

SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: David Napier

Vice Chairman: Peter Bush

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 7.30pm at SHROPHAM VILLAGE HALL

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

Others in attendance: County Councillor Scott Hussey
District Councillor Phil Cowen

Members of the public: 1

1. **Apologies for absence**
None.
2. **To approve the Minutes for the Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026.**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman, D Napier.
3. **To record any Declarations of Interest and to consider any requests for Dispensations from Council Members.**
W Linge - PL/2026/0115/HOU (5e)

D Napier closed the meeting to enable the Applicant to present the updated planning application at 5f.

- 5f. **PL/2026/0090/HOU** - Old Thatched Cottage Watton Road, Shropham, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DY - Proposed two-storey side extension and installation of two new dormer windows to the front elevation of the existing dwelling.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Daisy Barn, 42 Long Lane, Feltwell, Norfolk, IP26 4BJ
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The Applicant explained that her Agent has asked the Case Officer to consider several revisions to the above planning application. They have previously submitted a 1 ½ and a 1 storey revision.

Breckland Council have suggested a linear revision, but the Applicant explained that this would not work as it would most certainly block the neighbouring property.

The current revised application is for 1 ½ storey extension with mezzanine floor, and a Design and Access Statement has been filed today.

The Applicant explained that they are expecting the revised application to fail and it is their intention to Appeal the decision, if this should prove to be the case.

They have been told that the extension of time due date has been extended until the end of July.

P Cowen advised that, as Ward Member, he has asked the Case Officer to attend the site in person and to explain why these applications would be refused. P Cowen advised that the Case Officer is looking at a flat elevation and it is difficult to make an informed decision without seeing the site in person. The property is set back from the road and he does not believe that it has any impact on any neighbours. One side of the site is an access road and does not have any direct neighbours.

P Cowen further stated that Breckland Council does not have a five-year housing supply and this is in the Applicant's favour.

P Bush, who had conducted a site visit, was shocked that the original application would be refused and suggested that if the Applicant were to appeal a decision, it may be worth appealing the original application, if that is their preferred option.

The Applicant thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

D Napier reopened the Council meeting.

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5. Planning – Applications

- a. **PL/2026/0732/VAR** – Home Farm, Bradcar Road, Shropham, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1EQ – Variation of condition 2 on pp 3PL/2023/0183/F (Design changes) and discharge of conditions 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15. **No objections.**
- b. **PL/2026/0596/HOU** – Berryfields, Watton Road, Shropham, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DY - Erection of a Detached Single storey outdoor sauna. (2.2m x 4.6m x 2.4m h) incorporating changing room and outdoor shower for personal use. **Granted with conditions.**
- c. **PL/2026/0423/DCA** - Land Off Hargham Road, Shropham, NR17 1DS - Discharge of Conditions 3, 11, 14, 16 and 18 on PP PL/2025/0489/FMIN. **No objections.**
- d. **PL/2026/0348/FMIN** – Rustic Lodge Low Road, Shropham, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1EH - Retention of existing workshop / store (retrospective application). **Granted with conditions. P Cowen advised that the conditions imposed are very vigorous. A discussion took place in relation to the separate enforcement matter. It was noted that the stable/summer room had been taken down but not removed from the site. Residential use of the mobile home at the back of the site has now ceased and the owner is selling the mobile home when it will then be removed from site.**
- e. **PL/2026/0115/HOU** - 8 Harper Close, Shropham, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1FX - Proposed constructing of a detached garage extension. **Granted with conditions.**
- f. **PL/2026/0090/HOU** - Old Thatched Cottage Watton Road , Shropham, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DY - Proposed two-storey side extension and installation of two new dormer windows to the front elevation of the existing dwelling. **See above.**
- g. **Enforcement**
Matters are progressing, nothing further to report at the current time.
- h. **Local Government Reorganisation, Devolution and Local Plan**
Local Plan - The amended Local Plan will go before Breckland Cabinet on the 30th July and if approved, will be sent out for consultation. It will then be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

This Local Plan is more robust than what we have seen previously.

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Breckland Council is unique and there have been some interesting changes to the Plan. Not a lot affects Shropham directly.

Breckland Council is falling short of the five-year land supply and it can therefore be a struggle to defend appeals and subsequently the Planning Inspectorate will then go on to approve them. The new Local Plan should regularise this position.

Some small sites throughout the Breckland area are coming to fruition. There remains a demand for 1 and 2 bedroom properties and the £39bn Social and Affordable Grant funding for affordable housing is proving successful.

Build costs for a 1 or 2 bedroom property are not largely different to that of a 3 or 4 bedroomed home but the profit margins are greatly reduced.

New legislation removes the requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain for small builders. The new legislation acknowledges that smaller developments (10 to 20 properties) are unlikely to achieve 25% of affordable housing so this has been reduced to 20%. Below 10 properties there is no requirement to provide affordable housing.

