CLOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Clopton Village Hall On Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Tiley-Nunn, Cllr Ashard Cllr Lye, Cllr Elia, Cllr Raffell; DC Clery.	In Attendance: D Gooch (Clerk), 3 Residents, including John Dawson (JD.	Apologies Cllr Pitt Cllr Bright; CC Bryce, N Cole.

CPC001/25 Chairmans Welcome		
Cllr Tiley-Nunn welcomed everyone to the meeting, and	I wished them a Hanny New Year	
The Chair also reminded everyone of certain of the production		
CPC002/25 Apologies	bedurar aspects of the meeting.	
Cllr Pitt, Cllr Bright, CC Bryce, & resident Nikki Cole. The	nese were approved	
CPC003/25 Public Forum/Open Session	lese were approved.	
·		
County Councillor's Report	h Newsletter, which had been	
See <u>CC Bryce's Carlford Division December 2024 Paris</u> distributed prior to the meeting.	which had been	
District Councillor's Report		
	Croup December 2024 report had	
DC Hedgley's January report, and DC Clery's ESC GLI been distributed prior to the meeting.	Group December 2024 report nau	
DC Clery highlighted the 'East Suffolk's Amazing' initiat	ive including the support available	
to local communities. Cllr Tiley-Nunn asked if any fundi		
of play equipment; DC Clery suggested asking the Cou		
funds available.	nty Couriemer ac they may have	
Village Hall		
JD said that a dinner dance had raised ~£600 and 100%	% of this profit would go towards	
Village Hall improvements. JD also said the next Village		
meeting), was next Wednesday, 22 nd January.	у тапа с тапа с тапа да тапа с	
Other items		
None.		
(At this point DC Clery apologised for having to leave to	attend another meeting.)	
CPC004/25 Declaration of Interests/Dispensation	on Applications Received	
None.		
CPC005/25 Minutes		
The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council 16 th December 2024 were approved.		
Proposer Cllr Lye, Seconder Cllr Raffell.		
CDC00C/05 Metters evising from the primates		
CPC006/25 Matters arising from the minutes	revertee 0.00cm. Enidery 47th January	
Clerk had arranged an on-site meeting with SCC Highways for 8.30am Friday, 17 th January		
(see CPC142/24 and CPC005/NN), and submitted the planning application responses for DC/24/4101/FUL, DC/24/4271/FUL and DC/24/4272/LBC from the meeting 16 th December		
2024 (see CPC143/24).	Tom the meeting 10" December	
2024 (See OF 0143/24).		
CPC007/25 Finance		
Finance Report –		
At 6th January 2025, the balances at the bank were:		
Parish Council community account	£3,604.59	
	The state of the s	
	£ 180.30	
Bomber savings account	£ 186.36 £1,764.74	
	£ 186.36 £1,764.74	
Bomber savings account	£1,764.74	
Bomber savings account Premium savings account	£1,764.74	

Authorisation of payments -

There are no payments yet to clear at the bank.

Payments totalling £213.00 to be approved at the meeting:

Village Hall hire extra meeting 16Dec24 £ 15.00 Community Heartbeat Trust, Defib support Year 7, Inv 24801 £198.00

Clerk said that:

- Clerk pay + Expenses for December 2024/January 2025, incl NALC pay rise (see CPC129/24) backpay were outstanding;
- Purchase of the metal pole for the sign post at the bottom of Birds Hill was also outstanding (CPC099/24 (v) refers). Cllr Raffell was confident that this could be completed this FY.

Bank reconciliation check – The bank reconciliation and supporting bank statements had been distributed to councillors in advance of the meeting. This was approved. The January 2025 financial report was signed.

Proposer Cllr. Elia, Seconder Cllr. Ashard for finance report and payments approvals.

Clerk to progress payments

To agree 2025/2026 Parish Council budget

The 24/25 spend v budget had been updated, and it was estimated that the PC will be almost £300 under budget at end-of-year. The underspend was mainly due to no spend re the provision for Training (for councillors/clerk/chair).

