

Great Ellingham Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at the recreation centre on Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance: Cllr T Betts (Chairman), Cllr S Banks, Cllr D Howe-Li-Rocchi, Cllr J May, Cllr S Mellor

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner  
District Councillor Bill Smith  
14 members of the public

- 1. Open Forum – An opportunity for any parishioner to speak on parish matters and to hear reports from County and District Councillors, if available** – A member of the public asked what was happening with the parcel of land at the triangle. The Chairman confirmed that the S106 agreement signed by the landowner and Breckland DC donated the land to the parish council however, the placement of the pylon on the land has led the parish council to reconsider the agreement and the query is currently in the hands of the enforcement officer at Breckland DC.

A resident asked if Councillor Smith would be prepared to withdraw comments he made at the last meeting regarding a possible parish council election. Councillor Smith declined as he felt he had not said anything inaccurate. The same resident expressed his disappointment that the conversation was not reflected in the minutes of the October meeting.

A member of the public raised the matter of speeding and inconsiderate driving in the village, in particular on the main B1077 and Long Street. The Chairman noted all the points made and confirmed that, whilst everyone was in full agreement about the problems, it is extremely difficult to implement highways improvements at the moment, mainly due to the vast budget cuts at Norfolk County Council. Councillor Mellor pointed out that the speed limit has been reduced over the years from 60mph, to 40mph and finally to the current limit of 30mph.

A parishioner raised the matter of both developers and residents parking on the green spaces in the village, in particular on Town Green. An offer was made to research the costs and feasibility of either notices or some kind of bollards, which the parish council accepted.

District Councillor Smith reported that the Local Plan is still being analysed by the Planning Inspector and, recent reports suggest it may not be signed off until April, meaning that the period taken for the Planning Inspector to hear the evidence and provide the report will have been twelve months.

Councillor Smith also reported that the extension to the parish boundary to include West Carr has been approved by the Governance Committee. If approved by full council, the next step will be for the Boundary Commission to review the proposal.

- 2. To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Perkins. County Councillor Ed Connolly also sent his apologies.
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest in any item on the agenda** – Councillor Mellor declared an interest in item 15 on the agenda.

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4. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 17 October 2018** – Councillor Howe-Li-Rocchi confirmed that he would like the cost of a potential parish council election reflected in the minutes. Councillors agreed and the clerk confirmed that the minutes would be revised and issued for approval again at the next meeting. **Action AR.**
5. **To report matters arising not on the agenda and hear the Chairman's report** – The Chairman reported that the speed watch group needs more volunteers – please contact the Chairman if you are interested. The Chairman has written to a resident regarding a highways issue in Bow Street. The Church clock requires repairs to the value of £752.40 plus VAT. The Parish Council are obliged to maintain the clock, which dates from 1880 and is also a war memorial. It was proposed that the clock be serviced annually in future, at a cost of £213.36 pa. The parish council agreed to authorise this but asked that any issues likely to cost in excess of £200 to repair or replace be referred for consideration before they are carried out.

The Chairman reported on the sad news that Mike Bowden, recreation centre treasurer, had passed away whilst recently in Germany on business. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, sent condolences to Mike's wife and family.

Finally, the grass cutting at the Church is due to be discussed at the Parochial Church Council meeting on 26 November. Further information will be available after this date.

6. **Recreation Centre report** – Councillor Partridge reported that the Trustees had asked to be kept fully informed of any discussions relating to a possible new recreation centre.
7. **Planning applications considered between meetings: None**
8. **To hear of planning decisions and other information:**
- a) **3PL/2018/1000/F – White House Farm, 97 Long Street – Plot 1 – revised application for new design and change of use from agricultural land to residential for enlarged curtilage – Approved**
9. **To consider planning applications**
- a) **3PL/2018/1190/VAR – 18 Long Street – Removal of conditions 3 (annex) and 4 (holiday let) – re original application 3PL/2014/0710/F** – Following discussion, it was agreed that the parish council **object** to this application.
10. **To hear further information re Community Speedwatch / School poster competition and agree a parish partnership bid** – Glenn Stanley confirmed that the school poster competition has been launched and judging will take place on 11 December. Glenn recently met with the highways engineer, in order to assess the existing road signs and poles in the village. The parish council will submit a parish partnership bid prior to the close of deadline of 7 December. A donation of £700 from Sarah and Steve Suggitt has been offered towards the project. **Action AR.**

