

Pre-Meeting Business: None

Public Participation: The following comments were made and questions asked:-

- (i) It was queried whether the Eastgate Centre and Memorial Hall were in the process of being sold. No decision has been made with the situation currently being evaluated.
- (ii) With regard to the destruction of the wildflower meadow on Boars Hill, it was confirmed that a letter had been delivered to residents living in the immediate vicinity.
- (iii) Dog mess in the village – Eastgate Centre region, Boars Hill, Millennium Wood and others. Unfortunately, the Parish Council does not have the authority to deal with this problem which is a national issue, nor does it have the resources to constantly monitor it and look for offenders. It was suggested that appropriate signs could be erected but how likely is it that dog owners, behaving in such an irresponsible and selfish manner, will read and take notice of signs requesting decent conduct?
- (iv) The dangers of foxtail grasses, which can be extremely harmful to dogs, was mentioned. This is a common problem in Norfolk and dog owners are advised to proceed with care and to be vigilant.
- (v) Gates are being left open in the Millennium Wood and it was felt that they are being opened too wide to enable bikes to get through.
- (vi) A resident of Boars Hill felt that dogs were not being kept under control on the estate and were being allowed to run around off leads. It was suggested that signs should be erected requesting this behaviour to cease.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 1st July, 2026

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057 Those Councillors Present Were:

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

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), four parishioners, two leaving after the Public Participation section of the meeting, and two representatives from Broadland Housing.

058 Apologies for absence:

Mr. C. Smith and Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor).

059 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.

060 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026:

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

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

061 Update from Broadland Housing (item 033)

A meeting for the public took place in the afternoon on the day of the meeting, 1st July. Mr. Mumford-Smith gave a report and said that about 30 people had visited, with flyers having been sent out previously to all homes. He felt that everyone had been very supportive and understanding. Two areas were mentioned – land north of Back Lane which will target 1, 2 and 3 bedroom houses, bungalows and affordable accommodation, and Station Yard which has historic contamination issues. Mr. Mumford-Smith said that about 75% of the people attending the session were in support of developing Station Yard with the remaining 25% against, mainly due to highway safety and traffic reasons. The Back Lane site, behind the Kings Head public house, received a mixed response with a rough 50/50 split of for and against opinions. Those in favour generally had reservations including infrastructure issues and some neighbours voiced individual concerns which he felt could be addressed.

It is the intention to take Back Lane forward as a proposal and he said that it will possibly be more likely to be developed. Mr. Rayner said that Station Yard was the only brown field site in the village put forward. There would be a concern if a green field site in the village was lost with an initial view that only 50% of those attending were in favour of development taking place.

Mr. Mumford-Smith stressed that Broadland Housing would like to develop both sites but the survey, with 71 replies, demonstrated that there was very little housing need in the village with most people responding expressing a desire to move to a bungalow.

062 Update from North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group (item 034)

NELS wants to create a CIC (Community Interest Company) to cover the financial aspects of any project. The Chairman and Mr. Fitzalan Howard are to meet the group in the near future.

063 Land Management Matters (item 035)

(a) Village Green It has been too hot to install the slabs but it will be done by Messrs Gee and Sowinski when the temperature drops. New handholds have been placed on the climbing wall. A resident had reported that the frame for the infant swings had become loose in the ground and two of the rungs for the ladder going up to the large slide are also loose. Mr. Sowinski is to investigate.

(b) Cathedral Ruins Mr. Duffield is currently finalising his health and safety risk assessments and has already submitted his insurance policy. When these are forwarded to English Heritage, they will need to be informed that the Parish Council has incurred annual expenditure of £5,513 for the year ended 31st March, 2026. The interim CEO of English Heritage, Geoff Parkin, has acknowledged receipt of the revised interpretation of the Bishop's Chapel and described it as "a fascinating turn of events". He says that he will liaise with his colleagues and come back to us as soon as he can.

(c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report.

(d) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) Mr. Sowinski is to inspect the gate which appears to have been over opened to allow bikes through. The possibility of holding a local referendum on the retention of gates was mentioned.

(e) Mid-Norfolk Railway matters The Mid-Norfolk Railway is to put up a notice board in the old station site on which a map will point out the path, land owned by the MNR and various notices relating to the MNR. They currently maintain that the path is a permissive path from the buffers to the County School. Mr. Rayner stressed that this is incorrect. He has referred them to the 2022 revised Transfer Deed which confirms that the path is not permissive, but a path that has to be kept open at all times, other than for temporary planned or emergency closures. It is agreed that this section of path is not a public right of way. A request has also been made for the heading of this section of the minutes, which has been used for many years, to be changed from "bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters" to "Mid-Norfolk Railway matters". This amendment is acceptable and has been duly implemented.

(f) Prince William Wood Mr. Markwell reported that Mr. Crisp has taken down some dead branches and a few dead trees have been removed.

(g) Church Meadow Nothing to report.

064 Allotments (item 036)

Mr. Phillips said that the last remaining allotment will probably be let in the near future.

