

Pre-Meeting Business: None

Public Participation: Mention was made again of the condition of 55 Eastgate Street. It has been empty for a number of years. The roof is collapsing, the windows are falling out and it is considered dangerous. The Clerk had notified Breckland Council. An acknowledgement has been duly received with an advice that the matter has been assigned for staff to review. A reference number of 6923-7569-8133-7500 has been allocated.
It was also felt that a new Community Hall is essential for the village.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 8th January, 2025

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238 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. M. Rayner and Mr. F. Gillespie.

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor) and two parishioners.

239 Apologies for absence:

Mr. N. Markwell and Mr. C. Smith.

240 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.

241 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 4th December, 2024:

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

(The District Council has been advised of the vacancy on the Parish Council and the necessary documentation will be circulated in the near future to enable the co-option process to commence).

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

242 Land Management Matters (item 213)

- (a) Village Green Work on repairs to the zip wire have been done. Dog fouling is still occurring. Mr. Gee has cleared part of the tree that fell down. Attempts have again been made by unknown people to block the stream.
- (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.
- (e) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) Some fallen down trees have been removed by a volunteer.
- (f) Bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters Nothing to report.
- (g) Prince William Wood Nothing to report.
- (h) Church Meadow The new trench is still working well.

243 Allotments (item 214)

All allotments are now let.

244 Street Lights (item 215)

A letter had been 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. One of their duties is to respond to and make safe any damaged, fallen or unsafe lighting units reported out-of-hours (5pm to 8am during the week and at weekends). They have asked for our Parish Council contact during working hours if a need arises and also details of our maintenance contractor.

245 Highway Matters (item 216)

No progress has been made in the matter regarding the temporary bus stop near the County School Station junction. It is regarded as unacceptable that no solution has been forthcoming from Norfolk County Council and/or the bus company. The Clerk will make Matt Lines, Highways Engineer, aware of the members' feeling on this highly unsatisfactory and potentially dangerous situation.

246 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 217)

Miss Ferris reported that work on the showers has been completed. She had confirmed with Breckland Council the booking of the pavilion in May for the local election. A small invoice had been received from Nurture but it was not apparent what this was for. Therefore, clarification has been sought.

247 Eastgate Centre (item 218)

Nothing to report.

248 Brookside Development update (item 219)

A double electric charging point has been installed. The Chairman will contact the developers and Mr. Phillips will speak to the solicitors for an update on the current position.

249 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 220)

Nothing to report.

250 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 221)

The Chairman has contacted Cambridge Building Society and is now an authorised signatory on the account.

251 Defibrillators (item 222)

Miss Ferris reported that the battery expires on 9th February, 2025 and a new one has been ordered. The invoice will be issued in the name of North Elmham Parish Council

252 Local Plan update (item 223)

Nothing to report.

253 Archive Group records (item 224)

The need for cabinets and files to store the documentation remains. The Chairman will liaise with Mr. Smith.

254 North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group (item 225)

Nothing to report.

255 Possible trod (path) on Back Lane (item 228)

Mr. Gee had measured the required distance for a trod on Back Lane at about 800 yards. Mr. Rayner suggested that no action should be taken until it was known whether there was to be any development along this road. All agreed.

256 Parish Charities update (item 230)

Mr. Phillips confirmed that two charities had been cancelled and the Bank accounts are to be closed.

257 Christmas arrangements (item 231)

Elmham News had taken out separate insurance cover for the switch-on of the Christmas lights. This had previously been regarded as an Elmham News event and will continue to be so. The cost of the cover was £55.51 and it was agreed by all, on this occasion, to pay this amount. (Proposed by Miss Ferris and seconded by Mr. Rayner). The Clerk will check the Parish Council's insurance cover in this matter with the insurance company.

258 New Village Hall (item 229)

It was acknowledged by all that the village needs a new Community Hall and efforts should be commenced to make this happen. Clearly, this will be a project requiring much work and commitment over a number of years. Several important contacts have already been identified. Members expressed a range of views and it was agreed to form a sub committee with the aim of holding a first meeting before the next Parish Council meeting on 5th February.

259 Report from District Councillor

Mr. Bambridge had forwarded the following report which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

WARD REPORT January 2025 Cllr GORDON BAMBRIDGE UPPER WENSUM WARD

Happy New Year

1/ The Local Plan is still paused until national government makes clear how we accommodate the increase in target numbers for housing under the new rules -We are likely to have some updates on this during January.

2/ Consultation on charging for car parking in the district. Is now ended we are looking forward to it being an item on Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny meetings - I am still placing parish views with the relevant cabinet members or officers.

Repeated from last report

Of course as your local member I pass on all comments directly and un-edited.

Those who have followed this matter will be aware that car parks in Breckland cost the council almost half a million pounds a year in management and maintenance, plus business rates. My personal opinion has always been that this is a burden which should be borne by the user and not the rate payer. Breckland are aiming that the income should be 'cost neutral' but that any excess be used in the town for which it is earned.

