

Minutes of the Elsing Parish Council meeting held in Elsing Village Hall, Church Street on Monday November 3rd 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillors Laws, Chaplin, Palmer, Butler, Brailsford and Horncastle.

Other Members Present: - Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. To appoint the Chairman for the meeting.

Cllr Horncastle proposed Cllr Laws for Chairmen, seconded by Cllr Palmer and carried.

2. Clerk to receive signed Declaration of Acceptance form.

The Clerk received the signed Declaration of Acceptance Forms.

3. To receive apologies for absence.

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr L Adams and these were accepted.

4. To declare any interests re items on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

5. To confirm and accept minutes of the meeting held on September 15th.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Palmer proposed the minutes of September 15th be accepted as true and accurate records of the meetings, seconded by Cllr Horncastle and carried.

6. To discuss any matters arising from September minutes (not on the agenda).

To receive an update from Cllr Horncastle on the solar farm.

The planned battery and transformer installation was moved to a slightly different location although it is still in the centre of the site. The present notification from Breckland Council simply refers to that.

7. To discuss any necessary Correspondence.

The Parish Council had been informed that the owner of Hall Farm had applied to replace an old agricultural building with a new build. The new building will be larger and similar to other new agricultural buildings on the site.

8. To discuss the Wild Track and Risk Management, Zurich Insurance and letter sent to Norwich City Council about one of their own wild tracks.

The launch pad is still quite sound. Some litter had been collected. A tree will be taken out in the winter. Today Cllr Palmer got a reply to the letter she sent to Norwich City Council. The Council has a similar project to Elsing's Wild Track. It is bigger than ours but there is no launch pad but it is entirely at the user's risk. It will not be easy to obtain insurance. Zurich Municipal will not cover the cycle track because it was not designed by a Professional company. The Parish Councillors thought a Broker should be sought regarding getting insurance for this project. Cllr Butler offered to seek a Broker and get advice on this matter.

As there is a similar project in Dereham, the Clerk will have a conversation with Dereham Town Council's Clerk and try to get some advice. There was some discussion as to whether a JCB should be used to make the area less dangerous. A resident had found the beginnings of a new ramp, which encroached on his land. It has now been removed and he thought the Parish

Council should put up a fence. It was suggested that another notice be displayed, reminding children of this resident's boundary.

9. To discuss Allotment matters, inc nursery, vineyard, beekeeping and Woodlander and control of deer on the allotments. To receive an allotment report.

The allotments are all rented out but some have been abandoned. There is a large farm gate that needs to be installed. Deer are still being killed to stop them causing damage. The trees in the nursery are looking good and trees are going to be planted out in the coming months. The Diocese does not have any problems with the idea of trees being planted.

The vineyards are looking good, especially those that have been hoed. Pruning has been carried out. If some vines die, Cllr Laws suggested some more should be purchased.

The beekeeping is going well.

On 5th November, there will be a Bonfire with fireworks, but not loud banging fireworks.

10. To discuss the possibility of a footpath between Mill Street and The Rectory, via the Parish Partnership Scheme.

The idea was not acceptable to the **landowner**, so Cllr Laws followed it up with Highways. Apparently, there is not enough space. There needs to be about 7 metres. Mr Matt Lines said that without the agreement of the landowner it could not really proceed. The road is too narrow, without ruining the hedge. The idea will have to be dropped now.

11. To receive a Financial Update from the Clerk.

This had been circulated and no-one had any questions regarding it. Cllr Horncastle's figures had been circulated also.

12. To authorise necessary financial payments.

Cllr Palmer proposed the following financial payments be authorized, seconded by Cllr Laws and carried.

Clerk's net salary for Oct. to Nov. £323.20 HMRC tax for Oct. to Nov. £69.20
Clerk's expenses for October to November £102.54

Cllr Laws proposed a donation of £150.00 be given to Mr Wanbon as he is organising a Festive Community Lunch for residents of pensionable age, living in the village, seconded by Cllr Horncastle and carried.

Since the last meeting, Breckland Council has paid to the Parish Council the second half of the precept, £2,643.00. A payment of £183.34 was made to Npower Commercial and £51.00 for the Community Car Scheme.

13. To set the precept for 2026 – 2027.

This will be set at the January meeting.

14. To adopt the IT policy and discuss the Assertion 10 question on the AGAR.

The Clerk explained that on next year's AGAR there will be an additional requirement, which is for the Parish Council to have an I.T. Policy in place, so she has created one. It has been circulated. Cllr Horncastle wished to amend it slightly, so a new one will be created,

circulated and adopted in January. Also, there will be a need to have an email ending in gov.uk and again this is something the Clerk will be dealing with.

15. To discuss flooding.

The Parish Council must know how prepared the village is regarding flooding. The Kings Lynn Water Management Alliance was contacted. They proposed a meeting but did not reply to the Parish Council's invitation. Cllr Horncastle does not think the meeting will ever take place and he has done some investigation and produced a provisional report. Mr John Carrick, a board member of the Alliance and a local landowner, is willing to walk the banks with Cllr Horncastle. The Parish Council agreed to this and then a report can be created saying whether there are any risks. Some landowners will be contacted regarding the walk.

16. To discuss the Local Development Plan

Breckland Council are backing the proposal for houses to be included in the Local Development Plan but it is third of the size of the original plan. Half will be in Elsing and half in Lyng. It surrounds the old abattoir. Up to 50 houses could potentially be built. It is unused land surrounding the site of the old abattoir. Some of the land is a field. The Clerk will contact the Lyng Parish Council clerk to see if it is possible for Elsing Parish Councillors to attend their next meeting, which will take place on 3rd December.

As regards the Council's submission to BDC, there is a great deal of information that can be obtained without employing professional help. Each of the Parish Councillors will take on a subject associated with the development and investigate it. The land is a bit to the north, a bit to the east and west and some to the south. The Clerk will try to find out what Lyng Parish Council has done so far regarding making comments on the proposal to build 50 houses.

17. To discuss the road diversions situation.

Some work has been done but the work has not been finished yet.

18. To discuss contacting the company that installed the mobile phone ariel on the church tower.

There was no matter to follow up.

18. To receive items for the January agenda.

To set the precept for 2026-2027

To adopt the amended I.T. Policy

19. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council meeting in January.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was set for Monday 19th January 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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Chairman

C. Horncastle

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19/1/26
Date