

Pre-Meeting Business: None

Public Participation: Stuart Darbyshire, Chairman of North Elmham Football Club, advised that there is an intention to have a second team next season. He detailed some problems they have had with the pitch over the past three months or so which have resulted in unwelcome comments and reports from referees. He said that the Club had recently spent £200 on work to the pitch to get the last game played and asked if the two monthly payments (each for £75) could be deferred for a month. All members were agreeable to extending the contract by one month to enable this to happen. Mr. Gillespie will prepare documentation confirming the decision. Mr. Phillips will make our contractor aware of the situation so that improvements can be made for next season. The importance of advising the Parish Council of any problems as soon as they were apparent to the Football Club was stressed to Mr. Darbyshire. By doing so, there is a far greater chance of any issues being resolved in a timely fashion.

## **NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the**

### **MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**held in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026**

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#### **647 Those Councillors Present Were:**

Mr. P. Grainger (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips (Vice Chairman), Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. B. Gee, Mr. F. Gillespie, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner and Mr. J. Sowinski.

**Also in Attendance:** Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor), two representatives from Broadland Housing and four parishioners.

#### **648 Apologies for absence:**

Miss A. Ferris and Mr. C. Smith.

#### **649 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.

#### **650 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2026:**

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Agreed by all, (proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mrs. Keeble).

## **651 Update from Broadland Housing**

Ed Mumford-Smith, Head of Development, Broadland Housing and a colleague, attended the meeting to provide an update on the plans for additional housing in the village. The national planning policy should be known by August. He confirmed that discussions had been held with the owner of land near Back Lane, (east of the King's Head public house), with possibly between 35/40 houses planned. The intention would be to have a target for social housing of 50%. Broadland Housing will be sending out a form to everyone on the village electoral roll with a view to establishing the local housing needs. The pavilion is to be booked for a further meeting to be held in June or July to enable parishioners to attend and ask questions. Broadland Housing retains an interest in land on the other side of Back Lane, near to the King's Head crossroads, as well as the Station Yard site. The area on the north side, however, is being prioritised. Many concerns were expressed regarding drainage problems and flooding in many parts of the village with effective control and management of water being a key aspect of any projects. Mr. Mumford-Smith mentioned the provision of a lagoon to collect excess water but there was some doubt as to how effective this could be. To summarise, the anticipated timeframe would involve assessment of housing needs during May and a return to the Parish Council with plans, possibly on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2026 but with the exact date to be confirmed.

## **UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING**

### **652 Update from North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group (item 624)**

Mr. Fitzalan Howard and Mr. Sowinski had attended a meeting with Mr. Earle. Mr. Sowinski has obtained quotations in respect of work to be done and these are to be circulated to members.

### **653 Land Management Matters (item 625)**

(a) Village Green Three seats and the camel are to be installed.

(b) Cathedral Ruins We have been informed that the wall on the right side of the pathway entering the site has been inspected by a structural engineer from Historic England. We are advised by English Heritage that there is some movement in the wall but it is quite a way off becoming unstable and there is very little concern regarding its safety. A number of attempts have been made to have this view confirmed in writing and for English Heritage to accept responsibility for any incident occurring caused by the wall collapsing. The Clerk will continue to chase.

(c) Cathedral Meadows An approach has been made by a resident to buy one third of the area. Firm advice has again been given that no part of the land is for sale. It was mentioned that a planning application has been made for five houses to be built on nearby land to the east of Pump Street (please refer to Planning Applications, item 670 a) i)). Mr. Fish has asked for a reduction in his rent for the forthcoming year from £500 to £250 in view of the poor year he says he has had. Agreed by all to this request. It was mentioned that a number of various items have been deposited/parked near Millennium Wood.

- (d) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) Coppicing in Jubilee Wood has commenced.
- (e) Bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters Norfolk County Council had previously stated that the path from the County School to the buffers was permissive. It is not. Mr. Rayner has asked NC to confirm this point but, to date, they have not responded. He has chased this matter and a reply is awaited.
- (f) Prince William Wood Mr. Markwell said that a dead tree has been removed. He has met with Alec Crisp who has provided three quotations in respect of work to be done involving the removal of any trees more than 75% dead, the removal of large bits of dead wood on trees, together with the removal of smaller bits of dead wood. The option preferred (option 1) would take one day at a cost of £850. Mrs. Keeble expressed concern regarding the time of year when this work is to be carried out, i.e. between March and August, the nesting season for birds, and the potential to cause damage to other wildlife. It was agreed that she would be given a guided tour of the site with a view to being able to appraise the area in which the work would be done.
- (g) Church Meadow Please refer to item 653 c) above. It was agreed by all that land in this area is not for sale and any offer received will be firmly rejected.

## **654 Allotments (item 626)**

The allotments are fully let.

## **655 Street Lights (item 627)**

Additional work to the wall of the property in Holt Road is being done. An invoice will follow in due course.

## **656 Highway Matters (item 628)**

The drains on Church Hill are blocked and require attention.

## **657 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 629)**

Please refer to the Public Participation section at the start of page 1 regarding North Elmham Football Club. Correspondence had been received from a neighbour who had recently bought a bungalow near the football field. Various intentions were detailed but it was stressed that any plans which may need planning permission would require appropriate discussions by the owner with Breckland Council.

## **658 Eastgate Centre (item 630)**

Nothing to report.

