

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 9th day of FEBRUARY 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 Peacock, Mrs Peckham and Mrs Wilson.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs McGeeney 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 Edwards seconded, 6 in favour, Mrs Wilson abstained having not been present.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: No members of the public were present.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **RAF Feltwell** – Clerk read RAF Lakenheath report and the 48FW Public Affairs official response to recent press interest in flying activity. Flying activity could be increased until Exercise Point Blank ceases on 6th February. Civic Leaders Tour is tentatively scheduled for 2nd September. 20 residents are attending the EOD Tour on 13th February including Mrs Edwards and Mrs Peacock.

2. **Risk Assessment** – **Weekly:** No issues. Handyman had collected fence posts and brackets from Mr Cock but then been too poorly to determine whether either were suitable replacements. Litter Picker had found bags of dog waste in the litter bins and Mrs Peckham had seen someone walking their dog over the field. There are ‘No Dogs’ signs displayed at each entrance so Councillors were asked to be vigilant.

3. **Balance Sheet** – No queries. Mrs Peckham completed the November to January internal control check with no issues reported.

4. **Allotment Pest Control** – No reports had been received from Command since 8th December which was concerning particularly as they had been informed of new rat runs. Mr Storey had walked the allotments earlier in the day and found further evidence of fresh, used runs. Clerk said they were contracted to attend site at least 8 times a year, more if required, and Mr Storey said they should be visiting more frequently in the winter months rather than summer. Mrs Peckham said a list of inspection dates should be obtained. Clerk to contact Command.

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

6. **Highways** – **2 Oak Street:** Still no confirmation from Andrew Wallace that the widening scheme was still scheduled for 2026/27. Mr Storey will chase this. **White Lining:** Mr Storey said this was an issue in most parishes but he had been advised by Mr Wallace that following the appointment of a new contractor, work was now scheduled for the new financial year and Feltwell was a priority. **Southery Road:** Mr Storey said temporary repairs were scheduled to take place in the next two weeks and Highways hoped to part resurface this road in the new financial year. Clerk read an email from Southery Parish Council requesting to join forces with Feltwell PC in their bid to challenge Highways for proper repairs to this road and Councillors were happy to do this. Clerk to write to Southery PC. **Short Beck:** Clerk had reported the potholes to Highways again after receiving a complaint from a resident that they had damaged his vehicle. Mr Storey had then contacted Mr Wallace who said temporary repairs would be made in the next two days but the road would have to be closed for 14 days at some point for proper repair work to be undertaken. **Parking:** Clerk said only one vehicle had been parking near the Old Methwold Road junction and this was taxed and had MOT. It had also been parking further back from the junction so had not caused any issues. She said the Highway Code stated vehicles must park at least 10 metres away from a junction and avoid parking opposite it.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

7. Overhanging Greenery – 50 Wilton Road: Clerk said Mr Wallace had been unable to contact the owner so would now try one evening. **30 Long Lane**: Proprietors of Feltwell Chinese had emptied the bin. **Other**: Clerk has written to 4 St John's Way regarding the overgrown hedge.
8. SAM2 Data – No data available.
9. Street Light Bracket Survey & Electrical Inspection, Testing and Certification – New adaptors were fitted 16th January.
10. Change of Priority at Long Lane and Short Beck – Still no update from Mr Wallace. Mr Storey was aware of work being carried out on a scheme so would request further details.
11. Changing Rooms (Heating) – Ongoing.
12. Hill Street with St Mary's/The Beck Junction Enquiry – Still no update from Mr Wallace therefore Mr Storey will follow this up.
13. Lodge Road Junction – Signs and SLOW lining have still not been installed. Clerk had chased Jason Moorse again but received no response so Mr Storey will follow up. Mr Lambert said the junction was much safer since the grass had been mowed.
14. Winter Event (BCKLWN Beat Your Bills Roadshow) – Mrs Wilson said this was taking place 11th February and would be attended by representatives from Age UK, BCKLWN's Lily and Careline, Community Action Norfolk and The Caring Together Charity. She thought a donation should be made to The Aisle Project for use of their facilities for this event and Mr Storey agreed, proposing a donation of £50.00, Mr Lambert seconded, all in favour.
15. Trod – The trod has still not been installed even though one of the properties is now occupied. It was strongly felt that this should not have been allowed to happen as planning conditions had not been met. Clerk to write to Planning again.
16. Cllr Martin Storey Report – Mr Storey said a decision on the postponement of NCC elections scheduled for 7th May was expected on 19th February. He did not support the postponement as he felt Councillors should serve their four year term and the electorate had a democratic right to vote for who they wanted in office. As a Norfolk County Councillor, he had been gathering public opinion from Norfolk residents who he believed should also be consulted on this matter. NCC's budget meeting is taking place 17th February and Mr Storey was grateful to those who responded to the consultation. He spoke of a 15% uplift in Foster Care pay and said the £4.5m Government grant had made a massive improvement to Norfolk's bus services with passenger numbers increasing by 26% and bus routes increasing to 44. All information could be found on NCC and BC websites.
17. War Memorial Garden – Ongoing.
18. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Case – Feltwell – Several tenants had asked for an update so the Clerk had checked with APHA and learned that Feltwell's protection zone had been lifted. Mr Storey had therefore asked her to advise tenants that they could release their chickens into their outdoor pens with immediate effect. He apologised for not bringing this to the full Council for a decision but said he had acted purely on the welfare of the chickens which had been shut up in small huts since November. Mr Lambert proposed ratifying Mr Storey's decision to allow tenants to release their chickens into outdoor pens, Mr Cole seconded, 5 in favour, Mr Fenn abstained.
19. Grey's Funfair Visit Request – Mrs Peckham said the football season may overrun this year as several games had been postponed due to bad weather however if a game coincides with the fair's visit w/c 25th May then the Manager said players could park at the Social Club. If a game coincides with the Car Show on 16th May then it could possibly be rescheduled if enough notice is given.
20. Dog Bin Issue – Clerk was awaiting a third price for litter bin housing and for a response from BCKLWN as to whether wheelie bins were still supplied free of charge. The litter bin housing is quite large so if there is not enough room to site one in place of the dog bin on The Beck then it may have to be situated on the grassed area at the bottom.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

