

Minutes of a meeting of Carbrooke Parish Council held in Carbrooke Village Hall on 8 July 2025

Councillors present: N Defew (Chair), J Borrett, L Brazell, K Jones, W Leport, D Page, L Poole, G Redfern. **In attendance:-** N Hartley (Parish Clerk), Cllrs H Crane and P Bate (Breckland Council). Four members of the public.

Public Participation

A resident asked if anything could be done about the traffic outside the school. The Parish Council will contact the Public Transport team at Norfolk County Council and request an assessment for a mini bus to take children within the catchment area to and from school.

Two residents complained about the noise from the recently laid gravel in the Village Hall car park. They were unable to have their windows and doors open, and it was affecting their health. They asked the Parish Council for help (see item 16 below).

1 Co Option

It was **RESOLVED** to co opt Linda Brazell on to the Council.

2 Apologies for Absence

None.

3 Declarations of Interest

None.

4 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2025. The Chair signed the minutes.

5 Matters Arising

The Parish Council has approached Norfolk County Council highways regarding concerns over the junction of Summer Lane and the B1108. They have stated the following: The junction clearly has had an improvement to modern standards at some point. The junction is kerbed and has merge and diverge tapers typical of a modern junction on the high-speed road network. Google Streetview from August 2023 shows only modest erosion of verge for the left turn out, suggesting it does cope with the vast majority of turning movements. Summer Lane does then narrow down to the width of a typical Norfolk rural lane and there is more notable verge erosion. No personal injury accidents have been recorded in the last 5 years so the junction does appear to be operating safely. Given that there are no

personal injury accidents, there would be no funding for any junction improvement. This would only come forward if there was an associated elevated accident record.

6 Report from Breckland and County Councillors

Copies of Cllrs Crane and Bate's reports are attached to the minutes.

7 Finance

7.1 The following payments were approved in accordance with the budget:-

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £796.48

HMRC, clerk's Paye & Hub manager's Paye (July), £645.16

N Hartley, reimbursement of expenses, £352.73

SCS Accounting, fee for Internal Audit, £120

Jemco, signs for Blenheim Grange play area, £77.88

Mansfield Fencing, base for new storage container at Community Hub, £5,850

Mansfield Fencing, repairs to picnic bench at Blenheim Grange play area, £25

Glasdon UK Ltd, bin for Anson Way, £285.13

Play Inspection Company, play safety report, £300

7.2 The Council noted the following payments received:-

Carbrooke Parish Council (Hub account), payment for manager's Paye (July), £241

Barclays Bank, interest on account, £68.48

HMRC, refund of Hub VAT paid, £793.89

7.3 The Council noted the completion of its Internal Audit

8 Hub Manager's report

A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

9 Hub's Finance report

A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

10 Review of Council Policies

The Council reviewed and resolved to approve without amendment the following policies:-

Anti Bullying & Harassment

Data Protection

Equality

Health & Safety

11 Resurfacing the footpath on Lancaster Avenue playing field

The Council was waiting for further quotes and will return to this at its next meeting.

12 Cutting back the undergrowth on the power substation footpath

The Council was waiting for further quotes and will return to this at its next meeting.

13 Car parking spaces for EV Charging Points at the Village Hall

The Council was waiting for further quotes and will return to this at its next meeting.

14 Benches for the Millennium Green and Community Hub

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a wooden bench for the Millennium Green and a metal bench for the Community Hub.

15 Pollarding trees in the Village Hall car park

Works will be carried out in the autumn.

16 Maintenance of the Village Hall car park

It was **RESOLVED** to seek a cost and remove some of the shingle to reduce the amount of noise, and to budget up to £2,500 in this respect.

17 Neighbourhood Plan

It was **RESOLVED** to form a steering group comprised of councillors and residents, and to arrange to meet and select a contractor to help with the Plan. The following councillors agreed to be part of the steering group:- Cllrs Poole, Jones, Redfern, Page and Leport.

18 Representatives' reports

It was noted that the Millennium Green has a new website.

19 Items for inclusion on the next agenda

None.

20 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7pm on September 9.

