

## **Minutes of a meeting of Scarning Parish Council held in the Village Hall on 16 March 2026**

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

### **Public Participation**

Mrs Goldsworthy asked if she could plant flowers near the speed gates. She was asked if she could plant flowers that produce a different bit of colour at different times of the year.

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Eveling, who was on holiday, Cllr Manning, who had a prior appointment, Cllr P Hewitt (Breckland Council) and Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **3 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2026. The Chair signed the minutes.

### **4 Matters Arising**

None.

### **5 Breckland Councillor's Report**

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

### **6 Planning**

6.1 The Council considered the following application:

24 Greenwood Drive  
Demolition of conservatory and erection of extension

PL/2026/0180/HOU

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

## **7 Parish Partnership Bid (School)**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Parish Partnership Scheme to install new parking restrictions outside the school.

## **8 Parish Partnership Scheme (Playing Field)**

The Council was asked if it wanted to proceed with a previous Parish Partnership Scheme bid for a sign to the Shipdham Lane playing field car park. The cost to the Parish Council would be £704. It was **RESOLVED** that the cost was prohibitive, but the Council will see if it can install signage on a privately owned piece of land on the corner of Shipdham Lane and Dereham Road. The Clerk will obtain costs.

## **9 Finance**

9.1 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  
N Hartley, reimbursement of expenses, £161.40  
N Hartley, reimbursement of office supplies, £48.05  
Norfolk Parish Training & Support, annual subscription, £690  
Norfolk Parish Training & Support, spring seminar attendance, £14.40  
Mansfield Fencing, removal and disposal of flower box, £100  
Norfolk County Council, legal work re sale of land at Daffy Green, £165.24  
Scarning Village Hall, hire of Village Hall for meeting April-Feb, £326.25  
S Goldsworthy, reimbursement for flowers in Council flower box, £8.73  
Nurture Landscapes Ltd, grass cutting Scarning churchyard, £1,954.80 (Section 137)

9.2 The Council noted receipt of the following payment:-

N Hartley, salary adjustment, £0.77

## **10 Appointment of Internal Auditor**

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint SCS Accounting as the Council's Internal Auditor.

## **11 Policy Reviews**

The Council reviewed and agreed the following policies:-

Internal Control policy, with two amendments.  
Risk Management policy with no amendments.

## **12 Car Park Project**

The Clerk had met one of the chosen contractors and had received a quote. He had contacted the other two nominated contractors. One had requested the car park plan and then not come back to the Council in spite of being chased for a reply. The other had arranged to meet the clerk on site and not turned up. A request for a subsequent meeting had not received a reply. It was **RESOLVED** to seek a quote from another company, ADS Utilities.

## **13 Proposal to Lower the Kerbs (Dereham Road)**

The Council received a request from Oak Manor and Scarning PCC asking if the Parish Council would support a request to lower the kerb at locations on Dereham Road to help members of Oak Manor and their carers gain access to the church. It was **RESOLVED** to support the request.

## **14 Council Flower Boxes**

The Council had received permission from Norfolk County Council to install new flower boxes on either side of the village sign. The Council had obtained a quote from Mansfield Fencing for two new boxes, filled with soil. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote and to install the new boxes.

## **15 Sale of Land at Daffy Green**

The Council understood that the original purchasers were still proceeding.

## **16 Playing Field Committee**

Cllr Hewson said the Playing Field Committee was not able to host a Dog Show at Shipdham Lane, as there were concerns about its restrictions that do not allow dogs on the playing field. A venue at the corner of Coach Lane and Dereham Road was proposed. The Playing Field Committee will run the event and all proceeds will go to the Committee. Cllr Hewson said he will liaise with Cllr Manning.

## **17 Community Events**

Cllr Blackburn noted the suggestions for a yard sale and a tennis tournament.

## **18 Dog Show**

See above (item 16).

## **19 Grass Cutting at Blackthorn Drive**

The Council's contractor had told Cllrs Abel and Hewson that his blades are being damaged by the mole hills. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will cover the cost of two sets of new blades.

## **20 Items for Inclusion in the next agenda**

A request for a bus stop near the junction of Dereham Road and Podmore Road.

## **21 Next meetings**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Scarning School on April 20 at 6.30pm, followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

Signed ..... Chair

Date .....

## **District Councillors Report**

**County Council Elections May 7<sup>th</sup> 2026** – its not too late to get onto the Electoral Roll. Further details at [elections@breckland.gov.uk](mailto:elections@breckland.gov.uk)

**CLlr Phillip Duigan** (Dereham South) is caretaking Shipdham and Cranworth as CC contact until the elections in May.

**Mayoral Elections 2028** – for Norfolk and Suffolk Strategic Authority

### **Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation**

Decision from Minister with decision about 1/2/3 unitary authorities expected in March 2026

Elections for “new” councils in 2027, then “new” councillors will operate in shadow form for a year before taking control fully in 2028 when the new Unitary Councils go “live”

**Food Waste Collection** – is a **statutory** service from April 2026 – watch for full details on Breckland website, social media, and possible flyers on your bins.

**Otterwood Kennels** – although not in Shipdham parish, update might be of interest. Appeal still under way, so enforcement proceedings have been extended to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026. This is because enforcement action cannot be undertaken whilst there is a “live” planning application.

**Local plan update** – please see [www.breckland.gov.uk/local-plan-2025](http://www.breckland.gov.uk/local-plan-2025) which includes results of local consultations.

**Community Assets Transfer.** Agreed at Cabinet that after detailed consultation with parishes, Breckland owned community assets be offered to parishes at an under value, where the attributed value was less than £10,000 and where there is a clear social, economic or community benefit.

A full report of Breckland Council’s activities and successes will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting, and placed on parish websites (as quite lengthy!)

Always happy to help

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