

Pre-Meeting Business: None

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

- (i) Two members of the Knit and Natter Group were present. They have met at the pavilion on the first Tuesday of each month for the last fourteen years. The meetings last for two hours and a fee of £10 has always been charged. Following a review of costs, the hiring fee for all groups and associations has been increased to £15 per hour to reflect the expenditure incurred for opening and using the building. The number in the group is usually ten but can be as many as fifteen. They advise that they can no longer sell as many knitted toys as in the past because of new Health and Safety legislation. All knitting is carried out with the purpose of donating to charity. It was agreed that members would discuss the matter with a view to exploring any way in which the group could be assisted.
- (ii) Three residents from Boars Hill were unhappy with the condition of the public area on the estate. They said that flower beds were full of weeds and paths were covered by brambles and weeds. It was understood that the intention had been for a group of volunteers to do this work but it appeared that the required progress had not been made. The position will be investigated and some of the residents had offered to join the volunteers group.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd September, 2026

.....

111 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 and Mr. M. Rayner.

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. B. Borrett and Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillors), and five parishioners.

112 Apologies for absence:

Mr. C. Smith and Mr. J. Sowinski.

113 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.

114 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 5th August, 2026:

Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. Agreed by all.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

115 Update from Broadland Housing (item 087)

Nothing to report.

116 Update from North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group (item 088)

Nothing to report.

117 Land Management Matters (item 089)

(a) Village Green The climbing frame has been repaired. A broken bench is to be removed. A new plastic bin is needed. Mr. Gee will advise the Clerk of the type needed and it will then be ordered.

(b) Cathedral Ruins All documentation has been received from Julian Duffield with copies sent by Mrs. Keeble to English Heritage. She has also contacted them again about trees needing attention but, to date, there has not been a response. Mr. Duffield has started to mow the flat areas and Hardy Landscape are to be contacted to bring the remote mower for the banks. There is no set routine for mowing as it is largely weather dependent. Pathways are mowed regularly but there is never any mowing in May. Weather concerns have prevented cutting over the past two months but it has now been resumed. There is no agreement with English Heritage who carry out one per year inspections of the whole site. There have been no further reports concerning the rampaging ginger cat.

(c) Cathedral Meadows Nothing to report.

(d) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) Some bird boxes have been smashed by vandals.

(e) Mid-Norfolk Railway matters Messrs Rayner and Markwell met with two members of the Mid-Norfolk Railway. The intention is to relay track from County School to North Elmham. They are prepared to provide a permissive path from the buffers to Station Road. This area will need to be fenced off and the Parish Council will be asked to make a contribution to the cost. Some notices have been vandalised.

(f) Prince William Wood It is understood that the recently reported “funny smells” seem to have disappeared, for now.

(g) Church Meadow Nothing to report.

118 Allotments (item 090)

Nothing to report.

119 Street Lights (item 091)

The two solar lights in Boars Hill have been repaired.

120 Highway Matters (item 092)

The need for a sign stating “Boars Hill” at the entrance to the estate is being attended to by Breckland Council. Mr. Bambridge will check to ensure that all is in order. The demolished bollard outside the doctors’ surgery has been replaced. Notes dating 2017 relating to the plans for a second build-out on the church end of Holt Road have been located.

121 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 093)

Miss Ferris reported that a wasp nest had been discovered near the Tennis Club. A pest controller has visited and remedied the problem at a cost of £50. The Breckland waste bin has been emptied. It was agreed that the universal charge of £15 per hour will apply to all hirers of the pavilion. An offer to support the Knit and Natter group with some support for their charity efforts from the Parish Council, and possibly the District Council as well, will be considered.

122 Eastgate Centre (item 094)

The annual insurance policy has been renewed. It was asked whether the Centre could provide any space for the Archive Group.

123 Boars Hill update (item 095)

The ownership of a small strip of land next to the bridge near the school is in doubt. The solicitors have advised that the Parish Council should confirm that there is no desire to have ownership of this. With regard to the electricity charging point, Electrode has recommended that it should be fitted with an out of service cover. The Clerk will advise E-on that the service is not going to be utilised for the reasons detailed at previous meetings.

124 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 096)

The Clerk has registered with the new AGAR portal. The Asset Register is to be reviewed and updated.

125 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 097)

Nothing to report.

126 Defibrillators (item 098)

Miss Ferris reported that all matters were in order.

127 Local Plan update (item 099)

Mr. Rayner had drafted a response which was agreed by all members and will be duly submitted.

128 Digital and Data Compliance – AGAR Assertion 10 (item 101)

Nothing to report.

129 Fencing and the gate at Millennium Wood (item 102)

Nothing to report.

130 New Village Hall (item 100)

A meeting was held with Jon Barnard, Director of Greyfriars Project Management. Present were Messrs Phillips and Sowinski, Mrs. Keeble and the Clerk. Some key issues on how best to commence the project were discussed and a further meeting is to be arranged by Mr. Phillips.

