

SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: David Napier

Vice Chairman: Andy Thornton

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL on 11 November 2024 at 7.30pm at SHROPHAM VILLAGE HALL

Those in attendance: David Napier, Cliff Allen, Lesley Brown, Peter Bush,
Wayne Linge, Rob Wylie

1. **Apologies for absence**
Andrew Thornton and Phil Cowen.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2024.**
The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **To record any Declarations of Interest and to consider any requests for Dispensations from Council Members.**
None.
4. **Guest speakers (County Councillor/District Councillor)**
D Napier read the latest report from Phil Cowen.

“November 2024 District Councillors’ report

As autumn unfolds Breckland Council has commenced the budget setting process for the year 2025-26 and this time we are facing unprecedented financial pressures. At the last Cabinet meeting we learned that the 2024 Quarter 1 figures showed a potential year end overspend of £826,000. Cabinet next week will learn that in Quarter 2 this overspend has reduced to £481,000 helped in no small measure by the income we receive from investments and cash generated through loans, but the underlying trend is for costs, over which we have no control, rising. These factors outside of the council’s control include:

- a significant fall off in planning income (£417k)
- increased costs around housing and temporary accommodation (£500+k)
- increased costs from NCC closing Shipdham waste transfer site and additional recycling costs (£600k)

However, we are able to mitigate for this year some of these cost pressures by redirecting cash from the general fund, but this still leaves the remainder of the year with uncertainty around such costs and income and we must maintain a balance in the general fund sufficient to meet unknown demands.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ
Tel: 01842 829821 Email: clerk@shrophamparishcouncil.gov.uk
<http://shrophamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

In addition, the budget announcements will have an impact on us at District Council level and we are awaiting the detail behind some of the headline announcements specifically around what the financial settlement will be, what proportion of some of the additional monies announced, for example, for disabled facilities grants and homelessness will fall to us at district level.

It is against this background that Breckland Council is looking at both income and expenditure streams within the council to ensure that our core priorities for the provision of both statutory and discretionary services can be maintained, particularly for those who are most vulnerable in our society. In the meantime, we are reviewing our budget proposals that will be sent out for consultation in December 2024.

We have today published our public consultation questionnaire that is available by following the banner and links at <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/>

Year on year our car parks cost the council some £450,000 to run and maintain and that cost is met by every council tax payer irrespective of whether they are a user of our car parks or not. Views of residents and businesses alike are being sought to assist us in making an informed decision on for example, the most appropriate charging regime. This will assist us in directing resources and funding to support those vital non statutory services that are essential for so many of our residents and communities.

Much has been discussed around the local plan review that was on track to meet the project programme but the government has introduced a revised National Planning Policy Framework that was consulted upon through August and September. The implications of the proposals contained therein coupled with the new policy of mandatory and increased housing targets (in Breckland an increase of 39%, or from 661 to 918 houses per year) has meant that most of the evidence used to formulate the local plan thus far is no longer valid. Consequently, Cabinet agreed to pause the process and await clarity from Westminster. We are advised that the result of the NPPF consultation will be available by the end of the calendar year and that legislation will follow during the first quarter of 2025. Until such time as there is clarity regarding the legislative framework and the NPPF we are unable to rely on our current local plan.

Councillors Sarah Suggitt and Philip Cowen”

P Bush mentioned that the report gives no indication of what income is earned in respect of these costs. It would be easier to form a balanced view if we were aware of the full position. P Bush will raise this question with P Cowen.

5. **Planning – Applications**

a. **Local Plan Update**

See Report above.

b. **Enforcement**

Additional time has been allowed in respect of the Bradcar Road property. If not addressed, formal enforcement may be necessary.

In respect of Low Road there is a new agent appointed and retrospective applications are expected.

These are unlikely to be discussed by the end of the year.

A message has been sent to P Cowen expressing concern about the time these matters are taking.

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6. **Finance – to approve and report the following expenditure:-**

- a. To approve salary payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman for the month of November in the sum of £310.63.
- b. To approve payment to Shropham Village Hall for hall hire on 11 November 2024 in the sum of £10.00 (invoice SHR526).
- c. To ratify salary payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman for the month of October in the sum of £310.63.

Proposed by P Bush seconded by L Brown. All voted in favour.

7. **To discuss, propose and vote on the following matters:-**

a. **Donation to the Poppy Appeal**

A discussion took place as to whether a donation to the Poppy Appeal should be made. A vote was taken with a 4/2 result in support of a donation. D Napier proposed a donation of £100, seconded by P Bush. It was therefore **AGREED** a donation of £100 would be made to the Poppy Appeal.

8. **Matters to Report**

a. **Financial Balances**

£9,224.56

b. **Parish Land/Land Registry**

Nothing to report, A Thornton will continue to chase the Solicitors.

c. **Highways**

The proposed extension of the 40mph limit is currently with the legal department. It is expected to progress in the next 3-4 weeks.

Bradcar Road has been scraped and the top taken off the grass. This is either routine maintenance or works carried out after an inspection.

B Slinn has raised the issue of the brambles along the footpath. D Napier will follow this up.

d. **Norfolk Strategic Flooding Authority**

D Napier circulated a leaflet from the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Authority which sets out riparian responsibilities and if an individual does not maintain a watercourse under their riparian responsibility, they can be fined up to £1,000. A Thornton sits on the East Harling Drainage Board.

e. **Ruth Green fundraising appeal**

Ruth is participating in the Cromer to Holt half marathon on 11 May 2025. This is purely for information only, should anyone wish to support her.

9. **Any items to be noted for the next Agenda**

Budget

10. **Correspondence**

None.

The Chairman will ask for any further matters from the public participation.

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11. To agree date for next meeting: Tuesday 28th January 2025.

Meeting closed at 7.52pm

Jo Blackman
Parish Clerk

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