

Pre-Meeting Business: None

Public Participation: It was felt that the village is very scruffy in a number of areas. Breckland Council will be asked to sweep the streets. Boars Hill has a new 20 mph limit and it was asked if Eastgate Street could have the same. Highways, Norfolk County Council will be made aware of this request. Two parishioners pick litter from time to time. The members are aware of this and appreciate their efforts.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 5th February, 2025

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266 Those Councillors Present Were:

Mr. P. Grainger (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips (Vice Chairman), Miss A. Ferris, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. B. Gee, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner, Mr. C. Smith and Mr. J. Sowinski (co-opted at the start of the meeting)

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk) and two parishioners.

267 Apologies for absence:

Mr. F. Gillespie and Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor)

268 To Receive Declarations of Interest:

The Chairman reminded the meeting that, should the occasion arise, interests should be declared by Councillors as soon as this was realised, and the interest should be minuted.

269 Co-option of new member

Joe Sowinski was proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Fitzalan Howard. Agreed by all. He was welcomed to the Parish Council by the Chairman.

270 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 8th January, 2025:

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Agreed by all. (Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Miss Ferris)

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

271 Land Management Matters (item 242)

- (a) Village Green Mr. Gee has completely cleared the tree that fell down.
- (b) Cathedral Ruins Nothing to report.
- (c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report.
- (d) Broom Green The Chairman is to speak to the Broom Green representative when appointed.
- (e) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) Mr. Sowinski has cut up some damaged trees.
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters Nothing to report.
- (g) Prince William Wood Nothing to report.
- (h) Church Meadow Nothing to report

272 Allotments (item 243)

Mr. Phillips reported that a large water container has been taken, presumably stolen.

273 Street Lights (item 244)

Mr. Markwell has responded to the letter received from Debra Wicks of Amey, a national street lighting company with a local presence. They manage Norfolk County Council's street lighting and signs. No update has yet been received from UKPN regarding the issue at 29 Eastgate Street.

274 Highway Matters (item 245)

The matter regarding the temporary bus stop near the County School Station junction is now being dealt with by Rob Pratt, Public Transport Development Office, Highways, Transport and Waste, Norfolk County Council. It is the responsibility of the bus operator, Konectbus, to evaluate the site, apply their own health and safety criteria and accept the liability for serving it. Mr. Pratt says that it is clear that the stop is not suitable or safe and he will, therefore, be challenging Konectbus on its existence. Norfolk County Council has an obligation to transport children safely to their school and he is confident that the service 23 journey is subsidised by NCC. In parallel to the safety assessment, he will be talking to the school transport team as to how the problem can be overcome through their statutory obligations.

From Mr. Pratt's evaluation of the site, he concludes that locating the stops sufficiently away from the junction but also the curvatures in the B1110 that hamper visibility for overtaking cars, both to the north and south, is a significant challenge. There is also the feasibility of constructing trods/footways on inadequate verges to allow safe passage to the stops. Updates on progress have been promised.

275 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 246)

Miss Ferris reported that a new battery had been bought for the defibrillator at the Surgery. It was agreed by all to pay the small invoice for £24.12 from Nurture as they had provided evidence that some cutting had been carried out in October of some small areas next to the pavilion.

276 Eastgate Centre (item 247)

Nothing to report.

277 Brookside Development update (item 248)

We have been advised that the road and footpaths are being asphalted and the work will be completed within a few days. Mr. Phillips will speak to the solicitors for an update on the current position.

278 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 249)

Nothing to report.

279 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 250)

Nothing to report.

280 Defibrillators (item 251)

Please see item 275.

281 Local Plan update (item 252)

Nothing to report.

282 Archive Group records (item 253)

The Chairman is to liaise with Mr. Smith.

283 North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group (item 254)

Nothing to report.

284 Christmas arrangements (item 257)

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Elmham News Committee whose members were uncertain whether the switching on of the Christmas tree lights was an Elmham News or Parish Council event. As a result, they have made the decision not to be involved in the 2025 event.

The Parish Council members are adamant that it has never been regarded as a Parish Council event. As a gesture of goodwill, the cost of insurance incurred by the Elmham News had previously been refunded by the Parish Council. Any Christmas events for this year will be given appropriate consideration in due course.