The draft 2025/26 budget circulated to all councillors for consideration allows for £6020 expenditure, which is a £210 increase on the current year's budget of £5810, mostly from increases to allow for inflation including the increased Clerk's hourly rate.

To set 2025/26 Parish Council precept

Clerk reminded the PC of the parameters impacting the precept which were discussed at the November meeting (see CPC129/24), particularly ESC charging a "100% premium" for second homes from 1st April 2025 resulting in a 200% charge. However, Cllr Tiley Nunn commented that two of the empty properties will likely disappear.

ESC stated that a 0% change on the 2025/26 council tax bill, would require a precept of £5,799 to be requested (a charge of £38.02 for a Band D property).

The PC discussed the fact that the 24/25 precept had been maintained at the same level as 23/24. Cllr Bright had provided input (via email) that the PC must be cautious in continuing the strategy of no increase as the PC's costs continue to increase, adding he thought a rise in line with inflation would not be out of order, noting that the last inflation rate on the ONS is from Nov 24 and was 3.5%. This percentage would require a precept of £6,002 to be requested (a charge of £39.35 for a Band D property – an increase of £1.33), which would be just below the £6,020 budget for 25/26 (above). The Chair invited comments from the members of the public that were present.

Resident JD said that the precept is a tax and that the precept should be spent solely to residents' benefit, questioning a recent payment to a charity both being to residents benefit and allowable at that point in the meeting concerned. The Chair reminded JD that discussion was on setting the precept amount, but he would respond to JD's point separately.

In consideration of the discussion above, the PC agreed to set an increase of 3.5% on the precept (hence a request for £6,002), and agreed the £6,020 budget for 2025/26. Proposer Cllr. Raffell, Seconder Cllr. Tiley Nunn (with one abstention).

Chair

Clerk to return the 25/26 Precept request.

CPC008/25 Planning Matters Planning decisions:

i) DC/24/3382/FUL (re-submission): Demolition of agricultural storage building (with approval for conversion into four dwellings) and demolition of stable building and construction of two dwellings and associated landscaping and highway access. The demolition of a former agricultural workshop building (used for purposes ancillary to the converted barn) and the construction of three-bay cartshed (for the same purpose). Moat Hall Barn, Martins Lane, Clopton, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 6QX.

The PC previously (22nd October 2024) objected DC/24/3382/FUL on the basis that the

plots for the proposed new dwellings are not a permitted development but an application for new dwellings within the countryside in their own right (as they are on green belt land entirely separate to the barn) etc.

The re-submission adds a completely new room to the ground floor as well as increase certain existing dimensions, which are inaccurate on the application.

ESC stated that the applicant said the revised plans hadn't pulled through the correct updated measurements, however, they've now sent the amended plan now showing the correct dimensions along with an updated Proposed block plan which also had a measurement incorrectly annotated. ESC have not treated this as a revised submission hence the deadline remained as 15th January, although ESC agreed an extension to 16th January so the PC can respond after its meeting.

NB. Re DC/23/0267/P3Q (the Prior notification application for Moat Hall Barn), SCC Highways had recommended rejecting the application based on access from Martins Lane onto B1078. ESC said that this was a holding objection while Highways requested further information, re the need for a further speed survey which the applicant had provided during the under DC/23/0267/P3Q. SCC Highways subsequently decided that they would not pursue a further speed survey.

Cllr Raffell reiterated that proposed the building was on green belt land, not on the site of the barn as originally proposed. This could set a worrying precedent for other people with barns, and aspirations for new dwellings.

Clerk was asked to resubmit all the PC's objections, and also challenge ESC on their lack of adherence to their own policy in that the updated drawings should be a resubmission. Clerk should also contact SCC Highways to state that they have not considered the PC's current nor previous objections, nor addressed the aspect of access to the site from the main road and all of Martins Lane. Clerk should also copy DC Clery noting that ESC seems to have contravened their own process and also not considered previous objections, and also copy CC Bryce re the SCC Highways issues.