065 Street Lights (item 037)

Mr. Markwell said that two solar lights in Boars Hill are out. He will talk to Gary Mower of Orchard, the developers.

066 Highway Matters (item 038)

There is no sign stating “Boars Hill” at the entrance to the estate. This will be rectified.

067 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 039)

The Police and Crime Commissioner election is to be held on 16th July. A fee of £300 has been agreed for Breckland Council to hire the pavilion for the day. There is to be a football friendly on Sunday, 5th July at the ground between two teams not based in the village. A booking form has been completed and insurance details have been provided. A request has been made to use the showers, (quite naturally, especially with the current hot conditions), and all items currently dumped in the showers are to be removed by North Elmham Football Club on 4th July. This includes a pool table and a barbecue. The fridge has been de-frosted and cleared of all items. Mr. Gillespie agreed to assist Miss Ferris with future playing field and pavilion matters. The new contract for the pavilion electricity has commenced with significantly better rates.

068 Eastgate Centre (item 040)

Nothing to report.

069 Boars Hill update (item 041)

The Chairman is to chase progress regarding the electricity vehicle charging point and also who is responsible for signage at the entrance to the estate.

070 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 042)

Nothing to report.

071 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 043)

Nothing to report.

072 Defibrillators (item 044)

Nothing to report.

073 Local Plan update (item 045)

Mr. Rayner attended an on-line session and advises that things are currently very fluid. The number of possible houses mentioned for the various areas in the village were as follows – land north of Back Lane 15, land south of Back Lane 25, Station Yard 23 and land south of Eastgate Street 30. Much of this information has since been contradicted!

074 New Village Hall (item 046)

Site plans are to be obtained for the two possible options previously identified and approximate valuations have been received for the Eastgate Centre and Memorial Hall.

075 Digital and Data Compliance – AGAR Assertion 10 (item 047)

Nothing to report.

076 Report from District and County Councillors

Mr. Borrett had forwarded a July report for Upper Wensum Ward which can be read on the website.

077 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

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

16/6/26	E-on Next (pavilion from 1/5/26 to 31/5/26) – (d/d)	£216.30
17/6/26	Drax (electricity for street lights – 1/5/26 to 31/5/26) – (d/d)	£246.34
18/6/26	E-on Next (electricity for Boars Hill–1/5/26 to 31/5/26)–(d/d)	£9.76
26/6/26	Breckland Council (Business waste– 16/5/26 to 15/6/26) –(d/d)	£53.30
1/7/26	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for June)	£152.52
1/7/26	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for June)	£900.67
1/7/26	HMRC (Tax and N.I. on Clerk's pay)	£331.53
1/7/26	Richard Roos (repairs following street light removal)	£360.00
1/7/26	NGF Play Ltd (play equipment spares)	£21.00
1/7/26	T. T. Jones Electrical (street light maintenance Oct,Nov,Dec)	£119.24
1/7/26	T. T. Jones Electrical (street light maintenance Jan,Feb,Mar)	£119.24
1/7/26	T. T. Jones Electrical (street light maintenance Apr,May,Jun)	£119.24
1/7/26	T. T. Jones Electrical (street light maintenance Jul,Aug,Sep)	£119.24
1/7/26	T. T. Jones Electrical (completion of EICR Certificates)	£1,009.80
1/7/26	Joe Sowinski (picnic seat bases)	£146.02
1/7/26	Joe Sowinski (picnic seat fixings)	£15.02
1/7/26	Joe Sowinski (aggregate bags for seats)	£9.00
1/7/26	J. Duffield (work in cathedral Ruins – March to June)	£500.00

Expenditure approved by all members.

b) Schedule of Income:-

29/5/26	HSBC (coif inc div)	£50.65
29/5/26	HSBC (coif inc div)	£31.31
8/6/26	Bank interest (2/3/26 to 7/6/26)	£144.17
9/6/26	Pavilion lettings	£10.00

Balances (at 29/6/26):- Current a/c - £74,367.36, Business Premium a/c - £51,208.00
(Cambridge Building Society - £84,092.62)

078 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

- i) Proposed replacement of existing 2 bed bungalow and garage with new 6 bedroom house and garage – Fortunes Well, 25 Holt Road - PL/2026/0809/FMIN. (No details available on website – District Council have requested additional information from applicants).
- ii) Tree work (medium larch) - PL/2026/0828/TCA -Mole End, Eastgate Street -information only.
- iii) Removal of hedge – PL/2026/0837/TCA – The Bungalow, 53 Eastgate Street – information only.

b) Determinations

None

079 Correspondence

- 1) Confirmation from Watt Utilities of the new energy contract for the pavilion's electricity.
- 2) Letter from parishioners regarding the land problems at Boars Hill.
- 3) Government's independent review into the dearth of banking services and a call for evidence.
- 4) Response from the Interim CEO of English Heritage regarding recent research to the Bishop's Chapel.

080 Any Other Matters (for information only)

None.

081 Agenda items for next meeting:

- a) Fencing and the gate at Millennium Wood.

082 Next Meetings

Wednesday, 5th August 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.59 p.m.

Chairman

Date

