



Rendlesham

Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7pm on Monday 1st September 2025 in Room 11, Rendlesham Community Centre, Walnut Tree Avenue, Rendlesham, Suffolk IP12 2GG.

THIS MEETING WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Present: Cllrs. M. Eley-Kemp (Chair), E. Points (Vice-Chair), J. Weller, J. Bird, F. Johnson, D. Moore, J. Carter, J. Oliver, and R. Piercy
L. Rayment (Clerk), Cllr Alexander Nicoll (County Councillor) and two members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr C. Gooch and Cllr M. Stevenson. Apologies also from District Cllr T. Wilson.

2. Public Forum

Residents discussed ongoing works at the commercial/residential site, including the use of underground water storage tanks and land preparation; questions were raised about the number and type of units likely to open. Informal feedback noted the success of the new benches, with positive use by teenagers and families.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared

4. Co-option of New Councillor

It was noted there are no current vacancies.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2025 are a true record.

6. County and District Councillor Reports

A detailed update was received on Sizewell-related transport issues, including extended A12 lane closures, contractor vehicle compliance, and local concerns over speed limits and diversions. Parish representation at the Southern Transport Forum was strongly encouraged.

7. Citizens Advice Request

It was resolved that no donation be made in 2025/26. Council will invite Citizens Advice to hold a regular surgery in Rendlesham to support any future funding request during the next budget round.

8. Discretionary Grant Funding (2025/26)

It was resolved that no discretionary grants be awarded this year as no budget was set. Applications may be considered during the 2026/27 budgeting cycle.

9. Remembrance Sunday

It was resolved to approve expenditure for three wreaths and to confirm councillor representatives for the services at Wickham Market, the local Church, and Jubilee Park (names to be confirmed with the Clerk).

The Parish Office, Rendlesham Community Centre, Walnut Tree Avenue, Rendlesham, Suffolk, IP12 2GG

10. Allotments

Update received: Solicitors instructed on the land transfer; site works (water connection, shed bases, fencing/gates) remain outstanding and will be pursued. Plot sizing and indicative rents noted for future setting.

11. CIL Funding & Projects

Update received on items in progress (bins, benches, planters etc.). Members noted the need to prioritise and visibly progress approved projects. The teenage wishlist (shelter, goal posts, hangout use of a supervised room, pump track interest) was discussed.

It was resolved to obtain quotes for a youth shelter at Jubilee Park for further consideration.

12. Skatepark Update

No new progress; grant options and siting to remain under review.

13. Fireworks Event

Update received: the event management plan/risk assessment is being developed with partners. Volunteer recruitment has started and will be reviewed at the October meeting (additional measures, including paid support, to be considered only if necessary).

14. Christmas Event

It was resolved to approve:

- a. Christmas Light Switch-On: 30 November 2025.
- b. Santa Tour: 13 December 2025 (timed around Santa's availability).

15. Jubilee Park

- a. No meeting had taken place and therefore there was no update to report.
- b. On advice that the Council does not hold General Power of Competence, it was resolved by Standing Order 1(r)(i) to amend the agenda wording to a payment for disruption costs under s.111 Local Government Act 1972.
 - i. It was resolved to approve a payment of £200 under s.111 LGA 1972 in respect of disruption costs related to the patio works, with this expected to bring the matter to a close.
- c. Portacabin: Replacement ordered via insurance; delivery date to be confirmed.
- d. Outdoor gym: It was resolved to approve the annual inspection/maintenance.
- e. Energy contract: Noted: new contracts (EDF electricity; British Gas gas) indicating an estimated annual saving of ~£3,500.
- f. Play equipment: Further inspection required; referred to Jubilee Park Committee to report back with repair/replace options.

16. Community Centre Update

- a. Written update received: Positive bookings outlook; grant applications and building insurance works progressing (redcoration/flooring in scope).
- b. Door access: Grant application submitted; additional quotes to be reviewed.
- c. It was resolved that the Community Centre Committee delegates authority to the Clerk for staff line management.
- d. Just42: It was resolved to allow Just42 until the end of September to commence the youth club. If they do not, the alternative local proposal will be implemented.
- e. Tables & chairs (CIL): It was resolved to confirm ownership of the new tables and chairs rests with the Community Centre charity.

17. Clerk's Report

AGAR public inspection period ended; the **external auditor's report** is awaited.

18. Financial Report

- a. Financial update received.
- b. It was resolved to approve payments for August/September 2025.
- c. Noted: CIL spend to date reviewed.
- d. Noted: Budget reviewed.
- e. It was resolved to appoint a working group to prepare the 2026/27 budget and precept, comprising Cllr M. Eley-Kemp, Cllr E. Points, Cllr F. Johnson, Cllr D. Moore, Cllr M. Stevenson, Louise Rayment, and Kirsty Morgan.

19. Committee Appointments

It was resolved that Cllr Julie Oliver be confirmed as a member of the Community Centre charity (as previously supported within the committee).

It was resolved that Cllr Rebecca Piercy join the Jubilee Park Committee.

20. NJC Salary Scales 2025/26

It was resolved to adopt the NJC salary award, backdated to April 2025.

21. Clerk Training

It was resolved to approve the Clerk's attendance at IOSH Managing Safely in Events & Exhibitions (£1,045 + VAT, within the approved training budget).

22. IT Update

Written update received: access control migrated to app-based entry, network upgrades completed alongside insurance works; options for a front-door intercom to be brought back with costs.

23. Meeting extension

It was resolved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes in accordance with Standing Order 3(x)

24. Other Areas of Discussion

Cllr James Carter noted concerns about the pace of CIL spending, asking Council to consider the life-changing scale of some sums and to seek external grants where possible, alongside a clear strategy for larger capital projects. He also suggested that some CIL should be reserved for potential future opportunities where additional capital may be required. Members noted these points for incorporation into the upcoming prioritisation and budget work.

25. Items for the next meeting

- a. Woodland Trust grant update
- b. Fence-line trail cameras
- c. Rendlesham Signage replacement