

Minutes of Bradenham Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Teresa Frost, Steven Parker, Michael Bell, Neil Fegan and James Ruppert with the Clerk Dee Ruppert. Helen Crane (District Councillor) plus 4 Residents.

APOLOGIES – Ed Connolly (County Councillor) and Peter Bates (District Councillor)

The minutes of the last meeting were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interest in the following items on the agenda. Steve Parker and James Ruppert are a part of the High Grove Opposition Group.

Dispensation is granted to all Parish Councillors in order to discuss the Precept and other financial matters.

Helen Crane – District Councillor - Local Plan- Reg 18-There will be a 6 week consultation period and processing of responses which is expected to run from 31st October until December 2025. Publication of the draft (Reg 19) consultation and processing of responses-July – September 2026. Submission to secretary of state for examination December 2026. Examination in public followed by council adoption in 2027. For interest (or not!) the plan comprises over 100,000 words and over 475 pages of planning policies, supporting text and site allocations. This is a massive piece of work and the most important document that Breckland produces. The plan sets out a strategy, vision, and planning framework for the future development of Breckland. The plan aims to establish requirements for growth and development in the district up to 2042.

The chapters of the plan will be : Design and sustainable development, Housing Employment and economic development, Retail and commercial development, The environment, Design & quality principles, Community and Resilient and adaptable infrastructure

Events will take place at all 5 market Towns-Dereham Library 13th November 10am-1pm
Attleborough library-14th November-11am-2pm, Watton Library-19th November-12-3pm

Breckland Council submitted its plan for 3 unitary councils in Norfolk to the secretary of state on 26th September. We await government decision in the new year. Grateful thanks to all those who completed the survey regarding this, which helped formulate the response and plan. A market town stall grant will be available offering small pots of money to help traders establish a regular stall at one of Breckland's town centre markets.

At full council a motion was brought by the reform party to rescind the climate declaration made by Breckland Council in 2019. I am pleased to say that the motion was not passed with only the 5 reform councillors voting for it, 30 voting against the motion and 1 abstention. Many members across parties spoke against the motion.

Four out of five of the Market Towns have agreed to take on the car parks, subject to legal process. Watton, Attleborough, Thetford and Dereham. This means the car parks will be controlled and owned by the Town Councils and not part of any Unitary Council moving forward.

Teresa read out the report from Peter Bate (District Councillor)

On 18th September a special meeting was held to discuss Breckland's proposal for devolution. Breckland favour a 3 unitary authority model which the drafted in conjunction with 5 other district councils. The proposal had to be completed by the 26th September, so that a decision can be made in the first quarter of 2026 and the new councils established in 2027.

The advantages of this proposal are councillors know their communities better and communities know their councillors. Services will be more localised, 50 million pounds worth of savings by the 4th year and a lower council tax rise, (there will be a rise though).

Questions were asked about the payment of the 900 million pounds worth of debt that would need to be divided amongst the new councils. The feeling was that this would be divided per capita as has happened in similar situations.

NCC favour a single unitary model. This is the cheapest option, but councillors would be remote from the people, and it would be very Norwich centric. All the Breckland councillors voted for the 3 unitary model except for just one vote. Personally, I think this is the one that is most likely to be adopted.

At the council meeting on October 17th. Reform criticised the quality of the written answers they had been given for questions on notice. They said they were waffly non answers that avoided the questions. |Having read them that does seem to be the case.

The independent group asked about the nature of the development of the Abbey Farm estate. Which seems to be poorly planned and very hard on its residents. The answer was that if the plans are not approved the council would have to find another way of building on the estate. A question was asked about the transfer of car parks to the local towns and how this could be done to continue with free parking in Watton. Still work in progress is the answer.

Reform asked about the amount of money spent rehoming Afghans compared to the amount of money on ex-servicemen. Which was an odd question and a strange comparison. More mischief making. Reform brought a motion against the climate change emergency declaration. They are blaming Breckland's policy on climate change as the reason we have large solar farm developments seeking permission from the government. Their motion was anti science and blames a position taken by Breckland in 2019 as the reason the government are encouraging solar farms now. The independent groups statement by councillor Atterwill was well done and says all that needs to be said. The motion was voted down, and the reform group were ridiculed by all the other parties.

PUBLIC SESSION- No questions were asked

MATTERS ARISING

Parish Council Vacancy - Victoria Hunter-Lines was accepted on to the PC. Teresa then reminded the PC and residents that we also have another vacancy. The Clerk will arrange for the correct paperwork to be sent via email to Vicky and Breckland.

Reviewing Policies – Teresa advised that the policies are slightly confusing has some items are not included. NPTC have standard policies that can be used,

Opposition Group Update – Steve Parker – We have decided to delay the meeting with Paul and Tracey until spring. We would like to hold a public meeting and would the PC agree to paying the rent of the hall. Teresa advised that the hall was run by the Village Hall Committee and it would be best to approach them. CPRE are holding a **Getting Solar Off the Land Exhibition** at Dereham Memorial Hall on Thursday 20th November- Free entry.

