

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 8th day of DECEMBER 2025 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.35 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Lambert (Vice-Chair), Rayner (Chair) and Storey, Mrs Edwards, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peacock and Mrs Peckham. Ms Quamina (Community Relations Advisor, RAF Lakenheath) was also in attendance.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr Fenn and Mrs Wilson.

Chair asked if anyone was recording the meeting and Mr Cole replied that he was. All present consented to be recorded.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were approved. Mr Cole proposed, Mrs McGeeney seconded, 5 in favour, Mrs Edwards abstained having not been present.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: No members of the public were present.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Ms Quamina read the RAF Lakenheath report and said volunteers were supporting Feltwell Care Home residents this month in the run up to Christmas. EOD tour date is 13th February, Clerk to advertise in Parish Magazine. No fly dates over the Christmas period are 24th, 25th, 26th and 31st December, and 1st January. Ms Quamina departed the meeting at 7.40 pm.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** Handyman reported more potholes in the car park, Clerk to ask MWM (Anglia) to quote for this whilst repairing Old Brandon Road car park. Chair said the electrician will be replacing the exterior warning lights on the Changing Rooms.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries. Internal Control Check report given by Mrs Peacock.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – Reports have been received, the last one dated 18th November. Mr Cole had not seen any rats of late which was a positive sign that Command were getting on top of the issue although a tenant had found and buried a dead rat. Mr Storey said Command should be attending site at least once a week to deal with the dead rats to prevent birds of prey from being poisoned by the bait. Clerk to contact Command.

5. **NALC** – Weekly updates circulated. NALC are urging parish councils to submit their views on the three Local Government Reorganisation proposals. Councillors felt they could not do this due to numerous changes still being made and lack of direction.

6. **Highways** – **2 Oak Street:** Widening scheme ongoing (2026/27). **Weed Spraying:** Dan Jordan believed this had been completed. **White Lining:** Dan Jordan had no further update. **Mulberry Close Pavements:** Andrew Wallace said the footpaths had been repaired as requested and to a good standard. His contractors had not touched the edgings therefore Highways were not responsible for the resident's alleged trip. He did not order the extra access works so assumed the contractors had left over material which the resident's neighbour had probably requested be put in front of their garage. If the resident had an issue with the access works then they should discuss this with the contractor. Clerk had advised the resident of his response. **Southery Road:** Clerk read Terry Jermy MP's email which detailed Andrew Wallace's views on this road. Mr Wallace had advised there would always be areas of deformation due to the area's substrate geology but a very dry summer had exacerbated the issue. He was aware that in the "parish's expert opinion" the repairs were not suitable however estimated that over £1m had been spent on repairs or resurfacing works over the past 15 years which was much higher than any other 'C' class road in the west area or countrywide. He will continue to monitor the road and programme further repairs by the same method as previous to deal with other areas of deviation. He said the degree of deformation has increased in recent years due to global warming which was becoming more widespread across the fens which have the "worst geology in Europe", and there were no long term options available or affordable. He will review warning signs along the road to ensure the public are kept well informed. Mr Jermy hoped to meet with Mr Storey early in the new year to discuss numerous issues in his ward of which

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Southery Road was one of them. He said the Labour government had just announced record funding for NCC Highways, the largest amount of any local authority outside of London, who ultimately must use these resources in the most appropriate manner. Mr Storey said he would discuss Mr Wallace's response with him when they next meet.

7. Overhanging Greenery – 50 Wilton Road: Clerk read an email from Andy Wallace stating the owner had not been pleased when the contractors arrived to cut the hedge so the work had not been carried out however he would try to contact him again. **Long Lane**: Clerk said the Planning Officer had enquired if all properties on the development were now occupied as if so, she would approach the site owner regarding the entrance kerbing. The Planning Officer could not see where street lighting was required in the planning consents but said this was usually the case due to energy and maintenance costs. Mr Lambert said developers had advised a lighting scheme would be implemented where outside lighting would be installed at each property. The demolition of the chalk barn had been passed to Enforcement as had the sale of the land behind Feltwell Chinese which should have been kept as an open space. **Addisons Close**: Still no update from Freebridge regarding overgrown pavements outside 10, 27, 32 and 33 although Mr Cole said some work had been carried out and 33 was privately owned. **7 Falcon Road**: Clerk read letter from resident stating that ivy and weeds were protruding from the footpath which was disputed as the greenery was growing over the alleyway from the property. Clerk to acknowledge the resident's letter.

