Scarning Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2025 at Scarning Village Hall

Councillors Present: S Bunn (Chair) M Blackburn, F Bradford, M Eveling, H Manning, N Parsons, M Steward. **In attendance:** N Hartley (Parish Clerk), Cllr L Turner (Breckland Council), three members of the public.

1 Blackthorn Drive Play Area

1.1 Cllr Bradford said she had met Breckland Council's Asset Manager, who had agreed there was no problem with the Council's plans for the play area. The Council might need Planning Permission for some items. The Asset Manager was happy for the Youth Shelters and picnic benches to be replaced. Cllr Bradford said the Council will apply for Lottery funding. Cllr Manning said that she and the Clerk would apply for grants on behalf of the Council.

1.2 The Council considered whether to apply to the Mick George Community Fund for funding for new play equipment. It was noted that grants were available through this fund up to £30,000, but the Council would have to make a donation to the fund under the terms of any grant agreed. It was agreed that the Council might wish to apply to this fund if there is a shortfall in funding.

1.3 The Council considered a proposal invite Andrew Daymond to join the Working Group in order to help his efforts to raise funds for the project. It was **RESOLVED** to add him to the Working Group.

1.4 The Council considered a proposal to endorse a fund raising page. It was **RESOLVED** to endorse a fund raising page, started by Mr Daymond's wife, but the Council will need to check the legalities regarding this before making a final agreement. It was **RESOLVED** to draw up an agreement under which all monies raised will be transferred to the Council and the Council will earmark these funds for the play area.

1.5 It was **RESOLVED** to use social media to promote the Council's plans to raise funds for new play equipment.

1.6 The Council considered a proposal to form a group to clean the play equipment at Blackthorn Drive. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will meet the applicant for further information.

1.7 The Council considered a proposal to replace the youth shelters. Andrew Daymond said he may be able to source the wood, but could not add more at this point.

1.8 The Council considered a proposal to add more picnic benches. Andrew Daymond said he may be able to source the wood, but could not add more at this point.

The meeting was closed for public participation

A member of the public said she had reported the hedge was overgrown on part of Dereham Road. Norfolk County Council had reported there was no issue with the hedge.

The Council was asked about new noticeboards. The Council is in contact with Dereham Men's Shed.

The meeting was reopened.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Abel and Hewson, due to prior commitments, and from Cllrs P Hewett (Breckland Council) and W Richmond (Norfolk County Council).

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2025. The Chair signed the minutes.

4 Matters Arising

With regard to cutting the hedge at Draytonhall Hall near the junction with the A47, Taylor Wimpey has scheduled its contractor to cut in 'October time – post bird nesting season.'

The Council noted it had received a letter from the Village Hall Trust regarding the car park on Shipdham Lane, but was unable to consider it at the meeting as the letter had not been received before the agenda for the meeting was published.

5 Report from District Councillor

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

6 Update re a proposed care home at Draytonhall Lane

6.1 Cllr Turner said that Breckland Council has approved outline planning permission for a 60 bed care home on Draytonhall Lane. She said that at the meeting Breckland officers noted that if Dereham Town Council had any concerns regarding the application these would be taken into account, and she suggested the Parish Council might wish to liaise with the Town Council. She said that care homes need to be licensed by the Care Quality Commission and suggested the Parish Council might wish to write to the Commission with its concerns. She noted the positioning of the site next to a flood plain and close to the junction with the A47.

The Parish Council had objected to the application for a number of reasons, most notably the site's proximity to the junction with the A47. Cllr Parsons said he was willing to work with Dereham Town Council.

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, £263.13
SCS Accounting, payroll services, £54
Norfolk Parish Training & Support, councillor course, £62.40
NALC, provision of new council email addresses, £130.57
Aon Services, cut hedge from Black Horse Close to Hill Rise, £624
KW Services, grass cutting, £425

9 Repairs to Church Clock

The Council considered a request for repairs to the clock. It was reported that the oil in the clock had become dirty and needed to be chemically cleaned. To do this some of the clock would be disassembled. This was a major service which could be carried out on site. There were two specific faults within the clock: the locking pins for the strike were corroded, this was likely causing them not to release occasionally and jamming the clock.

The Council considered quotes from Michlmayr and Smiths of Derby. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Smiths of Derby.

10 Speed Gates

The Council considered the proposed locations of two speed gates at either end of the parish. It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the proposed locations.

11 Sale of land at Daffy Green

The Council noted that the purchaser was seeking assurance that the Parish Council would not at a future date claim an interest in the land. It was **RESOLVED** to have the Council's solicitors draw up a document to the effect that the Parish Council, on completion of the sale, would have no further claim in the land.

12 Cleaning Bus Shelters

The Council considered a request to clean its bus shelters. It was **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr Hewson's offer to clean the shelters.

13 Litter Pick

Cllr Parsons suggested the resumption of parish litter picks. It was agreed to hold a litter pick on September 20.

14 Council's Communications

It was noted that the school was happy to post announcements of Parish Council meetings on its Facebook page. The school was checking whether, due to GDPR concerns, it could make a similar announcement in its newsletters.

It was **RESOLVED** to add the draft minutes to the Council's website one week after each Council meeting in order to keep residents in touch with the Council's business.

The Council will see if it can attend meetings at the school in order to forge closer links between the school and the Council.

15 Emails

It was **RESOLVED** that councillors can choose when to read and reply to emails.

16 New Councillor Email Addresses

It was **RESOLVED** to set a deadline of 31 August for all councillors to set up their new Gov.uk email.

17 Items for the next agenda

Wording for the Council's Community Award.
Consideration of the letter from the Village Hall Trust.

18 Next Parish Council Meeting

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

The meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

Signed …… Chair
Date …….

Breckland District Councillors Report for August 2025

Technically the Council is in recess for August – however day to day business is carrying on including licensing hearings and planning committee meetings.

Local Plan – work continues on this for Breckland, however with the number of houses imposed on Breckland by the Government, there will be a large impact on communities

Devo and LGR – a meeting was held at Dereham Memorial Hall, which I attended. Total number of attendees was 20! Question and answer session was useful. The Government will decide in Spring whether one, two or three authorities in Norfolk will be appointed under the combined authority for Norfolk and Suffolk. The timetable still shows the Mayoral election for May next year.

Planning Application for Care Home in Scarning – a verbal report will be given at the PC meeting

Solar sites – the numbers of proposed sites continues to grow in Breckland and Norfolk, and a team lead by MPs George Freeman and Terry Jermy are working with local parishes, and residents to ensure the most positive outcome. (The planning application for a solar farm and battery station for Shipdham has now been submitted to Breckland Council and will be heard by the planning committee in the fullness of time)

Domestic Food Waste – will be mandatory for the District Council to provide this service from April 2026

Migrant Housing – despite the media hype, there are no plans from the Home Office to use The Vibe Hotel in Watton to house migrants – indeed it is being refurbished to continue as a hotel

Avian Flu – area around Shropham has DEFRA warning red signs of outbreak

Grants – there are still a number of grants available to groups and individuals – please see website for full details and eligibility

Always happy to take questions or comments (though may be on leave so may not respond immediately)

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