

Minutes of Tunstall Parish Council Meeting
Held on 7th July 2026 ~ Tunstall Community Hall

Members

Cllr. Karol Silovsky
Cllr. Oliver Morgan
Cllr. Neil Gilbert

Cllr. Kevin Ross
Cllr. John Denny
Cllr. Ben French

Cllr. David Broomfield
Cllr. Anna Spencer
Cllr. Lesley Cresswell

Present

Cllr. Anna Spencer (Vice-Chair) Cllr. Kevin Ross
Cllr. Lesley Cresswell Cllr. Ben French
Cllr. Oliver Morgan Cllr. Neil Gilbert

Cllr. David Broomfield

1 member of the public

Tiffany Pollock - Clerk

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Silovsky (family wedding) and Cllr. Denny (wife unwell) these were accepted by all Councillors.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest and any Applications for dispensation on Agenda Items (either pecuniary or non-pecuniary)

Cllr. Morgan declared that he has property in Orford.

3. To receive any Declarations of Gifts or Hospitality received over the value of £50.00

None.

4. Public Participation - To receive:

- a) Reports or comment from any member of the public

There were none.

Exclusion of the press and public from this item by virtue of Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2) because of the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed

5. SALC Representative - Employment Rights and HR Matters

Re-Entry of Press and Public

Chair's initials:

A member of public interrupted the meeting, Cllr. Spencer requested that they would need to stop interrupting or the meeting would be adjourned.

The member of public wanted to know why the agenda had not been made public, the Clerk explained that the agenda had been posted on the Tunstall website and was in the notice board, with three clear days.

Cllr. Gilbert explained that the meeting was an additional Parish Council meeting focusing on a response to the East Suffolk Council Local Plan Scoping Consultation, where a response was required to East Suffolk Council by 29th July.

6. To discuss and agree response to the East Suffolk Council Local Plan Scoping Consultation

Cllr. Gilbert gave thanks to Cllr. Morgan and Cllr. Broomfield for their assistance with the Tunstall questionnaire. Cllr. Gilbert has forwarded the results from this to East Suffolk Council for consideration. The questionnaire has been circulated to all Councillors; it was noted that some responses had drifted into issues unrelated to planning. The results from the questionnaire will also be made available to members of the public.

Cllr. Gilbert explained that the response for the East Suffolk Council local plan scoping consultation would be a united response from the Parish Council. However individuals are welcomed and encouraged send their own responses, the deadline for this is 29th July.

The following comments and answers to the local plan coping consultation were agreed by Councillors.

1. Would you like to answer questions on your vision for East Suffolk by 2045?

- ☐ Yes

2. What do you value most about East Suffolk and why?

Residents expressed strong affection for Tunstall as a peaceful, rural village with a strong community identity. The main themes were the importance of protecting the village character, maintaining the natural environment, improving road safety, addressing transport challenges and ensuring infrastructure can support the community. There is a clear desire for Tunstall to remain a small, welcoming Suffolk village rather than becoming bigger, more urbanised or losing its rural character.

3. How could new development make the places that are important to you better?

Key concerns:

- Flood risk
- Pressure on roads
- Lack of infrastructure
- Loss of village character
- Impact on wildlife and countryside

Residents showed strongest support for:

- Improving infrastructure
- Sustainable and energy-efficient development

Chair's initials:

When residents were asked about new housing: no 47.9%, Maybe: 35.1%, Yes: 17%

4. Where do you think new housing development should be located in the district?

Create entirely new settlement(s)

(thousands of new homes)

- ☐ Strongly oppose

Create new large-scale urban extensions (e.g. garden neighbourhoods) adjacent to large towns

- ☐ Somewhat support

Large towns and market towns with good access to everyday goods and services

- ☐ Somewhat support

Villages with good access to everyday goods and services

- ☐ Strongly oppose

Small scale development in rural locations

- ☐ Somewhat oppose

Close to train stations and rail networks

- ☐ Neutral / no opinion

Areas close to businesses and jobs

- ☐ Neutral / no opinion

Utilising opportunities on previously developed land

- ☐ Somewhat support

Areas where local infrastructure capacity could be improved through new development

- ☐ Somewhat support

Areas of the district with easy access to the A12/A14

- ☐ Neutral / no opinion

Specific locations/Other (please state below)

Brownfield sites

5. Where do you think new employment should be located in the district?

Within and around villages

- ☐ Somewhat oppose

Within and around market towns

- ☐ Somewhat support

Chair's initials:

Within and around large towns

- ☐ Somewhat support

In or near to existing employment areas

- ☐ Somewhat support

Utilising opportunities on previously developed land

- ☐ Somewhat support

Areas of the district with easy access to the A12/14

- ☐ Somewhat support

Close to the ports

- ☐ Somewhat support

Close to nationally significant infrastructure projects

- ☐ Somewhat support

Close to train stations and rail networks

- ☐ Neutral / no opinion

6. Do you have any other comments about your preferred location(s) for new development?

35% of Tunstall responded to our Local Questionnaire, their priorities are to protect Tunstall's rural character, the natural environment, wildlife, small community identity and landscape. The residents want to avoid unnecessary expansion. If any development takes place, it must be small-scale, high quality, appropriate to the village and supported by improvements to infrastructure, facilities (via CIL) *drainage and road safety*. There is a clear majority view against unrestricted growth, with a smaller group open to limited, well-designed affordable, sustainable or village appropriate housing.

Would you like to answer questions on Local Plan topics?

