

# Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council

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## 2026 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Dear Resident,

**The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in GRUNDISBURGH VILLAGE HALL on WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2026 starting at 7.30pm.**

The last 12 months have not been easy but there have been many achievements and good news to celebrate at this year's Annual Parish Meeting.

The Parish Council's Web Site lists 37 village organisations on its Organisations Page. All have dedicated teams of volunteers serving their community. All deserve our thanks and support.

We will hear the latest news from just three of them

- Grund Force Maintenance Group *A group of Volunteers making a difference*
- St. Mary's Church *Outstanding work with families and young people*
- New Scout Headquarters *An amazing asset not only for local young people but the whole community.*

There will be opportunities to ask questions throughout. If possible please register your question in advance, by Email or post to me at the above address

Wine, soft drinks and a buffet supper will be served at the end of the meeting to give you the opportunity to meet friends and to speak informally to our Parish Councillors and District & County Councillors.

Please attend our Annual Parish Meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The meeting deals with issues that affect everyone. Ask your questions. Have your say.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Willetts  
Chairman

***If village groups, clubs and societies would like a table to promote their organisation at the meeting please let me know.***

**Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council**  
**2026 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Parish Council's Annual Report
3. District Councillor & County Councillor's News
4. Grund Force Maintenance Group
5. St Mary's Church
6. New Scout Headquarters
7. The Year in Pictures - Grundisburgh & District News
8. Buffet Supper

**Summary of Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026**

	2024/2025	2025/2026
<u>Income</u>		
Precept	£21,000	£21,000
Allotment Rents	£437	£425
Interest	£2,173	£1,767
Neighbourhood funding (CIL)	£135,761	
Enabling Communities Grant	£1,000	
Tour of Brittain Cycle Race	£500	
VAT repayment	<u>£7,803</u>	<u>£6,384</u>
	£168,674	£29,576
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Administration	£7,485	£7,194
Section 137 payments	£2,823	£1,441
Parks & Open Spaces	£14,224	£29,061
Highways & Bus Shelters	£8,378	£3,492
Millennium Meadow	£4,621	£148
Youth Club	£600	£600
Other grants	£13,306	£6,978
VAT paid	<u>£4,880</u>	<u>£6,057</u>
	£56,317	£54,971
General Fund	£33,282	£37,019
Earmarked Reserves	<u>£167,695</u>	<u>£139,399</u>
Total Assets	£200,977	£176,418

**GRUNDISBURGH & CULPHO PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**1st APRIL 2025 - 31st MARCH 2026**

<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Ann Willetts, 14 Gurdon Road, Grundisburgh, IP13 6XA	01473-738831

<u>Vice Chairman</u>	
Geoff Caryer, The Chestnuts, Rose Hill, Grundisburgh IP13 6TG	01473-738108

<u>Grundisburgh Parish Councillors</u>	
Judith Bignell, 34 Orchard End, Grundisburgh IP13 6UA	01473-735459
Ben Cook, Round House, Post Mill Gardens, Grundisburgh IP13 6UR	07970 075761
Eric Dingman, Willow Barn, Otley Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6RX	07584090474
Chris Dow, Greenacre, Half Moon Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6TU	07984566367
Allen Dunnett, Fern Cottage, Lower Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6UQ	01473-735798
John Dunnett, 'Squeech Farm Cottage', Elm Tree Farm Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6TL	01473-735515
Mike Harris, Willow Cottage, Otley Road, Grundisburgh, IP13 6RY	07710202077
Mark Rankin, Half Moon House, Woodbridge Road, Grundisburgh IP13 6UF	01473-738597
Richard Youngman, White House Farm, Grundisburgh IP13 6RR	01473-735221

<u>Culpho Parish Councillor</u>	
Vacancy	

<u>Parish Clerk</u>	
John Ager, 8 Post Mill Close, Grundisburgh IP13 6UU	01473-735541

<u>District Councillors</u>	
Colin Hedgley, The Coach House, Playford Mount, Great Bealings IP13 6PH	01473-738468
Dan Clery, c/o Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ	07823 327998

<u>County Councillor</u>	
Elaine Bryce, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX	07955 434440

**Meetings** The Council met bi-monthly. An Extraordinary Meeting was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The Sub Committees also met during the year. The Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Resignations** The Council were very sorry to receive the resignation of Dr Mark Mason. His place has yet to be filled by co-option and we still have a vacant place for a Culpho resident. If you would like to be involved in making decisions on issues in your village please contact me.

**Web Site** The Parish Council's web site <https://grundisburgh.suffolk.cloud/> is full of information about village life, the Parish Council and has many useful links. There are sections containing the minutes of council meetings going back to 2013 also sections about Conservation & Environment, Footpaths, Local History, Housing, Village Organisations, Planning, and much more. Please give it a look.

