

Minutes of a meeting of Carbrooke Parish Council held in Carbrooke Village Hall on 9 June 2026

Councillors present: D Page (Chair), J Borrett, L Brazell, W Leport, L Poole, G Redfern.

In attendance:- N Hartley (Parish Clerk), Cllrs H Crane and P Bate (Breckland Council), P Arrowsmith (Manager of the Community Hub), two members of the public.

Public Participation

A member of the public noted that two vehicles had been jammed on Summer Lane and asked if the laybys could be levelled. The Parish Council will report this to Norfolk County Council.

The Council was asked if there is a fete this year. Mrs Arrowsmith said there is an event planned for August.

Mr Brazell noted that he had stained the benches and sign, and repaired the noticeboard in the car park.

Comments were made about grass cutting in the churchyard. The Council will contact the PCC.

Comments were made about two containers at Bonne Nuit and concerns were expressed that these may be used to run a business. The Council was asked to contact Breckland Council to see if Planning Permission is needed.

1 Apologies for Absence

All councillors were present.

2 Resignation of Cllr Defew

The Council noted the resignation of Nathan Defew.

3 Declarations of Interest

None.

4 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2026. The Chair signed the minutes.

5 Matters Arising

None.

6 Report from Breckland Councillor

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

7 Planning

7.1 The Council considered the following amended application :-

Land to the north of Shipdham Road

PL/2026/0424/FMIN

Erection of five detached bungalows, garaging and associated external works

It was **RESOLVED** to reiterate the Council's earlier objections.

8 Finance

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

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £822 (standing order)

HMRC, clerk's Paye & Hub manager's Paye, £669.67

Cullum Line Ltd, repaint yellow lines outside Village Hall, £432

Cutting Electrical Ltd, repair to light in phone box, £105.36

A Brazell, reimbursement of stain and brushes for noticeboards and benches, £16.17

Collective Community Planning Ltd, work on Neighbourhood Plan, £5,640

Carbrooke Parish Council (Hub account) transfer of Vat reclaimed, £589.27

Carbrooke Parish Council (Hub account), transfer of budgeted funds, £2,000

R Poole, reimbursement of cost of printing Carbrooke Magazine, £594.69

Marnick Landscapes Ltd, grass cutting in churchyard, £320

SCS Accounting, internal audit fee, £120

8.2 The following payments were made from the Commuted Sum:-

Marnick Landscapes Ltd, grass cutting at Blenheim Grange, £600

Marnick Landscapes Ltd, maintenance of shrubs and hedges, £800

Ravencroft Tree Services Ltd, annual tree survey, £930

Marnick Landscapes Ltd, maintenance of area at Washington Drive, £100

8.3 The Council noted receipt of the following payments:-

Carbrooke Parish Council (Hub account), payment for manager's Paye, £248.60

HMRC, Vat reclaimed on Hub account, £589.27

9 Council representative to the Millennium Green

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Page as the Council's representative to the Millennium Green.

10 Hub Manager's report

A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

11 Hub's Finance report

A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

12 Appointment of a contractor to safety surface the Community Hub play area

The Council considered quotes in respect of new safety surfacing at the Community Hub play area. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint NGF Play Ltd to carry out the work.

13 Proposal to purchase outdoor fitness equipment

Cllr Borrett proposed that the Council purchase two items of Outdoor Fitness equipment to be installed on the Millennium Green. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase an Air Skier and an Elliptical Cross Trainer, subject to the agreement of the Green. The Council will obtain a full quote. If the feedback on the use of this equipment is positive, the Council will look to purchase Outdoor Fitness equipment for Blenheim Grange.

14 Annual Tree report re the Village Hall car park

The annual Tree Survey recommended a 1.5 metre fence around the main tree near the car park entrance. It was **RESOLVED** this was not necessary, as there has never been any damage to the tree.

15 Signage to the EV Charging point in the Village Hall car park

A proposal was made for signage to identify the EV Charging Point in the car park. It was **RESOLVED** to install two signs, one on the Village Hall, subject to approval from the Hall's trustees, the other on the noticeboard in the car park. The Council will seek a price to replace the noticeboard.

16 New bus shelters/improvements to the bus stops on Norwich Road

Cllr Poole said that four bus stops had been identified for bus shelters, two near the old Flying Fish, and two near the Aerolite Garage. She said that Norfolk County Council is progressing a design for a footpath from Summer Lane to the first two bus stops. There will be no cost for this to the Parish Council. The Council is progressing plans re the Norwich Road shelters and will obtain quotes.

17 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Poole said the steering group had met the contractor. The contractor had prepared the reports and the members of the group had made comment on them. The draft plan will be submitted to the Planning Policy Officer at Breckland Council for comment. The next meeting of the steering group is on July 8.

18 Community Payback Project

The Council considered a proposal to use the Community Payback Project. It was **RESOLVED** to put together a list of possible uses and to ask the church if it may want to use the project to carry out work in the churchyard.

