Considered, noted and accepted.
- Budget and Precept 2026-27 – After consideration it was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the budget and precept as presented and amended. The clerk will submit to BDC. **Action.**

26/11 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

None.

26/12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS


None.

26/13 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 10 March
- 12 May (APA and AGM)
- 7 July
- 15 September
- 10 November

All Tuesdays at 7pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 9.30pm.

Signed: 

Dated: 10/3/26

Action List

Minute	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
26/7	Bus Shelter Licence – declined to sign. Clerk will notify ECC	Clerk	Draft emailed to PC 20/1
26/10	Budget and Precept- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Notify Church of reduction in grass cut grant for 2026/27- Complete and send in budget form to ECC	Clerk	Draft emailed to PC 20/1 Completed 19/1