

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 12th day of JANUARY 2026 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane – commencing 7.30 pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Cole, Fenn, Lambert (Vice-Chair), Rayner (Chair) and Storey, Mrs Edwards, Mrs McGeeney, Mrs Peacock and Mrs Peckham.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs Wilson and Ms V Quamina (Community Relations Advisor, RAF Lakenheath)

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, 6 in favour, Mr Fenn abstained having not been present.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: No members of the public were present.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Clerk read RAF Lakenheath report forwarded by Ms Quamina. Exercise Point Blank, a significant joint exercise with NATO partners, will run from 26th January to 6th February so flying activity could be increased. A summary of community events and activities attended in 2025 was also given. Clerk said the EOD Tour taking place 13th February had generated a lot of interest and both Mrs Edwards and Mrs Peacock said they would also like to attend.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** No issues. Quarterly Inspection was carried out by Online Playgrounds 8th December and all issues reported were Low or Very Low Risk except for the loose fencing which was now a Medium risk. Handyman had been working through the report and had tightened the fencing panels but said one post had snapped at the bottom. Clerk has asked Mr Cock to measure the fence posts he is storing to ascertain if one could be used as a replacement. MWM (Anglia)'s quote to repair potholes in the car park would be about £80 + VAT as they would need filling with Bitmac. Mr Cole proposed accepting MWM (Anglia)'s quote, Mrs McGeeney seconded, all in favour.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – Command report dated 8th December read of a good bait uptake by rats from external bait points but fresh rat runs had been found. All external bait boxes checked, cleaned and replenished where necessary. Neither Mr Cole nor Mr Fenn had seen any vermin of late.

5. **NALC** – Weekly updates circulated.

6. **Highways** – **2 Oak Street:** Clerk had asked Andrew Wallace for confirmation of the widening scheme scheduled 2026/27 but not had a response. **White Lining:** No update but Mr Storey said he would be discussing this with Mr Wallace at their meeting in Southery this week. **Southery Road:** Mr Storey to discuss Mr Wallace's response to Terry Jermy MP's email at their meeting.

7. **Overhanging Greenery** – **50 Wilton Road:** Following the Clerk's persistent chasing for an update, Mr Wallace had responded just in time for the meeting, advising that he now had the owner's correct contact details and would be making contact this week. **Long Lane:** Inappropriate kerbing, demolition of chalk barn and sale of green space are with Enforcement. Complaint received from resident regarding the state of the overgrown greenery and bin near the Chinese. **Addisons Close:** Freebridge have forwarded the complaint to their Grounds Maintenance and Communities Teams and will speak to their customers regarding maintaining their properties.

8. **SAM2 Data** – Chair gave an account of SAM2 data collected:- Lodge Road (30mph zone) SAM2 flashed 40,837 times between 12th October and 6th November, highest speed recorded was 70 mph at 3.45 am on 24th October and an overall average speed of 26.6 mph. Wilton Road SAM2 flashed 18,288 times between 12th October and 24th October (before the battery died), highest speed recorded was 55 mph at 6.15 pm on 19th October and an overall average speed of 26.2 mph. Chair

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

said that SAM2 had been full of water when he opened it. He also reminded everyone that the SAM2's could flash 2 or 3 times at the same vehicle or not at all if vehicles were travelling below 26 mph so the number of flashes was not an indication of how many vehicles had driven past.

9. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – T T Jones had to commission a local manufacturer to fabricate some bespoke adaptors as the new ones did not fit correctly. Once delivered this week, they will return to fit.

10. Change of Priority at Long Lane and Short Beck – Clerk had had no update from Mr Wallace so Mr Storey will discuss this matter with him at their meeting this week.

11. Land Behind Feltwell Surgery – Car park reinstatement work had been completed. Clerk said the Secretary of State had given consent for the disposal of the allotment site in August 2020.

12. Changing Rooms (Heating) – Ongoing.

13. Hill Street with St Mary's/The Beck Junction Enquiry – Clerk had had no update from Mr Wallace therefore Mr Storey will discuss this matter at his meeting with him this week.

14. Lodge Road Junction – Both Jason Moore and Mr Wallace had finally responded earlier in the day and reported the signs had been ordered and would be installed as soon as delivered. The extra 'SLOW' lining had also been ordered but the weather was not ideal for this at present. Clerk said NCC advised verge cutting could be undertaken by parish councils at their discretion but if the verges were overgrown to the extent that vision was obscured for drivers then NCC had an obligation to cut these back.

15. Request from BCKLWN re Beat Your Bills Roadshow – Event scheduled for 7th January was cancelled due to extremely cold weather but has been rescheduled for 11th February.

16. Trod – Clerk said response from Richard Smith at NCC Highways stated Highways were working with the developer to address their conditions to deliver the trod and confirmed the enforcement aspect was with the Borough Council.

17. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said the budget was the main focus for both NCC and BC. Savings had been found to fill the gap of £42.6m which would not impact services too much. The consultation on proposals for LGR ended yesterday and a decision is expected from Government in due course. A fleet of 58 gritters had completed 2200 miles this winter undertaking two grit runs every 24 hours. All information could be found on the NCC and BC websites.

