

Minutes of the meeting of Beccles Fenland Charity Trust on Tuesday 1st September 2026 after the town council meeting in Council Chamber at Town Hall

Present: Joseph Athorn (Chair), Gillian Birrell, Stephanie Bubb, Nathalie Chidley, Barry Darch, John Greig, Jeff Harris, Samuel Hunt, Peter Shannon, Richard Stubbings, Christine Wheeler

In Attendance: Paul Cunningham, Secretary

Apologies: Krista Booker, Philippa Drew, Alan Hopley, Tarek Lahin, Daniel Smith

Absent: None

Members of public: County Councillor Ash Lever and District Councillor Sarah Plummer

1 - To receive apologies for absence

Received from Alan Hopley, Philippa Drew, Tarek Lahin, Daniel Smith and Krista Booker.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

2 - To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda

There were none.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

3 - To approve the minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2026

Motion to approve minutes proposed by Cllr Greig.

Seconded by Cllr Hunt.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2026.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

4 - Matters arising from these minutes

There were none.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

5 - To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's report and agree the payment schedules for August 2026

Motion to approve the receipts and payments: Cllr Stubbings.

Seconded by: Cllr Hunt.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore

RESOLVED To approve the Schedule of Payments for August 2026.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

6 - Draft minutes of Assets and Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2026

Cllr Wheeler noted that the meeting had discussed revamping the toilet block at the Quay and they had agreed to ask the architect to tweak the original design. She noted that an Expression of Interest has been submitted for this project to East Suffolk Council's 'Thriving Places 'Fund. She noted that the committee is also investigating a separate potential 'Changing Places' toilet facility at the Quay. Cllr Wheeler also noted that members of the committee had met with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to discuss the enhancement of little used Trust land, such as 'Hotel Site' field and the 'Marina' site.

Motion to receive draft minutes: Cllr Wheeler.

Seconded by: Cllr Hunt.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore
RESOLVED To receive the draft minutes of the Assets and Estates Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2026.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

7 - Draft minutes of the Development and Commerce Committee meeting held on Monday 10th August 2026

Motion to receive draft minutes: Cllr Stubbings.

Seconded by: Cllr Darch.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the draft minutes of the Development and Commerce Committee meeting held on Monday 10th August 2026.

To consider the following recommendation from this meeting:

To create a Working Party to work on a Business Plan for moorings at Beccles Quay

Cllr Stubbings suggested that the Chairs of Finance & Governance, Development & Commerce and Assets & Estates Committees should all be members of this Working Party. Chair also agreed to take part. He invited further volunteers and Cllr Chidley agreed to join. Secretary also suggested that Harbour Master Martin Eglintine should be a member.

Cllr Stubbings proposed that the Working Party be created, with membership to consist of Cllrs Stubbings, Wheeler, Birrell, Athorn and Chidley, as well as Harbour Master Martin Eglintine, and that the first meeting of the Working Party agree the Terms of Reference.

Seconded by Cllr Chidley.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To create a Working Party to work on a Business Plan for moorings at Beccles Quay, with membership to consist of Cllrs Stubbings, Wheeler, Birrell, Athorn and Chidley, as well as Harbour Master Martin Eglintine, and that the first meeting of the Working Party agree the Terms of Reference.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

8 - Draft minutes of the Finance & Governance Committee meeting held on Monday 24th August 2026

Cllr Stubbings reported that the meeting had reviewed and agreed to write-off outstanding 'bad debt'.

Motion to receive draft minutes: Cllr Stubbings.

Seconded by: Cllr Wheeler.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To receive the draft minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on Monday 24th August 2026.

To consider the following recommendation from this meeting:

To increase the tree budget to £15,000, with any spend over the initial budget of £5,000 to be covered from Trust reserves

Motion to increase the tree budget to £15,000, with any spend over the initial budget of £5,000 to be covered from Trust reserves, proposed by Cllr Stubbings.

Seconded by Cllr Wheeler.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To increase the tree budget to £15,000, with any spend over the initial budget of £5,000 to be covered from Trust reserves.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

9 - Any other Fenland Trust business

Councillors noted that play equipment inspections had taken place and that ROSPA training for staff to carry out routine inspections was being booked for later in the year.

Cllr Chidley reported that trees along The Avenue have dropped boughs and she suggested that these trees need to be inspected. Secretary agreed to check to see if trees along The Avenue had been included in the inspection of the Common.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

10 - To agree the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 6th October 2026 after the town council meeting

This was agreed as Tuesday 6th October 2026 after the town council meeting.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

11 - To consider confidential items

Councillors asked the two members of the public present to leave the meeting.

What?	By Whom?	By When?

12 - To approve the confidential minutes of the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2026

Motion to approve confidential minutes proposed by Cllr Stubbings.

Seconded by Cllr Hunt.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour and it was therefore **RESOLVED** To accept for accuracy and adoption the confidential minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2026.

What?	By Whom?	By When?