

BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 March 2026 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Broughton, Stephanie Dennis, Charles Doe, Martin Liddell, Tom Pace, and John Parry. District Councillor No members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Demangeat and accepted by the Council. Cllr Stockman was absent.

2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests from members on any item to be discussed and requests for dispensations

Cllrs Broughton, Dennis, and Liddell had been granted a dispensation to participate in matters relating to the EcoPower application.

Cllrs Broughton, Parry and Pace declared a registerable interest in matters relating to the Village Hall.

3. Public Forum

District Councillor Weller gave a verbal commentary on the report he had provided in advance of the meeting.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

a. The minutes of the meeting of 9 February 2026 were approved.

b. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 9 February 2026 – none.

5. Planning

a. The following planning application was considered:

Reference	Location	Details
DC/26/00688	The Homestead, The Street, Brome	Listed Building Consent - Demolition of existing structure, new single storey extension and replacement. New detached double garage
It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.		
DC/26/00687	The Homestead, The Street, Brome	Demolition of existing structure, new single storey extension and replacement. New detached double garage.
It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.		

b. There were no planning determinations to note.

c. At 20.00 Robert Hobbs arrive Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC), Head of Strategic Planning, arrived at the meeting and spoke to members on the indicative number of dwellings (70) required in the villages for inclusion in the new Joint Local Plan and how that indicative number may be modified when set against existing policies and plans including the Diss and District Neighbourhood Development Plan (DDNP) which had set a housing allocation of 12 dwellings. It was noted, to date, the Parish Council had not been invited to comment on the number. Robert Hobbs reported that regulations for new plan making come into effect on 25 March. Firstly, MSDC would issue a scoping consultation to the new plan, likely to be on 5 June with an eight week consultation on scope and content of plan; which will result in what should be included in the first draft of the new plan. From then there would be a spatial strategy which would focus where development could be and that will then allocate the numbers which had been 'policy off'. Development could go to well serviced villages or villages which had expressed a need to keep communities sustainable. All would be consulted on and, therefore, public would have chance to shape the new Local Plan. It was noted that there had recently been a consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (central government) and the results of this may limit some of the policies which can be included in Local Plans and NDPs.

Signed R. Liddell Chairperson [Signature] Clerk
Date 13.4.2026

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With reference to the proposed 70 dwellings, Robert Hobbs was asked if number would come down? In response, it was suggested that if larger development was to go at Stowmarket, for example, then the numbers would come down due to the formula applied at 'policy off'. MSDC would publish a draft Local Plan but ahead of this the Parish Council could feed in via the scoping consultation on what the Local Plan could do for its area and Robert Hobbs confirmed that evidence would strengthen any representations made by the Parish Council. Social housing would be included in housing numbers. MSDC had an affordable housing policy which was 35% on schemes of ten or more new dwellings. A housing needs assessment for whole of Suffolk was being commissioned to provide more intelligence and central government were keen on more emphasis on social housing, as stated in NPPF. There would also be an infrastructure delivery plan which would look at education forecasts and what development is needed to support infrastructure or if infrastructure was constrained by development.

Cllr Parry asked how the sites brought forward via the Call for Sites had been defined and it was confirmed that these had been put forward by landowners.

Robert Hobbs was asked how the numbers currently allocated in the DDNP do not marry with the new housing requirements and what did that mean for the future of the DDNP and at what stage would the DDNP need to be rewritten? Robert Hobbs confirmed the plan was currently okay but it would be worth considering how it could be reviewed, particularly the housing policy, as the Local Plan and the DDNP would have to be in conformity.

Cllr Liddell, who had recently represented the Parish Council at a DDNP Review Meeting, summarised that rewriting the DDNP at the moment would be a difficult exercise and therefore it would be beneficial to work with the District Council to get a Local Plan that the parish were happy with and one that the DDNP could sit with. Robert Hobbs suggested the Parish Council could do a review of the DDNP to see how it fits with NPPF, how successful has it been, but for next 12 months there would not be a lot of information from either MSDC or South Norfolk to rewrite the DDNP to. MSDC may be issuing funding for NDPs, particularly if the Plan was looking to allocate sites for development.

Robert Hobbs was thanked for attending.

d. Other planning matters – none.

6. Finance and Governance

a. The current financial position was noted as £2,311.22 in current account and £4,109.02 in the business account.

b. It was agreed to make the following payments.

It was noted that Cllr Pace had completed the internal control checks for October and November.

Amount	Payee	Details
£255.69	Sarah Foote	Clerk's salary March 2026
£171.76	HMRC	PAYE

c. The Risk Register was considered and adopted.

d. It was agreed to appoint T Brown as internal auditor for the year ending 31 March 2026 and the scope of work was considered and approved.

e. The Asset Register for the year ending 31 March 2026 was considered and approved.

7. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

Date	From	Subject
02.03.2026	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish Update
02.03.2026	Parishioner	Bus Service

Signed  Chairperson  Clerk
Date 15.4.2026

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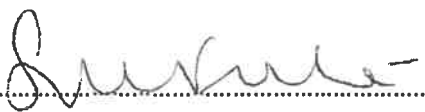
02.03.2026	Mid Suffolk District Council	NSIP and large scale energy tracker
04.03.2026	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	NSIP update
04.03.2026	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish Liaison Meeting – 25 March 2026

8. Urgent Matters and matters for report

None.

9. Date of next meeting – Monday 13 April 2026

Meeting closed: 20.38

Signed  Chairperson  Clerk
Date 13.4.2026