

Minutes of a meeting of Carbrooke Parish Council held in the Community Hub on 11 March 2025

Councillors present: N Defew (Chair), J Borrett, K Jones, W Leport, D Page, L Poole, G Redfern.

In attendance:- N Hartley (Parish Clerk), P Arrowsmith (Community Hub).

Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs P Bate & H Crane (Breckland Council) and Cllr C Bowes (Norfolk County Council).

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2025. The Chair signed the minutes.

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Report from Breckland and County Councillors

A copy of Cllr Bate's report is attached to the minutes.

6 Finance

6.1 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 (March), £440

N Hartley, clerk's expenses, £280.81

N Hartley, reimbursement of Wix payment re Council subscription, £142.06

N Hartley, reimbursement for ink cartridge for photocopier, £36.08

Wensum Valley Electrical, installation of defibrillator at Hub, £174

Didlington Nurseries Ltd, purchase of trees for Community Orchard, £896.25

6.2 To note the following payment received:-

Carbrooke Parish Council (Hub account), payment for manager's Paye (February), £240.80

6.3 Cllr Leport noted that he had carried out the checks and everything was in order.

7 Subscription to Norfolk Parish Training & Support

It was **RESOLVED** to subscribe to Norfolk Parish Training & Support, and to return to the Norfolk Association of Local Councils should the need arise.

8 Grant Application from Carbrooke Church

The Council considered a grant application for £1,000 towards cutting the grass in the churchyard. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £1,000.

9 Solar light

The Council considered a request for a solar light on the path near the power substation at Blenheim Grange. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will contact Taylor Wimpey and request lighting. In the meantime, councillors will carry out a site visit and consider this further at the April meeting.

10 Community Orchard

This was held over to the next meeting.

11 Storage Container for the Community Hub

The Hub Committee requested a third storage container. Councillors agreed to hold a site meeting and to consider this further at the next meeting. The Council will obtain further quotes.

12 Litter Picking Hoops

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase six hoops for litter picking bags.

13 Litter bin at Anson Way

This was held over to the next meeting as the Council is still waiting to hear from Breckland Council.

14 Hub Manager's Report

A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

15 Hub's Finance Report

A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

16 Council's Community Engagement Award

The Council considered two nominations for its Community Engagement Award. It was **RESOLVED** to make awards to the two nominees, Angela Birkby and Tony Owen.

17 VE Day Commemorations

It was **RESOLVED** to budget around £800 toward an event on the Millennium Green and in the Village Hall.

18 Village Hall Path

The Council considered an amended plan and quotes for the path. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint MW Surfacing.

19 Neighbourhood Plan

CLlr Poole explained that due to her work commitments she no longer has sufficient time to devote to the Plan. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will apply for grants and use these to employ consultants with whom the Council will liaise.

20 Representatives' Reports

CLlr Redfern said that the Hub Committee works well and is on top of everything that they need to be.

CLlr Defew said more volunteers for the VE Day would be welcome.

21 Items for inclusion on the next agenda

As per the minutes and any further additions from councillors.

22 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 6pm on 8 April, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.10pm.

Signed Chair

Date

Cllr Bate's report (Breckland Council)

Introduction

The ruling party laid out their reasoning for the 25/26 Breckland budget in a council meeting, emphasizing the challenges posed by national policies and local devolution. Despite the tight nature of this year's budget, the ruling party managed to pass it, fending off amendments proposed by the Labour group.

Budget Overview

This year's budget is notably tighter than usual, influenced by national policies and local devolution complexities. The Labour group proposed four amendments to the budget, aiming to address various concerns; however, all amendments failed due to insufficient support, leading to the budget's eventual approval.

Repeated Themes

For the third consecutive council meeting, the ruling party reiterated their achievements and expressed their dissatisfaction with devolution. This recurring topic highlights their ongoing concerns and their stance on maintaining local control over certain matters. This concern is not shared by all councillors.

Addressing Local Concerns

The ruling party faced questions regarding the prevention of local towns becoming ghost towns. Their response included plans to transfer car park management to local control and invest in the community, aiming to stimulate local economies and maintain vibrancy in town centres.

Collaboration and Legal Action

Questions were raised about the ruling party's collaboration with other district councils concerning devolution and the possibility of legal action. The ruling party confirmed ongoing collaborations and the seeking of legal advice, although details were not disclosed. I am uncertain about the effectiveness and appropriateness of using council taxpayers' money for these legal pursuits.

Support for Watton Sports and Social Club

The ruling party was also asked about financial support for the Watton Sports and Social Club. They reassured the council that the club would receive the necessary support, demonstrating a commitment to backing local recreational facilities.

Conclusion

The 25/26 Breckland budget discussion underscored the ruling party's strategies and responses to various challenges. While the budget was approved, the meeting highlighted ongoing concerns about devolution, local economic stability, and the prudent use of council resources.

Community Hub Report

Bookings Payable hours and Community Hours

| | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Total Paid Hours | 106 | 96 | 80 | 108 | 134 |
| Total Community Hours | 30 | 28 | 20 | 16 | 20 |

Play-park the gates from Bleinham Grange play park have been moved to the hub pending a decision to repair them or not.

Booked hours are increasing with a new booking for a Zumba class on a Friday night.

Lighting and Heating improvements are booked for 10th and 11th March; work being completed by Spartek.

The defibrillator has been installed we are gathering information to allow it to become active.

Litter by the flats has become difficult to control there is far too much for one person to clear. Parish Clark is aware and is contacting Breckland council for a way forward. It was suggested a bin by the entrance to the wooded area as there was a plastic bag on the fence which has been filled with litter.

The area by the orchard has been cleared and is looking much better.

New Storage is a priority, and I would like to ask the parish council for a storage container, we have condensed and rationalised the equipment as much as possible but still require more space.

Pam Arrowsmith

Health and Safety

Unfortunately, Janet and I have had no time to meet but plan to meet in March.

We have had no breaches in data protection.

No accidents or incidences reported

We have had 1 call out ref a fire alarm, this has happened before with the same sensor. I have logged it as a false alarm and will ensure Spartek check it again on their next visit.

Treasurers Report

Community Hub As of 01/03/2025

Produced by P Arrowsmith

Lloyds Business Account

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Opening Balance on 01/02/24 | £5098.22 |
| Payments out | £2922.94 |
| Payments received. | £5480.00 |
| Closing Balance 28/02/24 | £7655.28 |
| | |
| Predicted Income March 2024 | £1340.00 (some groups have already Paid) |
| Predicted Out goings March 2025 | £2,488.84 Approx |
| | £450.00 Gas /electric £ 963.91 Salary £240.80 PAYE £68.00 Breckland Council Waste Disposal £104.00 Internet £28.13 Mobile phone £250.00 Deposit returns £300.00 Expenses £84.00 Hall Heating |

£230 ringfenced with in bank account donation from the Kings Arms Public House

For the committee consideration

Expenses

P Arrowsmith

£963.91 Salary

£22.76 Mirrors for toilets

£90.00 Printer Inks

£240.80 Carbrooke Parish Council PAYE

£84.00 Hall Heating and Plumbing Boiler service

Total £1,401.47