8. SAM2 Data – Chair had not collected the data but hoped to do so later in the week.

9. Empty Freebridge Houses – Clerk read Freebridge's response stating the property had been referred for appraisal to be disposed of due to the amount of work required to make it habitable.

10. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – T T Jones hoped to have the adaptors in stock this week so will be carrying out the work asap.

11. Change of Priority at Long Lane and Short Beck – Mr Storey had been unable to meet with Andrew Wallace and Kevin Allan having only been given 30 minutes notice from Mr Wallace that they were due to arrive. Mr Cole had seen them at the junction and said Mr Jermy was not in attendance. Mr Wallace had since advised the Clerk that a couple of schemes had been suggested for both this junction and Hill Street junction with St Mary's/The Beck (see item 14). The Network Safety Team are assessing their feasibility but could not take them forward therefore, if approved, Mr Wallace would put them on his forward programme but the earliest date for design is 2027/28.

12. Land Behind Feltwell Surgery – Clerk read Mrs Wilson's report of the meeting held with Sharon Wilson, the Practice Manager, on 27th November attended by herself and Mr Storey. Mr Storey said the Practice Manager was not keen on creating a new entrance onto Old Brandon Road since she had recently had dealings with the Police regarding anti-social behaviour involving County Lines activity and the Surgery had been broken into in the past. She said she was not legally obliged to provide extensive car parking and could not afford to renew the lease at £300/year although was prepared to pay £100/year if the Parish Council maintained the hedge and car park. Mr Storey understood her position regarding funding and the financial choices she had to make but had stressed to her that both the Parish Council and Surgery needed to work together to find a solution to keep the car park open. She agreed to attend a closed meeting with all Councillors but it was questioned how fruitive this would be if she was not prepared to pay more than £100/year for the lease as the solicitor's quote to renew it was £1750 + VAT. Mrs Peckham proposed applying to the Secretary of State for the land's continued use as a car park in the first instance and enquire if this can be extended to more than six years or even open-ended, Mrs McGeeney seconded, 4 in favour, Mr Cole objected and Mr Storey abstained. Clerk to contact the Secretary of State. Mrs McGeeney proposed accepting MWM (Anglia)'s quotation of £485 + VAT to repair potholes in the car park, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour.

13. Changing Rooms (Heating) – Ongoing.

14. Hill Street with St Mary's/The Beck Junction Enquiry – The junction was viewed during the Network Safety Team's visit on 27th November (see Item 11).

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

15. Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/26 – Mr Cole, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peckham and the Clerk met with Andrew Wallace to look at suitable locations for the solar-powered speed sign. Mr Wallace had recommended applying for another sign to be placed along Paynes Lane as there was no obligation to take this forward if the application was successful. Clerk said both applications had been refused as (i) there were no recorded accidents in the last five years (ii) there is already a VAS on Wilton Road and (iii) Paynes Lane has 90 degree bends which should help constrain vehicle speeds. Councillors felt it seemed Highways would rather be reactive rather than proactive which was very frustrating and Chair suggested precepting for the VAS signs next financial year.

16. Lodge Road Junction – Clerk had no response from Jason Moore. Mr Lambert said the verge cut had made a vast improvement and Chair suggested precepting for a twice-yearly verge cut going forward. Clerk to ascertain if permission is required for the Parish Council to undertake this work.

Mrs McGeeney departed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

17. Request from Feltwell United FC – Pitch was spiked, combed and rolled earlier that day.

18. Request from BCKLWN re Beat Your Bills Roadshow – Mrs Wilson was not present to update but Clerk said Age UK, Carline, Lily and The Caring Together Charity would be in attendance.

19. Trod (Matters Arising from Extraordinary Meeting) – Both properties on Long Lane are up for let and the trod has still not be installed. A few years ago, the owners had applied for the planning condition to install the trod to be removed but this was refused by Highways. Clerk to write to Highways to alert them of the enforcement.

20. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey did not give his report due to time constraints but said all information could be found on the NCC and BC websites.

21. War Memorial Garden – Ongoing.

22. Review Model Standing Orders – Mr Lambert proposed adopting changes as per NALC's recommendations, Mr Cole seconded, all in favour. Clerk to update website and issue Councillors with the revised version.

23. Budget 2026/7 – Mrs Peckham asked for further details of projected costs for 2026/27 to be provided at next meeting. Other items put forward in addition to the verge cuts and VAS signs were the revamp of the war memorial garden and new church clock face, both of which divided the meeting on priority. Mrs Peacock felt parishioners should be involved in this decision and Mrs Edwards suggested holding a poll with a ballot box placed in one of the village shops. Mrs McGeeney proposed holding a poll via the Parish Magazine to gauge parishioners preferences on the two projects, Mrs Edwards seconded, all in favour. Clerk to write to Parish Magazine. Mrs Peckham suggested contacting the Borough Council to ascertain if dog bin emptying costs were increasing again or indeed if there were to be any other increases. Clerk to enquire.

