

Semer Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Semer Village Hall on Thursday 29th January 2026 commencing at 7.00pm.

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

1. Meeting to elect a Chair for the meeting followed by Chair's welcome including the statement for the reporting at meetings of the council – John Lawrence was elected chair for the meeting. He welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence: Council to receive and approve the verified apologies for absence – apologies of absence were received from Steve Nuttall. Council **resolved to accept the apologies as submitted.**
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 applicable interests declared.
 - ii. To receive notification of gifts or hospitality exceeding £50 – there were no gifts or hospitality to declare.
4. Minutes of meetings:
 - i. to note the minutes of the meeting of 20th November 2025 will be presented at the parish council meeting of 19th March 2026.
5. Public Forum:
 - i. To receive comments from the public on the agenda as published.
6. Financial Report:
 - i. To note receipt of the following monies since the last meeting: council noted the following receipts:
Babergh District Council – Councillor Jamieson Locality Budget: £400
 - ii. To consider and approve the following items as retrospective payments: it was **resolved to retrospectively approve the following items for payment:**
 - Clerk's Hours for December and January £350.90
 - Suffolk.cloud for domain hosting and support – £120.00
 - HMRC – 3rd Quarter PAYE - £157.00**It was resolved to approve the following payment:**
 - Landscape Services – removal of fallen tree at Semer Meadow - £480.00
 - iii. To note the bank balances to date and consider the financial position as at 6th January 2026 – the meeting noted the current bank balance of £3,393.08.
 - iv. To consider the budget to actual position as at January 2026 – the meeting reviewed the budget to actual position noting that the overspend was due to the expenditure that had been incurred on works to the bridge on Church Meadow.
 - v. To approve the budget for 2026-2027 – having reviewed the previously circulated budget papers, it was resolved to set the budget for the year 2026-2027 in the sum of £4,714.00 to be funded from the precept and known reserves.

- vi. To review and adopt the Reserves Policy for the year ending 31 March 2026 (Paper entitled Reserves Policy) – council reviewed the adopted policy noting that there was an aim to ensure that the General Reserves was kept at a minimum of three months of predicted expenditure. Council's reserves would be finalised at year-end but currently stood at £3,393.08. Council would aim to allocated £1,178 as its General Reserve for the coming year.
- vii. To confirm the precept to be levied for the year commencing 1st April 2026 - **it was resolved that the precept would be set at £4,500 for the year 2026-2027.** The meeting Council noted that this would equate to a Band D council tax element of £65.25 per annum which was an increase of 15.53% or £8.77 over that set for the previous year. Authority was given for the Chair and Clerk to sign the Precept Upon Charging Authority Form for onward submission to the District Council.

7. Councillor Reports:

- i. To receive urgent matters of concern – there were none forthcoming.

8. Date of next meeting: to confirm the dates for futures meetings as: 19th March 2026.

9. There being no further business to transact, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.20pm.