

Scarning Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2025 at Scarning Village Hall

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

Public Participation

The Council was asked who was responsible for the inside of the Blackthorn Drive play area. It was noted that the contractor strims the edges, but the Council clears other areas. The resident had cleaned some of the equipment and offered further help.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bunn and Hewson, who had prior engagements, Cllrs L Turner and P Hewett (Breckland Council), and Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2025. The Chair signed the minutes.

4 Matters Arising

The Parish Council had written to the landowner asking them to cut the hedge from Hill Rise to Podmore Lane. The landowner replied that hedgerow management is built into their farming programme from 1 September. The hedge had been cut other than one section where the cutting could not be carried out, as there was a car parked in the lay-by, thus preventing the machinery from reaching the hedgerow. The cutting of this small section will be carried out in due course, when the machinery is available and the hedgerow is not obstructed by any parked cars.

5 Report from District Councillors

A copy of Cllr Turner's report (Breckland Council) is attached to the minutes.

6 Planning

6.1 The Council considered amendments to the following application:-

Berm House, Dereham Road

PL/2025/0632/FMIN

Conversion and extension of outbuilding/garage to form dwelling, and erection of new

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

Cllr Abel said that building work was being carried out on Meadowlea, Podmore Lane. It was noted that the Parish Council had objected to works to the property in 2023 and had received no subsequent planning application. The Council will contact the Planning Officer.

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, £94.73
SCS Accounting, payroll services, £18
RBL (Poppy Appeal), Remembrance Day wreath, £50
TT Jones Electrical Ltd, maintenance of street lights, £73.82
NGF Play Ltd, repairs to zipwire, £1,151.66
Ravencroft Tree Services Ltd, tree survey, £444
Mansfield Fencing, repairs to toddler tower roof (Blackthorn Drive play area, £30
Smiths of Derby, carry out maintenance and inspection of church clock, £780
N Hartley, reimbursement for purchase of hazard warning tape, £4.65
Npower, unmetered street lighting charges, £1,304.63
KW Services, grass cutting, £375
Norfolk County Council, legal fees re sale of land at Daffy Green, £36.72
Scarning Parish Council (deposit account), transfer of funds, £25,000

7.2 The Council noted the following payments received:-

Breckland Council, part precept, £23,500
Scottish Widows, interest paid, £305.40

7.3 The meeting received a report of Actual to Budgeted expenditure.

8 Request from Scarning PCC to cut the grass in Scarning churchyard 2026

The Council considered a request from the PCC to cut the grass in the churchyard. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will continue to pay for grass cutting.

9 Appointment of a contractor to cut the grass in Scarning churchyard

The Council considered quotes. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Nurture Landscapes.

10 Appointment of a contractor to cut the verges, Blackthorn Drive play area and other areas 2026

The Council considered a quote. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint KW Services.

11 Tree Survey

A copy of the report had been forwarded to the Playing Field Committee re the trees on Shipdham Lane playing field. Most of the work in the report relates to trees on the playing field. The tenants of the Council's land had been contacted regarding work to be done on the land they lease from the Council.

12 Annual play safety inspection report

The safety inspection report noted a number of items in need of attention. It was **RESOLVED** to wait for a reply from the National Lottery re the Council's grant application and then return to the report, as necessary. It was noted that two swings had been removed at Blackthorn Drive, as these were considered dangerous, and the zip wire on Shipdham Lane Playing Field had been decommissioned for the same reason, with repair works to be carried out.

13 Church Clock Repairs

It was **RESOLVED** to carry out the works recommended by Smith of Derby in their inspection.

14 Hedge Cutting between Black Horse Close and Hill Rise

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will trim the hedge in June and early September to keep the vegetation off the path. This will be in addition to the Council's cut of the hedge in March and the landowner cutting it in the autumn.

15 Update on the Council's grant application

Cllr Manning said the Council was waiting to hear further from the National Lottery.

16 Update on the sale of land at Daffy Green

The Council understands that the purchase is proceeding. The Council's solicitors have advised that the buyers solicitors have said they are initially agreeable to a Deed of Assignment. A copy will be provided to the Council for approval.

17 Update on the installation of speed gates

Norfolk County Council has been waiting for the delivery to come in before the works team can book the road space and arrange traffic management. The work should be done by the middle of December.

18 Maintenance of the parish website

Chris Farnham had asked the Council if it could find a replacement to maintain the village website. Cllr Parsons offered to help and will liaise with Chris Farnham.

19 Remembrance Day Wreath

The Council will ask Cllr Hewson if he is able to lay the wreath on Remembrance Day.

20 SNAP Meeting Update

Cllr Bradford had attended the Safety Neighbourhood meeting. She reported that crime in Scarning is considered 'very low.' There had been an anticipation of an increase in anti social behaviour over the summer, but this had not transpired.

21 Car Park

Cllr Abel said the Village Hall Trust was not aware that the Council had allocated £17,700 toward a car park. It was agreed that there should be cooperation between the various parish organisations. The Council will wait to hear from the Village Hall trust.

22 Items for Next Agenda

A report from the Head at Scarning School.

23 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7pm on 17 November.

The meeting was closed at 8pm.

Signed Chair

Date

Breckland District Councillor's Report

RSPCA PawPrints Awards

Breckland Council has won several awards in this year's RSPCA PawPrints awards. Our Animal Licensing Officer has won a special recognition award, the Council has won a Platinum Award for Stray Dog Services and Gold Award for Kennelling.

ARP news – delighted that ARP have won a national industry award for excellence in partnership

Local Plan Update

The public consultation goes live from 31st October until 12th December. Please see details on Breckland website and the planning portal

Return/reuse of walking aids

If you have walking aids (crutches, rollators, sticks etc) that you no longer need, there is a scheme where you may take them to a recycling centre (no appointment needed) and then inmates from HMP Norwich will clean and refurbish them for reuse.

Winter safety and Gritting Routes – Be Prepared

Lots of helpful information on both NCC and Breckland websites

Local Government Reorganisation

Breckland together with 5 other authorities have submitted a proposal for a three unitary authority scheme, backed by 7/9 local MPs, This is a cross party proposal, and we should hear outcome in late autumn. It is still proposed that elections for County take place next May, together with election for Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk

Bye-election results

Reform won the recent bye-election in Thetford Castle ward, so Breckland Council now has 5 Reform elected members

Age-Friendly Communities Survey

This is being undertaken to establish what matters most to older people across the District. Please complete a form during your Parish Council meeting, and return to Lynda.

SNAP October 22nd

Next meeting in Scarning Village Hall at 6.30pm where members of the public can discuss with local police and set priorities for action for next three months. Our SNAP area covers Scarning, Shipdham and Cranworth as well as Watton.

Maui Tau'i Festival

Confirmed that this annual festival has moved from site in Gressenhall into another authority, however the site retains its entertainment licence so may well be used again in future.

lynda.turner@breckland.gov.uk

paul.hewett@breckland.gov.uk