Clerk

Planning applications considered:

i) <u>DC/24/4253/FUL</u>: HGV training facility for Otley College for HGV's up to 18.75m. The PC weren't consulted, but suggested by Cllr Raffell as his view was that the roads around the village are difficult enough for experienced drivers, let alone novice HGV drivers.

From the consultee responses:

SCC Highways have set out three conditions for approval in their response; these are all re the Otley College site relating to vehicle access, visibility splay, and parking arrangements. (No mention of the suitability of the roads in the area.)

Public Rights of Way and Green Access recommends a HOLDING OBJECTION as there's a public right of way (PROW) Otley Footpath 035 within the site (not shown in the drawings) and this appears to run though the proposed development.

Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council objected mainly re safety to the local road network re HGVs maneuvering. Otley PC didn't object but raised a series of concerns including suitability of the roads for HGVs.

The clerk noted that when checked, there were 24 public responses, all objecting to the proposal.

The PC discussed the application (whose deadline for comments had passed), and the need for liaison between neighbouring parishes which are also impacted due to increased traffic, or in this case HGVs, on the surrounding road network. The Chair agreed to contact neighbouring parishes to suggest this liaison.

Chair

Planning Applications received after the agenda was produced - None.

Other planning matters

i) Clopton 'Housing Needs' Survey

As an update Cllr Tiley-Nunn said that the survey had been delivered by mail drop to residents with the response rate currently ~25%, with 32% 'Yes', 46% 'Maybe', and the remainder 'No'.

(The survey seeks to identify if residents' children et al were able to find housing or have a housing need (now or in the future), and/or residents who were looking to downsize.) Clerk agreed to place a reminder on the PC's website and notice boards.

ii) 2025 ESC Planning Forum

The PC noted the 2025 ESC Planning Forum (Monday 3 February at East Suffolk House,

Clerk

Melton IP12 1RT from 9:30am to 12:30pm). iii) East Suffolk Developers Charter ESC have announced the launch of the East Suffolk Developers Charter (14th January 2025). This sets out the Council's high-level aspirations for future development and how developers can go 'above and beyond'. It is not planning policy, but will provide a means through which the Council can promote and publicly recognise exceptional schemes and engagement strategies through an annual recognition scheme being introduced in 2025. The Charter has been informed by discussions held at Town and Parish Forums this summer. This was also noted by the PC.	
CPC009/25 Governance	
Vice-Chair role As with the previous meeting, two members of the PC absent, hence it was agreed to defer this item to the next PC meeting on 19th March 2025.	Clerk
CPC010/25 Traffic and Road Safety issues	
Road safety improvements i) B1078 Speed Survey report feedback CC Bryce had confirmed that she would be providing feedback on SCC Highways' draft report "B1078 CHARSFIELD ROAD, CLOPTON REQUESTED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT". The author, Keith Sampson, Community Speed & Safety Engineer; and Joshua White, Community Liaison Engineer, had agreed a site visit which had been arranged for Friday 17th January, to physically see the section of road, the junction with Shop Road, the traffic issues, and hopefully witness the school bus collecting the village's children. Cllrs Tiley-Nunn and Raffell had agreed to represent the PC at the meeting, with Cllr Raffell then summarising the PC's feedback to the report.	Clir Raffell
Other items:	
i) Otley Bottom Flooding A resident had reported flooding at Otley Bottom in late November, problem report 4927727, stating that the road drains between their property - 2 Waterway Cottages Clopton, IP13 6QH and up towards Otley were again/still blocked, despite the lengthy recent roadworks and attendant road closure. SCC Highways attended although it wasn't clear what they had done. The problems with the majority of the drains on this stretch of road to the T junction to the college seems to be that over the years the road level has risen, impeding the rather small openings which regularly block, possibly because of the increased level & nature of the traffic along this B road. It was hoped these drains would be renovated or improved and at the very least completely cleared of any blockages. However, Highways have acknowledged this requires more than	
routine maintenance, so will need to wait for funding based on priority. Clerk had flagged the issue to CC Bryce who in turn raised this with the Cabinet Member for Highways (6th December), but no response had so far been received. The PC believed that maintenance of the drains was not compliant with SCC's Highway Maintenance Operational Plan for Drainage Systems. Clerk was asked to raise the issue directly with Paul West, SCC Cabinet Minister for	Clerk
Highways.	
CPC011/25 VE Day 80 (Thursday 8 th May 2025) event Cllr Lye confirmed that an event, probably a party, would be planned, and it was hoped to hold a meeting soon, when a committee could be formed.	Clir Pitt
CPC012/25 First Responders for Clopton and Otley	
None. CDC043/25 Officer's and Representative's Reports	
CPC013/25 Officer's and Representative's Reports Village Hall Representative See CPC003/25. The Chair noted that the PC would need a replacement representative when Cllr Raffell retired. Others None.	