- ☐ Yes

7. How can the Local Plan support housing development that meet the needs of different groups?

Please consider the following key groups when completing your response:

Overall, the response from our local questionnaire shows a community that is very positive about living in Tunstall but is clear that careful management is required for change so that any improvements do not undermine the qualities that residents value. Residents wish to be consulted and in control and agree any large-scale building applications or developments. If any are approved, this would be in partnership with a CIL benefit to the Parish plus improvements to infrastructure. Based on our own questionnaire responders were keen to see an appropriate balance and mix of dwelling types suitably designed for our village.

8. What do you consider to be key infrastructure?**Schools**

Chair's initials:

- Quite important

Healthcare

- Quite important

Green open space

- Very important

Play provision / outdoor exercise provision

- Very important

Sports provision (indoor and outdoor)

- Very important

Post officer or parcel locker

- Very important

Community Centre

- Quite important

Allotments and/or community gardens

- Quite important

Food shops

- Quite important

Crematorium, burial grounds and funeral services

- Neutral / no opinion

Road network

- Quite important

Public transport

- Very important

Walking, cycling and wheeling routes and cycle parking

- Very important

Water supply and wastewater treatment

- Very important

Energy supply

- Very important

Digital connectivity (e.g. broadband and 5g)

- Very important

9. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about infrastructure?

Our own questionnaire showed an overwhelming concern at lack/poor infrastructure servicing villages such as Tunstall and more specifically issues mentioned:

- Flooding risk
- Traffic increase and road capacity
- Ageing infrastructure
- Drainage and underground pipework
- Utilities coping with growth
- Broadband and mobile connectivity
- A reliable and meaningful bus service to serve Tunstall and the surrounding villages

Cllr. French left the meeting at 7.45pm

10. How can the new Local Plan ensure new developments promote healthy environments and healthy, active lifestyles?

Cllr. Cresswell, Cllr. Spencer and Cllr. Morgan will circulate a response to this question to all Councillors.

11. How can the new Local Plan support Businesses and jobs?

Cllr. Gilbert will circulate a response to this question to all Councillors.

12. How can the new Local Plan help to support sustainable construction, renewable energy and address climate change?

Appropriate developments – don't build on fields, farmland and floodplains. Suffolk is already contributing to renewables.

13. How can the new Local Plan help to support the district's natural environment and landscape character?

Residents strongly supported protection of:

- Wildlife and habitats
- Trees and landscape features
- Important views and vistas
- Village character

Concerns raised:

- Loss of mature trees and green fields
- Development affecting the village feel
- Potential developments and merging of Tunstall with nearby settlements
- Loss of vegetation and wildlife habitat

Chair's initials:

14. How can the new Local Plan help to support sustainable tourism and cultural facilities in the district?

Protect and maintain the character and outstanding beauty of our rural environment.

15. How can the new Local Plan support the district's historic environments?

Protect and improve public transport to these.

16. How can the new Local Plan support thriving town centres and neighbourhoods?

Rates relief for businesses. Sensitive development – not over development. Ensure that there is enough car parking for visitors. Create secure environments, creating jobs and opportunities for all age groups.

17. Is there anything else we should consider in preparing the new Local Plan?

Ensuring closer co-operation with Parish Council's and local opinions. Having regard to those villages that have already contributed to new homes over the last few years. Care should be taken to avoid small villages morphing into unrecognisable settlements and ensuring that new dwellings have the right balance. Meeting not only market demand but the needs of locals/affordable homes built for the future to meet sustainability goals and to be gentler on the environment.

Would you like to answer questions on ways to involve people in the Local Plan?

- ☐ Yes

18. How and where can we best reach people about the new Local Plan?**Emails**

- ☐ Very effective

Letters

- ☐ Very effective

Social media

- ☐ Very effective

Videos

- ☐ Quite effective

East Suffolk Council website

- ☐ Very effective

The East Suffolk app

- ☐ Quite effective

Events

- ☐ Quite effective

Leisure centres

- Quite effective

Webinars

- Very effective

Advertising in public locations (e.g. bus shelters)

- Very effective

Libraries

- Very effective

Community centres / village halls

- Very effective

Cllr. Spencer declared that the Standing Orders were suspended to allow for the remaining agenda items to be discussed, all Councillors were in agreement

19. Which social media platform(s) would you prefer we used?

- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- Next door
- Instagram
- TikTok

20. How could we better reach under-represented groups in East Suffolk (such as young people and young adults)?

Youth groups, sports groups and schools.

21. Do you have anything else to add on how we can involve you throughout the Local Plan preparation process?

Maintain effective communications.

22. Do you have any comments on how this consultation has been publicised?

None.

23. How did you find out about this consultation?

- Email
- Letter
-

7. Documentation – to review and accept where appropriate:

- Community emergency plan

Cllr. Spencer read advice given from SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils): 'Council decisions cannot be made through online voting or email exchanges, as the law requires decisions to be taken at a properly convened, quorate and publicly accessible meeting.

'Under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), telephone numbers are personal data. It would therefore seem sensible for the Council to follow advice provided by SCC by keeping two versions of the Emergency Plan: a public version with personal contact details redacted, and an operational version for containing those details for use by the Emergency Plan Co-ordinator and, where appropriate, the emergency services.'

Cllr. Broomfield questioned who would be liable if the co-ordinator/Parish Council tasked an individual to deal with an action resulting from the emergency plan.

The Clerk will follow this up with the Emergency planning team at East Suffolk Council.

Councillors agreed to discuss the emergency plan at the next meeting.

Cllr. Cresswell gave thanks to Cllr. Gilbert, Cllr. Broomfield and Cllr. Morgan for all their work on the Tunstall questionnaire.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:
Cllr. Anna Spencer, Vice-Chair

Date:

Tiffany Pollock
Clerk to Tunstall Parish Council

Chair's initials: