



Minutes of a Meeting of Harling Parish Council

Held in The Riverside Centre

On Tuesday 20th January 2026

PRESENT

Cllr P Edge (Chairman) Cllr A Hayward
Cllr B Copping Cllr J Jacobs
Cllr Mould Cllr Blades
Mrs K Filby (Clerk)
District Councillor W Nunn

One member of the public were present

1. APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED

Cllr Denham, Cllr Jubb, Cllr Mackenzie, Cllr Denniss, Cllr Rayner

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 25th November 2025

Item 2 (9) Given costs of Traffic gateways through NCC the Council is to look at alternative locations, and possibly privately owned land to install in Middle Harling.

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

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None raised

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

None raised

6. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Government reorganisation consultation ended on 11th January. On Local plan – Review of section 18 to take place before moving to section 19 later in the year.

7. PLANNING

Erection of single dwelling Lime Kiln House – No objections raised by Council

8. ACCOUNTS

- a) SCG Communication (Broadband) - £61.22
- b) Staff Costs - £3347.85
- c) PKF Littlejohn (Audit) - £504
- d) A & B Tyres (Tractor tyre) - £72
- e) Information Commissioners Office - £35
- f) Online Playgrounds (swing seat) - £297.60
- g) Market Stores (various) - £69.34
- i) Xmas lighting - £75
- k) Ripblast (Church Rd gates) - £780

9. HARLING EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Clerk to the Trust to advertise vacancy

10. THREE SQUIRRELS

- a. Deferred to next meeting
- b. Cllr Blades proposed that the Parish Council agree to the management of open spaces at Phase2, this was seconded by Cllr Copping. A vote was taken and five Cllrs approved the decision for, and one Cllr was against

11. AGAR ASSERTION 10

The Clerk updated the Council on the changes to the annual audit document and the requirements of the Council from April 2026 to ensure all published documents are accessible and the council are fully compliant with data protection

12. APPLICATION TO THE TOWN IMPROVEMENT FUND

Harling Recreation Ground Trust requested funding to pay for the removal and shot blasting of the memorial gates to the Recreation Ground from Church Road. The Parish Council approved this request and an amount of £650 will be granted

13. GROUNDS STAFF PAY REVIEW

Cllr Copping proposed an increase in April, in line with the National Joint Council Pay Award, this was seconded by Cllr Jacobs. A vote was taken and all were in favour

14. CLERKS UPDATE/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a. NPTS Networking event on March 10th
- b. Breckland Council will carry out maintenance to the Well at The Crescent after a request from the Parish Council
- c. Breckland Council community land transfer workshops in Thetford and Dereham at the end of the month
- d. Village street lights are now on a contract with British Gas
- e. Complaints received over parent parking at School, Clerk passed on concerns to PC Philips
- f. Council asked for a quote from the EDP focusing on the proposed housing in Harling and Larling

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24th February 2026

16. PRECEPT/BUDGET 2026/27

Precept Overview

The Parish Council will be requesting a precept of **£105,000** from Breckland Council for the **2026/27 financial year**. This represents an increase of **0.0166 %** for individual properties, on the 2025/26 precept requirement.

For a Band D property, the annual Council Tax contribution to the Parish Council will rise to **£107.12**, compared with **£105.37** in the previous year.

Financial Position

At the end of the current financial year, the Council projects an estimated balance of **£49,500**, inclusive of earmarked reserves.

Financial Management and Community Commitment

The Council is mindful of the ongoing economic pressures facing residents and remains firmly committed to prudent and responsible financial management. Throughout the past year, strict spending controls have been applied, and this disciplined approach will continue into 2026/27.

Wherever possible, savings have been achieved across utilities, insurance, and maintenance costs, while ensuring that the high standard of services and facilities expected by the community is maintained.

Projects and Developments

Current Initiatives

- The LED street lighting replacement programme continues to progress.
- The Council continues to build its funding provision for ongoing repairs to the Market Place, while also planning for a larger-scale refurbishment in the coming years.
- Repair works have commenced on the historic wall surrounding the Poplars play area and allotments. This programme of works will continue throughout the next financial year

Upcoming Projects and Priorities

- The Council will shortly assume responsibility for managing open spaces at the Three Squirrels development, with the second phase scheduled to transfer early next year.
- An enhanced focus on village biodiversity is planned for 2026, including collaborative work with the Community Garden.
- Continued monitoring and management of traffic within the village, with proposals to install additional white gates to promote safer driving.
- Ongoing training and professional development for Councillors and staff.
- Regular review of pay awards, ensuring the Clerk's and Grounds Team salaries remain aligned with National Joint Council (NJC) pay increases.
- Commencement of repairs to the Garboldisham Road Chapel, supporting the preservation of this important historic building.
- Continued support for The Hub, with **£4,400** secured to cover hire charges and a further 12 months of free exercise classes, which have proved extremely popular.
- Ongoing support for the Community Garden project, which continues to thrive. The Council extends its sincere thanks to the volunteers involved in both community initiatives.
- The Council continues in its role as Trustees of the Harling Recreation Ground Trust and works closely with the Trust to deliver the annual village fireworks event. This popular event provides valuable fundraising support for the charity.

Budget Breakdown 2026/27

Financial Summary

- Balance brought forward at 1st April 2026 (estimated): **£49,500**
- Precept requested: **£105,000**
- Budgeted income (excluding precept): **£9,260**
- **Total available funds: £163,760**
- Budgeted expenditure: **£101,895**
- Proposed earmarked reserves: **£61,865**
- Uncommitted funds: **£0**

Earmarked Reserves (£61,865)

- Contingency fund: **£16,000**
- Allotment wall repairs: **£4,000**
- Market Place refurbishment: **£31,995**
- Traffic calming gates: **£2,000**
- The Hub (reserved funds): **£6,372**
- Community Garden (reserved funds): **£1,498**

Closing Statement from the Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

The budget and precept for 2026/27 have been prepared with careful consideration of the Council's statutory duties, ongoing commitments, and future projects, while remaining mindful of the financial pressures facing our residents by the Finance working party.

The Council maintains appropriate reserves to support financial stability, manage risk, and enable planned investment in community assets and services. Robust financial controls remain in place, and regular monitoring ensures that expenditure remains aligned with approved budgets and best practice.

I would like to thank Councillors, staff, and volunteers for their continued support and commitment to the effective stewardship of public funds in the best interests of the community.



Mrs K Filby