

FOULSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes (draft unless signed) of a meeting Foulsham Parish Council
held on Wednesday 16th July 2025 at 19:30 in the New Frost Hall

Present: Cllrs G. Fearn (Chair), S. Stilgoe, J. Duck, C. Taylor, C. Ferris.

Acting Clerk: Mrs L. Jennings

County Councillor: Mr Greg Peck

District Councillor: Mr Dave Thomas

Members of the public present - 3

1. To receive and consider apologies for absence:

None received

2. To receive any applications for Co-option

Co-option cannot take place until after 4th August 2025. The Casual Vacancy in the Office of Parish Councillor is advertised through The Returning Officer at Broadland District Council. More details will be available on the Foulsham Parish Council website.

3. To record declarations of interest and approve any requests for dispensations.

None received.

4. Public Participation

A resident complained that rubbish on the Playing Field which backs onto her garden has not been cleared for three years. There is also a tall tree that is blocking the light. The Clerk and Chairman will arrange to get this cleared. It was also reported that brambles are coming out of overgrown hedges on Bexfield Drive making the footpath impassable.

5. Minutes

On the proposition of Cllr Taylor, seconded, by Cllr Duck the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

6. Matters Arising

- 6.1 The Playground Inspection is booked but will probably now take place in the Autumn.

7. County and District Councillor Reports

- 7.1 **District Cllr Dave Thomas** - Attending Audit committee on Thursday evening; it's a new committee for Cllr Thomas as his previous one (SIEC) was folded into another committee.
- 1) LGR decision looks likely to be announced in September (County Councillor Greg Peck may have more news). Either one or/both of us will update as soon as decisions are made.
- 2) Cllr Thomas has just £126.16 left from my £1000 ward grant, and has been able to award some to the Foulsham playgroup and some to Cawston Bowls club. If anyone knows of any groups who require a grant of the same amount of money as mentioned, please let him know.
- 3) The Greater Norwich Local Plan will be reviewed due to increased housing

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numbers by Central Government. Please be aware that any previously rejected sites locally may be revisited or new plots may arise.

4) Broadland - beyond GNLP and NN work its reasonably quiet. Full council 24th July, item to be approved is the PSPO.

5) General Vesting Declaration:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/acquisition-of-land-by-general-vesting-declaration?fbclid=IwY2xjawLjPclleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHhZSCL9Gh_7yndq9t7jmUMJey7E6jUZQysYp3JVf5fWfyRr5_8eA4XKLay8_aem_u8FZ63w-RrTURtxABI0Q8w

One item to note on the GVD is that not all land would be acquired, This is to ascertain if the land is owned or not. This has already generated a couple of theories from residents.

- 7.2 County Councillor Greg Peck** – See Annexe B for full report. Ideas for the Local Community Fund included funding a skip for the Litter Picking Group or possible work on the pavilion.

8. Planning

- 8.1 To discuss and make observations on any applications received – none received.
- 8.2 Update on any existing applications – none received; however, it has been noticed that there is no 'blue' planning sign outside the property on the Twyford Lane. The Clerk will inform the Planning Dept at Broadland District Council.
- 8.3 To consider any Enforcement Matters since publication of the agenda – none received.

9. Finance and Governance Matters

- 9.1 It was RESOLVED to make the payments as listed in Annexe A and note any income. PROPOSED Cllr C. Ferris, SECONDED Cllr C Taylor and agreed by all.
- 9.2 To receive the Bank Reconciliation as at 1 July 2025 - £8,735.65.
- 9.3 To APPROVE the quotation received from Mrs D. Dann to carry out the Internal Audit of accounts ready to submit to the External Auditors (AGAR) at a cost of £45.00 and mileage if required at 0.45p per mile.
- 9.4 To record that Cllr J. Duck is now a full bank signatory. The Acting Clerk has full access to the bank accounts, but will not sign any cheques unless in an extreme emergency.
- 9.5 Foulsham Parish Deposit Scheme with Broadland District Council – balance held at 31st March 2025 £2,742.61.

10. Correspondence

- 10.1 Norfolk County Council – Bus Grant Funding for new bus shelters.
- 10.2 Notification of General Vesting Declaration (GVD) Programme. (See County Councillors Report in Annexe B.
- 10.3 Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership – this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

11. Public Participation

A member of the Public asked if the shop could remove its 'A' boards from the footpath. The resident also asked if something could be done regarding parking on the zig zag lines outside the school. The Clerk will contact the local Police Beat Manager.

