



Equipment account £14,700.28

Savings account £6,691.32

The bank statements and bank reconciliation were reviewed by the Examining Officer.

- d) The year-to-date receipts and payments account was noted. The Clerk has written to thank the Consolidated Charities for their donation. She has ring-fenced these funds as well as the £1,000 that the Council budgeted for this during 2024-2025.

**8. Highways and footpaths issues in the village**

Cllr. Wardley has been actively reporting various issues within the village. Councillors expressed frustration over repeated flooding in specific areas, which has caused significant difficulties, including obstructing access for emergency vehicles. **ACTION:** The Clerk will draft a letter of concern to the Chairman, Chief Executive, and Head of Highways at Suffolk County Council, highlighting the severity of the issue and asking for urgent remedial action.

**9. Budget 2025-2026**

Cllr. Wardley proposed the budget figures as discussed, totalling expenditure of £12,615. This was seconded by Cllr. Steward and carried unanimously. The budget will be published on the village website.

**10. Precept 2025-2026**

Having discussed the budget and reserved funding figures, Cllr. Steward proposed setting the precept at £12,250. This was seconded by Cllr. Shelver and carried unanimously.

**11. Planning applications**

Correspondence from ESC regarding the terminology used by Parish Councils when responding to planning applications was noted. ESC also outlined procedural changes in how planning applications are considered

**12. Volunteering opportunities within the village**

It was agreed to host an open meeting on Friday, 24th January, at 7.30pm in the village hall. The meeting will provide residents with information about volunteering opportunities in the village. Attendees will be able to sign up for various roles, and an induction will be required as well as a volunteer risk assessment. There are funds available for refreshments for the event.

SCC's Community Self-Help Scheme may be used to purchase equipment to assist volunteers with maintenance activities, and the Parish Council will purchase fuel and sundries such as strimmer cable for volunteers to use.

**13. Meeting dates 2025**

These were agreed as: 6<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> November. In addition, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May and planning meetings will be held when required.

**14. NALC's Financial Regulations**

The Regulations have been circulated with proposed amendments. This will be considered further at the next meeting.

**15. Correspondence**

Letter from Disability Advice Service East Suffolk requesting a grant – Councillors agreed not to support this at present.

Suffolk County Council requesting data for Section 19 report. This has been circulated along with a chaser email. It was agreed to send them the data prepared for D.Cllr Owen's Grey's report to avoid duplication of work.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

D.Cllr. Langdon-Morris was pleased to report that ESC has employed a new Resilience Co-Ordinator who will act as a contact between parish councils and other agencies to help disseminate information better and be a useful point of contact.

The resident advised that the next edition of the newsletter will be published this week and that members of the Village Hall Committee will discuss the Parish Council's request for a letter box on the Village Hall.

**16. Councillor Reports**

Cllr. Wardley was pleased to report that the Consolidated Charities will grant £100 to all homes with at least one occupant aged 70+ to help with winter expenses. This is a one-off initiative and has been advertised on notice boards and the latest newsletter.

Cllr. Mouncer reported on the Christmas lights switch-on event which she organised. Over 150 people from the village attended and it was well received.

The Council discussed the cost and sustainability implications of obtaining a Christmas tree annually.

**ACTION** The Clerk will write to the Consolidated Charities requesting permission to plant a permanent Christmas tree on the green. Cllr. Mouncer will provide a location map for the proposed tree.

Cllr. Lunn will purchase replacement batteries for the Speed Indicator Devices.

**17. Matters to be raised at the next meeting:**

Adoption of Financial Regulations

Consider registering the sports field with the Land Registry

**18. The next meeting was confirmed as being on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.** There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.