

Semer Parish Council

Minutes of the extra ordinary Council Meeting held at Semer Village Hall on Thursday 18th September 2025 commencing at 7.00pm.

In attendance: Councillors Steve Nuttall (Chair), Jackie Barraclough, John Lawrence, James Pitcher and Victoria Waples (Clerk).

1. Chair's welcome including the statement for the reporting at meetings of the council – the Chair for the meeting opened the meeting and thanked all for attending. The statement on reporting at meetings of the parish council was taken as read.
2. Apologies for absence:
 - i. Verified apologies of absence were received from Cllr. Richard Keens. It was resolved to approve the submitted apologies.
3. Code of Conduct and Declaration of member's interests:
 - i. To receive declarations of registrable interests, other and non-registerable interests as detailed in Appendix B of the Local Code of Conduct – there were no such interests declared.
 - ii. To receive notification of gifts or hospitality exceeding £50 – there were none declared.
4. Minutes of previous meetings:
 - i. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 31st July 2025 – as this was an extra ordinary meeting, all noted that the minutes of the meeting of 31st July 2025 would be presented for approval at the November meeting.
5. Public Forum:
 - i. To receive comments from the public on the agenda as published or concerning Semer: there were no members of the public present and the clerk confirmed that she had had no submissions in writing from residents, although an email from a resident would be considered under urgent matters of concern.
6. Planning Matters:
 - i. To consider and respond to the following planning application as submitted by Babergh District Council:
DC/25/03742 – Proposal: planning application – erection of four detached dwellings, together with demolition of a derelict barn, creation of a new access, and realignment of the A1141 boundary following extant permission B/89/01868. Location 1-4 Gate Farm Cottages, Sayers Green, Semer. Generally, it was agreed that the council was supportive of the build on this parcel of land but would like the following issues taken into account in the determination of the proposal
 - speed of road at this point is a concern – proposal should have a condition imposed that would result in a reduction in the speed limit at this point, funded as part of the development coming forth;
 - type of dwellings - could they be required to consider a mixture of housing tenures in accordance with BDC's Housing Supplementary Planning Document and its affordable housing policy requirement;
 - Flooding - at this point, the road floods during excessive rainfalls to the south of the proposed entrance.

7. Councillor Reports:

i. To receive urgent matters of concern –

Union Hill – 40mph speed limit – the Clerk confirmed that she had received the invoice from Suffolk County Council and corresponding invoices had been submitted to those who had agreed to contribute. Funds were awaited from Kersey Parish Council and one company. The contents of an email from a resident were discussed and it was agreed that the correct signage had been installed at Overgang Road even though it has been designated as a Quiet Lane. All were reminded that whilst this was a Quiet Lane, it did not, at this point, have a speed limit and the sign indicated that the road was a derestricted zone. It was however agreed that the Clerk would hold off payment until the following matters were addressed: cats eyes installed from the bottom of Union Hill / junction of Union Hill to the commencement of the 40mph; reinstatement of the white lines at the same area; removal of the signs indicating no road markings, once all the works had been completed. Once all works had been undertaken, the invoice would be released for payment.

Repairs to Semer Meadow Bridge – it was resolved to retrospectively approve the invoice from LAC Masonry Ltd in the sum of £2,460.00 who had undertaken the works, on the instruction of the Chair, due to the urgency of the matter. All were reminded of the procedure to be followed in approving matters relating to public safety and that for future incidences Financial Regulation 5.14 would take precedence. (FR 5.14 “in cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises, the clerk may authorise expenditure of up to £2,000 excluding VAT on repair, replacement or other work that in their judgement is necessary, whether or not there is any budget for such expenditure. The Clerk shall report such action to the Chair as soon as possible and to the council as soon as practicable thereafter.” All were in agreement that if future works were needed, council should ensure that it followed the correct financial procedures. The Clerk agreed to ascertain whether funds had been sought from the District Council for this work.

8. Date of next meeting: all noted the dates for future meetings being: 20 November 2025; 22 January 2026; 19 March 2026.
9. There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.28pm.