I am happy to discuss this with groups in your village including the parish council. But my feeling is that this council tax money is better spent on that additional services Breckland provides.

3/Flooding, has been prevalent over the country, but seemingly less so in Norfolk over Christmas period. I have had some close calls at home last week, and will be attending 2 IDB meetings next week, the regional Flood meeting at County Hall on 31st and the ADA Environmental meeting in Peterborough on 5th Feb.

I represented this district, and by default this ward, at the two meetings in London before Christmas where problems we are suffering from were brought to national attention

I normally produce a written report for each meeting which is presented to Breckland via the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, but it can also be made available to parishes and if thought valuable to your local newsletters. Please ask or check that website and download.

4/ Meetings. Can I remind you that key public interest events at Breckland are broadcast live on YOUTUBE and include many meetings such as all Full Council meetings, Planning, Scrutiny and Cabinet. These can all be viewed on the Breckland Youtube channel at any time.

Key decisions discussed at cabinet this week were Breckland's medium term budget including the good news we expect to produce a neutral budget again next year.

Council will be 10.00am on 16th and the main budget setting meeting on 20th February. Planning for 14th January is cancelled, OSC is 30th January at 10.00am.

5/ Highways. We are all aware of fast progress along the A47, and somewhat more problems with the Western Link, but these roads are important to all of our ward so please - if you have concerns do contact me. I know it is not a Breckland matter, and you may have better contacts, but it does help with my lobbying if I can be up to date with problems

6/General Perhaps I can remind you that with 15 parishes in the ward and frequently several have meetings on the same evening, plus an increasing number of Breckland or outside body meetings held during evenings which have important implications for us all, and I attend on behalf of us all, I cannot attend every meeting of your parish councils. What I can do is meet with councillors or parishioners outside of the parish council cycle, either in your parish or in Breckland. I have had four such meetings since my last report. Some with the added bonus of inclusion of specific Breckland officers in attendance.

County and District Councillor, Mr. Bill Borrett, had also forwarded a detailed report which was duly circulated. This has been posted and can be seen on the website <https://www.elmham.org.uk/>

260 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

a) Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment:-

22/12/24	Biffa (wheelie bin service from 23/11/24 to 27/12/24) - (d/d)	£76.56
17/12/24	E-on Next (pavilion from 1/11/24 to 30/11/24) – (d/d)	£172.12
8/1/25	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for December)	£137.28
8/1/25	Mandrake (payroll services – December, 2024)	£27.72
8/1/25	A. Ferris (torch for defibrillator)	£9.99
8/1/25	Community Heartbeat (annual defibrillator support)	£162.00
8/1/25	Sarah Felton (additional insurance for Christmas switch-on)	£55.51
8/1/25	Norfolk Woods and Hedges (Christmas Tree)	£90.00
8/1/25	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for December)	£826.44
8/1/25	HMRC (Tax and N.I. on Clerk's pay)	£244.78
8/1/25	NGF Play Ltd (repairs and maintenance - play equipment)	£1,096.24
8/1/25	GDM Plumbing and Heating Ltd (replace two shower units)	£711.07

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

b) Schedule of Income:-		
5/12/24	Pavilion lettings	£10.00
5/12/24	Allotment rents	£45.00
5/12/24	North Elmham F.C. (hire of facilities – 10 matches)	£250.00
5/12/24	Rural Payments Agency (higher level entry stewardship)	£2,698.80

Balances (at 6/1/25):- Current a/c - £72,480.35 Business Premium a/c - £46,067.46

(Cambridge Building Society - £82,483.96)

261 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

- i) The Planning Inspectorate, Bristol – Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – appeal re The Chapel County School, North Elmham – dismissed.
- ii) 48 Station Road – create dormer roof on rear elevation – PL/2024/1130/HOU – no comments.
- iii) Carolann, 95 Eastgate Street – reduce height and width of an eucalyptus tree – PL/2024/1173/TCA (sent for information only).

b) Determinations

None

262 Correspondence

- 1) Notification of the start of the consultation process for the event “Field Maneuvers” to be held at Sennowe Park in August, 2025.
- 2) Police message advising of an emerging crime series with Cemetery buildings being targeted, with expensive garden equipment being stolen.
- 3) Advice from Barclays of a reduction in credit interest rate from 1.40% to 1.35%.
- 4) Communication from Amey regarding procedures for damaged or unsafe street lights.
- 5) Leader of Breckland Council expressing concerns regarding proposed Government changes for planning committees.
- 6) Letter of thanks from North Elmham PCC for the agreement to make an annual grant of £2K available for the next three years.

263 Any Other Matters (for information only)

None

264 Agenda items for next meeting:

None

265 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 5th February, 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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