## **659 Brookside Development update (item 631)**

The Chairman reported that the manufacturers of the electric charging system are in discussions with ElectRoad, (Andy Drinkell, Technical Director), who are the appointed contractors of Norfolk County Council. They are of the view that the installation has been correctly done and it is hoped that the two parties will reach an agreement at some point. Orchard Developments are to be requested to remove the large sign which gives a plan of the site. The dog poo problem has again been highlighted by a resident and, following a suggestion made, the telephone number of the Breckland Council dog warden is to be displayed in various places inviting anyone observing dog owners not “picking up” to report the incident. It is understood that it is the District Council’s policy to follow up these events with further action, including fines and/or prosecutions, where considered appropriate. Mr. Markwell is to prepare a piece for Elmham News referring to the dog warden and the number to be contacted in case of need.

## **660 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 632)**

Nothing to report.

## **661 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 633)**

Nothing to report.

## **662 Defibrillators (item 634)**

The Community Heartbeat Trust has offered a sum of £288.00, including VAT, in respect of the two batteries returned, one of which has no power left, with the other having 80% life remaining. This offer was agreed by all and the Clerk will confirm acceptance of the proposed payment.

## **663 Local Plan update (item 635)**

Nothing to report.

## **664 New Village Hall (item 636)**

A very useful meeting has been held at Lyng Village Hall. There will be a need for a registered Charity to be established.

## **665 New waste service agreement with Breckland Council (commencing 17/3/26) (item 637)**

The Breckland Council bin has been installed.

## **666 New street light electricity agreement with Drax commencing 23/3/36. (item 638)**

Nothing to report.

## **667 Digital and Data Compliance – AGAR Assertion 10 (item 639)**

It was agreed by all that a free gov.uk address and domain would be obtained from Parish Online and detailed instructions have now been received. This will enable a new a-mail address to be provided for the Clerk who will be absent until the end of April. In the circumstances, implementation will take place in early May and arrangements are being made for all e-mails received during the remainder of April to be copied to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for information purposes and in case of need.

## **668 Report from District and County Councillors**

Mr. Bambridge said that he had forwarded an annual report today which has been circulated to members. This will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> May. He mentioned that it has been decided that there will be three unitary authorities in the County with the new arrangements due to commence in 2028. Breckland District, (including North Elmham), will be amalgamated into West Norfolk.

## **669 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income**

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

|         |  |             |
|---------|--|-------------|
| 17/3/26 | Drax (electricity for street lights – 1/2/26 to 28/2/26) – (d/d) | £376.38     |
| 22/3/26 | Biffa (wheelie bin service from 21/2/26 to 16/3/26) - (d/d)      | £69.73      |
| 17/3/26 | E-on Next (pavilion from 1/2/26 to 28/2/26) – (d/d)              | £151.30     |
| 24/2/26 | E-on Next (electricity for Boars Hill–6/1/26 to 31/1/26)–(d/d)   | (£154.82)** |
| 31/3/26 | Mole Country Stores (rock salt)                                  | £51.12      |
| 31/3/26 | Mole Country Stores (growmore and chicken manure)                | £29.97      |
| 31/3/26 | Norfolk Parish Training & Support (annual subscription)          | £455.76     |
| 1/4/26  | D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for March)                           | £146.32     |
| 1/4/26  | K. Webb (Clerk’s pay for March)                                  | £900.67     |
| 1/4/26  | HMRC (Tax and N.I. on Clerk’s pay)                               | £331.53     |

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

\*\* Supplier error – this is a credit note reducing the incorrect invoice for January from £163.01 to £8.19.

b) Schedule of Income:-

|         |   |           |
|---------|---|-----------|
| 2/3/26  | North Elmham F.C. (monthly facilities)          | £75.00    |
| 2/3/26  | North Elmham F.C. (referee’s room)              | £75.00    |
| 10/3/26 | Pavilion lettings                               | £20.00    |
| 3/3/26  | HMRC (refund of VAT from 1/1/25 to 31/1/26)     | £5,952.58 |
| 2/3/26  | Barclays Bank (interest from 8/12/25 to 1/3/26) | £125.81   |

Balances (at 27/3/26):- Current a/c - £62,885.26, Business Premium a/c - £50,313.83  
(Cambridge Building Society - £84,092.62 – annual interest of £1,608.66 has been added to the account)

## **670 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-**

### **a) Applications**

- i) The erection of five custom and self-build dwellings – land to the east of Pump Street - PL/2026/0214/OMIN. (It was agreed to object to this proposal on various grounds, including heritage, countryside, drainage, overshadowing and access).
- ii) Re-paint both front doors in RAL 7030 – Farrow and Ball, Drop Cloth – Wellesley House, 61 Holt Road – PL/2026/0434/LB.
- iii) Notification of tree work at 49 Holt Road – PL/2026/0357/TCA.
- iv) Notification of palm tree removal – Fortunes Well, 25 Holt Road – PL/2026/0404/TCA.

### **b) Determinations**

None

## **671 Correspondence**

- 1) Neighbourhood Police Meeting – 8/4/26.
- 2) Norfolk Area Ramblers – Parish Footpath Audit.
- 3) Norfolk Local Government Reorganisation – Tom McCabe, Chief Executive, Norfolk County Council.
- 4) Norfolk Local Government reorganisation – Sam Chapman-Allen, Leader, Breckland Council.
- 5) 75<sup>th</sup> King’s Lynn Festival brochure.

## **672 Any Other Matters (for information only)**

None

## **673 Agenda items for next meeting:**

None.

## **674 Next Meetings**

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30 p.m. – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.  
Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30 p.m. – Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.26 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date

