

Scarning Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2025 at Scarning Village Hall

Councillors Present: F Bradford (Chair) M Blackburn, S Bunn, C Hewson, H Manning, M Steward.

In attendance: N Hartley (Parish Clerk), Cllr P Hewett (Breckland Council). No members of the public.

Cllr Bradford said she was recording the meeting. Cllrs Blackburn, Hewson, Manning and Steward, and the Clerk also said they were also recording the meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Abel, Cllr L Turner (Breckland Council) and Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

2 Councillor Statement to the Council Chair

The following statement from councillors was reiterated:-

Having held a Vote of No Confidence in the Chair at its meeting on November 18, 2024, and following subsequent meetings, councillors Abel, Blackburn, Bunn, Hewson, Manning and Steward, note that by not attending the meetings of the Parish Council chaired by Mrs Bradford they are taking the only course of action open to them. Following the vote of no confidence, councillors informed Mrs Bradford in writing that they felt she needed to put the interests of the parish first, but Mrs Bradford continues to remain as the Council's Chair, in spite of the fact that she no longer has the support of any of her fellow councillors. Councillors remain committed to their work on behalf of the residents of Scarning and are sorry that the action of Mrs Bradford, in remaining as Chair, is preventing them from carrying out their work on behalf of the parish.

A heated discussion took place in which councillors expressed their frustration with Cllr Bradford's refusal to step down as Chair. Cllr Bradford confirmed that she was not stepping down because she had been elected as Chair. And that in her view the current situation had arisen because she had made suggestions for what she considered to be improvements to the Council.

It was pointed out by members of the Council that they had considered her suggestions at previous meetings and had voted against them.

The position of the other councillors was summarised by one of the councillors, who said that Cllr Bradford had lost the confidence of all her fellow councillors and that because she refused to stand down as Chair she was preventing the Council from carrying out its business.

The meeting was closed without resolution at 7.25pm.

The Chair of this meeting does not believe that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 March in respect of item 2 were a correct record but her view was not upheld by the meeting and the minutes are confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Signed Chair

Date