



## **Minutes of a Meeting of Harling Parish Council**

**Held at Harling Old School Hall**

**On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

### **PRESENT**

Cllr P Edge (Chairman)	Cllr A Hayward
Cllr G Jubb	Cllr J Jacob
Cllr Blades	Cllr K Rayner
Cllr L Mould	Cllr G Denham
Cllr J Denniss	
Mrs K Filby (Clerk)	
District Cllr W Nunn	County Cllr S Askew

Sixteen members of the public were present

#### **1. APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED**

Cllr B Copping

#### **2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Item 10 – Planter order ready to process

Item 9 – Positive response from those Councils that have responded

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

#### **4. PUBLIC FORUM**

No matters raised

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

None

#### **6. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

- Update on new food waste collections
- May elections
- 2027 Unitary elections

## **7. PLANNING**

No planning matters

## **8. ACCOUNTS**

- a) SCG Communication (Broadband) - £48.63
- b) Staff Costs - £4011
- c) British Gas (street lights) - £
- d) At Coombes - £100
- e) Harling Old School Hall - £21
- f) Community Garden - £330.99
- g) Glasdon - £1027
- h) Newton Press - £175
- i) Rix - £300
- j) Scribe - £327.00
- k) NPTS - £24.00
- l) R Frost - £75
- m) Oaks CCTV - £95.00
- n) C Bailey - £170.00

## **9. POLICIES**

The Council adopted the following policies:

- ❖ Operation Menai Bridge
- ❖ Bullying and Harassment
- ❖ Co-Option
- ❖ Data Audit

The Council reviewed and updated their Publication Scheme

## **10. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS**

The Council resolved to amend its Standing Orders S17(1) to allow for voting by ballot paper

## **11. BRECKLAND COUNCIL LAND TRANSFER**

Councillors considered in detail the proposal for the transfer of ownership of part of Grigsons Wood from Breckland District Council to the Parish Council. The discussion focused on the potential benefits to the community, together with the financial, operational, and legal responsibilities that would accompany ownership of the woodland. Members were advised that the woodland contains approximately 400 trees and that a recent inspection and report undertaken by AT Coombes confirmed the site to be generally in good condition. The report also noted that the woodland is protected by a Woodland Tree Preservation Order issued by the District Council, providing protection to the trees and helping to preserve the environmental character of the area.

Councillors reviewed the anticipated costs associated with the transfer. Initial expenditure was estimated at approximately £650 for the tagging, identification, and mapping of all trees within the woodland, together with a contingency allowance of £6,000 for any preliminary tree works considered necessary following further inspections. In addition, ongoing annual costs for routine inspections, maintenance, and management of the woodland were estimated to be in the region of £3,000 per annum.

A number of Councillors expressed concern regarding the long-term financial implications for the Parish Council, together with the ongoing workload, health and safety responsibilities, and liabilities associated with managing a public woodland. Members acknowledged that ownership would require the Council to commit to regular inspections and proactive management to ensure the continued safety and accessibility of the site for residents and visitors.

However, Councillors also recognised the significant community and environmental value of Grigsons Wood. Members noted that taking ownership would help secure the long-term protection of the woodland for public enjoyment and preserve an important natural asset within the parish. Concern was also expressed that, should the land remain under District Council ownership, there was the possibility that it could in future be sold to a third party, potentially resulting in restricted public access or future development pressures on the site.

Following further discussion, Cllr Blades proposed that the Parish Council proceed with the transfer and take ownership of the woodland. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Denham.

Upon being put to the vote, seven Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and two voted against.

The Parish Council resolved to proceed with the transfer and take ownership of the woodland known as Grigsons Wood, extending from The Poplars to The Park.

## **12. PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS**

The Council approved the purchase of replacement parts to the small play tower at a cost of £1884. Costs to be drawn from The Town Improvement Fund

## **13. CO- OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

Five candidates were invited to address the Council and provide a brief introduction outlining their background, experience, and reasons for seeking co-option to the Parish Council. Following the presentations, Councillors considered the applications and proceeded to vote by secret ballot in accordance with the Council's co-option procedure. Following the count of votes, Mr Nicholas Johnson of Gallants Lane received the majority support of Members and was therefore duly co-opted to the Parish Council.

#### **14. COMPLETION OF AUDIT**

The Council approved the annual audit report carried out by the Council's approved auditor  
Mrs C Bailey

#### **15. CORRESPONDED RECEIVED/CLERKS REPORT**

- a) Anti-Social Behaviour reported with books taken from the book shed and burnt. Police now involved
- b) Three Squirrels – new information signs now installed at Play Park, Grass had had first cut. Dog waste bins registered with Serco for emptying schedule.
- c) New white welcome signs installed at Middle Harling to encourage safer driving
- d) Martyn's Law – The Home office has published its statutory guidance for the Terrorism Act 2025. Clerk will update the Council as an when further resources are available
- e) Meeting arranged between Breckland Council and users of the 'bike jumps' in Grigsons wood
- f.) Bench and bin on Kenninghall Road. /Jubilee Avenue to be removed due to safety concerns

#### **16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Annual Parish Council Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> May