

Scarning Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2025 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), one member of the public.

1 Co Option

It was **RESOLVED** to co opt Michael Eveling and Neil Parsons on to the Council. Both signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs P Hewett and L Turner (Breckland Council), and W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

3 Code of Conduct and Nolan Principles

The Chair reminded councillors of the Council's Code of Conduct and Nolan Principles. All councillors have signed the Code. The Chair asked all councillors to be polite and considerate, and to accept all decisions of the Council, whether they had voted for or against those decisions.

4 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Hewson and Abel declared an interest in any matter relating to Scarning Playing Field Committee.

Cllr Abel declared an interest in Item 8 (Planning Application for Pennymeadow Nursery).

5 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2025. The Chair signed the minutes.

6 Matters Arising

None.

7 Report from District Councillor

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

8 Planning

8.1 The Council considered the following applications and made decisions as follows:-

Chestnut Lodge, Dereham Road PL/2025/0671/PIP
Application for permission in principle for 2 self build/custom build dwellings

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

Tree works application PL/2025/0767/TCA
4 Allwood Avenue
T1 is a semi-mature Silver Birch standing on the grass verge adjacent to the garden fence of No. 4 Allwood Avenue. The tree is approximately 12m tall with a canopy radius of 4m. It is proposed to lift the canopy of the tree by removing two lower branches to lessen the overhang into the garden and reduce the crown height by 2m to lessen shading.

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

Pennymeadow Nursery, Podmore Lane PL/2025/0657/FMIN
One self-build bungalow with detached cart lodge and associated works

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

9 Call for Sites

Cllr Manning noted that Breckland Council is reevaluating housing numbers and that Scarning has been allocated 94 dwellings a year for four years. The Parish Council has been asked for comments on the Local Plan. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint a working party comprising Cllrs Manning, Eveling and Parsons to formulate a response. This will be presented to the Council's July meeting.

10 Finance

10.1 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, £87.71
N Hartley, reimbursement for purchase of stamps for the Council, £13.92
Norfolk Parish Training, Charing meetings course, £72
N Hartley, reimbursement for purchase of Community Award plaques, £25.47
Keith Walpole, grass cutting, £375
TT Jones Electrical Ltd, street light maintenance contract, £71.20
S Goldsworthy, reimbursement of payment for flowers for flower boxes, £19.80

10.2 The Council noted the following payment received:-

HMRC, Vat refunded, £2,511.60

10.3 The Council's bank balances were noted as follows:-

Community Account: £43,378.26 (includes first Precept instalment)
Deposit Account: £22,427.45

10.4 The Council received a report of Actual to Budgeted Expenditure

11 Proposal to Move the Beacon

The Council considered a proposal to move the Beacon from the village sign layby to Shipdham Lane Playing Field. It was noted there are more facilities at the Playing Field and this should make future events more accessible to greater numbers. It was **RESOLVED** to reduce the size of the Beacon and to add it to a moveable 'trolley,' to be stored for use at the Playing Field. The Parish Council will continue to maintain and insure the beacon. The Council's decision was made pending a decision from the Playing Field Committee.

12 Car Park (Shipdham Lane)

The hedge had been removed near the entrance to the car park. It was **RESOLVED** that the Village Hall Trust should contact Norfolk County Council referring to this work in terms of the proposed visual splay, and inform Breckland Council that work has started.

13 Zip Wire

The Council considered a quote to repair the Zip Wire on Shipdham Lane Playing Field. It was **RESOLVED** to request a further quote for stainless steel posts.

14 Council Noticeboards

It was **RESOLVED** to replace all of the Council's noticeboards and to ask Dereham Mens Shed to quote prior to carrying out the work at the end of summer.

15 Car Parking outside Scarning School

The Clerk had attended a meeting at the school. Norfolk County Council said they will refresh all the double yellow lines on the stretch of road outside the school.

Norfolk County Council had referred the school to one of its departments that specifically advises and works with the school over parking issues.

The zig zags outside the school are not enforceable, but become enforceable by having signage. The Parish Council can apply for signs under the Parish Partnership Scheme. The cost is approx £1,000 split 50-50 between Parish Council and Norfolk County Council.

It is unlikely the speed limit can be lowered to 30mph as the road does not fit Norfolk County Council's criteria for a speed reduction. There is a low accident record on the road. One accident in the last nine years.

The Police will install a speed data recorder to monitor speeds.

Norfolk County Council noted that not many people use the footpath from old Scarning to the school.

The school is hosting a Scarning 100 years ago event at the school to draw awareness to walking to and from school.

16 Speed Gates

Norfolk County Council will be sending the details of the locations and design of the speed gates.

17 Sale of the former Highway Surveyors land at Daffy Green

The Council's solicitors had advised that the purchasers were discussing a point with their solicitors. It was agreed that Cllr Parsons can liaise with the Council's solicitors to see how the Council may be able to help move matters forward.

18 Amendment to the Council's Community Award

The Council considered replacing the plaque awarded to recipients with an enamel pin badge. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Manning will present the Council with a proposed design at its next meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will accept nominations for the Award throughout the course of the year.

19 Vexatious Complaints Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt a Vexatious Complaints policy.

20 Items for the next agenda

Update on moving the Beacon.

Costings for noticeboards.

Update from the subcommittee on the Call for Sites response.

Quotes re repairs to the Zip Wire.

21 Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7pm on July 21.

The meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

Signed Chair

Date

Breckland Council report – Cllr L Turner

Breckland Council's chairman for this year is Cllr Samantha Taylor. Following her appointment, Cllr Taylor announced the two charities that she will fundraise for during her term. Her first chosen charity is Nelson's Journey, which supports children and young people in Norfolk who have experienced the death of a loved one. Cllr Taylor cited her personal connection to the charity, which supported her family through the loss of her son.

As her second charity, Cllr Taylor has selected Chapel Green School in Old Buckenham, a school for children with special educational needs.

The vice-chairman is Cllr Nigel Wilkin.

Local Plan – consultation continues with parishes following the call for sites, and the Government's new targets for housing provision. This will directly impact the number of new houses imposed on Scarning and the location of where they will be.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – nothing new to report at time of writing. Please see latest Breckland Magazine for further information.

Solar factories – work continues with all parishes affected to achieve constructive mitigation for those sites whose future will be decided by the Secretary of State.

Commercial Food Waste Collection – a much bigger uptake of this service than expected – which is good news.

Domestic Food Waste Collection – will be mandatory from April 2016 – further details to follow in time.

Emergency Housing – another 15 temporary housing units have been purchased by Breckland Council with a grant from the Government, releasing budgetary impact on having to provide emergency accommodation from the commercial sector.

The Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner Sarah Taylor was invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to talk about her role and to take questions from the Commission. She is keen to hear from members of the public, who can also sign up to her newsletter.

01953 424455 opccn@norfolk.police.uk

Grants – a new round of Household Support and Business grants are available – please see Breckland Council website for more details. Other grants are available including Spark for new community projects.

Always happy to take questions or comments.

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