

Minutes of a meeting of Scarning Parish Council held in the Village Hall on 16 February 2026

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), three members of the Village Hall Trust, one member of Scarning Playing Field Committee, one member of the public.

Public Participation

Members of the public asked if horse riders could be asked, where possible, not to allow their horses to defecate on public footpaths. It was noted there had been a decline in the amount of dog mess, but an increase in the amount of horse mess.

It was noted that four by fours were using Green Lane.

It was reported that the light over the Chestnut Road bus shelter is not working.

1 Apologies for Absence

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

2 Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr Abel declared an interest in his planning application (Pennymeadow Nursery).

3 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2026. The Chair signed the minutes.

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Car Park Project (Village Hall Trust Letter)

The Council had received a letter from the Village Hall Trust regarding the car park project. As a result of advice received by the Council, it had been suggested that, as the Parish Council is the registered owner of the land, it takes control of the car park project. The Village Hall Trust is prepared to make a donation of £13,000 toward the project and will also be installing a permissive footpath along the side of the Village Hall.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will contact HMRC for guidance about reclaiming VAT on the project.

6 Responsibility for the car park project

It was **RESOLVED** that before any further action is taken the Parish Council will obtain three quotes in order to assess the total cost of the project.

7 Visibility Splay and the car park

See above.

8 Nomination of Car Park Contractors

It was **RESOLVED** to obtain quotes from:-

NR Asphaltting Ltd
Liam Lambert Construction Ltd
MW Surfacing Ltd

Cllr Abel was asked if he would reconsider his decision not to quote for the work. He said he would let the Council know.

9 Working Group to oversee the car park project

It was **RESOLVED** to leave the Working Group in place.

10 Report from Breckland Councillor

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

11 Planning

11.1 The Council considered the following applications:

Pennymeadow Nursery, Podmore Lane
Single storey rear extension following demolition of sun lounge

PL/2026/0080/HOU

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

Brookside Barn, Chapel Lane
Change of use of land from agriculture to residential and the erection of a Cart Shed garage (replacement of that approved in PP reference 3PL/2020/0850/HOU and new driveway with new access to the highway

PL/2025/1650/FMIN

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

12 Finance

12.1 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 Parish Council website costs (Wix), £153.78

Logic Red, website hosting cost of parish website, £119

NGF Play Ltd, repairs to zip wire and to football goals, £783.77

Norfolk County Council, legal work re sale of land at Daffy Green, 73.44

Dereham Mens Shed, provision & installation of new noticeboards, £440

Smiths of Derby, repairs to church clock, £1,581.60

13 Land at Chapel Lane/Soames Place

The Council considered a proposal from Breckland Council to take ownership of land at Chapel Lane/Soames Place. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council did not wish to take ownership of this land.

14 Land at School Plain

The Council considered a proposal from Breckland Council to take ownership of land at School Plain. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council did not wish to take ownership of this land.

15 Land at Norman Drive

The Council considered a proposal from Breckland Council to take ownership of land at Norman Drive. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council did not wish to take ownership of this land.

16 Land at Scarning Water Meadows

The Council considered a proposal from Breckland Council to take ownership of land at Scarning Water Meadows. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council did not wish to take ownership of this land.

17 Land at Blackthorn Drive and Ted Ellis Walk

The Council considered a proposal from Breckland Council to take ownership of land at Blackthorn Drive and Ted Ellis Walk. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council did not wish to take ownership of this land.

18 Council Flower Boxes

The Council considered a proposal to relocate the Council flower boxes at the Village Sign layby. It was **RESOLVED** to request repositioning of the noticeboards either side of the Beacon in the Village sign lay by.

It was **RESOLVED** to obtain a quote for two new flower boxes and to remove the box near Cooper Terrace.

19 Land at Daffy Green

The Council was asked about marketing the land again, following the withdrawal of the purchaser. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would still like to sell its part of the land as part of the sale of the whole field.

20 High Grove Solar Farm

The Council had received the following update from High Grove Solar Farm.

You may be aware that the National Electricity System Operator (NESO) has been undertaking a process of reforming the queue for grid connections over the last year. Energy generation projects were required to submit their applications to NESO last summer and the outcomes of this process are now known. I can confirm that High Grove Solar has received confirmation of a 'Gate 2 Phase 2' offer from NESO. This means that High Grove will be offered a connection date between 2031 and 2035. The precise connection date will be confirmed by NESO in Q3 this year.

You may recall that we had intended to submit our application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate in April 2026. The submission will now be delayed from April to allow time for us to consider the implications of the Gate 2 Phase 2 outcome, and similarly, to allow additional time for National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) to conclude the work they are carrying out to identify a preferred site for the NGET 400kV substation that is required to connect High Grove and other projects into the existing transmission network. We are currently working to confirm a revised DCO application date and will in touch to share this with you as soon as possible.

As a result of the delay to our submission and to ensure we're able to respond comprehensively to the points you raised in your consultation response last Summer, we are proposing to postpone the meeting we have been seeking to diarise in March. I will be in contact regarding a new meeting time once we have confirmed a revised DCO application programme, as outlined above.

21 Playing Field Committee

Cllr Hewson noted that tennis court two is to be resurfaced and that both courts will be in use during the summer. The two oaks by the tennis courts are to be trimmed.

22 Update on community events

Cllr Blackburn advised that a yard sale had been suggested at Draytonhall Lane estate.

Cllr Manning put forward the possibility of a fun dog show. Cllr Hewson said the Playing Field Committee will discuss the Shipdham Lane playing field as a possible location at its next meeting. A second possible location was proposed on land at the corner of Coach Lane and Dereham Road.

23 Privacy Notice

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt a revised Privacy Notice.

24 Review of Policies

It was **RESOLVED** to approve without amendment a review of the following policies:-

Data Protection policy
Community Grants Scheme
Grants policy
Standing Orders

25 Lottery Bid

It was noted that the Parish Council had completed its bid for Lottery funding and that it was anticipating an answer in the next 6-8 weeks.

26 Items for Inclusion in the next agenda

Proposal for a dog show

27 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on March 16 at 7pm

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

Signed Chair

Date

Cllr Turner's Report (Breckland Council)

Norfolk/Suffolk Mayoral Election delay – we have been advised this has been postponed until May 2028. The joint West cross-party proposal has written to express its dismay at the delay. The decision by Government whether we have a 1/2/3 unitary authorities is not expected till mid March

Inspiring Communities newsletter and other useful links for residents, communities and businesses on Breckland Council website and in the latest edition of Your Breckland. Spark fund – up to £500 for new projects.

Many training opportunities are being offered to councillors, local groups and charities – keep your eye on BDC website

Cabinet approved scheme to transfer BDC owned small sites to the community where feasible – the workshop held for parish councils was well attended (ILynda talked to officers re playarea on Water Meadows.)

Council meets on Monday 23rd February to hopefully agree the budget and council tax precept for next financial year. Breckland District's increase is £4.95 a year for Band D property.

Winter safety – please keep an eye on your neighbours and vulnerable people – lots of advice such as gritting routes on both NCC and BDC websites.