19 Items for inclusion on the next agenda

Included in the items above.

20 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at in the Village Hall on July 14 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed at 7.45pm.

Signed Chair

Date

Cllr Crane's Report

At the AGM Long standing councillor of 31 years, Cllr. Nigel Wilkin was elected as Chairman and Cllr. William Nunn also a councillor for 31 years as Vice chairman.

At cabinet on Monday 11th May a 1.2 million £ project for housing was launched with the YMCA. This fantastic collaboration will see units built in the North of the district to supply support housing for 18-25 year olds. This age group is growing in number for homelessness, especially those leaving care and data shows a demand for this type of accommodation. YMCA Norfolk already operates successful supported housing schemes in the County.

Asylum Dispersal- I want to touch briefly on this as it affects the community of both Carbrooke and Watton. The first knowledge that asylum seekers had been placed in Watton and Carbrooke was gained from Facebook.

I wrote to George Freeman MP myself and a meeting was arranged also attended by Cllr. Claire Bowes. (District Councillor for Watton.) We reiterated concerns of residents not only about the placement of unknown individuals in our communities but also the concerns from residents of protesters from outside the area descending on the town.

The following statement is from the leader of the Council Cllr.Sam Chapman-Allen. The link will take you to this statement and also all the correspondence between Breckland Council and the Government ministers, Chief constable and MP's.

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/26196/21-05-26-Leader-statement-on-Asylum-Dispersal-in-the-district>

Breckland Council's Leader, Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen said:

"Here in Breckland, we are a welcoming community. We believe in helping one another. We look out for our neighbours. We treat people with dignity and respect. That is who we are.

"I recently visited Watton to hear the views of residents and businesses, after the Government placed a number of asylum seekers in the town. Some people understandably had concerns, particularly about the lack of notice or consultation by the Government, though the overarching message I took away was the need for fairness.

"But there is a clear difference between showing compassion to people in genuine need and expecting rural towns and communities to shoulder a disproportionate burden because of a failed national policy. And that is exactly what is happening. Our market towns and villages are being asked to handle pressures they were never designed or resourced to manage.

"The Government's Asylum Dispersal Policy is placing people into rural communities without the infrastructure, services, safeguarding capacity, or local support needed to make it work safely and successfully. For months, Breckland Council has challenged the Government on this. I have repeatedly asked the Government how these decisions are being made, what criteria are being used, and why rural areas like Breckland are being expected to carry such a heavy share of the responsibility.

"To date, I have not received satisfactory answers. But I will not stop pressing this issue on behalf of the council, all of its members, and the communities we serve. What we are witnessing is a failure of planning, a failure of accountability, a failure of the national Government in London.

"Below are our correspondence with the Home Office, which sets out the questions I have repeatedly been asking and the lack of clarity which has been provided in return.

"A Government has a duty - a fundamental duty - to protect existing communities and ensure any resettlement is done responsibly, safely, and in places with the capacity to support it. And right now, their current planning is simply not good enough. The Government must do better.

- They can ensure placements are matched to local capacity.
- They can make sure the dispersal process is transparent and accountable.
- They can cap numbers at levels local services can genuinely support.
- They can prioritise areas with the infrastructure to manage integration effectively.
- And they can speed up asylum decisions and vetting processes.
- Local Councils should be able to veto any placements.

This debate is not about turning our backs on people in need. It is about demanding a system that is fair, credible, and fit for purpose.

- A system that protects long-standing residents.
- A system that protects vulnerable new arrivals.
- And a system that respects the realities of rural communities like ours.

"I hope all Members of Breckland Council will support me in demanding change and I also call on the County Council's new administration to follow my lead - Breckland Council's lead - and challenge the Government to deliver a system that actually works.

"I am proud of Breckland, proud of the compassion residents have shown, proud of the security and stability our communities have provided to those settling here. But we can't let this be undermined by ill-thought-out policies, weak planning, and a lack of accountability from the Government.

"Lastly, I'd like to thank the people of Watton and wider Breckland for showing their justifiable concerns in a proportionate, measured, peaceful way. Watton, like all our communities is a fantastic town with a strong community spirit. I know another protest is planned in the coming weeks. I ask again that the residents show this same spirit and ignore outside voices that don't have Watton at heart."

Community Hub Report

All groups are running well.

One group has decided they no longer wish to use the Hub this is a loss of 12 hours per month this is not a reflection on the hub just a change of management.

I am working with Breckland Councils lip reading group to use the hub on a Tuesday morning each week for 2 hours.

All checks were completed with no problems reported.

The actual spent to budget is running well with no concerns.

We would like to request a payment of £2000.00 form the allocated fund available this will leave £12,000 if required from the PC for running costs at the Hub.

The hub has had a spring clean well summer clean up with the slabs, guttering, windows have all been cleaned.

The committee and myself have painted some parts of the hub it is looking much fresher. Thanks to all that helped.

Some of the committee members were involved in the race for life in Norwich a very well done to them.

Pam Arrowsmith