James and I attended a meeting regarding the Wind Farms in Scarning. The three Converter stations are being built on additional land purchased by RWE within the parameters of the Necton Substation. This can be seen from Bradenham.

The submission of RWE's application has been pushed back to Spring 2026. Once we know the siting of the Substation which will be the decision of the National Grid and this alone will be subject to local planning will be the appropriate time to make representations.

Bench in Play Area – The clerk is having a problem finding replacement recycled planks. We could replace the picnic bench at a cost of around £740. Replacing the planks with oak would be just has expensive. James and Steve offered to have a look and to see if it can be sanded and varnished.

Hedge – 2 Hale Road – The clerk wrote to Mr & Mrs Pepper regarding the hedge. A email was received from Mr & Mrs Pepper on 1st October in reply. The hedge is cut regularly. They also mentioned road safety for residents and the lack of pavement. Cars that turn right at the giveway fail to position themselves correctly. PC felt that the email should be passed onto Highways.

CORRESPONDENCE

Precept – Due to rising costs it was decided that the Precept for 2026 should be £9000.

Kickstart – Email received regarding feedback on community car scheme needs in Breckland. The Clerk will reply advising that we have no public transport

Property Flood Resilience – Email regarding an attached questionnaire about how the council are looking at options to migrate flood risks. The PC will reply to the clerk with their responses.

Assertion 10 + gov.uk email address– PC will be required to state that they are complying with digital and data obligations. This could include having gov.uk emails and a compliant website.

Council Tax review – Norfolk County Council sent an email asking the PC to comment on their annual budget consultation proposals. Consultants run from 27th October to 16th December 2025. The budget plan is based on an increase council tax.

Three options increase of 3% to 5% or more than 5%. The PC will reply

PLANNING**APPLICATION :-**

Erection of livestock building (Phase One only at the stage)
Wyrley Farm Swan Lane, Shipdham by Mr & Mrs Rowling - **No Objection**

Proposed new agricultural barn land adjacent Corner Cottage West End,
by J & A Fish & Smith – **No Objection**

Erection of self build Farmhouse Wyrley Farm Swan Lane, Shipdham by
Mr & Mrs Rowlings- **No Objection**

Application to determine if prior approval required for
Erection of an Agricultural building by P & A Jarvis– **No Objection**

APPROVAL :- None

FINANCIAL STATEMENT PROJECTION FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2026**All the rents, wages need to be reviewed**

Balance carried forward from last year **£11049.42**

RECEIPTS

Precept	8000.00
PCC Grass Cutting Fee	1037.04
Cricket Club – Fee	350.00
VAT Refund	1271.03
Village Hall – Donation	647.40

PAYMENTS

Village Hall-Rent	60.00
TTSR-Grass Cutting	4866.64
Zurich Insurance	850.00
Playarea Inspection	360.00
Clerk Wages	945.28
PAYE	84.00
TTSR- Tree Work	200.00
Bradenham Hall Farm – Footpath	368.00
Community Heart Beat- Pads	74.95
ICO- Data Protection	47.00
CPRE	60.00
Julian Reading – Village Notice Board	80.00
Tufts – Slabs for BCG	647.40
Norfolk Parish & Training	80.00
Website and Domain Name	8.00
VAT	1336.85

£ 11305.47

£ 10068.12

This will leave us an approximate balance at the end of March 2026 of **£10,301.05**

We are allowed to donate £11.10 per resident (568) per year **£ 6304.48**

It was agreed that the Cricket Club yearly fee for hire of the green will stay the same for another year. The Clerk's wages will go up to £1000 per year and the PC will also pay the PAYE. Also already mentioned in the minutes the Precept will increase to £9000.

FINANCE:-

Opening Balance £9623.62

Virgin Money

Expenditure

TTSR Ltd- Grass Cutting	1460.03
Clerks Wages	236.12
PAYE	21.00
CPRE-Monthly Membership-Aug	5.00
CPRE-Monthly Membership-Sept	5.00
CPRE-Monthly Membership-Oct	5.00
TTSR Ltd-Tree Work	240.00
TTSR Ltd-Grass Cutting	1460,03

£ 3432.18

Income

Precept	4000.00
HMRC VAT Refund	1271.03

£ 5271.03

Balance £ 11462.47

It was agreed that all payments made were agreed by the Parish Council

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Michael Bell wanted to know how he would get information regarding some graves that are unnamed at St Mary's/St Andrews churches. Teresa advised it would be best to speak to Mrs Margaret Bohn

Email received from Headway Suffolk who are taking over services previously provided by Headway Norfolk in our area. Unfortunately Headway Norfolk and Waveney ceases trading on 30th November. This transition allows them to continue and expand vital support for people living with brain injuries, ensuring they and their families receive the guidance, rehabilitation support, and community connection they need. They are now seeking financial contributions.

The PC agreed to not make a donation. They also agree that donations should only be made to local charities.

NEXT MEETING:- Tuesday 10th Feb and Tuesday 12th May 2026

MEETING ENDED:- 9.30PM