18. War Memorial Garden – Ongoing.

19. Budget/Precept 2026/7 – Clerk circulated projected income and expenditure figures for the next financial year. It was felt last year's precept of £60,000 should be increased to accommodate an uplift in wages and National Insurance as well as utility and insurance costs. Work to create a new car park entrance on Old Brandon Road could cost in the region of £6000 if it were to go ahead. It was agreed to increase the fund ringfenced for the war memorial and/or the church clock revamp. Mr Storey said the goal of devolution was for Parish Councils to undertake more services themselves so this must also be taken into consideration. It was agreed not to pursue the VAS signs for Paynes Lane and Wilton Road as they would likely be deemed unnecessary by Highways following refusal of both by the Parish Partnership Scheme. Mrs McGeeney proposed setting the precept at £70,000 meaning that with a tax base of 777.2, the band D tax payer would see an annual increase of £12.90, Mrs Edwards seconded, all in favour.

20. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Case – Feltwell – No update on the current situation.

21. Grey's Funfair Visit Request – Scheduled for w/c 25th May.

22. Dog Bin Issue – Mrs McGeeney said someone had been kind enough to empty the overflowing dog bin on The Beck into a large bin bag and left it underneath but was disgusted that it had not been collected by the Clean Up team whilst emptying the dog bin, although someone had removed it since. She said there is obviously a need for a bigger dog bin and several options were discussed.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

Clerk to obtain cost for a large litter bin, similar to those on Bell Street and Addisons Close, with signage to illustrate that bagged dog waste can also be deposited within it.

23. Negative Facebook Posts – Clerk had penned an article for the Parish Magazine and Mrs Peckham had added to it. Every was satisfied with the content therefore Clerk will forward to the editor and display on the Council's Facebook page.

24. Parish Councillor Vacancy – As there was no request for an election, the Co-option Notice had been displayed. To be displayed for another month.

25. Village Sign – An email was received from a former Feltwell resident offering to repaint the village sign. The individual has previously renovated several other village signs and would only charge for the cost of materials which would range from a minimum of £50 to a maximum of £125. Mr Lambert believed the sign belonged to the Historical Society and as such felt they should be involved in the decision. Clerk to contact the Historical Society. It was also queried whether the sign actually required repainting therefore all Councillors to take a look before the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

26. BCKLWN - Emails - Weekly Planning Applications & Decisions; 'Your News'

27. NCC - Emails - **Traffic Orders**: Continuation: Emergency Temporary Weight Restriction of U21506 Anchor Drove (Feltwell Iron Bridge) 2/1/26 – 22/1/26 owing to the weak structural condition of the bridge ref WTRO6457; Further continuation of foresaid restriction until 12/6/27.
Press Release: Are you ready to take on the 30-day health challenge in 2026?

28. RAF Lakenheath - Emails - Demolition operations 17/12/25, 9.00am - 1 pm, 3 demolitions. Happy Holidays from 48FW inc video of the Yuletide Reception

29. Norfolk Constabulary - Emails - Downham, Watlington & Terrington Area Neighbourhood Policing Meeting – 20/1/26

30. Brochures - Parish Magazine

31. **CHEQUES/PAYMENTS** – Mrs McGeeney proposed approving the Payments Schedule, Mrs Edwards seconded, all in favour. Payments Schedule was approved and cheques were signed for J Martin £367.36, S Sargent £115.20, D Wilkinson £67.03, R H Landscapes & Maintenance £312.00, MWM (Anglia) Ltd £582.00, HMRC £710.69, Command Pest Control £168.00, Environment Agency £43.93 (direct debit had expired so a cheque was raised). Direct Debits to Anglian Water £110.01, Biffa £255.74, BCKLWN £237.27, British Gas £95.26, SSE Energy £964.28, Vodafone £31.14. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £104.80, J Martin £1111.85.

32. PLANNING

There were no planning applications.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33. Highways – Clerk has reported pot holes on Wilton Road and rutted tarmac and potholes on Short Beck. Potholes at the Paynes Lane junction with Wilton Road and at The Beck junction with Oak Street also to be reported, and the turning point to The Beck from St Mary's Street which is also deteriorating. Clerk to investigate whether the three vehicles parked on Lodge Road opposite the Old Methwold Road junction are taxed and have valid MOTs as their parking is causing a potential hazard to drivers. Clerk to also confirm with the Highway Code, whether the vehicles are parked too close to the junction and to contact the property owner requesting that tenants park more considerately. Complaints have also been received of vehicles parking on the grassed area near Bell Street bus stop whilst dropping off school children as the grass is being churned up.

34. Grit Bins – Clerk read a resident's email requesting more grit bins in public spaces. There is one grit bin at the entrance to Newcombe Drive which is hardly used and two by the primary school on The Beck which the school caretaker empties. It was felt that gritting relied on community spirit which was lacking in most cases and if a bin was supplied to one area then other areas may request one which was not thought to be viable.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 9th February 2026 at the British Legion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting declared closed 9.10 pm.

Planning Applications received after the meeting with deadline before the next meeting:-

26/00045/F: Single storey side and rear extensions to existing bungalow at Chantek, 4 Leonards Lane, Feltwell – 5 Councillors responded and in favour. NO OBJECTION.

FUL/2026/0001 - Feltwell Quarry, Lodge Road, Feltwell, IP26 4DR: Non-compliance with conditions 8 (landscaping), 17 (restoration scheme) and 18 (aftercare scheme) of permission reference C/2/2017/2017 to enable the implementation of a final scheme of restoration.: The Lyndon Pallett Group Limited – NO COMMENT.