The meeting was closed at 7.45pm.

Signed Chair

Date

Cllr Bate's Report (Breckland Council)

During the council meeting on 22nd May the council leader commenced the meeting with an address, reiterating the commendable performance of Breckland and the Conservative party, this is the usual start to all the main council meetings. The opposition raised inquiries regarding the proposals for the Abbey estate, which are currently disorganized. Although a response was provided, it lacked complete coherence. The Reform Party criticized the planning process in general, specifically highlighting issues related to plans for a pig farm. The response indicated that these processes are proceeding correctly, albeit with a substantial amount of information to be reviewed.

A question was posed about the proposed traveller site on Dereham Road. Development has been halted, and its future is now under review within the planning process. Additionally, there was an inquiry regarding the Breckland homes allowance and its coverage. This fund is designated for purchasing items that enable individuals to remain in their homes.

I became a councillor because of an interest in local government as well as some political ideals. At the midway point of my term, with two years to go, I reflect on my experience as a councillor. It is consistently engaging to observe the mechanisms of local government and understand the factors that contribute to its functionality. The dedicated and diligent staff in the offices play an integral role in ensuring the smooth operation of our local government. They are always ready to provide answers to any questions I may have. The councillors themselves demonstrate commitment, though their actions are often constrained by party governance structures. It surprises me how few councillors control the business of the council with most just voting as they are told. As I look forward to the remaining two years of my term, please feel free to reach out if there is anything you believe I can assist with.

Cllr Crane's Report (Breckland Council)

Inspiring communities match funded grant scheme continues and details can be found via the Community Foundation Norfolk. Priorities are domestic abuse, Mental health, Social Isolation & Loneliness and early intervention projects.

The Council continues to crackdown on fly-tipping and has given fixed penalty notices for 3 fly tipping offenders totalling £1,300. Please continue to report any fly-tipping for investigation.

At the June meeting of Breckland Council's Cabinet, members voted to approve a resolution to join the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for older residents across the district.

Breckland's market Towns have been invited to apply for grants to help attract more visitors. Organisations and businesses can apply for the 'Love your Market Town' fund. The scheme is in partnership with Norfolk County Council.

Local Plan-Parish cluster meetings for parishes with site submissions over 50 dwellings have been held. There has been good engagement with the parishes that have attended and an understanding of where we are with the increase in housing numbers. A FAQ will be available on the website in due course. We are now meeting with the Town councils and villages that are associated with them and have had high submissions.

Local government reorganisation-The council confirms it does not support the governments proposed approach to LGR and devolution. We are concerned about the risks to residents and businesses of increased council tax. The Council agrees that if this goes ahead we support a 3 unitary model as do Kings Lynn & West Norfolk, Broadland District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough, North Norfolk District Council, and Norwich City Council. It won't be until early 2026 that we hear from the Government which structure it supports. There are pop-up stalls on Market days in the Towns where residents and businesses can get more information and give feedback. Thetford 15th July, Watton-16th July, Attleborough-17th July, Dereham -18th July and Swaffham-19th July.

Community Hub Report

Bookings Payable hours and Community Hours

	May	June	July
Total Paid Hours	127	122	108 tbc
Total Community Hours	28	20	30

The lighting improvements have been delayed again due to the lights making a humming noise. The lights will not be signed off until these resolves. Spartec may have found a solution which will be fitted end July.

New container Storage installation is moving forward; the ground works have been completed with the container possibly arriving by end July

Everything is running well at the hub the booking appears to be stable with more enquiries being made for future use. New group is due to start 6th July every Sunday for 3 Hours.

There is graffiti on the substation building which isn't a good sign of a well looked after area. (I don't think the building is the Parish Councils responsibility) If possible, please could the Parish Council contact the owners with the graffiti problem.

Please could I also recommend that the bushes /brambles and overhanging trees are cut back to allow a more open feel to the area.

The Electric Charger has been commissioned and is ready to use.

We have a gentleman named David who is litter picking for us on most days. I have provided him with black bags. Once filled he leaves them at the hub for us to put into the waste bin.

Pam Arrowsmith