

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Scarning Village Hall on 15 June 2026

Councillors Present: N Parsons (Chair), T Abel, M Blackburn, F Bradford, S Bunn, M Eveling, C Hewson, M Steward. **In attendance:** Cllr L Turner (Breckland Council), Cllr A Webb (Norfolk County Council), N Hartley (Parish Clerk), and eight members of the public.

Public Participation

Cllr Parsons apologised for his post on Facebook. He had started a thread with the best of intentions in order to obtain additional quotes for the car park as the Council to date had only received one quote. He was however gratified to see that it had increased attendance from the public.

A member of the public asked if a parabolic mirror could be installed as a safety measure near Chapel Lane. Cllr Webb (Norfolk County Council) said she would take this forward.

Residents of the Draytonhall Lane estate commented that it seemed like much of the Council's funds for play equipment were spent in the older part of the parish and that the estate play area off Blackthorn Drive was largely neglected.

In response to this, it was noted that the Council has set aside £28,700 toward new play equipment and that whilst it had not been able to secure a National Lottery grant it would be looking at ways forward, as below (item 12).

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Manning, who was on holiday and Cllr Hewitt (Breckland Council).

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hewson declared an interest in any matters relating to Shipdham Lane Playing Field.

3 Shipdham Lane Car Park

Cllr Hewett (Breckland Council) had advised that rates may be payable on a car park. There was discussion about the plan that had been submitted to contractors. Cllr Parsons said he has obtained a larger version of the plan. The Council was working to the plan supplied to it by the Village Hall Trust. It was agreed that Cllr Parsons and the Clerk would get together to clarify the specification and push forward to get more quotations.

4 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2026. The Chair signed the minutes.

5 Matters Arising

None.

6 Breckland and County Councillors' Reports

A copy of Cllr Turner's report is attached to the minutes.

Cllr Webb (Norfolk County Council) said she had met the Highways Engineer and was seeking to do what she could regarding speeding in the parish, particularly on Dereham Road, as well as parking outside the school.

7 Finance

7.1 The Council approved the following payments to be made in accordance with the Budget:-

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £1,000 (Standing Order)

HMRC, Clerk's Paye, £92.53

N Hartley, reimbursement of cost of office supplies, £56.78

S Goldsworthy, reimbursement of costs for flower boxes, £40.95

Nurture Landscapes Ltd, grass cutting in churchyard, £453.60

K W Services, grass cutting verges and Blackthorn Drive, £390

Norfolk County Council, work re sale of land at Daffy Green, £28.62

8 Planning

8.1 The Council considered the following application:

2 Bell Close

PL/2026/0785/HOU

Removal of conservatory and replace with lean-to sun room extension

It was **RESOLVED** the Council had no objection.

9 Motion regarding land at Blackthorn Drive and Ted Ellis Walk play area

The Council received a request from Cllrs Parsons, Manning and Eveling to allow discussion of point 10 on the agenda (as below).

10 Purchase of land at Blackthorn Drive playing field and Ted Ellis Walk play area

The Council considered the purchase of land at Blackthorn Drive and Ted Ellis Walk play areas/playing field. Three members of the Council were against the proposal. The majority were in favour. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase both pieces of land, subject to legal advice.

11 Outstanding matters in the play area safety report

This was carried forward to the next meeting as the Council had not received a quote for the cost of the work.

12 New play equipment for Blackthorn Drive play area

The Council had not secured funding from the National Lottery. The Council has set aside funds toward new equipment. There was discussion about the best way forward. It was **RESOLVED** to prepare and issue a survey (online and paper), to ascertain what residents want. Two members of the public offered their assistance with this.

13 Appointment of the Budget Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Eveling and Bradford to the Budget Committee.

14 Proposal for an Emergency Plan

Cllr Hewson proposed that the Council have an Emergency Plan. It was **RESOLVED** to invite Breckland's Emergency Planning Officer to a meeting.

15 Update on the Dog Show

Cllr Abel said the Dog Show is to be held on 27 September on land at the corner of Dereham Road and Coach Lane and that judges and caterers have been engaged.

Cllr Webb said the event might need a licence and suggested that this should be checked.

16 Items for Inclusion in the next agenda

An update on the sale of land at Daffy Green.

17 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on July 20 at 7pm.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed Chair

Date

District Councillor's Report

Result of County Council elections. Your new County Councillor is Mrs Alison Webb for the new county division of Dereham North and Scarning. I am delighted to welcome her aboard, as we have worked together for many years.

Elections for the new Unitary Authority are still programmed for 2027, and for one year those elected will work alongside existing district councillors in shadow form. Breckland council will cease at midnight 31st March 2028, when the three unitary authorities will be effective from then on. The new West Norfolk unitary authority will comprise of Breckland, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk plus some South Norfolk parishes — I add the caveat that of course this could all change! Mayoral elections are still programmed for 2028

Domestic Food Waste — this new mandatory service will start on September, when all households will be supplied with a small indoor caddy and a larger external bin (with lid and lockable handle to deter vermin). The larger bin will be collected weekly.

Small electrical items and batteries — kerbside collection is suspended following large fire at recycling centre. Please do not put even one battery in your waste bin

New Inspiring Communities fund is now open —full details on Breckland website. Grants for heating oil are available from NCC

Community Assets transfer- well underway for action, transferring agreed pieces of land from Breckland Council to parishes

There is a very detailed report of all Breckland Council's achievements on the Scarning website. Paul and Lynda will continue to support their residents and parishes until the new authority is established And to end with some cheerful news, Breckland has committed £1.2 to provide housing for young people from 18-25 to combat youth homelessness.

Always happy to help:

Lynda.turner@breckland.gov.uk

Paul.hewett@breckland.gov.uk