Mention has also been made by the Chairman of the Elmham News of the five village notice boards which they had previously sponsored and installed. They wondered if the Parish Council would take over responsibility for maintaining them. It was the view that the boards were in generally good order and an asset for the village. It was felt that the general day to day responsibility for the input of items in the notice boards should remain with the Elmham News. The Chairman will inform the Chairman of the Elmham News.

285 New Village Hall (item 258)

A sub committee has been formed and has initially assessed all activities currently taking place at the three buildings, i.e. the Pavilion, the Memorial Hall and the Eastgate Centre. Mr. Gee is to update the list now and on an ongoing basis. It will be circulated to members. The potential of each site and their values is to be considered. It will be particularly important to consult with Sport England. Mr. Sowinski is to join the committee which is due to next meet on February 25th.

286 Reports from District and County Councillors

Mr. Borrett had submitted reports for December, 2024 and January, 2025. These can be viewed on the Parish Council section of the website.

[Gordon Bambridge](#)
[Upper Wensum Ward](#)
[Breckland Council](#)

REPORT TO PARISHES AND OTHERS UPPER WENSUM WARD FEB 2025

January has been extremely busy this year and February is developing in the same way. I have been working with our MP George Freeman and Terry Jermy the new Labour MP for the South of Breckland regarding domestic flooding issues in our area as a whole. Flooding seems to be getting worse and predictions are not good for the future, like many of you I live in a flood prone location, and recently came within an inch or so of water indoors so I do sympathise with those under threat. I have been the Breckland rep on the Norfolk Rivers Inland Drainage Board for over 22 years and have never had so many cases come up They do not make the news as they are mostly just one or two homes at a time, like mine, but they are a tremendous impact on the individual. It is to this end that I have attached my report on the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance meeting last week to this note and as a couple have asked will also send you next week my Breckland report on the Association of Drainage Authorities annual meeting I attended this week (expect that in 2-3 days).

Flooding Hotline call 0344 800 8013 to **report flooding** anywhere in **Norfolk**. This is a single 24/7 reporting line.

At Breckland I am dealing with individuals enquiries as usual for a ward member including planning matters and missed bins which always top the list. I normally attend several Breckland meetings each month and have a policy of responding to emails promptly so please feel free to direct queries to my Breckland email.

Matters in process at the moment include the Breckland Budget which will be set next week (along with all your precept demands) That meeting will be live on youtube or can be watched later. The Breckland boundaries review, although with devolution we may not be here after 2027. Devolution itself which seems even closer than before, although we have been faced with this before, being political, which I do try not to be between elections, this is very much a labour part aim and policy to separate the people from the power in government. In Norfolk two tier government does work well, and in my opinion Districts are working better than County. If the proposals we have seen are introduced we will have another type or two tier in my opinion, and considerably more expensive. At the moment Breckland has the lowest council tax, so just balancing will mean we all will have bigger bills without the more costly mayoral/unity system. You will all make up your minds of course, and to help in this at least one session will be held for Parish Councils within the Breckland office.

Parishes struggling with the 'clunky' planning portal please talk to me or use the generic planning email at Breckland. I am told to expect a 'soon' resolution to it.

As an individual I do not support the cancellation of the County Council elections in May. I believe it is a diminution of democracy and whilst some conservatives on County supported it others did not. It is definitely a labour party move to increase their influence in the shires and I have told senior members that is my opinion.

END

On 31st January I attended the Norfolk Flood and Drought Conference at County Hall representing the villages of Upper Wensum Ward and Breckland. I am sure some of you tuned into the live broadcast but for those who were not able to the gist of what happened is below and I am happy to seek to answer questions.

For me representing local people at these events enables a direct contact with senior people from different agencies on specific local matters which on this day including problems along the Wensum, protecting the Tud, various causes of flooding across the Ward.

Breckland issues including funding protection actions from many causes, the drainage levy and of course an extension of ward matters.

National issues such as how to react to huge increases in rates in some areas and how we can manage, and how other countries manage these.