Upcoming events/meetings: Introduction to Rural and Community Led Housing 2025 The PC noted the Community Action Suffolk (CAS) webinar which explores how community-led housing can address local housing needs and benefit communities, including how it can prioritise affordable homes for local people. 3pm, 12th February 2025. Register here: https://cas.aidecrm.co.uk/booking/training-booking?event_id=3608	
i) Devolution update Clerk advised that Suffolk County Council held an extraordinary meeting on 9th January and their Cabinet agreed to recommend Suffolk for inclusion in the government's Devolution Priority Programme (DPP), which would see the creation of a directly elected Mayor (likely covering Suffolk and Norfolk) and the replacement of existing council structures with a streamlined unitary council being set up. SALC have set up a dedicated information page to consolidate information for reference purposes along with a timeline of activities.	
 CPC137/24 Dates of future Parish Council meetings: Wednesdays: 19th March 2025, then: 21st May 2025, 16th July 2025, 17th September 2025, 19th November 2025, 21st January 2026, & 18th March 2026. All 7.30pm in the Village Hall. 	Clerk to book remaining dates 25/26
Meeting closed at 8:30pm	
Chairman: Date:	

CLOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Clopton Village Hall On Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Tiley-Nunn, Cllr Ashard Cllr Lye, Cllr Elia, Cllr Raffell; DC Clery.	In Attendance: D Gooch (Clerk), 3 Residents, including John Dawson (JD.	Apologies Cllr Pitt Cllr Bright; CC Bryce, N Cole.

CPC001/25 Chairmans Welcome		
Cllr Tiley-Nunn welcomed everyone to the meeting, and	I wished them a Hanny New Year	
The Chair also reminded everyone of certain of the production		
CPC002/25 Apologies	bedurar aspects of the meeting.	
Cllr Pitt, Cllr Bright, CC Bryce, & resident Nikki Cole. The	nese were approved	
CPC003/25 Public Forum/Open Session	lese were approved.	
·		
County Councillor's Report	h Newsletter, which had been	
See <u>CC Bryce's Carlford Division December 2024 Paris</u> distributed prior to the meeting.	which had been	
District Councillor's Report		
	Croup December 2024 report had	
DC Hedgley's January report, and DC Clery's ESC GLI been distributed prior to the meeting.	Group December 2024 report nau	
DC Clery highlighted the 'East Suffolk's Amazing' initiat	ive including the support available	
to local communities. Cllr Tiley-Nunn asked if any fundi		
of play equipment; DC Clery suggested asking the Cou		
funds available.	nty Couriemer as they may have	
Village Hall		
JD said that a dinner dance had raised ~£600 and 100%	% of this profit would go towards	
Village Hall improvements. JD also said the next Village		
meeting), was next Wednesday, 22 nd January.	у тапа с тапа с тапа да тапа с	
Other items		
None.		
(At this point DC Clery apologised for having to leave to	attend another meeting.)	
CPC004/25 Declaration of Interests/Dispensation	on Applications Received	
None.		
CPC005/25 Minutes		
The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council 16 th December 2024 were approved.		
Proposer Cllr Lye, Seconder Cllr Raffell.		
CDC00C/05 Metters evising from the primates		
CPC006/25 Matters arising from the minutes	revertee 0.00cm Friday, 47th January	
Clerk had arranged an on-site meeting with SCC Highways for 8.30am Friday, 17 th January		
(see CPC142/24 and CPC005/NN), and submitted the planning application responses for DC/24/4101/FUL, DC/24/4271/FUL and DC/24/4272/LBC from the meeting 16 th December		
2024 (see CPC143/24).	Tom the meeting 10" December	
2024 (See OF 0143/24).		
CPC007/25 Finance		
Finance Report –		
At 6th January 2025, the balances at the bank were:		
Parish Council community account	£3,604.59	
	The state of the s	
	£ 180.30	
Bomber savings account	£ 186.36 £1,764.74	
	£ 186.36 £1,764.74	
Bomber savings account	£1,764.74	
Bomber savings account Premium savings account	£1,764.74	

