

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE HONINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL **MEETING HELD ON** **WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER AT 7:30pm**

Councillors Present: Paul Blyth, Sally Blyth, Ryan Harvey (Chair) and Bernie Perrett.

Members of the Public Present: 14

Clerk: Samantha Bromley

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J. Dean (alternative commitment).

2. Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, dated Wednesday 10th September 2025, were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest.

- 3.1. No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest, on any subject on the agenda, was received.
- 3.2. No dispensation requests were received.

4. To receive updates on matters not elsewhere on the agenda.

- 4.1. It was noted that the broken Colton Road sign at the top of Colton Road has been repaired by the Borough Council. However, it has been reported to the Council that the sign has been installed at a higher level and now sits directly in your eyeline as you pull out onto the junction – Clerk to report to Borough Council as hazardous.
- 4.2. To receive an update on the blocked drain at the bottom of Mill Lane. DEFERRED.
- 4.3. It was noted that the highways sign indicating the crossroads when approaching Mattishall has been cleared of overgrown vegetation. The tree on Norwich Road has also been cut back and the verge at the junction of Colton Road has been trimmed.
- 4.4. It was noted that, following clarification, there was an error in the previous meeting's report regarding the SAM2 schedule. Honingham Parish Council will now take receipt of the SAM2 unit in February 2026, rather than October 2025 as previously stated.
- 4.5. It was noted that the Council has received a pack of 12 saplings awarded by the Woodland Trust which are to be planted towards the back of the Village Green. - Cllr S. Blyth to display a notice seeking volunteers, with a provisional planting date of either Saturday 22nd or Sunday 23rd. Clerk to complete the required risk assessment.
- 4.6. It was noted that a resident, with 20 years of experience in groundwork on building sites, has volunteered his services to install a post for the traffic mirror, free of charge to the Council.
- 4.7. It was noted that following concerns previously raised regarding the continuous roadside parking of a road sweeper, the Parish Council has received confirmation from the driver that it will no longer be parked in the village.
- 4.8. It was noted that a 'No access to A47' sign has been installed on Mattishall Road where you turn right into Honingham, coming from Norwich.

5. Correspondence.

- 5.1. A47 News: A47 North Tuddenham to Easton improvement scheme - Wood Lane (B1535) Full Road Closure. Noted & on website.
- 5.2. A47 News: A47 North Tuddenham to Easton - Full Road Closure CRM-0224309. Noted & on website.
- 5.3. Breckland Council: Breckland Local Plan Consultation Event. Noted.
- 5.4. District Council: Rough Sleeper Street Count 2025 BDC November 12th. Noted.
- 5.5. District Council: PSPO (Dog Control) signs. Noted.
- 5.6. NCC: Norfolk County Council's Budget Consultation 2026-27 . Noted.
- 5.7. Groundwork: Introducing Groundwork's landscape architecture team. Noted.

- 5.8. Transport Made Simple: Acquisition of Go-East Anglia and Passenger First Network Engagement. Noted.
- 5.9. Heathersett PC: Greater Norwich Unitary Council Presentation + Q&A - Heathersett PC Ordinary Meeting- 17th November 2025, 7.30pm. Noted
- 5.10. Norwich Western Link: Request to town and parish councils on the Local Liaison Group re. support for Norwich Western Link options assessment work. Noted.
- 5.11. Resident: A47 / Western Link Local Liaison Group Meeting 22.10.25. Noted. - Council to participate in the proposed Roads Co-ordination Group with Honingham, Ringland, Colton and Marlingford Parish Councils, aiming to improve communication between the parishes.

6. Public Participation and Reports.

- 6.1. County Cllr Greg Peck provided an update on devolution, explaining that next May there will be an election for a mayor covering Norfolk and Suffolk. The mayor will have responsibility for police and crime, major infrastructure projects and will be able to draw down significant funding directly, unlike the current system where councils must apply for funds. He outlined the proposal for a single unitary council, which would replace the County Council and district councils under the elected mayor. Norfolk County Council has proposed a single unitary structure for cost efficiency, with the final decision resting with the Government Minister. As the mayoral election and transition to a unitary council will not coincide, an elected County Councillor will work alongside the Mayor for approximately one year to prepare for the new council. He also highlighted the NCC budget consultation, noting that residents can provide feedback on potential council tax changes and service cuts as the council seeks to reduce spending by £47 million. Cllr Peck outlined a £5,000 community fund for local projects, with amounts under £500 allocated immediately and requests between £500 and £2,000 reviewed electronically and potentially added to NCC's crowd-funding platform to double contributions. He confirmed there is £12,000 for local highways projects. Finally, he explained that under the unitary model, Parish Councils would likely take on slightly more responsibility, with possible quarterly meetings to provide input on matters affecting the local area.
- 6.2. District Cllr Peter Bulman provided an update on local governance and planning matters. The district councils have reviewed options and decided on a three-unitary authority model for Norfolk. Breckland District Council is proposing a substantial development of approximately 800 houses, including a garden village, school and health club, with a public meeting scheduled for 19th November at the Breckland Town Council offices, giving residents an opportunity to comment on this major countryside development. Finally, Cllr Bulman confirmed firm opposition to a proposed solar farm in Alder due to potential disruption.
- 6.3. The Police were not present.
- 6.4. Jim Freeman was not present.
- 6.5. An update was provided following attendance at October's A47 open day. Questions were raised regarding traffic calming measures, with confirmation that any measures would be wide enough to allow large vehicles to pass through. Attendees also reviewed the updated map, which appeared largely unchanged from previous versions.
- 6.6. Open forum for members of the public:
 - 6.6.1. The Council was asked whether the replacement play equipment has been installed and noted concern that only one of the two slides are resting on protective ground mesh. – Clerk to report to supplier.
 - 6.6.2. It was reported that the outdoor gym equipment on the village green was seen being used by someone this week.
 - 6.6.3. The Council was asked whether it has powers in relation to private CCTV, to which the Council responded that it does not and instead to report concerns to the ICO or police.