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12. Items not on the agenda

- 12.1 The wooden frames on some of the play equipment need painting before the playground inspection. The Chairman asked for help.
- 12.2 The Clerk to contact Highways regarding replacing trees on the Twyford Lane.

13. *TO MOVE THAT PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 On the proposition of Cllr C. Taylor, seconded by Cllr J Duck moved that the public and press be excluded from the meeting under the provisions of section 1(2) of the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960.*

14. Staff matters were discussed and considered.

15. TO MOVE INTO OPEN SESSION On the proposition of Cllr C Taylor seconded by Cllr J. Duck resolved the Council moves into Open Session.

Meeting closed at 20.45

The next meeting is scheduled for 20th August 2025 at 19:30

Signed:_____ (Chair)

Date:_____

PAYMENT OF INVOICES FOR MEETING HELD ON JULY 14TH 2025**ACCOUNT 1**

MOBILE TELEPHONE FOR PARISH CLERK (OWNED BY PARISH COUNCIL)	£90.00	CHEQUE
VODAFONE (MONTHLY BILL)	£19.00	CHEQUE
PLAY INSPECTIONS (PLAYGROUND)	£215.00	CHEQUE
ZURICH ANNUAL INSURANCE	£1,587.90	CHEQUE
OFFICE ITEMS FOR CLERK	£72.28	CHEQUE
CLERKS SALARY	£420.97	CHEQUE
LLOYDS BANK	£4.25	DD
EON (1 ST MAY – 31 ST MAY 2025) (Foulsham Football Club)	£25.32	DD
SURE COMPUTERS (New Parish Council Hp Laptop)	£640.00	CHEQUE

Parish Report – July 2025.**Cllr. Greg Peck****One Council for Norfolk Backed by Cabinet**

Councillors have backed a report which says replacing Norfolk's eight councils with one would save £36.2m per year and deliver the biggest benefits to residents. Norfolk County Council's cabinet has selected a single unitary council as its preferred option, which will be developed into a detailed proposal and submitted to the Government in September.

Norfolk County Council has studied data and evidence on the pros and cons of one, two or three unitary councils and asked the public what mattered to them about local councils and services. It is proposing that its preferred option is one unitary council, covering the whole area.

What are the key aspects of Local Government Reorganisation?

- **Proposal:** Replace Norfolk's 8 councils with **one unitary council**.
- **Savings:** Estimated **£36.2 million per year**.
- **Decision:** Norfolk County Council's cabinet chose this as the **preferred option** on **23 June 2025**.
- **Next Step:** A detailed proposal will be submitted to the Government by **26 September 2025**.

Why One Council?

- **Consistent Services:** Same Council Tax, service quality, and access across Norfolk.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Cuts duplication, reduces senior roles, and benefits from bulk purchasing.
- **Avoids Fragmentation:** Keeps complex services like adult care and highways unified—splitting them could cost an extra **£20.4m–£33.6m/year**.
- **Supports Growth:** Recognises Greater Norwich's role as a county-wide economic hub.

Council Vision

- **One Voice:** Stronger influence with Government and partners.
- **Clear Accountability:** One council, one election, no confusion.

- **Efficient & Strategic:** Streamlined services and decision-making.
- **Supports Devolution:** Easier to set and deliver county-wide priorities.

You can find more details at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/lgr>

Norfolk County Council launches new fund for local community projects

From 1st July, local groups across Norfolk can apply for funding through the newly launched Norfolk Community Fund. The Norfolk Council grant scheme is designed to support grassroots organisations at the heart of every community.

Each of Norfolk's 84 county councillors has been allocated £5,000 to distribute within their division, ensuring that funding decisions are made by those who know their communities best.

The fund offers grants between £200 and £2,500 to support projects that promote things like social inclusion, volunteering, and community engagement.

For grants of £500 or more, groups will be asked to match 50% of the funding through a Crowdfunding platform, potentially doubling the impact. Smaller grants under £500 do not require match funding, though groups are welcome to crowdfund to increase their total.