21. Parish Councillor Vacancy – Two residents had applied and both will be invited to attend a short interview, in line with the Co-Option Policy, to be held just before the next meeting on 9th March. Clerk to contact applicants.

22. Village Sign – Clerk said the sign belongs to the Parish Council. Mr Fenn said a village sign was a representation of its village and therefore should be kept tidy and smart, and as the price was not extortionate, felt Mr Walden's offer to repaint it should be accepted. It was agreed the sign looked tired but some Councillors did not want the new paintwork to be too bright. Mr Cole proposed accepting Mr Walden's offer, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mr Walden, Mr Lambert and Mrs Peckham to discuss colouration.

23. Feltwell in Bloom (FiB) Annual Report – Mr Lambert said FiB were doing a great job and thought a letter of thanks should be sent. All agreed therefore Clerk will write to FiB.

CORRESPONDENCE

24. BCKLWN - Emails - Weekly Planning Applications & Decisions; 'Your News'; SNN Ref 5785 Change of Residential Property Address from Rose Bungalow (The Bungalow), Barretts Lane to Foxes Kop, Barretts Lane; Domestic Abuse Awareness Training; Cllr & Parish CIL Briefing 2/3/25; Launch of Call for Sites and Collation of Consultation Database

25. NCC - Emails - **Road Closures:** Methwold B1112 Main Road for new water connection works. **Press Release:** Have fun with animation, coding and robotics at your local library!

26. RAF Lakenheath - Emails - Explosive operations 15/1/26, 9am, 3 detonations; 22/1/26, 9am-2.30pm; Demo training 18/2/26, 10am-10.45 am, 1 shot; Demo training 19/2/26, 9.30am-1.30pm, 3 shots; Save the Dates 2026

27. Barclays Bank – Interest rate reducing 24/3/26 from 1.10% to 1.05%

28. Glover Group – Promoting green spaces maintenance

29. Caloo – Opportunity to register for two community budget options

30. Brochures - Parish Magazine, Clerks & Councils

31. **CHEQUES/PAYMENTS** – Mr Lambert proposed approving the Payments Schedule, Mrs Wilson seconded, all in favour. Payments Schedule was approved and cheques were signed for J Martin £519.86, S Sargent £128.99, D Wilkinson £34.14. Direct Debits to Biffa £186.05, BCKLWN £237.33, British Gas £113.93, SSE Energy £931.16, Vodafone £31.14. Standing Orders to K&M Lighting £104.80, J Martin £1111.85.

32. PLANNING

26/00090/F: Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 06/00678/CU: Change of use to fish and chip shop at The Fish Piper, 43 High Street – Councillors felt extending opening hours to 10pm on a Sunday night was not fair on residents living in close proximity due to increased traffic and noise disturbance late in the evening and parking issues. It was agreed that 9pm was a more reasonable closure time for a Sunday. 8 against, Mr Storey abstained. REFUSE.

21/00066/RM: 30 Long Lane: Inappropriate kerbing, demolition of chalk barn and sale of green space are with Enforcement. Mrs Wilson said there had huge issues over the weekend as vehicles had parked everywhere including across the site entrance. Clerk to advise Planning.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33. Highways – Potholes outside 48a Paynes Lane have been reported but classed as non-urgent. Clerk to report again. Potholes on Hill Street junction with The Beck and at the bottom of the Beck, along White Dyke Road and at Black Dyke junction to be reported. The 'FELTWELL' sign on Lodge Road has slipped one side and needs putting back up. Clerk to contact Highways.

34. Village Fete – Mrs Wilson, as Chair of the Feltwell Community Group, said organisation of the village fete was well underway. A date had been pencilled in for Saturday 20th June and she requested permission to use the playing field and Changing Room facilities.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CONT)

35. Feltwell Community Group Donation – Mrs Wilson said FCG would like to donate two new benches to the Parish Council which she thought could be situated on the green around Oakfields Estate. Mr Storey believed he had some funding available in his Community Fund which could be put towards them. There is also some money remaining in the USAF donation pot.

36. Allotment Sign – Mr Storey said the Allotment Committee wished to replace the sign at the allotments as the current one is illegible. Another would be purchased for the Munsons Lane entrance.

37. Vodafone – Clerk said Openreach had cut through the Council's broadband and phone cables whilst installing her new personal broadband. She was in the process of getting reconnected but in the meantime could use her personal broadband so the only issue was the phone line. She will endeavour to get this resolved asap.

38. Biffa – Clerk had negotiated a cheaper rate with Biffa of £21.21 per lift for both bins.

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

Meeting declared closed 9.05 pm.