Authorisation of payments -

There are no payments yet to clear at the bank.

Payments totalling £213.00 to be approved at the meeting:

Village Hall hire extra meeting 16Dec24 £ 15.00 Community Heartbeat Trust, Defib support Year 7, Inv 24801 £198.00

Clerk said that:

- Clerk pay + Expenses for December 2024/January 2025, incl NALC pay rise (see CPC129/24) backpay were outstanding;
- Purchase of the metal pole for the sign post at the bottom of Birds Hill was also outstanding (CPC099/24 (v) refers). Cllr Raffell was confident that this could be completed this FY.

Bank reconciliation check – The bank reconciliation and supporting bank statements had been distributed to councillors in advance of the meeting. This was approved. The January 2025 financial report was signed.

Proposer Cllr. Elia, Seconder Cllr. Ashard for finance report and payments approvals.

Clerk to progress payments

To agree 2025/2026 Parish Council budget

The 24/25 spend v budget had been updated, and it was estimated that the PC will be almost £300 under budget at end-of-year. The underspend was mainly due to no spend re the provision for Training (for councillors/clerk/chair).

The draft 2025/26 budget circulated to all councillors for consideration allows for £6020 expenditure, which is a £210 increase on the current year's budget of £5810, mostly from increases to allow for inflation including the increased Clerk's hourly rate.

To set 2025/26 Parish Council precept

Clerk reminded the PC of the parameters impacting the precept which were discussed at the November meeting (see CPC129/24), particularly ESC charging a "100% premium" for second homes from 1st April 2025 resulting in a 200% charge. However, Cllr Tiley Nunn commented that two of the empty properties will likely disappear.

ESC stated that a 0% change on the 2025/26 council tax bill, would require a precept of £5,799 to be requested (a charge of £38.02 for a Band D property).

The PC discussed the fact that the 24/25 precept had been maintained at the same level as 23/24. Cllr Bright had provided input (via email) that the PC must be cautious in continuing the strategy of no increase as the PC's costs continue to increase, adding he thought a rise in line with inflation would not be out of order, noting that the last inflation rate on the ONS is from Nov 24 and was 3.5%. This percentage would require a precept of £6,002 to be requested (a charge of £39.35 for a Band D property – an increase of £1.33), which would be just below the £6,020 budget for 25/26 (above). The Chair invited comments from the members of the public that were present.

Resident JD said that the precept is a tax and that the precept should be spent solely to residents' benefit, questioning a recent payment to a charity both being to residents benefit and allowable at that point in the meeting concerned. The Chair reminded JD that discussion was on setting the precept amount, but he would respond to JD's point separately.

In consideration of the discussion above, the PC agreed to set an increase of 3.5% on the precept (hence a request for £6,002), and agreed the £6,020 budget for 2025/26. Proposer Cllr. Raffell, Seconder Cllr. Tiley Nunn (with one abstention).

Chair

Clerk to return the 25/26 Precept request.

