

Minutes of the Meeting of Freethorpe Parish Council, serving Freethorpe & Wickhampton, held Monday 16th June 2025 at 7:00pm at Freethorpe Village Hall

Present:, Paul Bacon (PB), Michael Blake (MB), Paul Crisp (PC), Andrew Moll (AM, Parish Clerk), Grant Nurden (GN, also District Councillor).

Also present: John Fleetwood (JF, Tree Warden), 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies

Nick Spencer (NS, Chairman), David Lake (DL, Vice-chairman), Andrea Rowlands (AR), Lana Hemsall (LH, County Councillor). In the absence of the chair and vice-chair, GN proposed MB to chair the meeting, seconded by PB, carried unanimously.

2. Public Forum

- a) County Councillor Report – none.
- b) District Councillor Report - GN advised that he has resigned as a Conservative member to become an Independent member of Broadland District Council. This will result in changes to his committee roles at the council. He has awarded his Member's Grant to Beighton Village Hall and Halvergate Playing Field projects.
- c) Tree Wardens' Report - JF reported that he supports an application to carry out limited tree surgery on an oak tree at Walpole Way. He was very concerned that someone had tightened the ties on the Jubilee Oak and Janet Church Memorial tree at the Village Hall. This would inhibit correct root growth. JF's offer to fix the problem next day was gratefully approved. The message to be relayed to the Village Hall Chair. **ACTION AM**
- d) Cluster Meeting – MB and GN attended the meeting on 10th June. MB provided a report, and the following items were discussed: (1) Annual Parish Meeting format – some councils make a public event of this, agenda item to discuss in July **ACTION MB** (2) We should explore TRODS (informal footpath networks) (3) Planners are in short supply.
- e) Local Government Review – letter from the County Council was noted. GN advised that if this goes ahead, district councils will cease to exist by 2028. JF was concerned that the role of tree wardens may be squeezed out in this re-organisation.
- f) Public items – None.

3. Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda

As a substitute member of Broadland's Planning Committee GN cannot discuss Broadland planning applications in agenda item 9. There were no other declarations.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th May 2025

The minutes were **agreed** as an accurate record and were duly signed by MB.

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- a) (6c) Check usage of EVCPs – carry forward. **ACTION AM**
- b) (8g) Follow up footpath and access needs (AM) – query logged with Highways, but also need to check the options for TRODS, item 2d refers. **ACTION AM**
- c) (10b) Confirm play area inspection service (AM) – this continues on the current basis.
- d) Other matters arising – none.

6. Clerk's Report

- a) Norfolk ALC guidance on spam emails was noted.
- b) The Great Collaboration to support councils in addressing climate breakdown was noted.
- c) The Travel East Travel Behaviour Report was noted.

- d) ICO certification was noted. GN observed that we should get a £5 reduction for paying by direct debit. He also queried whether all councillors should have gov.uk emails. The plan is to test first with NS.

7. Finance

- a) Monthly Financial Update – first of the new year, was reviewed and **approved**.

Income	£ 8,965.50	Bank balance	£34,199.76
Expenditure	£ 6,654.47	Forecast end year balance	£15,367.13

There is a CIL balance of £13,092.62 available for community infrastructure projects.

- b) Payments - it was **agreed** to make the following payments:
(SO1) Calica Computer Solutions **£30.00** - Speed machine management
(SO2) Mr A & Mrs MC Moll **£207.33** - Clerk Salary.
(DD) Information Commissioner's Office **£47.00** – registration.

- c) Receipts – noted:

(1) Broadland District Council **£62.46** textile recycling credits 2024-25.

- d) It was noted that business banking accounts have been transferred to paper-free.

8. Correspondence

- a) The discontinuation of paper bank services was noted.
b) The email from the developer regarding land north of Palmers Lane was noted.
c) Age UK activities and events were noted.

9. Planning

- a) New applications – 60 Lower Green – annexe change of use 2025/1390. There were **no objections**.
b) Decisions – 2024/3521 east of 12 The Green approval with conditions was noted.
c) Enforcements – one open case was noted. This has been in the process of closure for some time. MB advised that there is a national shortage of planners, which is also affecting Broadland.
d) Affordability / viability check for Green View Way – carry forward.
e) Design Code 3rd stage consultation closes on 23rd June.

10. Update on Ongoing Matters and Projects

- a) Speed Management- Figures are for May 2025. 85th percentile speeds on the Green near the Manor House facing Reedham increased from 30.4mph to 30.8. 82% of vehicles kept within the speed limit. At the end of the Common the figure decreased from 31.8mph to 29.6. Nearly 90% of vehicles kept within the speed limit, compared to only 75% at this location last time. There were 16,961 vehicles on the Common and 27,963 on the Green.
b) Play Area & Asset Inspections – the Annual Inspections at Freethorpe and Wickhampton were received. No significant issues were raised.
c) Wickhampton Pond –Awaiting advice from Norfolk Wildlife Trust on how material could be safely transported and disposed of off site and the costs. When this is available, a sub-committee will be called to agree the plans for the autumn.
d) Rampant Horse – PC advised that the pub remains up for sale or lease.
e) Solar Panels for the Village Hall – carry forward, noting that Freethorpe School and Reedham Village Hall are also exploring this.

11. Other Matters

PB raised the cutting of verges at Callow Pit corner.

12. Reports from Parish Councillors and items for next agenda

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 21st July 2025 7PM, Freethorpe Village Hall.

14. Exclusion of the Press and Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to consider the following item of business: None

The meeting closed at 8:18 pm.

Signed after approval by the Parish Council as being a true and accurate record by the Chair of the meeting or authorised deputy	Chair Nick Spencer	Date
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