

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. As always your Parish Council has been kept busy dealing with issues as they arise which includes checking planning applications and this year there has been several on the planning portal for Harling. A number have been for tree works and the remainder have been for extensions and new dwellings and if necessary, site visits by the Planning Working Group take place and observations/recommendations are put to the full Parish Council before our comments are sent to Breckland.

**Speed Watch.**

Since last year the number of volunteers has increased and continues to be successful in slowing down traffic speeds however, they still manage to record significant numbers of speeding drivers. So, my sincere thanks from the Parish Council to the new team of volunteers.

**Street Lights.**

The phased upgrade of redundant light fittings to LED,s continues and as the old lamps fail, they take priority for immediate replacement. The energy cost for the 101 lights we are responsible for has seen a considerable increase this year.

**Memorial Green.**

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank David Boggia for changing the various flags when appropriate to ensure that national flags are on display. Significant tree works are to be carried out on the very large tree on the green due to its excessive height.

**Market Street/Church Road**

Last year I reported the Parish Council had agreed with Highways regarding the safety of Valentines Corner which involves electronic signage to warn large vehicles from either direction that they may meet on the corner, the installation of the new signage was completed during last year with no reports of any problems although having watched the traffic movements many drivers seem to ignore the flashing signs and meet large HGV,s etc on the bend.

**Phase 2. Three Squirrels**

The construction works are complete with the exception of the final road surface, and the transfer of ownership and maintenance of all the open public spaces and play areas has been completed. Our costs for this is fully covered

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by funding for 10 years of S106 money from Abel Homes. This maintenance work will be carried out by our two groundsmen Brett & Rod.

### Phase 3. Three Squirrels

A planning application for 17 properties adjacent to Phase 2 by Abel Homes has been approved by Breckland Council, and building work is expected to be completed by the end of the year and I have heard that all 17 properties have been sold. There will be additional public open space on this site which will be funded for 10 years by S106 money.

### P C Working Group.

With the approval of the Parish Council, I have set up a working group with the surrounding Parishes to share information and work together to engage on a united front on all matters particularly infrastructure, road networks and anything that each Parish may encounter with the ever-increasing call for more housing in villages.

### Call For Sites

Breckland Council have requested landowners to submit land suitable for development by the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025. A considerable amount of land is required in the district to fulfil the new housing targets set by the Government. As the three possible sites for large scale development are no longer being considered it does mean that more housing will be expected in the villages in Breckland. Call for sites this time states land required for development, solar farms, turbines and traveller's sites. The next submission that Breckland have to make to Westminster Section 19 is due in July this year but the Garboldisham Rd. Lopham Rd. sites for 190 properties are removed from Section 19 as a planning application has been put forward for Breckland to determine and at the moment we are not aware of when this will happen.

### Events.

During 2025 there were 3 events organised by Kate on behalf of the Parish Council, VE/VJ/ Commemorations in August, Fireworks display and the Xmas lights switch on. This year's events will be the Fireworks display and Xmas lights switch on as usual. Kate set up an events group which invites all clubs/organisations to meet informally to share ideas on future events/fund raising etc and continues to meet on a regular basis.

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**Action Plan.**

As funds allow, further Council training, information/history board, Chapel refurbishment, traffic gates Kenninghall Rd, Extensive works on the Historic flint wall around the Grigson Wood allotments,

My thanks to my Council colleagues for their commitment and work on behalf of the Parish during this past year and I would also like to thank our Vice Chairman Holly for the support she has given me this year. Holly unfortunately is no longer able to be a member of the Council.

On behalf of the Parish Council a thank you to our District Councillor William Nunn and our County Councillor Steven Askew for the help and advice they have given us. Steven is standing down as our County Councillor after supporting us for many years and financial support from his County allowances towards the White Gates on roads entering the Village.

Again, on behalf of the Parish Council sincere thanks to our Groundsmen Brett Allan and Rod Plumb for grounds maintenance and keeping the middle of the village tidy. Of course, not forgetting our Clerk, RFO and Proper Officer for the advice and guidance Kate given us all. Every year I say Kate's work load seems to increase and this year is no exception, Kate continues to fulfil her role in a truly exemplary manner, it is a privilege to work with you Kate so a very sincere thank you from myself and your Parish Councillors and the residents of the Parish.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for allowing me to serve as their Chairman for the past year.



Philip Edge B E M

Chairman

28/04/2026

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our parish councillors, past and present, for their continued dedication and service to our wonderful village. Their commitment often goes unseen, yet it plays such a vital role in shaping and supporting our community.

Being a parish councillor is about far more than attending a meeting once a month. It involves a great deal of work behind the scenes — reading reports, preparing for discussions, attending additional meetings, and giving up personal time to ensure that the best decisions are made for Harling. Many also volunteer at village events, helping to bring people together and support the strong community spirit we are so proud of.

Councillors must be approachable, visible, and always willing to lend their time and support for the benefit of others.

All of this is done without any remuneration, and often without the recognition they truly deserve. Their motivation comes from a genuine care for the village and a desire to make a positive difference.

And I am extremely grateful for the support they provide me in my role. Their guidance, knowledge, and willingness to step in and help when needed makes a real difference to the day-to-day running of the council.

As a village, we are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed, proactive, and hardworking parish council. Their efforts help to ensure that Harling remains a thriving, welcoming, and well-supported place for everyone.”



28 April 2026