CPC008/25 Planning Matters Planning decisions:

i) DC/24/3382/FUL (re-submission): Demolition of agricultural storage building (with approval for conversion into four dwellings) and demolition of stable building and construction of two dwellings and associated landscaping and highway access. The demolition of a former agricultural workshop building (used for purposes ancillary to the converted barn) and the construction of three-bay cartshed (for the same purpose). Moat Hall Barn, Martins Lane, Clopton, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 6QX.

The PC previously (22nd October 2024) objected DC/24/3382/FUL on the basis that the

plots for the proposed new dwellings are not a permitted development but an application for new dwellings within the countryside in their own right (as they are on green belt land entirely separate to the barn) etc.

The re-submission adds a completely new room to the ground floor as well as increase certain existing dimensions, which are inaccurate on the application.

ESC stated that the applicant said the revised plans hadn't pulled through the correct updated measurements, however, they've now sent the amended plan now showing the correct dimensions along with an updated Proposed block plan which also had a measurement incorrectly annotated. ESC have not treated this as a revised submission hence the deadline remained as 15th January, although ESC agreed an extension to 16th January so the PC can respond after its meeting.

NB. Re DC/23/0267/P3Q (the Prior notification application for Moat Hall Barn), SCC Highways had recommended rejecting the application based on access from Martins Lane onto B1078. ESC said that this was a holding objection while Highways requested further information, re the need for a further speed survey which the applicant had provided during the under DC/23/0267/P3Q. SCC Highways subsequently decided that they would not pursue a further speed survey.

Cllr Raffell reiterated that proposed the building was on green belt land, not on the site of the barn as originally proposed. This could set a worrying precedent for other people with barns, and aspirations for new dwellings.

Clerk was asked to resubmit all the PC's objections, and also challenge ESC on their lack of adherence to their own policy in that the updated drawings should be a resubmission. Clerk should also contact SCC Highways to state that they have not considered the PC's current nor previous objections, nor addressed the aspect of access to the site from the main road and all of Martins Lane. Clerk should also copy DC Clery noting that ESC seems to have contravened their own process and also not considered previous objections, and also copy CC Bryce re the SCC Highways issues.

Clerk

Planning applications considered:

i) <u>DC/24/4253/FUL</u>: HGV training facility for Otley College for HGV's up to 18.75m. The PC weren't consulted, but suggested by Cllr Raffell as his view was that the roads around the village are difficult enough for experienced drivers, let alone novice HGV drivers.

From the consultee responses:

SCC Highways have set out three conditions for approval in their response; these are all re the Otley College site relating to vehicle access, visibility splay, and parking arrangements. (No mention of the suitability of the roads in the area.)

Public Rights of Way and Green Access recommends a HOLDING OBJECTION as there's a public right of way (PROW) Otley Footpath 035 within the site (not shown in the drawings) and this appears to run though the proposed development.

Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council objected mainly re safety to the local road network re HGVs maneuvering. Otley PC didn't object but raised a series of concerns including suitability of the roads for HGVs.

The clerk noted that when checked, there were 24 public responses, all objecting to the proposal.

The PC discussed the application (whose deadline for comments had passed), and the need for liaison between neighbouring parishes which are also impacted due to increased traffic, or in this case HGVs, on the surrounding road network. The Chair agreed to contact neighbouring parishes to suggest this liaison.

Chair

Planning Applications received after the agenda was produced - None.

Other planning matters

i) Clopton 'Housing Needs' Survey

As an update Cllr Tiley-Nunn said that the survey had been delivered by mail drop to residents with the response rate currently ~25%, with 32% 'Yes', 46% 'Maybe', and the remainder 'No'.

