

Minutes of a meeting of Carbrooke Parish Council held in Carbrooke Village Hall on 9 September 2025

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

In attendance:- N Hartley (Parish Clerk), Cllr P Bate (Breckland Council). Four members of the public.

Public Participation

The Council was asked what it could do about parking about the school. A member of the public suggested the Council could buy land for a car park. The Council noted it did not have sufficient funds for this.

It was noted that the Summer Lane to Mill Lane footpath needs to be cut.

Two residents reported speeding outside their property at Blenheim Grange and asked if the Council was able to help. The Council noted the roads have still to be adopted, but said that anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Police. The Council said it would help where it could in putting the residents in touch with relevant authorities.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Leport, who was unwell, Cllr Crane (Breckland Council) and Cllr 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 8 July 2025. The Chair signed the minutes.

4 Matters Arising

The Council had been asked if the school bus could be resumed. In consequence, the Council had contacted Norfolk County Council. The reply was as follows:-

We can only provide a bus or minibus to take children to school if the children are eligible for free school transport, which the children attending the school are not as they live within the qualifying walking distance. It is therefore a parent's legal responsibility to take the children to and from school.

I appreciate the difficulties that the vehicles cause around the school, but there are no funds available to provide transport that is outside the Council's home to school travel policy I'm afraid nor for any

reason such as congestion outside a school. If the school wanted to provide some transport then we could help them procure it, but I'm afraid that's the most we could do in this situation.

5 Report from Breckland and County Councillors

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

6 Finance

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

Royal British Legion Industries Ltd, bench for Millennium Green, £800
Black Country Metal Works Ltd, bench for Community Hub garden, £489
MW Groundworks Ltd, new footpath at Village Hall, £8,122.68
Woolleys Fencing & Landscaping Ltd, install new fence at Village Hall, £1,920
N Hartley, clerk's salary (August), £892.73
HMRC, clerk's Paye & Hub manager's Paye (August), £749.02
N Hartley, clerk's salary (Sept), £822
HMRC, clerk's Paye & Hub manager's Paye (Sept), £669.67
SCS Accounting, payroll services, £54
Norfolk Association of Local Councils, domain and email registration fees, £130.57
Norfolk Parish Training & Support, councillor induction course, £62.40
Gorts Gardening, grass cutting Carbrooke churchyard (grant), £500 (Section 137)
Carbrooke Parish Council (Hub account) transfer of refunded VAT, £793.89
London Hearts, pads for Hub defibrillator, £74.59
L Brazell, reimbursement for padlock for Village Hall car park, £23.99
H Brett & Son, repairs to Carbrooke War Memorial (churchyard), £396
Mansfield Fencing, repairs to play area, install signs and install bin, £130
Community Hub, transfer of funds, £4,500
Npower, street lighting, £143.50
R Poole, reimbursement for printing costs of parish magazine, £308.93

6.2 The following payment had been received:-

Unity Trust Bank, interest paid, £534.89

7 Planning

7.1 Breckland Council decisions:-

Land To The West of Shipdham Road, Carbrooke PL/2025/0730/FMIN
Full planning approval for the erection of seven detached bungalows, with associated external work
Refused

7.2 The following applications were considered and decisions made:-

The Lodge, Drury Lane

PL/2025/1161/VAR

Variation of condition 2 on pp PL/2024/0788/HOU – increase in family room

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no objection to this application.

Garden land at 2 Cranwell Road

PL/2025/1208/FMIN

Partial demolition of dwelling and sub division of residential property to create two dwelling houses including the erection of self-build semi-detached dwelling

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council did not support this application. The Council did not support development at this location as the proposed property was too large for the site and location, and too cramped.

Mick George Ltd, Carbrooke Quarry, Land off Mill Lane

FUL/2024/0052

Extraction of sand and gravel, and importation of inert material to achieve a beneficial restoration of the site, together with the continued operation of processing plant and associated infrastructure.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no comment.

Mick George Ltd, Carbrooke Quarry, Summer Lane

FUL/2025/0016

Non-compliance with conditions 1 (time limit), 2 (approved plans/documents), 3 (phasing and infilling), 20 (soils) and 24 (landscaping) of permission reference FUL/2022/0012 to allow to Extend the time limit, Amended Phasing and Infilling, Soil handling, Restoration/ Landscaping and Associated Details.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no comment.

Mick George Ltd, Carbrooke Quarry, Summer Lane

FUL/2025/0017

Non-compliance with conditions 1 (time limit), 2 (approved plans/documents), 3 (phasing and infilling), 18 (soils) and 22 (landscaping) of permission reference FUL/2022/0011 to allow to Extend the time limit, Amended Phasing and infilling, Soil handling, Restoration/Landscaping and Associated Details.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no comment.

Mick George Ltd, Carbrooke Quarry, Summer Lane

FUL/2025/0018

Non-compliance with condition 1 (time limit) of permission reference FUL/2022/0013 to allow for an amended date to cease works and restore the site.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no comment.

