

Horsford Parish Council

Minutes

Meeting of Horsford Parish Council held on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7pm in the Conference Room, Village Hall, Horsford

In Attendance: Cllr Brown (Chair), Cllr Bone, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Collins, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Keeler, Cllr Makinson, Cllr Overton, Cllr Stallard-Mulford, Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Nich Starling (District Councillor), Sarah Vergette (Clerk) and three members of the public.

- 1. Apologies & Approval of absence.** Cllr Adams (County Councillor). Cllr Bell had resigned, and the Clerk had informed Broadland District Council, the appropriate notices will be displayed.
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Members of VHMC, Cllrs Brown, Keeler and Makinson, declared an interest in village hall matters.
- 3. To approve as accurate minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated were **approved** and signed as a true record. It was noted that the date of the allotment inspection would be Sunday 22nd March 2026.

4. Public Participation

4.1 Public. The Parish Council was thanked for attending to various issues raised at the previous meeting.

4.2 County Councillor. Cllr Adams sent a report which had been circulated and was noted.

4.3 District Councillor. Cllr Starling reported: Council Tax -Despite significant cutbacks and funding constraints from the Government, Broadland District Council set a 0% rise last week, meaning that the council tax will again be frozen this year for the elements that come to Broadland District Council. Obviously, the majority of the council tax bill goes to Norfolk County Council and the police and crime commissioner, and they have put their share up.

It looks like very few councils across the country will be able to set a 0% rise this year, so this is a significant achievement.

The Nest - Padel Court Grant - It was agreed last week at the full Council meeting to grant money to The Nest, to support the building of new paddle spot PADEL facilities. I know the parish have expressed their difficulties in dealing with The Nest and securing access for Horsford residents in particular to this facility within the parish. However, The Nest supports a wide and diverse range of groups with special needs and many others who struggle to access sports, and this facility will, I'm sure, support residents of Horsford who do use The Nest.

Local government review - We still await news from the government on this. We were told at our budget setting meeting that the council has allocated anything up to £1 million to deal with this. It seems strange that a local government review, supposedly designed to save money, has already incurred significant expense and possibly hundreds of thousands of pounds more. What a waste of time.

4.3 Police Report. No report.

5. Village Hall/Recreation Ground

- 5.1** There has been an issue with the drains, this was due to root ingress in the pipes. The drains have been cleared. However, to prevent further incidents it was suggested that the bushes at the front of the village hall should be removed. The clerk will obtain quotes. The area could then be grassed.
- 5.2** Cllr Keeler suggested that the Social Club should be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss amendments to their lease which would include the toilet area. It was noted that the Social Club would benefit from the refurbished toilets. It was also noted that their accounts had not been presented to the Council as set out in the current lease.
- 5.3** The clerk had circulated a report regarding the changing room project. It was noted that the S106 monies had attracted interest in the sum of £19,000 which could be added to the project. The clerk is trying to obtain quotes for solar panels.

6. Action Points

A document had been prepared and circulated to show all actions arising from previous meetings. Highways had asked if the Parish Council would agree to them installing posts in Mill Lane to protect the BT pole and covers, it was agreed to ask for more information to better understand where the posts would be placed.

The clerk will follow up on various outstanding matters and update the Action Points accordingly. There was discussion relating to dangerous trees, the clerk will write to the landowners of the trees concerned.

Regarding the Northern roundabout, Cllr Adams has agreed that the Parish Council can use his annual grant to fund works to the roundabout island, to level it and grass it in readiness for the Parish Council to take over the maintenance. Hopefully the new County Councillor will honour this agreement following the local elections.

7.

7.1 To approve payments

a.	A Makinson	Zoom	£16.79
b.	VHMC	Hire	£84.00
c.	HMRC	Tax & NI	£1270.94
d.	Clerk	Salary & Expenses	£2827.11
e.	Baby Bean	Toilet Cleaning	£400.00
f.	SSE	Electricity	£321.37
g.	Vortex	Grounds maintenance	£781.60
h.	Mark Andrews	Gardening Services	£45.00
i.	Horsford Village Hall	Grant	£7570.00
j.	Broadland DC	Dog bins	£592.80
k.	Broadland DC	Litter bins	£592.80
l.	Anglian Water	Corner Lane	£14.40
m.	Anglian Water	Crown Hill	£19.44
n.	Play inspection Company		£282.00
o.	O'Neill Homer		£2700.00

Approved

It was agreed to look for an alternative company to carry out playground inspections.

7.2 To approve bank reconciliation. Approved.

7.3 The Sport England grant application had been successful and £15,000 has been paid into the bank account.

7.4 It was **agreed** to re-appoint Maureen Anderson-Dungar as the Internal Auditor.

7.5 The Asset register was noted and agreed.

7.6 The date of the next Finance Committee meeting was set for Tuesday 17th March at 6.30pm. S106 monies will be discussed.

8. Planning Matters

8.1 To discuss amended planning application 2026/0020 – Change of use 5366.8m² horticultural warehouse to a mixed-use comprising Class E Commercial Business and Service to B8 Storage and Storage uses at Kieft and Sons Limited, Reepham Road. No objection.

8.2 To discuss planning application 2026/0371 – Flat to mono pitched roof to the rear and side. Canopy/porch to front. Bay windows to the front and first floor side (South) windows and internal re-modelling at 81 Angela Road. No objections.

8.3 The GNLP Call for Sites was noted.

9. BAP

9.1 To note BAP report. Noted.

10. Highways

10.1 The Parish Council arranged to hold a meeting with the Highway Engineer to discuss forthcoming works to the northern Roundabout. The Engineer had arranged the bus gate cameras to be suspended for the duration of the works -three days. A report of the meeting had been circulated and was noted.

10.2 Cllr Johnson explained that the layout of the northern roundabout being offset from the Holt Road causes tyre scrub when lorries brake and their wheels lock. Thus, a pothole is created, and a large surface of the tarmac is damaged. It was acknowledged that this is a never-ending problem that will cause ongoing cost. The entrance to the Forestry England site is very dangerous as there is a large drop. The clerk will write again to Forestry England.

10.3 An email had been received concerning parking on Angela Road; the clerk had contacted the Police who will monitor the situation.

10.4 The white gates at the entrances to the village need to be cleaned. The clerk will obtain prices. David Wilson Homes will be contacted to ask them to arrange to clean the white gates at the entrance to their site. It was also noted that the grass area on the corner of the estate adjacent to the northern roundabout was unkempt, the clerk will include this in her correspondence to DWH.

11. Allotments

11.1 An allotment inspection will be carried out on 22nd March. Cllr Keeler and the clerk will read the water meters

12. Correspondence

12.1 The Big Broadland Litter Pick was noted. This is open to all groups in the parish.

12.2 A grant request had been received from the Rivers Trust; this will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.

13. Clerk and Councillors Reports

13.1 The Clerk's report was noted.

13.2 Cllr Keeler stated that the corner where Green Lane meets Kingfisher Estate floods badly. The road has not been adopted, and it appears the soakaway is not working. The clerk will inform Highways

14. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is currently set for **Tuesday 7th April at 7pm** in the Conference Room of the Village Hall. Items for the next agenda to be sent to the clerk by Monday 30th March 2026.

15. Dates for Future meetings: to commence at 7pm in the Conference Room, Village Hall.

- Tuesday 7th April,
- Tuesday 5th May,
- Monday 1st June,
- Monday 6th July,
- Monday 3rd August,
- Monday 7th September,
- Monday 5th October,
- Monday 2nd November,
- Monday 7th December

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Chairman

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Date