- 11. To hear information regarding dog waste bins** – Breckland District Council have refused an application by the parish council for two new dog waste bins. The clerk will look in to the feasibility of the bins being emptied by other service providers. **Action AR.**
- 12. To propose a parish council representative Trustee for the Recreation Centre** – The parish council need to have a representative Trustee on the board for the Recreation Centre. Councillor Banks indicated she would be willing to do this role. It was suggested that she look into what is involved in being a Trustee and then confirm at the next meeting if she is still willing to proceed. The Chairman asked if the parish council need to provide a representative, as they are custodian Trustee? District Councillor Smith confirmed that the Parish Council have no power and are only required to act should the actual Trustees disappear. The Trustees are the legal owners of the recreation centre, held for the beneficiaries (parishioners).
- 13. To approve a replacement Hingham Road noticeboard** – The parish council resolved to purchase a new notice board to replace the board at Hingham Road. The old board will be assessed to see if it could be refurbished and used inside the bus shelter, or elsewhere. **Action AR.**
- 14. To acknowledge Cllr Simpson's resignation and hear information re co-option** – Councillor David Simpson has resigned from the parish council. The Chairman noted the time and commitment given by Councillor Simpson during his time as Councillor. Breckland District Council has confirmed that no call for a second election has been received and the parish council may therefore co-opt to this vacancy. The clerk confirmed that she would contact all of those who had previously expressed an interest in the previous vacancy and the co-option would also be advertised. As it is not yet known whether there will be a December meeting, it is possible that the vacancy may be dealt with in December or January. **Action AR.**
- 15. To consider a grant request from the Great Ellingham Fuel Charity** – The Charity have requested either a one off, or a regular donation, to the Charity. The request was discussed at some length, with the parish council opting not to support the request on this occasion.
- 16. To hear budget information and agree the precept level for 2019 / 20** – The clerk will circulate the budget proposals to all Councillors for approval at the next meeting. The Chairman reported that, following a working party finance meeting, an increase to the precept of 5% was proposed. Although this sounds like a significant increase, based on the parish council's precept, this means an increase in income of £383 in the parish council's annual income from Breckland District Council, or a 90 pence increase per annum on Council Tax for a Band D property. The parish council precept is still very low when compared to other parishes with similar tax bases. A 5% increase was unanimously approved by Councillors. The clerk will submit the precept request. **Action AR.**

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**17. To receive the financial report and consider the following payments:**

Chq no	Amount	Payee	Notes
100569	£ 244.29	A Rayner	Nov salary
100570	£ 50.00	Lady Haig Poppy Factory	Poppy wreath donation

Both payments were unanimously approved. The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, was also approved.

**18. To consider items from Councillors:**

**a) Communication – AP** – Councillor Partridge confirmed that she had put a link at the top of the village Facebook page to the parish council website. It was also agreed to place a folder containing the minutes of meetings in the village shop.

**19. To consider correspondence:**

**a) Inappropriate parking on Town Green** – This matter was dealt with during the open forum session.

**b) Norwich Western Link** – Four potential routes have been published and the consultation runs from 26 November to 18 January. The routes, associated costs and estimated traffic volumes, as well as the opportunity to comment, can all be found at [www.norfolk.uk/nwl](http://www.norfolk.uk/nwl)

**20. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 19 December 2018 to discuss planning applications and urgent business only, otherwise Wednesday 16 January 2019 to be held at the Recreation Centre commencing at 7.30pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.