WITHIN THE CONFERENCE THESE MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED

DEFRA spoke about 'looking at rivers natural flow management'

WRE spoke about 'joint actions on the Yare'

WMA spoke about 'revision of the demaining project'

NCC (leader) spoke about 'diversity of responsibility and sharing work'

ADA (CEO) spoke on 'demaining and described how to keep it simple'

UEA spoke about ‘greater global warming and Imagination should be the 5th aim’

DDC* spoke about ‘described Netherlands attitude and priorities - ensuring awareness is the key

NCC ‘we need information and must all share

DEFRA ‘helping people with insurance and living with water’

ADA ‘described the Somerset settlement of 1.5% public taxation’

ADA ‘dealing with silt, thinking globally, soil management, allowing buffer strips’

NCC ‘discussion regarding building reservoirs’

PROPOSED ACTIONS TO FOLLOW AND REPORT ON AT NEXT YEARS MEETING

‘Under certain circumstances land owners can extract a spot change in flood management with a [.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) link to be sent to all parties’

‘Some thought enforcement of riparian responsibilities is the key’

‘Some thought two way information channels should be opened’

AW ‘committed a big spend on resilience with Norfolk being The Centre of Excellence’

George Freeman MP asked for

‘Circulation of the maps shown’

‘Forecast of when and where housing’

‘List of all Norfolk organisations’

‘List of all local action groups’

‘Draft plan for Norfolk including priorities’

287 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

a)	Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment:-	
26/1/25	Biffa (wheelie bin service from 28/12/24 to 24/1/25) - (d/d)	£63.84
21/1/25	E-on Next (pavilion from 1/12/24 to 4/1/25) – (d/d)	£175.37
20/1/25	K. Webb (Clerk’s quarterly computer allowance)	£20.00
21/1/25	Information Comm’s Office (annual Data Protection fee) – (d/d)	£35.00
5/2/25	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for January)	£137.28
5/2/25	Mandrake (payroll services – January, 2025)	£27.72
5/2/25	J. R. Fletcher (key keeping – December and January)	£62.50
5/2/25	M. Phillips (new key for Groundscape)	£6.00
5/2/25	Anglian Water (pavilion from 20/10/24 to 19/1/25)	£39.78
5/2/25	Anglian Water (playing field from 20/10/24 to 19/1/25)	£132.59
5/2/25	K. Webb (Clerk’s pay for Jan. & back pay from 1/4/24)	£1,138.28
5/2/25	HMRC (Tax and N.I. on Clerk’s pay)	£376.12
5/2/25	Nurture (grass cutting near pavilion – October)	£24.12
5/2/25	Community Heartbeat (defibrillator battery)	£357.00

(Expenditure approved by all members – proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Fitzalan Howard)

- a) Schedule of Income:-
None

Balances (at 3/2/25):- Current a/c - £68,575.11 Business Premium a/c - £46,317.46

(Cambridge Building Society - £82,483.96)

288 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

- i) 10 Oak Avenue, North Elmham – PL/2024/1200/HOU – demolition of existing attached garage and erection of new single storey lean-to side extension, including the re-modelling of the interior, proposed first floor balcony and fenestration changes - (no objections but comment to be made that the demolition of the garage will result in the loss of a parking space)

b) Determinations

None

Mention was made of 55 Eastgate Street which is in a very poor condition. An acknowledgement has been received from Breckland Council who advise that the matter has been forwarded to their Private Sector Housing Department who will monitor the situation.

289 Correspondence

- 1) Request from parishioner regarding the positioning of a new dog bin on Boars Hill – (it is believed that the District Council will not agree to collect another bin (this will be checked). The Parish Council has no plans to request another bin)
- 2) Information from Dereham Meeting Point and request for a donation. (All agreed to a donation of £100 which will be made at the next meeting – proposed by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Phillips).
- 3) Carriageway resurfacing works between 25th and 28th February (B1145 – B1110)
- 4) Parishioner concerns regarding the parking area behind and adjacent to numbers 2 to 6, Eastgate Street - (the Parish Council has no authority on this matter. It was felt that the parishioner should approach Victory Housing. The Chairman is to draw the matter to the attention of Tom Forster, Highways Department. Mr. Gee will also speak with the parishioner).
- 5) Letter from PCC advising the intention to close the old churchyard (The Clerk will liaise with Mr. Bambridge, District Councillor. It was noticed that the box B2 was not ticked regarding the presence of war graves).

290 Any Other Matters (for information only)

None

291 Agenda items for next meeting:

None

292 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 5th March, 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Chairman

Date

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