24. Parish Councillor Resignation – Clerk said the Casual Vacancy notice will be displayed until 11th December and would then be replaced by the Co-option notice if there was no request for an election. Mrs Peckham will organise a parting gift for Mrs Arnold.

25. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Case – Feltwell – Clerk said after numerous queries and complaints, all tenants with chickens had eventually housed them. Mr Storey thanked the Clerk for the work involved in achieving this and Mr Cole for his assistance.

26. CIP Clarification – Clerk had obtained copies of invoices from St Mary's which were all as advised therefore a cheque had been raised for £154.12 to Feltwell Parochial Church Council.

25. Grey's Funfair Visit Request – Weeks commencing 11th or 25th May were offered. Mr Lambert proposed the fair visit w/c 25th May, Mrs Edwards seconded, all in favour. Clerk to advise Mr Grey.

CORRESPONDENCE

26. BCKLWN - Emails - Weekly Planning Applications & Decisions; 'Your News'; Rural Community Small Grant Scheme Opened; Revised Register of Electors publication delay

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

27. NCC - Emails - Next steps for major West Norfolk road project set out following milestone planning decision; Tom McCabe, Chief Executive: Have your say: Government consultation on Norfolk's local government future; Feltwell Iron Bridge TL68100 - 7.5T Weight Restriction Required; Public Information Notice: Next-of-kin appeal;

28. RAF Lakenheath - Emails - Explosive Training 19/11/25, 9.30am - 1 pm, 5 shots; 26/11/25, 8 am – 12.30 pm, 3 shots; Demolition Training 10/12/25, 9 am – 3 pm

29. Norfolk Constabulary - Emails - Police & Crime Commissioner at Watlington Village Hall 28/11/25; Norfolk Police Website & Reporting Crime Online

30. Brochures - Parish Magazine

31. CHEQUES/PAYMENTS – Mr Lambert proposed approving the Payments Schedule, Mrs Edwards seconded, all in favour. Payments Schedule was approved and cheques were signed for J Martin £254.72, S Sargent £84.40, D Wilkinson £56.21, Royal British Legion £172.50, R H Landscapes £1404.00, Command Pest Control £432.00, Feltwell PCC £154.12, Cathedral Leasing £311.90. Direct Debits to Biffa £198.46, BCKLWN £237.27, British Gas £91.80, URM £226.93, Vodafone £31.14. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £104.80, J Martin £1111.85. SSE Energy invoice was received after the last meeting therefore the direct debit of £632.93 taken 21st November had not been noted on last month's Payment Schedule.

32. PLANNING

25/01877/F: Retrospective Planning Application for the Construction of an Outbuilding Consisting of a Studio/Office, a Gym and a Shower Room, Tool Shed with Storage and Fishing Shed at 58 Long Lane – One of the plans is incorrect as it shows the building in the wrong location. The building's usage was questionable and if it were to be an annex then this could exacerbate existing parking issues. 6 against. REFUSED.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33. Highways – Alleyway from Paynes Lane to High Street needs weeding and the path from The Beck to St Mary's Church needs to be hard-cored. Tarmac is rutted on Short Beck and a large chunk of tarmac has dropped along Oak Street. Clerk to report all issues to Highways/Rangers.

34. Dog Bin Issue – Clerk posted a request on the Parish Council's Facebook page for filled dog waste bags not to be left around the base of a dog bin if the bin was full. Lots of bags had been left around the dog bin on The Beck last week and were not collected by the BCKLWN.

35. Negative Facebook Posts – Following a recent spate of posts on the village Facebook page complaining that the Parish Council does nothing regarding issues such dangerous junctions and parking on the green spaces, Mrs Peckham felt a large piece should be put in the Parish Magazine and on the Council's Facebook page detailing what the Council had been doing to alleviate these exact issues as well as others, and also state that there is a Parish Councillor vacancy if anyone thought they could do better. Mrs Edwards agreed and said all of the Council's achievements this year should be included as well as thanking those establishments who house defibrillators on the Council's behalf and absorb all running costs. Clerk to write piece for Parish Magazine.

36. Thank You – Mr Storey thanked the Chair and his family for decorating the village Christmas tree in St Mary's Churchyard once again and commented on how wonderful it looked.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 12th January 2026 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm.
Meeting declared closed 9.45 pm.