With an estimated 10,000 voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in Norfolk, including 3,500 registered charities and 6,500 informal groups, the fund aims to provide a vital boost at a time when many are facing financial pressures.

If you are part of a local group and you could benefit from a grant, contact your local county councillor with details of your project and the funding you need. You can find their contact details on the Norfolk County Council website.

For more information about the Norfolk Community Fund, visit norfolk.gov.uk/communityfund

Norfolk's market towns invited to apply for grants to attract more visitors

Projects that are aimed at increasing sales and footfall in market towns will be able to apply for grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 through an initiative being rolled out across the whole of Norfolk.

Organisations and businesses are being invited to apply for the Love Your Market Town fund's Pride of Place grants to fund ideas designed to encourage people to visit and shop in their local towns more frequently. The scheme is supported by Norfolk County Council and applicants have until 31st August to submit their ideas.

Once ideas have been submitted, they will be reviewed by an independent panel and applicants notified of the outcome by Tuesday 30th September.

Applications are welcome from any local groups or business, but any activity must be a brand-new idea and should support multiple areas or services within a Norfolk market town. There is no limit to the kind of activities that can be funded but the idea must have a link to creating interest or increasing footfall in town centres.

[Find more information or express an interest in bidding for a grant via the New Anglia Growth Hub.](#)

More than £3.8m pledged to support apprenticeships through Norfolk levy scheme

Over £3.8m has been pledged by over 30 donating companies in the first two financial years of Apprenticeships Norfolk's Levy Support Scheme, and more than £3.2m has now been transferred to more than 160 businesses - triple the original £1m target.

The aim of the Levy Support Scheme is to connect businesses to share unspent apprenticeship levy funds through levy transfers, and to offer a bespoke matching service and wraparound support to Norfolk employers.

Donating businesses have included Amazon, RWE, and Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, while Flagship, Norwich School of Hair & Beauty and Sheringham Little Theatre have been among those which have received funds.

[Learn more about the impact report on the Apprenticeships Norfolk website](#)

Norfolk County Council Ranked Among best for Climate Action

Norfolk County Council has been recognised as one of the top-performing local authorities in the UK, according to the latest Climate Action Scorecards.

Published by Climate Emergency UK, the scorecard evaluates councils on key areas such as green energy, sustainable transport, and environmental stewardship.

Norfolk County Council has achieved third place among all county councils in the UK, cementing its position as a national leader in climate action. Its overall score has improved by 3 percentage points since 2023, making it the top-performing council in Norfolk.

The Climate Action Scorecards are an independent assessment of local authority climate action. The full results can be found at

<https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/county/>

The county council's key achievements include:

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- **100% Green Electricity:** All council-run buildings use fully renewable electricity.
- **LED Streetlights:** Upgrade saves over 1 million kWh and cuts 200+ tonnes of CO₂ annually.
- **Solar Power:** Rooftop panels now supply 2% of council building electricity.
- **Tree Planting:** Over 600,000 trees planted toward a 1 million tree goal.
- **Electric Buses:** 70 buses introduced in Norwich, saving 3,800 tonnes of CO₂ yearly and improving air quality.

New options assessment work for Norwich Western Link

Norfolk County Council is planning to explore options for a Norwich Western Link to reduce traffic problems and improve travel west of Norwich.

The Council's cabinet will be asked to approve this study, which will include public consultation. The options will cover improving current roads, boosting public transport and active travel (walking, cycling), and building new single or dual carriageway routes.

Traffic congestion in the area causes safety issues, business delays, and problems reaching important places like the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and Norwich Airport.

Earlier, the Council applied to build a 3.9-mile dual carriageway road but withdrew the plan due to concerns from Natural England about protected barbastelle bats in the area.

Natural England's new guidance, released just before the application deadline, made the previous road plan unlikely to be approved.

Since then, the Council has talked with the Department for Transport (DfT) and has secured provisional funding of £960,000 (two-thirds of the £1.43 million cost) for the study. The DfT also confirmed no need to resubmit earlier business case documents.

The Council will keep consulting Natural England during the study to ensure any chosen options are acceptable.

As a consequence of the bat concerns and previous feedback, it's unlikely that a dual carriageway or a viaduct over the River Wensum will be included in the options.

A report will go to the cabinet in July, with results of the study and consultation expected next summer. Then, a preferred option for the Norwich Western Link may be recommended.