**Planning** The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications in Grundisburgh and Culpho which means that the Council is informed of all applications in the parishes and invited to submit comments to the Planning Authority. Planning permission is granted or refused by East Suffolk Council, who consider recommendations from the Parish Council as well as comments from other organisations and members of the public.

Current Planning Application details are posted on the Old Forge Stores Notice Board, East Suffolk Council's and Parish Council Web Sites and on the site of the application. In certain circumstances East Suffolk Council notifies neighbours.

Planning can be a controversial issue and the Parish Council established a policy in September 2020, reviewed in September 2025, which directs how it deals with the diverse types of applications and these can be viewed on the council's web site or a hard copy can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** Neighbourhood CIL Regulations states that parish councils must spend Neighbourhood CIL on:

- *The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or*
- *Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area*

Since 2017 the Parish Council has received £212,808.99 from developments in Grundisburgh mainly from the Chapel Field development, and has spent £88,086 on a variety of assets in the village,

In the current financial year the Parish Council has awarded grants to restore the Playing Field Pavilion, Stage equipment for GADS, a Gazebo for the Guides, HGV signs for Lower Road and an Electricity supply for the Village Green.

Funds have also been set aside for more Sandboxes & Dog Waste Bins, The New Scouts HQ, Village Gates for Culpho & Grundisburgh.

**Otley College Of Agriculture And Horticulture Charity Lane. HGV training facility.**

Despite objections from the Parish Council and residents East Suffolk Council approved this planning application. Charity Lane is a narrow road with no purpose-built passing places over its total length. . Suffolk County Council Highways Department did not object; which considering that this development will disgorge HGV learner drivers onto a road they have designated and signed as "*Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles*" is incomprehensible.

This proposal will have an unacceptable impact on highway safety, local roads and the living conditions of local residents along the whole of Charity Lane. Their lived experience on the lane is no longer one of countryside tranquillity but of a creeping increase in traffic.

**Westerfield Quarry** The Parish Council has objected in the strongest possible terms to a Planning Application to extract and process sand and gravel on site over a 16 year period and import more material to be processed. This application is being dealt with by Suffolk County Council and it is pleasing to see that our County Councillor Elaine Bryce is very actively opposing it.

**Footpaths & Environment** The monthly walks are very popular and numbers have increased. It is very pleasing to welcome new comers to the village and gives them an excellent introduction to the many footpaths in the area. Also a record number of villagers joined in the annual torchlit Christmas Walk to Mr & Mrs Hill's home in Hasketon where Christmas Fare was laid on for the walkers. Grateful thanks to Hilary and Trevor. Many thanks to Judith Bignell and her helpers for erecting the Christmas Tree on the Village Green. Their task was made much easier by the installing of a permanent electricity supply on the Village Hall which enabled the purchase of new LED lights. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the Tree on the Green. It is a magnificent sight. Thanks also to the villagers who decorated their homes with Christmas lights and the colourful window lights of St Mary's Church which completes the picture in the centre of the village.

### **Millennium Meadow**

The Millennium Meadow is a unique and extremely important conservation area – a rare example of wet grassland which used to be widespread in the countryside in bygone days.

We are very grateful to local and Greenways volunteers who provide much needed labour particularly at grass cutting time. However more local volunteers are needed. If you would like to be involved, more help is always welcome, please phone the Millennium Meadow's Warden Paul Franklin (01473-735295).

**East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA)** The Alliance, formed in February 2023, has since grown to comprise 68 affiliated town councils, parish councils and residents' groups, meeting regularly to identify and discuss issues around planning policy, procedure, delivery and sustainability.

ESPA seeks greater community participation in the planning system in East Suffolk. ESPA believes that local communities should be at the heart of planning decisions and be recognised as stakeholders in that decision-making process

Its most significant achievement is the establishment of a Community Engagement Group (CEG) as part of an ongoing partnership between East Suffolk Council and ESPA with the purpose of strengthening community engagement in the planning system.

ESPA is also affiliated with the nationwide Community Planning Alliance of more than 500 grassroots groups seeking greater community participation in planning, greater environmental protections, and to ensure the right developments and infrastructure in the right places."

**Village Maintenance** Councillors Chris Dow and Allen Dunnett formed the aptly named "Grund Force" to carry out maintenance work in the village in early 2024. They were concerned at a growing list of maintenance work not being carried out by Suffolk County and East Suffolk Councils due to lack of funding that they decided to "do it themselves".

Grund Force has had an enormous impact on the village. The Village Green benches, white posts and rails, directional sign, village sign, bus shelters have all been restored. Over 2,000 bulbs (daffodil, bluebell, snowdrops and aconites) and wild flowers have been planted in various locations in the village.

Grund Force played a major role in the installing of an electricity supply on the Village Green.

More work is planned. Please speak with Chris (07984566367) or Allen (01473-735798) if you would like to join Grundforce.