

Pre-Meeting Business: None

Public Participation: A parishioner raised concerns regarding work being carried out in Millennium Wood which involved the removal of secondary fencing and some trees, shrubs and bushes. Mr. Sowinski gave a full explanation of plans for the Wood and a reassurance that all action is being taken following the receipt of professional guidance and advice for the benefit of the area.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 9th July, 2025

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409 Those Councillors Present Were:

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

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk) and one parishioner (Public Participation part of the meeting)

410 Apologies for absence:

Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. F. Gillespie, Mr. C. Smith and Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor)

411 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.

412 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 4th June, 2025:

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

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

413 Land Management Matters (item 385)

- (a) Village Green Mr. Gee reported that a picnic table with seats had been vandalised and another one is badly damaged. Two new replacements would cost about £700 and it was agreed to buy one for Millennium Wood as well. The total cost for the three will be in the region of £1K. Proposed by Mr. Gee and seconded by Mr. Phillips. All in favour. The camel (former piece of play equipment) is to make a return and will need a concrete pad.
- (b) Cathedral Ruins Mrs. Keeble said that it is time for the grass banks to be mowed again.
- (c) Cathedral Meadows The gate near the sheep field was broken and has been repaired by Mr. Sowinski.
- (d) Broom Green Mr. Markwell had received a communication from a resident in Broom Green who is having discussions with the owner of the land. These appear to involve certain payments by the occupants of some tenanted properties. It is also believed that the pond needs to be dug out again. In addition, the footpath between Broom Green and the nearby farm is in poor condition. It is believed that the Parish Council has no involvement with the ownership of any of the land and the residents, therefore, need to talk to the landowner.
- (e) Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood) Mr. Sowinski has done some excellent work and great progress has been made. There has been some very positive feedback from residents. Two signs have been erected by a parishioner who is thanked for this generous gesture.
- (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.

414 Allotments (item 386)

Notice has been given to one allotment holder who has not paid the annual rent. In addition, an unauthorised willow plantation is being grown.

415 Street Lights (item 387)

Nothing to report.

416 Highway Matters (item 388)

The footpath in Cathedral Drive is uneven and a man in a wheelchair tipped over on it and broke his hip. The matter was reported to Mr. Bill Borrett, District Councillor, and will also be drawn to the attention of Highways. The Chairman has obtained an alternative quotation for the village gates which are being provided under the Parish Partnership scheme. This is for £6,222.67 + VAT to receive and instal. The original amount envisaged was £15,668.

Rob Pratt of Norfolk County Council has confirmed that the location of the current temporary bus stop next to the County School Station on the B1110 is not considered safe. The stop was installed by Konectbus and NCC holds no responsibility or liability for the use. He will be writing to the operator to request the removal of any signage indicating a formal bus stop.

417 Pavilion and Playing Field (item 389)

It has been suggested that CCTV camera coverage near the tennis courts and connected to the facility at the pavilion should be considered. Vandalism in the area has occurred recently. A solution for the Village Green is also needed and quotations are to be obtained for both. The RoSPA reports have been received digitally and hard copies are to be requested.

North Elmham Netball Club is holding a family night on 14th July at the tennis courts and has asked for permission to park cars on the adjoining football pitch. This, unfortunately, is not possible as vehicles are not normally allowed past the gate and the request has been turned down. Proposed by Mr. Rayner and seconded by Mr. Markwell. All in favour. The question has also been asked as to whether the Parish Council could provide funding. There are currently no budgeted funds for this. The Chairman will speak to the Netball Club's representative to explain the position.

The contract with E-on Next to provide electricity for the pavilion ends on 5th August, 2025. Doing nothing and allowing a flexible business tariff to commence will substantially increase the current costs to £1,829.69. Fixed business plans for one year, two years and three years have been offered. It was agreed by all to select a plan for three years with an annual estimated cost of £1,106.23.

Duncan Partridge of Breckland Council has offered to provide a quotation for the trade waste collection service and is confident that a significant saving can be made. He wishes to inspect the facility as there appears to have been a significant increase in the weight of the waste received in recent times. A convenient date will be arranged.

418 Eastgate Centre (item 390)

Nothing to report.

