

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

Councillors Present: N Parsons (Chair), T Abel, M Blackburn, F Bradford, M Eveling, C Hewson, M Steward. **In attendance:** N Hartley (Parish Clerk), Nick King (Head Scarning School).

It was agreed that Cllr Parsons would chair the meeting as neither the Council Chair, or Vice Chair, was able to attend the meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bunn, who was unable to attend for personal reasons and Cllr Manning, who was unwell, Cllrs Turner and Hewett (Breckland Council) and Cllr W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

2 Scarning School Report

Nick King reported there are currently 410 pupils at the school. Financially, the school is in a stable position and has a balanced budget going forward. He said that coffee mornings at the school are well attended and that the school has moved to Facebook for its social media posts. With regard to parking outside the school, he noted that once the signs allowing the enforcement of the zig zag lines have been installed, the school will write to parents. The installation of these signs is being carried out by the Parish Council in conjunction with Norfolk County Council. He said the school had expressed its concerns over the 40mph speed limit being too high and that the school had been told a reduction in the speed limit was not possible. He said the Police had been monitoring vehicle speeds outside the school and the Parish Council will chase an update regarding this. He said the school had looked at things such as a walking bus from the Draytonhall Lane estate, but this relied on volunteers and it was not always easy to find volunteers. He said the school requests visits from the Police and Parking Enforcement, and that regular messages are put in the school's newsletter to parents about parking and safety outside the school.

3 Declarations of Interest

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

4 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2025. The Chair signed the minutes.

5 Matters Arising

None.

6 Report from District Councillors

A copy of Cllrs Turner and Hewitt's report is attached to the minutes.

7 Planning

7.1 The Council noted its comments sent to Breckland Council:-

Berm House, Dereham Road	PL/2025/0632/FMIN
Conversion and extension of existing outbuilding/garage to form dwelling, and erection of new garage (amendment)	No objection

Cllr Bradford asked why the above application was not considered at a Council meeting. It was noted that it was a minor amendment to an application the Council had considered in full at its October meeting, and that the Council had considered applications in this manner in the past.

7.2 The Council considered the following application:-

The Woodlands, Rushmeadow Road	PL/2025/1567/HOU
Erection of detached single storey summer/garden house with covered decking area	

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

8 Local Plan

The Council considered its response to the Regulation 18 Consultation. It was noted there is a meeting at Breckland Council on 2 December. It was **RESOLVED** that the members of the Council's working party will attend the meeting and update the Council at its December meeting.

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, £94.53
N Hartley, clerk's expenses, £150.60
N Hartley, reimbursement purchase of office supplies (photocopier ink), £98.48
Norfolk Parish Training, training on Agar Assertion 10, £43.20
Norfolk County Council, legal costs sale of land at Daffy Green, £128.52
Play Inspection Company Ltd, annual inspection report, £474
KW Services, grass and verge cutting, £375
Scarning Primary School, replacement LED light for defibrillator, £56.95
Dereham Meeting Point, donation to running costs, £250 (resubmission)

9.2 Cllr Blackburn said she had carried out the latest internal control checks and that everything was in order.

10 Update on the Council's grant application for the purchase of play equipment

The Clerk said the Council's application had progressed to the next stage of the process, and that he and Cllr Manning were meeting the National Lottery on November 18.

11 Works noted in the 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 further reply from the National Lottery re the Council's grant application and then return to the report, as necessary.

12 Shipdham Lane Car Park

The Council had received a request from Scarning Playing Field Committee to form a committee comprising members of the Parish Council, the Playing Field Committee and the Village Hall Trust. It was **RESOLVED** to form a committee and to invite delegates from the Playing Field Committee and the Village Hall Trust to the Council's December meeting.

13 Maintenance grant to Scarning Playing Field Committee

The Council considered the Committee's application for funds for 2026. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a payment of £7,500.

14 Council's Budget 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to consider the Budget at the December meeting, as the Council was waiting for an update on its grant application for play equipment.

15 Sale of land at Daffy Green

The Council's solicitors had sent a Deed of Assignment to the purchaser's solicitors.

16 New Noticeboards

The Council considered the purchase of five noticeboards from Dereham Mens Shed. It was **RESOLVED** to propose a payment of £800 for the noticeboards to include the cost of materials, installation of the noticeboards and a donation to the Mens Shed.

