

Scarning Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2026 at Scarning Village Hall

Councillors Present: S Bunn (Chair), T Abel, M Blackburn, F Bradford, M Eveling, C Hewson, H Manning, N Parsons, M Steward. **In attendance:** N Hartley (Parish Clerk), Cllr L Turner (Breckland Council), one member of the public.

Public Participation

A member of the public asked if the Council's flower boxes need to be moved following the installation of the new speed gates. It was suggested the boxes could be moved to the Village Sign lay by. The Council will consider this at its February meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Hewett (Breckland Council) and Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hewson in any matters relating to Scarning Playing Field Committee.

3 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** (with one abstention) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2025. The Chair signed the minutes.

4 Matters Arising

Cllr Blackburn asked about the visibility splay for the Shipdham Lane car park. Cllr Abel explained that it had been agreed with a Planning Officer at Breckland Council that what was needed to comply with requirements was to lower the bank by one foot to the oak tree. There was no need for kerb edgings or a wider splay. He said that two or three volunteers would carry out the work for free. The next Committee meeting is on 26 January.

5 Breckland Councillor Report

Cllr Turner said that Breckland Council was offering pieces of land to parish councils in advance of Local Government Reorganisation. She said that some of the land may be free, some may have a peppercorn rent to pay, and that parishes would have to pay the legal fees. There are workshops at Breckland on 29 and 30 January. Cllrs Manning and Bradford said they would attend one of the workshops.

Cllr Turner said Breckland Council will be presenting a balanced budget for next year and that Breckland is still a District Council without any debt.

6 Planning

6.1 25 Welden Road,
Garage conversion to extend kitchen

PL/2026/0066/HOU

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no objection to the application.

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, £143.73
SCS Accounting Services, payroll services, £18
Dereham Men's Shed, new noticeboards, £260
Norfolk County Council, legal work re sale of land at Daffy Green, £156.06
Wensum Valley Electrical Ltd, installation of Christmas lights, £100.80
Npower, unmetered street lighting, £633.06

Cllr Hewson offered to install the Christmas lights on the tree in 2026.

Cllr Abel offered to install the new noticeboard at New Inn Lane lay-by.

7.2 The Council received a report of actual to budgeted expenditure.

8 Breckland Council Land

The Council discussed a preliminary enquiry from Breckland Council to release four parcels of land to the Parish Council in advance of Local Government Reorganisation. It was **RESOLVED** to consider each parcel of land individually at the next Council meeting. Cllrs Manning and Bradford will report back to the Council following attendance at one of the workshops, as above.

9 Lease of Blackthorn Drive play areas

The Council should have registered the lease of the land it rents at Blackthorn Drive and Ted Ellis Walk. It was **RESOLVED** to instruct Nplaw to register the lease.

10 Deed of Variation (Water Meadows)

There is a break clause in the lease between the Parish Council and Breckland Council. The National Lottery will not advance any monies if this remains. The way round this is by a Deed of Variation. Breckland Council has approved this, as long as the Parish Council pays the legal fees. The cost is between £1,700 and £2,000.

It was **RESOLVED** to put a Deed of Variation in place if the Council is successful in its Lottery bid.

11 Sale of land at Daffy Green

The Council had been advised by Cruso Wilkin that the vendors did not want to accept an offer that had been made, and had asked the Council if it wanted to re market the land, as it has been effectively sold subject to contract and not been advertised for a long while.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will carry out further research and consider this further at its next meeting.

12 New Council Projects 2026

The Council is proceeding with its Lottery bid for new play equipment at Blackthorn Drive and with the car park at Shipdham Lane. Cllr Hewson said a fete was proposed on the Playing Field in the summer. The Council acknowledged that events need volunteers.

It was **RESOLVED** to seek the views of residents on social media as to what they want.

13 Review of Policies and Procedures

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following policies and procedures without amendment:-

- Anti Bullying & Harassment policy
- Business Continuity Plan
- Complaints Procedure
- Co Option policy
- Disciplinary & Grievance policy
- Environmental policy
- Equality policy
- Financial Regulations
- Health & Safety policy
- Information Security Incident procedure
- IT policy
- Openness & Transparency policy
- Press & Media policy
- Procurement policy
- Training & Development policy
- Safeguarding policy
- Social Media policy
- Tree Management policy
- Vexatious Complaints policy
- Whistleblowing policy

14 Items for the next agenda

Relocation of the Council’s flower boxes

Acquisition of land from Breckland Council

Update on the Shipdham Lane car park project

Update from the Playing Field Committee

Update on community events

15 Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7pm on February 16, 2026.

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Signed Chair

Date