419 Brookside Development update (item 391)

The legal documents have been signed so the installation of the fence and gate can now proceed. The keys of the gate have been delivered to the school. It has been proposed that a nominal value of £1 be placed on the land (car park). All in favour.

420 Risk Management – considerations and updates (item 392)

Nothing to report.

421 Overview of Parish Council financial situation (item 393)

Nothing to report.

422 Defibrillators (item 394)

More volunteers are needed.

423 Local Plan update (item 395)

Mr. Rayner co-ordinated a response which was sent to Breckland Council with a copy being placed in Elmham News.

424 North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group (item 396)

Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to discuss matters with the Group.

425 New Village Hall (item 397)

A visit has been made to the Marshland Hall and Tea Room and a similar viewing of Lyng Village Hall is to take place next week. Mr. Sowinski is to make the arrangements. Mr. Markwell is to facilitate valuations for both the Eastgate Centre and Memorial Hall.

426 The future of the churchyard (item 398)

Nothing to report..

427 North Elmham Football Club facilities (item 399)

The sum of £1.5K has been paid to Stalham Town Football Club for the referee's hut. The invoice is initially to be paid by the Parish Council with half of the cost (£750) being repaid by the Football Club at the rate of £75 per month. The first payment has been received. In addition, the monthly payment of £75 has also been received in respect of the ongoing hire of facilities.

428 Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

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

23/6/25	Biffa (wheelie bin service from 24/5/25 to 27/6/25) - (d/d)	£79.80
17/6/25	E-on Next (pavilion from 1/5/25 to 31/5/25) – (d/d)	£103.41
17/6/25	Drax (street lights electricity from 1/5/25 to 31/5/25)	£237.63
8/7/25	D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for June)	£146.52
8/7/25	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for May)	£872.76
8/7/25	HMRC (Tax and N.I. on Clerk's pay)	£319.29
8/7/25	C. G. and H. Hazell (paint for outside of bus shelter)	£61.27
8/7/25	Stalham Town F.C. (changing building for referee – NEFC)	£1,500.00**
8/7/25	North Elmham PCC (annual grant)	£2,000.00
8/7/25	Playsafety Ltd (annual inspections of play areas)	£206.40
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (chains, oil and petrol)	£62.45
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (trimmer head)	£12.91
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (circular saw blade and harness)	£86.85
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (sharpen chain, oil and petrol)	£30.66
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (chain sharpening file)	£7.97
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (chain saw oil and files)	£17.25
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (petrol)	£9.96
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (nylon strimmer line)	£13.00
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (chain oil)	£17.99
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (chain saw files)	£6.60
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (oil and petrol)	£31.93
8/7/25	Joe Sowinski (chain saw file)	£4.97

** Invoice paid 13/6/25

(Expenditure approved by all members)

b)	Schedule of Income:-	
1/7/25	North Elmham F.C. (monthly hire of facilities)	£75.00
1/7/25	North Elmham F.C. (monthly payment re new referee's room)	£75.00

Balances (at 7/7/25):- Current a/c - £77,563.38, Business Premium a/c - £47,886.44

(Cambridge Building Society - £82,483.96)

429 To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

a) Applications

i) Granary Buildings, Eastgate Street – PL/2025/0608/VAR - removal of condition 14 (construction of a 2.0M high acoustic fence to the eastern boundary) and discharge of condition(s) 5, 12 and 13 on 3PL/2021/0050/VAR. (North Elmham Parish Council's view is that as the circumstances relating to the Mid Norfolk Railway and its land have not changed since the original planning permission for the Granary Buildings with the various planning conditions was granted, there is no reason for any change in or removal of these planning conditions at this time).

ii) Holt Road, North Elmham – PL/2025/0934/TCA – reduce the height of a leylandi tree to two metres (sent for information only).

b) Determinations None

430 Correspondence

- 1) Clerks and Council's Direct magazine for July, 2025.
- 2) Parish Partnership Scheme for 2026/2027.
- 3) CPRE Norfolk inviting the Parish Council to join the Anti Mega Solar Alliance.
- 4) Large envelope addressed to "Charity of Annie May Smith" – unopened (handed to the Vice Chairman)

431 Any Other Matters (for information only)

None

432 Agenda items for next meeting:

None

433 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 6th August, 2025 at 7.30 p.m. (Parish Council Meeting)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.44 p.m.

Chairman

Date

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