Devolution/LGR

The new Local Plan will merge with other Local Plans and be transferred to the new unitary authority.

4. Guest speakers (County Councillor/District Councillor)

County Councillor Scott Hussey

S Hussey introduced himself as the new County Councillor for Shropham and acknowledged the efforts of his predecessor, F Eagle.

S Hussey went on to give a snapshot of his previous working life.

He explained that this area was a hard fought area, being the largest, with 21 parishes.

S Hussey has also been appointed Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and is also the appointed Press Secretary for the Reform Group.

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Local Government Reorganisation ('LGR')

S Hussey explained that the Deputy Leader had written to the Minister to lodge an objection to the 3 unitary model.

A legal challenge will be raised to try and prevent LGR happening at all.

It is felt that the three unitary model creates more duplication of services and does not offer good value for money.

The debts of Norfolk County Council would be carried across to any new model.

S Hussey advised that weekly reports will be sent to the Clerk for forwarding on. He will try and attend as many meetings as possible.

Norfolk County Council have a new flag policy and the Ukranian flag has been taken down and there will be no Pride flag. The Norfolk County Council flag is now in position.

S Hussey advised that concerns had been raised about asylum seekers being housed in Watton. He confirmed that these people have now been moved out, some now living in Thetford. S Hussey advised that he had written to the Leader of Breckland Council expressing concerns, but so far he had not received a response.

Concerns have also been raised about the possibility of Barnham Camp near Thetford being used to house a large number of asylum seekers.

Central Government are required to consult local authorities before moving asylum seekers into an area. This they have failed to do.

Norfolk County Council have written to the Minister advising them that they are in breach of this requirement and it should not be happening.

This is of great concern and whilst it is recognised that asylum seekers have to be housed somewhere, Barnham Camp has no infrastructure or support network. Small rural towns and villages are not able to support these individuals and it is therefore not appropriate to house them so close to Thetford. It is not known how many the camp is proposed to hold but it could possibly be several hundred.

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

- a. To approve payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman for the month of May in the sum of £381.19.
- b. To approve payment to Shropham Village Hall for hall hire on 23rd June 2026 in the sum of £10.00.
- c. To approve payment to R Canwell for Internal Audit in the sum of £50 (not £45 as published).

All payments were approved.

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

- a. To adopt Receipts and Payments Schedule, Balance Sheet and Bank Reconciliation for Shropham Parish Council for the financial year 2025/26.
- b. To approve, sign and complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26.
- c. To approve, sign and complete the AGAR Exemption Certificate 2025/26.

Proposed by D Napier and seconded by W Linge, all voted in favour.

8. **Matters to Report**

a. **Financial Balances**

£11,151.20

b. **Painting of the telephone kiosk**

The Clerk explained that the plant kiosk team enquired whether it would be possible to paint the telephone kiosk with a 'stem to run up the left hand frame with the head of the flower, probably a sunflower, on the top left of the Telephone sign. Also, to paint 'Plant & Veg Exchange' on the two panels at the top left and right of the box.'

The Parish Council considered this request in some detail. Whilst no objection was raised in relation to the decoration, concern was raised that if the kiosk itself was painted and the plant exchange then ceased to operate, we would require the telephone kiosk be returned to its original condition. This can be very costly. The Parish Council suggested that an alternative may be to use stickers/vinyl which can be easily removed should the need occur. The Clerk will relay the decision.

c. **Asset Register**

In progress, almost complete.

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d. **Parish Land/Land Registry**

A Thornton and P Bush will be visiting the site on Friday.

e. **Fallen tree**

Branches of an ash tree have fallen on Parish Land at the rear of a property in Low Road. Access is very difficult and the residents of the property have kindly agreed for a tree surgeon to access the site from their side of the fence. Should further branches or the whole tree fall, this could be a danger to the residents of the property and/or could damage their property.

The tree surgeon, with the assistance of C Allen and the use of his cherry picker, will be removing the same tomorrow (24th June). An urgent quote of £880 (no VAT) has been obtained and D Napier proposed that given the urgent nature of this matter, this quote be accepted. Seconded by P Bush, all voted in favour.

f. **Highways**

D Napier updated S Hussey in relation to the recent 40mph limit at the far end of the village.

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

None.

10. **Correspondence**

D Napier advised that he had received details from the Village Hall Management Committee regarding the installation of a new hard parking area on the playing field. This was considered and it was proposed that the Village Hall should proceed with the installation as they wish. P Cowen advised that the Village Hall should take advice from an arborist as it is very important that no damage is caused to the hedge and/or the young oak tree. D Napier will pass on this information to the Village Hall Management Committee.

The Chairman opened the meeting for public participation.

11. To agree date for next meeting: Tuesday 29th September 2026.

Agreed.

Meeting closed: 8.35pm

Jo Blackman

Parish Clerk

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