(The survey seeks to identify if residents' children et al were able to find housing or have a housing need (now or in the future), and/or residents who were looking to downsize.) Clerk agreed to place a reminder on the PC's website and notice boards.

ii) 2025 ESC Planning Forum

The PC noted the 2025 ESC Planning Forum (Monday 3 February at East Suffolk House,

Clerk

Melton IP12 1RT from 9:30am to 12:30pm). iii) East Suffolk Developers Charter ESC have announced the launch of the East Suffolk Developers Charter (14th January 2025). This sets out the Council's high-level aspirations for future development and how developers can go 'above and beyond'. It is not planning policy, but will provide a means through which the Council can promote and publicly recognise exceptional schemes and engagement strategies through an annual recognition scheme being introduced in 2025. The Charter has been informed by discussions held at Town and Parish Forums this summer. This was also noted by the PC.	
CPC009/25 Governance	
Vice-Chair role As with the previous meeting, two members of the PC absent, hence it was agreed to defer this item to the next PC meeting on 19th March 2025.	Clerk
CPC010/25 Traffic and Road Safety issues	
Road safety improvements i) B1078 Speed Survey report feedback CC Bryce had confirmed that she would be providing feedback on SCC Highways' draft report "B1078 CHARSFIELD ROAD, CLOPTON REQUESTED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT". The author, Keith Sampson, Community Speed & Safety Engineer; and Joshua White, Community Liaison Engineer, had agreed a site visit which had been arranged for Friday 17th January, to physically see the section of road, the junction with Shop Road, the traffic issues, and hopefully witness the school bus collecting the village's children. Cllrs Tiley-Nunn and Raffell had agreed to represent the PC at the meeting, with Cllr Raffell then summarising the PC's feedback to the report.	Clir Raffell
Other items:	
i) Otley Bottom Flooding A resident had reported flooding at Otley Bottom in late November, problem report 4927727, stating that the road drains between their property - 2 Waterway Cottages Clopton, IP13 6QH and up towards Otley were again/still blocked, despite the lengthy recent roadworks and attendant road closure. SCC Highways attended although it wasn't clear what they had done. The problems with the majority of the drains on this stretch of road to the T junction to the college seems to be that over the years the road level has risen, impeding the rather small openings which regularly block, possibly because of the increased level & nature of the traffic along this B road. It was hoped these drains would be renovated or improved and at the very least completely cleared of any blockages. However, Highways have acknowledged this requires more than	
routine maintenance, so will need to wait for funding based on priority. Clerk had flagged the issue to CC Bryce who in turn raised this with the Cabinet Member for Highways (6th December), but no response had so far been received. The PC believed that maintenance of the drains was not compliant with SCC's Highway Maintenance Operational Plan for Drainage Systems. Clerk was asked to raise the issue directly with Paul West, SCC Cabinet Minister for	Clerk
Highways.	
CPC011/25 VE Day 80 (Thursday 8 th May 2025) event Cllr Lye confirmed that an event, probably a party, would be planned, and it was hoped to hold a meeting soon, when a committee could be formed.	Clir Pitt
CPC012/25 First Responders for Clopton and Otley	
None. CDC043/25 Officer's and Representative's Reports	
CPC013/25 Officer's and Representative's Reports Village Hall Representative See CPC003/25. The Chair noted that the PC would need a replacement representative when Cllr Raffell retired. Others None.	

Upcoming events/meetings: Introduction to Rural and Community Led Housing 2025 The PC noted the Community Action Suffolk (CAS) webinar which explores how community-led housing can address local housing needs and benefit communities, including how it can prioritise affordable homes for local people. 3pm, 12th February 2025. Register here: https://cas.aidecrm.co.uk/booking/training-booking?event_id=3608	
i) Devolution update Clerk advised that Suffolk County Council held an extraordinary meeting on 9th January and their Cabinet agreed to recommend Suffolk for inclusion in the government's Devolution Priority Programme (DPP), which would see the creation of a directly elected Mayor (likely covering Suffolk and Norfolk) and the replacement of existing council structures with a streamlined unitary council being set up. SALC have set up a dedicated information page to consolidate information for reference purposes along with a timeline of activities.	
 CPC137/24 Dates of future Parish Council meetings: Wednesdays: 19th March 2025, then: 21st May 2025, 16th July 2025, 17th September 2025, 19th November 2025, 21st January 2026, & 18th March 2026. All 7.30pm in the Village Hall. 	Clerk to book remaining dates 25/26
Meeting closed at 8:30pm	
Chairman: Date:	