131 North Elmham Football Club and the future (item 103)

Mr. Gillespie has held meetings with the Football Club. The Vice Chairman, Ben Pearce has replaced the Chairman, Stuart Darbyshire, for the purpose of future discussions. The storing arrangements at the pavilion have been reorganised. The outstanding funds to cover the costs in respect of recent hiring have been received. The cutting schedule for the season has been given to the Club. A facility hire agreement has been signed and this includes payment of £110 per month for the next ten months.

132 Report from District and County Councillors

Reports received from District and County Councillors were circulated to members in advance of the meeting and can be viewed on the website.

Mr. Borrett reminded that, following Government instructions, use of the new food waste bins commences on 8th September. The Local Plan is in the last consultation stage with comments able to be made up to 23rd September. The Government has a new regime for planning with the law due to be changed at the end of this month. This will result in a large majority (estimated 95%) of planning applications being decided by planning officers and far less being referred to planning committees. Mr. Rayner pointed out that the Parish Council comments on the Local Plan over the last few years have been completely ignored by Breckland Council. It has been a similar story with site allocations with no notice being taken of Parish Council suggestions. A recently recommended brownfield site was ignored and duly replaced by a greenfield site with no explanation offered.

Mr. Bambridge confirmed that he supported the comments made by Mr. Borrett.

133 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

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

18/8/26	E-on Next (pavilion from 1/7/26 to 31/7/26) – (d/d)	£134.02
18/8/26	Drax (electricity for street lights – 1/7/26 to 31/7/26) – (d/d)	£235.20
19/8/26	E-on Next (electricity for Boars Hill–1/7/26 to 31/7/26)–(d/d)	£9.77
27/8/26	Breckland Council (Business waste– 16/7/26 to 15/8/26) –(d/d)	£53.30
2/9/26	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for August – 5 weeks)	£190.65
2/9/26	K. Webb (Clerk’s pay for August)	£900.67
20/7/26	K. Webb (Clerk’s quarterly computer allowance)	£20.00
2/9/26	HMRC (Tax and N.I. on Clerk’s pay)	£331.53
2/9/26	NGF Play Ltd (repairs and maintenance to play equipment)	£999.60
2/9/26	A.R. Crisp Farm & Landscaping (remove dead trees in PWW)	£850.00
2/9/26	Joe Sowinski (signs – Village Green play area)	£47.86
2/9/26	Joe Sowinski (pole extension for hedge trimmer)	£105.00
2/9/26	Joe Sowinski (air filter and sharpen chain saw)	£21.69
2/9/26	R P Environmental Services (treatment of wasp nest)	£50.00

Expenditure approved by all members.

b) Schedule of Income:-

6/8/26	Pavilion lettings	£20.00
7/8/26	Breckland Council (recycling for 2026)	£790.49
7/8/26	Breckland Council (hire of hall – police comm. election)	£300.00
10/8/26	Hire of pavilion – private function	£45.00
28/8/26	HSBC (coif inc div)	£50.65
28/8/26	HSBC (coif inc div)	£31.31

Balances (at 31/8/26):- Current a/c - £67,210.59, Business Premium a/c - £51,708.00
(Cambridge Building Society - £84,092.62)

A Councillor expense and mileage claim form has been produced and is to be used for all travel and incidental expenses incurred by members on official pre-approved council business outside the parish boundary. Completed forms are to be handed to the Clerk for processing. Claims are to be made in the month in which expenses occur or, at the very latest, the following month.

134 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

- i) Outline planning application for five custom and self-build dwellings with all matters reserved except for vehicular access – land to the east of Pump Street, North Elmham – PL/2026/1116/OMIN. (This application was discussed at length. It is the same plot of land that was rejected previously and all members were in favour of objecting. The objection will be drafted by Mr. Rayner for consideration/confirmation and then submitted by the Clerk to the District Council)

b) Determinations

- i) Various tree work at Grey Gables, Pump Street, North Elmham – PL/2026/1172/TCA – information only.
- ii) Various tree work at 10 Spencers Close, North Elmham – PL/2026/1114/TCA – information only.

135 Correspondence

- 1) Letter from East Anglian Air Ambulance detailing the services they provide and requesting a donation. (It was agreed by all that a donation of £100 will be confirmed and paid at the next meeting).
- 2) Newsletter and poster from Dereham Debt Centre.
- 3) Support for local historic homeowners from Project Manager, Heritage and Culture, Breckland Council.

136 Any Other Matters (for information only)

- a) Commencement of Budget preparation for 2027/2028.
- b) Arrangements to be made for the archiving of Parish Council documents

137 Agenda items for next meeting:

None.

138 Next Meetings

Wednesday, 7th October 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Chairman

Date

DRAFT