8 Hub's Manager's Report

A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

9 Hub Finance Report

A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

10 Resurfacing the Footpath on Lancaster Avenue Playing Field

The Council considered quotes to resurface the footpath. It was **RESOLVED** that councillors will look at the site again.

11 Cutting back the undergrowth on the power substation footpath

The Council considered quotes to cut back the undergrowth on the footpath. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Marnick Landscapes.

12 Cutting back the undergrowth by Norwich Road fence

The Council considered quotes to cut back the undergrowth along the Norwich Road fence line. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Marnick Landscapes.

13 Car Parking Spaces for EV Charging Points at the Village Hall

The Council considered quotes to install two car parking spaces at the Village Hall. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Billy Isbill.

14 Request for a reduction in the speed limit

Cllr Brazell proposed the Council apply for a 20mph speed limit through the older part of the parish. It was **RESOLVED** to make a formal request to Norfolk County Council.

15 Village Hall Fence

The Council considered a quote from Woolleys Fencing to complete the fence at the front of the Village Hall and remove the sign. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the quote.

16 Update on the change to councillor gov.uk emails

Councillors who have not as yet been able to change to the new email will do so as soon as they can.

17 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Poole noted that a request for volunteers had been put in the parish magazine. The Council has compiled a list of four consultants. It was **RESOLVED** to hold a meeting of the Steering Group to agree what the Council would like to see in the Plan and to then invite the consultants to meet the Council. It was **RESOLVED** to add Cllr Brazell to the Steering Group.

18 Representatives' reports

Cllr Redfern reported that all is going well at the Hub and their finances are in good order. They have received the two benches ordered for the Parish Council. They had some vandalism on one of the existing benches outside the hub. The culprit was caught on CCTV, has been identified and reported to the police. The orchard project is proving to be a success as the trees are thriving, thanks to a small army of "waterers." The committee is well motivated and cheerful.

19 Items for inclusion on the next agenda

None.

20 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in the Community Hub on October 14 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed at 7.50pm.

Signed Chair

Date

Report of Cllr Bate (Breckland Council)

Devolution discussion in the council is now productive rather than whiney and the council are actively seeking people's opinions and ideas. The preferred format of Breckland is a 3 unitary authority model. Norfolk County Council prefer a one authority version. Personally, I think the three-authority model is the better of the two, but neither is as good as what we already have.

When there were questions the Labour group asked about the cutting of grass verges and the frequency of it, an answer should follow at some point. The independent group wanted to know why Breckland favoured the three unitary authority model when it is the most expensive of the three. The ruling group disputes the figures, which do come from NCC.

Reform asked about the housing for illegal immigrants and ex-offenders. Their question was pure mischief making. Breckland house who they legally must house, and migrants are housed by the government. This is typical of Reform nationally who make up a story and then get outraged about the lie they just invented.

The Labour group asked about the speed in which the car parks are being moved from Breckland Council and into Town Council control. Breckland said they would appreciate any help they can get from the Town councils to speed things up. The ruling group say they need to get a fair price from the councils for the car parks to ensure value for the council taxpayers. I must admit I do not understand, the money will go from the town council to Breckland council an organisation that will then cease to exist.

The council decided to write to the secretary of state stating their opposition to large scale solar farm development which appears to provide little benefit to the local community. Reform also are opposed to solar farms, mainly because climate change isn't real. Just to prove that Reform don't have a monopoly on stupidity a tory councillor thought that all the new electricity would be piped down to London and that they would steal the electricity created by our solar farms. Electricity doesn't work like this.

Report of Cllr Crane (Breckland Council)

Due to officer holidays there have been few meetings at Breckland hence my very short report. There has been some disruption to bin services due to staff sickness and holiday.

On Thursday 18th September there will be a special council meeting to debate the submission for LGR (local government reorganisation).

On Monday 20th October there will be a special cabinet meeting to approve the draft Reg 18 document of the local plan. Details of this meeting will be published on the website.

Grants are being offered for shop fronts to help revitalise town centres. Alongside this is the 'Love your Market Town' pride of place grant. Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 are available to support creative projects that bring people into town centres and increase local spending.

Community Hub Report

Bookings Payable hours and Community Hours

	Aug	Sept	Oct
Total Paid Hours	99	100 TBC	TBC
Total Community Hours	19	20 TBC	30 TBC

The lighting improvements have been delayed again due to the lights making a humming noise. The lights will not be signed off until this is resolved. Spartec may have found a solution which will be fitted September.

New storage container has been installed has proved invaluable storing the new benches until collection can be arranged.

We have had some vandalism at the hub with part of the bench outside needing to be replaced, this has been reported to the police.

The Music Licence has been purchased for 2025 – 2026

Depending on the committee approval It is hoped to be part of My Health Corner Initiative which is a community-based project that provides free accessible health and wellbeing information.

BT update - sometime ago the hub had a letter from debt collecting agency asking us to pay a outstanding amount from 2022 the Hub had no idea that there was any money outstanding as there was nothing outstanding on any of the accounts. Thanks to Nathan the Parish Council Chairperson who investigated the claim further the accounts supposed debt has been written off.

Pam Arrowsmith