



Minutes of a Meeting of Harling Parish Council

Held at Harling Old School Hall

On Tuesday 28th July 2026

PRESENT

Cllr P Edge
Cllr L Mould
Cllr A Hayward
Cllr G Jubb
Cllr Blades
Mrs K Filby (Clerk)

Cllr B Copping
Cllr N Johnson
Cllr K Rayner

Two members of the public were present

1. APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED

Cllr J Jacobs & Cllr G Denham

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 23rd JUNE

Item 11d – Update on the Council's Groundsman – currently signed off for further 4 weeks.
Clearscape stood down from grass cutting due to lack of rain.

3. MINUTES SIGNED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

4. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident asked if the Council had any thoughts on the possible 1250 migrants being moved into Barnham Camp. The Council to write to Cllr T Jermy expressing their concerns on the impact this could have on the wider area.

5. DECLARATION BY COUNCILLORS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PERSONAL INTEREST(S) IN ANY AGENDA ITEMS

None

7. PLANNING

a. PL/2026/0526/FMIN Use of buildings and associated land to create 5 no. holiday accommodation units (retrospective)

The Parish Council has significant concerns regarding flood risk at the site. The area has a history of flooding and the Council is not satisfied that sufficient information has been provided to justify this use for the site, demonstrate that the development will be safe for occupants or that it will not increase flood risk elsewhere. The site of the lodges has been seen to flood limiting access. There is currently no lawful use to which these buildings can be put. The proposal would permit a vulnerable use in a building at high risk of flooding where none currently exists. The Local Planning Authority should therefore be satisfied that appropriate flood risk assessments and mitigation measures are in place before determining the application

For these reasons, Harling Parish Council considers that the proposal does not accord with the development plan and recommends that planning permission is refused unless the Local Planning Authority is satisfied that the flood risk concerns have been fully addressed and that the development complies with all relevant planning policies.

b. Breckland Local Plan – Regulation 19 Update:

Members were advised that Breckland Council is progressing its Local Plan towards the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission stage. Following the Regulation 18 consultation, which concluded in December 2025, the Council is currently preparing the Regulation 19 Plan. The Regulation 19 public consultation is scheduled to take place during July–September 2026, after which the Plan is expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in December 2026. Members noted that the Parish Council will have a further opportunity to make formal representations during the Regulation 19 consultation.

8. ACCOUNTS

- a)** SCG Communication (Broadband) - £59.99
- b)** Staff Costs - £4201
- c)** British Gas (street lights) - £592.30
- d)** DWC Building Services - £4728
- e)** Harling Old School Hall - £21
- f)** NPTS - £76.80
- g)** Clearscape - £675
- h)** Scribe - £66
- i)** NPTS - £188
- j)** TT Jones -£720
- k)** Thurlow Nunn - £117.12
- l)** HAGS - £896.40 + £2212.83
- m)** NP Law - £276.66+ £66.78
- n)** Bolton & Brown - £1800

9. LAND TRANSFER GRIGSONS WOOD

Clerk to enquire on Searches with Solicitor

10. ALLOTMENT WATER QUALITY INSPECTION

Cllr Copping confirmed that the report relates to minor works to involving valves and pipes.
Cllr Copping and Cllr Blades to carry out a site visit and arrange for Plumber

11. LAND TRANSFER CHURCH ROAD

The Council approved the signing of the Land registry document, this was duly signed by The Chairman and The Clerk

12. GRASS CUTTING RIVERSIDE AREA

Council approved in principle the cutting back of this public area – Quote to be received by The Clerk by Clearscape. Clerk to approve and funds to be transferred from Town Improvement Fund

13. HARLING RECREATION GROUND TRUST ASSETS

Following a recent meeting of the Trustees, clarification was sought from NP Law regarding ownership and responsibilities. The overall conclusion being:

- The Recreation Ground and its buildings remain charitable trust assets
- Harling Parish Council owns them only as Trustee, not as the local authority
- The land must continue to be used for the charitable purposes established in 1947
- Parish Council funds can be used to help maintain the Trust's assets but Parish Council and trust finances must always be kept separate
- Any agreements for the Pavilion or other Trust buildings are made by Harling Parish Council acting as trustee not by the Parish Council

14. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/CLERKS REPORT

- a. Clerk and Senior Groundsman booked to renew Emergency at Work First aid certificate 11th September
- b. Second phase of allotment wall repairs to be put out to tender
- c. Report from resident of Mount Pleasant that garden fence was damaged by weeds growing along pathway between Three Squirrels and Mount Pleasant. The matter was investigated, Able Homes have cut back the weeds and the matter was resolved after it was agreed that the damage was historic
- d. Complaint received from resident over grass verges on Lopham Road – matter passed to NCC Highways. Complaint passed onto NCC from resident over general state of grass verges throughout village

- e. Report of fly tipping along Quidenham Road, out of village boundary so details passed on of Breckland Council department for fly tipping
- f. Freedom of Information request for traffic data on recorded traffic incidents on Eccles Road and all correspondence between the Council and NCC on road safety concerns. The Clerk explained that the Council do not hold records of any traffic incidents these are dealt with by Norfolk Police. All paperwork held by the Council relating to conversations between the Highways Engineer and the Clerk has been prepared and resident had informed the Clerk that he would be attending tonight's meeting.
- g. A complaint was received regarding broken glass around the bottle banks at the Recreation Ground, together with concerns about the general condition of hedgerows and verges and dog fouling. Any visible broken glass was promptly collected by the Grounds Team. It was explained that the bottle banks are moved each time they are emptied/replaced, meaning that glass may not always be immediately visible. With regard to the condition of verges and hedgerows, The Clerk explained that these areas are generally the responsibility of Norfolk County Council. Harling Parish Council maintains all areas within its own responsibility to a high standard. The resident also asked how maintenance issues reported to the Council are recorded and followed up. It was explained that, where an issue falls under the responsibility of the County or District Council, residents are advised to report the matter directly to the relevant authority and are provided with the appropriate contact details. It is then the responsibility of the resident to follow up their report if necessary. More serious matters, such as traffic and highway concerns, are raised directly with the relevant Highways Manager or department at Breckland Council/Norfolk County Council as appropriate.
- h. Complaint received from resident over adults playing football at The Poplars and noise levels. It was explained that the area is classed as a playing field for children and youths and to inform the Council if it continued. Members explained that it is a recreation area and difficult to police who uses it and for what purpose
- i. Harling Fringe festival took place and was a success
- j. Bollard hit on corner of Market Street/Church Road – has left significant damage. Clerk reported

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22nd September