

BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 18 May 2026 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Broughton, Stephanie Dennis, Isobel Demanget, Martin Liddell, Tom Pace, John Parry. District Councillor Tim Weller. There were two members of the public were present.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Broughton was duly elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the forthcoming Council year.

Cllr Broughton duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Doe and accepted by the Council. It was noted that Ian Stockham had resigned from the Parish Council. Mr Stockham was thanked for his service and particularly his work on community speed watch.

3. 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.

Public Forum

District Councillor Tim Weller gave a verbal commentary to his written report which had been provided to members. Details of the new refuse collection were provided and parishioners would receive further details in the post. Cllr Weller's Locality Budget was now available for applications from local councils and organisations.

Two members of the public made representations on planning application DC/26/01581 (Brome Grange) particularly the safety of the road (due to open access), location of footpath, open fields at rear and how proposal was not suitable given the vulnerability of the children (up to 50) the care and education was intended to provide for. It was acknowledged that there was a need for this type of provision however the location was thought not suitable. The noise from the sports and play areas proposed were also a concern for the neighbouring residential properties. The physical renovations to the building were not a problem on their own and a change of use could be supported but this was not a suitable change of use for the location of the building.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

a. The minutes of the meeting of 13 April 2026 were approved.

b. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 13 April 2026 – The response from Mid Suffolk District Council on the Parish Council's correspondence regarding Call for Sites was noted. It was agreed to consider submission of a pre-emptive note on settlement boundaries at the next meeting.

5. Appointments

To make the following appointments:

a) Vice Chairman – it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Liddell.

b) Responsible Financial Officer – it was unanimously agreed to appoint Sarah Foote, Parish Clerk.

c) Bank signatories – would remain as is; Cllrs John Parry, Roger Broughton, Isobel Demangeat and Charles Doe.

d) Internal Controller – it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Pace

d) SALC Representative - it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Parry.

e) EPR Liaison Representative - it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Parry.

f) Representative Councillors to Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan Management Group - it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Liddell and Cllr Broughton.

Signed R.D.L.C. Chairperson [Signature] Clerk

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g) Vehicle Activated Sign Co-ordinators - it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Doe noting that a further councillor/parishioner was required to support this role and this would be considered at the next meeting.

h) Progress Power Liaison Group Representative - it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Parry.

l) Progress Power Community Benefit Fund Representative – it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Parry.

6. Planning

a. The following planning applications were considered.

Reference	Location	Details
DC/26/01520	Unit 2, Eye Road, Brome	Installation of roof mounted Solar PV System

It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application due to the environmental credentials of installing solar panels on roofs.

DC/26/01512	Renvale Technology Park, Eye Road, Brome	Installation of a roof mounted Solar PV System with 230 x 450w modules.
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Public objects submitted on the planning portal were noted as part of the consideration of this application. It was asked that the planning authority consider that there would be no additional noise pollution by the installation of this system, subject, to this there was no reason to object to this application.

DC/26/01581	Brome Grange Hotel, Norwich Road, Brome	Change of use from C1 Hotel to C2 assisted care and F1 education; External alterations to existing building; Creation of outdoor sports area and two secure outdoor play areas
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Change of use from a hotel was supported however there were concerns with the proposal as presented, namely:

Pinch points for arrival and departure were at 'rush hour' times on the A140 with all day users arriving and leaving at the same time of day. Presuming there were secure entry gates, there was concern for traffic backing up on the A140 and the resultant road safety risk. Access was not currently suitable for enabling vehicles to safely enter the grounds. At the time of considering this application, it was noted that Suffolk Highways had raised concern and were requesting further information.

Public footpath traverses the Brome Grange grounds and the development would presume that the service users would have to cross a public footpath, therefore, a concern for the security perimeter. It was noted that it is not possible to fence off a public footpath. Therefore, the current plans had not sufficiently considered how the playing fields could be accessed appropriately to service users needs.

It was further noted that neighbours had raised concerns about the condition of the existing boundary walls.

Given the above, it was unanimously agreed to object to the application as currently presented. District Councillor Weller stated that he would request the application is 'called in' and considered by Planning

Signed R. J. L. L. Chairperson R. J. L. L. Clerk

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Committee which the Parish Council supported.

b. The following planning determinations were noted:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/26/01198	Cottrells, 52 Low Street, Oakley	Installation of a 12 panel domestic solar pv system to the rear/north facing roof pitches - Listed Building Consent Granted
DC/26/01197	Cottrells, 52 Low Street, Oakley	Installation of a 12 panel domestic solar pv system to the rear/north facing roof pitches - Planning Permission Granted
DC/26/00687	The Homestead, The Street, Brome	Demolition of existing rear extensions, erection of single storey rear extension and detached double garage - Listed Building Consent Granted
DC/26/00688	The Homestead, The Street, Brome	Demolition of existing rear extensions, erection of single storey rear extension and detached double garage - Planning Permission Granted

c. The Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage (SWRTS) Project Update Report (Winter 2025 Consultation) was noted.

d. Other planning matters – none.

7. EcoPower Solar Farm development

a. It was noted that members had attended a meeting with EcoPower. Notes from this meeting are available from the Clerk on request. EcoPower had committed to investigating concerns raised at the meeting and would report back. Additional screening and planting had also been considered but no agreements were made. Construction access routes were still being considered, however, there seemed to be a preference to come directly off the A140 and not through the villages. A further Community Liaison meeting was understood to take place before statutory consultation begins.

8. Highways

a. To consider 20 mph schemes – It was suggested that Brome Street could be considered for a 20 mph scheme as well as other locations within the village but more information was firstly needed. It was agreed to engage with County Councillor Baines on this matter.

b. The future operation of Community Speed Watch – it was agreed to ask Mr Ian Stockham for any intentions for the continuation of the scheme and the composition of the group.

9. Finance and Governance

a. The current financial position was noted as £6,120.27 in current account and £4,119.42 in the business account. It was noted that Cllr Pace had complete the internal control checks from January to April 2026.

b. It was agreed to make the following payments:

Amount	Payee	Details
£255.69	Sarah Foote	Clerk's salary May 2026
£17.20	Sarah Foote	Clerk's expenses April/May 2026
£662.15	Community Action Suffolk (Ansvar Insurance)	Annual Insurance Premium

Signed R J L L Chairperson R J L L Clerk

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£171.76	HMRC	PAYE
£171.54	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defib replacement pads

10. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

Date	From	Subject
04.05.2026	Mid Suffolk District Council	NSIP and large-scale energy developments update
11.05.2026	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	SUPER FORUM - from Announcement to Action: Where We Are Now and What Comes Next - 2nd June 2026

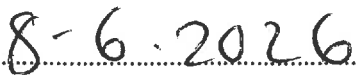
11. Urgent Matters and matters for report

None.

12. Date of next meeting – Monday 8 June 2026.

Meeting closed: 20.49.

Signed  Chairperson  Clerk

Dated  8-6-2026