

SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: David Napier

Vice Chairman: Andy Thornton

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL on 25 March 2025 at 7.30pm at SHROPHAM VILLAGE HALL

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

The Chairman opened the meeting to County Councillor Fabian Eagle who needed to leave for another meeting.

F Eagle reported that at the last budget the County Council had to make £42m savings. The Rural Services Grant was removed (£0.9m) together with other funding.

A new Adult Social Care Director has been appointed who has already been able to reduce the projected overspend by two thirds.

There will be additional hazardous waste dates added to the Spring diary, as well as the usual Autumn dates. These will be over seven weekends.

The dangerous junctions cut started by F Eagle has been adopted by the rest of the County, to be carried out during June and July.

There are more funds available within the Members' Budget.

£250K internal funding is to be spent on the high streets to assist the shops.

The devolution, creation of a combined Mayoral Strategic Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk is currently in consultation.

Local Government Reform will see the District Council and County Council disappear. There is not sufficient information at the present time to see what is the best option for a split of areas. There remains a lot to be discussed and resolved before it can proceed.

The extension of the 40mph speed limit at the end of the Hargham Road is under consultation until 8th April. This is expected to go ahead and an order of works should follow in due course.

With regards to a proposed speed reduction at the west end of the village, this would require a Traffic Regulation Order to be made but funds are not available.

F Eagle asked to be notified of any areas where potholes are an issue and require attention.

The Chairman thanked F Eagle for attending the meeting and F Eagle left.

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/>

1. **Apologies for absence**
None.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 28 January 2025.**
The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28 January 2025 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)**
None.
5. **Planning – Applications**
 - a. **PL/2025/0316/VAR** – Caravan, Rustic Lodge Low Road, Shropham, Norfolk -- Removal of condition 3 on planning reference 3PL/2023/0659/F. **Undecided.**
 - b. **PL/2025/0194/FMIN** - Rustic Lodge Low Road, Shropham, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1EH - Retention of existing workshop, stable and mobile home (retrospective application). **Undecided.**
5a and 5b were discussed together.
S Watts is permitted to remain on site on a five year rolling basis.
P Cowen believes the applications are not shown properly on the plans. There seems to be some confusion over St Juanita and Rustic Lodge. Both applications are for Rustic Lodge but one is shown at the front and one at the back of the site.
The workshop, stable and mobile home have to all be considered together.
The underlying problem is the disregard for the original application from 2020 when the then Applicant had planning permission refused for a new mobile home at the back of the site.
P Bush proposed that the Parish Council should object to both applications, in their entirety. To not do so would be a mockery of the planning system.
The Parish Council agreed to object to both applications as they have come about from a disregard of previous decisions and cannot be allowed to set a precedent.
 - c. **PL/2025/0268/OMIN** - East Cottage Watton Road, Shropham, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DY - Erection of one self-build dwelling. The Applicant explained that he was unable to apply for an annexe as Breckland Council will not permit them to install its own kitchen. He explained that he requires help from his son to maintain the land and without his help, he will be unable to stay at East Cottage. D Napier explained that he had read through the application twice but could see little change from the previous application and there are many issues which have not been addressed. The site is outside of the village boundary. The Parish Council advised that they would review the application in more detail and submit their comments.

P Cowen advised that an outline planning application gives Breckland Council the ability to dictate how a property is to be built when full planning is applied for.

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/>

P Cowen advised that he does not know what will come of village boundaries in the future. His personal opinion is that there should not be a settlement boundary. The Local Plan review is currently on hold but as it stands, Breckland does not have a 5 year housing land supply which means they are vulnerable to properties being built where they would not normally be approved. There will be a more comprehensive approach to how and when villages should grow. Great Hockham is becoming urban due to lots of gardens being built upon within its settlement boundary.

There is a new Call for Sites starting on 31st March which runs through to 28th April. There is likely to be a few 'windfall' sites available ie farmers land but it takes, on average, over 10 years to get large sites to the building stage.

- d. **PL/2025/0072/HOU** – Linwood Cottage, Watton Road, Shropham, NR17 1DY – Propose 2 storey rear extension, to include demolition of the existing garage and conservatory. **Undecided. Revised application to be considered.**

The Applicants were in attendance asked why a representative of the Council had been to see their neighbours but had not been to see them. P Bush advised that it was his intention to visit them but work commitments had prevented him from doing so.

The Applicants advised that they had taken the plans to both neighbours and have been transparent with them. They explained that they had been to see the owners of Lynwood Farm today and they appeared to be happy with the revised plans.

With regards to the septic tank, this has always been within the boundary of Lynwood Farm and it would cost a lot of money to be connected to mains sewage.

The garage has been demolished and the asbestos removed. There will be an in and out entrance created at the front of the house so access will not be a problem.

P Bush will visit the Applicants as soon as work permits.

- e. **PL/2025/0051/VAR** – 8 Harper Close, Shropham – Variation of condition 2 on pp 3PL/2017/0311/F – larger garage proposed. **Withdrawn, to be resubmitted.** A site visit was made by the Planning Officer. The roof is to be reduced slightly and a new application will be submitted in due course.

- f. **PL/2025/0029/PAAF** – Spinney Farm, Watton Road, Shropham, NR17 1EA – Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Erection of an Agricultural Storage Building for Agricultural use, The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) – Schedule 2, Part 6. **Prior approval not required.**

- g. **Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution**

P Cowen explained that there are two components Devolution and Reform. These have previously been linked together. Devolution is not considered to be a bad thing but P Cowen feels it is wrong for Norfolk/Suffolk. Norfolk and Suffolk covers a huge area and it is very challenging to prioritise how it may work. Norfolk and Suffolk are very different in many ways. It is proposed that a Mayoral Office will be created to cover such a large area but it will require three unitary areas to operate properly. It is felt that villages and counties will lose out as they will not have a voice.

There is real concern regarding tax bands. Breckland currently has one of the lowest bands but there will be an estimated 25-50% increase with no better service.

A preferred solution would be to have three unitary authorities, East, West and City. Breckland Council is currently debt free, if we join forces, we take on debt of other authorities.

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/>

Devolution is not bad provided it is handled correctly. It takes a long time for change and P Cowen does not believe we will see the savings that Central Government seem to believe we will and services will be affected.

The initial proposal was submitted on 21st March and we await the outcome.

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

- a. To ratify payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman for the month of March in the sum of £328.27.
- b. To ratify salary payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman for the month of February in the sum of £310.63.
- c. To approve payment to Shropham Village Hall for hall hire on 25 March 2025 in the sum of £10.00.

Proposed by D Napier seconded by P Bush. All voted in favour.

7. **Matters to Report**

- a. **Financial Balances**
£7,686.82
- b. **Parish Partnership Scheme**
The new scheme usually begins in September when we can consider whether to apply.
- c. **Parish Land/Land Registry**
The agreement currently has a peppercorn rent but this needs to be formalised to protect the Parish Council's position. The land has not been used for the last couple of years and the Parish Councils needs to consider a long term agreement in the future.
- d. **Highways**
As per F Eagle's report.
- e. **Bins**
P Cowen advised that a food collection will come into force starting with commercial properties and then residential properties by the end of the year.

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

None.

9. **Correspondence**

An update from Manor Farm has been received and circulated to all Councillors.

10. To agree date for next meeting: Tuesday 13th May 2025 (including AGM).

Meeting closed at 9.38pm

Jo Blackman
Parish Clerk

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/>