17 Weedkill the hedge from Black Horse Close to Hill Rise

Marnick Landscapes said they could weed kill the hedge run for £100. The first weed kill to be done next April. Marnick will tidy the weeds for £100. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Marnick Landscapes clear the bottom of the hedge now and to weedkill in April with a second application in July 2026.

18 Donation to Headway Suffolk

The Council had received a request to make a donation to Headway Suffolk. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would make a donation of £100.

19 Items for next agenda

Included in the minutes above.

20 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7pm on 15 December.

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm.

Signed Chair

Date

Cllrs Hewitt and Turner's Report (Breckland Council)

Relatively quiet period but will explore 4 major areas:

Local Plan Review

On 20 Oct formally began the “Regulation 18” timetable than runs from Mid-Oct to Mid-Dec 2025: this is the first consultation for members of the public to comment on the new Local Plan. The Reg 18 draft plan has been put together since April in consultation with Councillors, Councils and Community Groups across the District, and included sites previously put forward for the previous local plan a couple of years ago.

The review began when the current government imposed a national house build strategy of 1.5m homes over 5 years. For Breckland this meant a government-imposed increase in housing targets of 50% to nearly 1000 new homes a year (920), and the challenge for the LPA was not whether to build but where. There are also plans to make further onshore wind farms easier to build.

The LP period runs from 2024-2042, and includes a settlement hierarchy (Market Towns, Key Service Parishes, Primary Parishes, Secondary Parishes, Tertiary Parishes, and other Parishes) covering areas such as accessibility standards, water efficiency, affordability, open spaces, flooding, gypsy and travellers, employment (inc Shipdham Airfield), nutrient neutrality, enhancing community facilities, and sustainable urban development.

There are 16,500 houses planned for the District during the plan period, 6% of which are to be allocated to the KSPs of Harling, Mattishall, Necton, Weeting and Shipdham (in all 500 new homes): there are some large developments planned in the district.

Currently our patch has a number of houses already built or committed to be built during the plan period (or have no defined boundary in which new build can take place), and Lynda and I were keen for our villages not to be burdened with more. I am pleased to report that the approach taken by BDC's Planners is similar: there are no significant new housing allocations within villages in the Reg 18 options doc. Please note: there is no guarantee that things won't change (our last Local Plan was only a short while ago): windfall development and speculative development is still possible, but without a presumption of approval and no nationally-imposed target in Local Plan.

1. Local Govt Reorganisation:
Formal submission for “Case for Three” submitted a few weeks ago. Submission supported by KLWN and Broadland, along with most Norfolk MPs and other key stakeholders. The “donut” (East, West and Greater Norwich) has been challenged by South Norfolk (PacMan) and Norfolk (single Council) and has gotten nasty and messy. A consultation on the proposals will follow soon (though no idea when) and the Government will announce some time near March 2026, with a new Unitary in place by May 2027. Apparently.
2. Devolution:
Still going on with Norfolk and Suffolk devolved power plans submitted and combined Mayoral elections planned for May 2026. Still very little on how this will all be paid for.

3. Asset disposals – there is a sale going on at Breckland: The LGR announcement scuppered charging plans to balance the medium term budget as there was no longer any “medium term”. Since April I have been trying to transfer carparks out of Breckland’s control and potentially out of the reach of a new Super Council following LGR. Time consuming and legal process as everyone wants to do something different with them and we are legally restricted in what we are allowed to do.

Following on from carpark experience am working on a simple strategy whereby BDC can transfer mud-assets (verges, mud, etc) down to local towns and villages as “good housekeeping” before LGR. There are nearly 4,000 pieces of land like this. Ambition is to transfer as many before the clock runs out. There will be conditions (buyer pays their legal fees, overage and covenants imposed) but some good opportunities as many pieces can be transferred for free.

4. Other miscellaneous:
Lynda attended SNAP meeting in Watton and addressed some of the claimed antisocial behaviour activities (basically talking loudly) from Cranswick (formerly Bowes) employees when changing shifts: little that can be done.

LINK Dereham is now a hub for a number of health and community services, funded in part by Breckland. A poster should be on the village noticeboard or on the website.