

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WHEATACRE AND BURGH ST PETER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST JULY 2026 AT 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Cowin, English, Forrester, Hutton, Kerridge, Miller, Whyte, Cllr George Boyde
NCC and 3 members of the public

Meeting notes taken by Cllr Whyte

Declarations of Interest

None

Report from NCC Cllr George Boyd

Following the resignation of Sarah Taylor as Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) there was an election to fill the role on 16th July 2026. Colin Sutton, Reform UK: 32,647 (Elected).

Local Government Reorganisation remains one of the most significant issues facing Norfolk. In March 2026, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Steve Reed, announced the Government's decision to replace the existing two-tier system (Norfolk County Council plus seven district, city, and borough councils) with three new unitary authorities: Greater Norwich Council, East Norfolk Council, and West Norfolk Council. This is subject to Parliamentary approval via a Structural Changes Order, with implementation targeted for April 2028. Concerns have been raised about the Minister's decision reportedly going against civil service advice regarding financial resilience, service delivery, and geography. Judicial Review Development. On 25 June 2026, Norfolk County Council (under its new Reform UK administration) formally submitted a judicial review application to the High Court challenging the Government's decision making process.

The Highways Local Member Fund will not continue for new proposals this financial year. Instead, the funding is being reallocated to highways maintenance.

Norfolk Community Fund will not proceed in 2026/27. The funding is instead being transferred to Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, whose activity has increased by 73% over the last five years, partly due to extreme weather events and lithium-ion battery fires,

NCC will shortly launch a £3.25m grant funding scheme for the VCSE sector, funded by the Crisis and Resilience Fund. This can be flagged to any local groups who may have been expecting to apply to the Community Fund, once further detail is published.

Tom McCabe has resigned as Chief Executive of Norfolk County Council and is no longer in post. On 7th July it was announced that Kat Hulatt, Norfolk County Council's director of legal services and monitoring officer has been appointed as the authority's interim chief executive.

Cllr Cowin asked if there was any funding available for the replacement of the defibrillator and cabinet. Cllr Boyd said he would look into this and feedback shortly.

Public Participation

- Member of public highlighted that the dog bin close to their property is emptied once and not twice a week. The Parish Council confirmed bins are emptied once a week.
- The Wheatacre and Burgh St Peter website needs to be updated. Cllr Cown confirmed that the website will be reviewed and updated as soon as possible once the new Parish Clerk is onboard.

- There was a query on why the Wheatacre and Burgh St Peter Parish Council have a low precept in comparison with Aldeby. The Parish Council have tried to keep their budget low to support with increasing Council Tax bills, this will be reviewed in January 2027.
- The Parish Council were made aware that the Chair and Trustee of the Burgh St Peter Village Hall has resigned from the post. The Village Hall will move forward to elect a new chair in the near future.

Minutes

Proposed Cllr Kerridge, seconded Cllr Forrester 'that the minutes of the last meeting held on the 21st July 2026 were taken as read and signed as a true record of the meeting. AGREED

Matters Arising

None

Planning Matters

None

Finance

The Parish Council will shortly receive the council and financial records from the previous Parish Clerk. It was agreed that going forward the Parish Council would move to internet banking once the new Parish Clerk was in the place.

Payments agreed in principle, subject to receiving the cheque books from the outgoing Parish Clerk

- £40.00 for payment of Village Hall for July and August for Parish Council meetings. Proposed seconded by Cllrs Forrester and Whyte
- £100 for purchase of voucher as leaving gift for the outgoing Parish Clerk. Proposed and seconded by Cllrs Hutton and Forrester
- £216 for the catering of the leaving presentation for the outgoing Parish Clerk. Proposed and seconded by Cllrs Kerridge and Hutton

Council Business

- **Bid to action maintenance of the play equipment in the Parish park**
 - A quote for the work had been received, it was agreed to pay £175 per day plus cost of materials. Proposed and seconded by Cllrs English and Forrester
 - Cllr Miller enquired if the playground inspection report had been received. This was being actioned by the outgoing Parish Clerk and once received would need to be reviewed by the Council
- **Recruitment of Parish Clerk**
 - It was confirmed that the position had been offered and the new Parish Clerk should be in situ for the next meeting in August
- **Membership of Norfolk Association of Local Councils**
 - The membership provides support in terms of templates, guidance and training which would be beneficial for new members of the Council and Parish Clerk and would support with ensuring that the website can be updated with the necessary policies and information. The cost depends on the level of support required. Membership has to be actioned via a paid member of the

Parish Council which would be the incoming Parish Clerk. **This will be moved to the August Parish Council Meeting for a decision on the level of membership required**

- **Defibrillator and cabinet**
 - Status of the equipment to be reviewed once the records have been received from the outgoing Parish Clerk. Cllr Miller stated there was a charity that funded these and would contact Jayne Biggs for her availability to attend the next meeting to discuss further. Our cabinet had been reviewed by Jayne and there was a suggestion that we may need to upgrade the cabinet at a potential cost of £1,580. To be discussed at the August Parish Council Meeting
 - A notice to be put on the noticeboard outside of the old school house, confirming where the defib is located
- **Parish land**
 - Cllr Miller asked if there was a legal requirement for written proof that a safety survey has been undertaken for Parish land managed by the Council. It was agreed that fencing and parish land should be reviewed. New members of the Council who do not know where the land is can arrange to be shown where this is.
- **Correspondence**
 - Thankyou card from the outgoing Parish Clerk Simon Solomon
 - Clerks Direct magazine, suggestion is to move this to online
- **Items to be carried over for the next agenda**
 - Level of membership of Norfolk Association of Local Councils
 - Defibrillator and cabinet
 - Inspection of Parish land – next steps
 - Playground inspection report and payment
- **Any Other Business**
 - Whatsapp group to be created for general discussion within the Parish Council group
- **Date, time and location of the next meeting**
 - Tuesday 18th August at 7:30 pm in the Burgh St Peter Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO SEPTEMBER MEETING