7. Playground.

- 7.1. It was noted that the replacement play equipment has now been installed in the playground, however, a fence has been accidentally left on-site. – Clerk to report for collection.
- 7.2. The Annual Playground Inspection Report was reviewed. It was noted that several items require ongoing monitoring, however, the report highlighted that the two swing sets had rotten legs and required immediate action; these have been taken out of use. - Cllr R. Harvey to remove the swings from the frame. In addition, the exercise equipment was noted to contravene British standards. – Clerk to investigate.
- 7.3. It was noted that a resident of the parish has kindly volunteered to apply the annual coat of teak oil to the war memorial bench. It was RESOLVED to AGREE to spend up to £15.00 on the treatment oil. Proposed Cllr R. Harvey, seconded Cllr S. Blyth.

8. Planning Matters.

- 8.1. To consider a consultee response to applications received from Broadland District Council: None.
- 8.2. To consider a consultee response to any other applications received from Broadland District Council after the publication of the agenda:
(<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning-applications/find-planning-application>).
- 8.2.1. 2025/3500 - Land North Of A47 Dereham Road Honingham Norfolk - Removal of the existing 15m monopole with headframe (18m to the top) and 3 no. antennas, and installation of a 22.5m monopole with headframe, 3 no. antennas, 3 no. transmission dishes, and ancillary development thereto. NO OBJECTION.
- 8.3. To receive notifications of decisions made by Broadland District Council:
- 8.3.1. 2025/2957 – Merryhill Country Park, Telegraph Hill, Honingham, Norfolk, NR9 5AT – Demolition of clubhouse building. PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED. Noted.

9. Financial & Governance Matters

- 9.1. Bank reconciliations for September 2025 and October 2025 were received and noted.
- 9.2. The External Audit Report was received and noted. No further action required.
- 9.3. The Council noted the Conclusion of Audit.
- 9.4. Mr. Robin Goreham was appointed as the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2025-26 at a cost of £70.00. Proposed Cllr R. Harvey, seconded Cllr B. Perrett.
- 9.5. It was noted that the following payments were made in October 2025:

Payee	Description	Method	Net	VAT	Gross
Staffing	Salary/Tax/Ni/WFHA	BACS	£558.43	£0.00	£558.43

- 9.6. It was RESOLVED to AGREE the following payments. Proposed Cllr S Blyth, seconded Cllr P. Blyth:

Payee	Description	Method	Net	VAT	Gross
Staffing	Salary/Tax/Ni/WFHA	BACS	£578.34	£0.00	578.34
The Play Inspection Company Ltd	Annual Playground Inspection Report	BACS	£155.00	£31.00	£186.00
Caloo	Replacement Play Equipment & Repositioning of Rocking Horse	BACS	£17,647.50	£3,529.50	£21,177.00

E G Grounds Care Ltd	Grass Cutting (1267)	BACS	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00
E G Grounds Care Ltd	Grass Cutting (1292)	BACS	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	BACS	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00
Clerk	Mileage	BACS	£27.00	£0.00	£27.00

10. Members Matters

None.

11. Public Participation.

None.

12. Items for the next meeting.

- 12.1. To receive an update on the asset inspection.
- 12.2. To receive an update on the blocked drain at the bottom of Mill Lane.

13. Next meeting of the council.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7:30pm in the Honingham Village Hall.

It was RESOLVED to AGREE, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude members of the press and public for the following confidential items.

14. Staffing.

The Council noted the receipt of an application for the temporary Clerk and RFO maternity cover position. The Clerk and Cllr S. Blyth provided feedback to the Council on their meeting with the applicant. Following consideration, the Council resolved to appoint the applicant, Tiffany Cox to the role of Temporary Clerk and RFO maternity cover, commencing 1st January 2026.

Meeting closed at 8:37pm