

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
7.00pm on Monday 5th January 2026

Present:	Philip Leslie	Chair
	Amanda Jayne Buckland	Vice-chair, Newly appointed (this meeting)
	Phil Dingle	
	Martyn Edwardson-White	Newly co-opted Parish Councillor (this meeting)
	Tim Ford	
	Anne Jones	
	Bryan Swaddling	
	Kim Austin	Clerk

Also present: 10 members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 19:00

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

2. To record declarations of interest from members in any items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3 November 2025

The minutes had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. Jones proposed they be accepted, Cllr. Buckland seconded the proposal and councillors voted with a show of hands. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. Philip Leslie.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (3 November 2025) not on the agenda.

There were no matters arising.

5. To Co-opt a new Parish Councillor

A vacancy on the Parish Council had been advertised and legal notices posted. An application had been received from Martyn Edwardson-White. This had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Martyn summarised his reasons for applying.

I have lived in the village since April 2017 and would like to put back into the community now that I have now retired and have more time. I trained as an electrical engineer, but for the last 30+ years have been working in the Fire Alarm industry. I have been involved in 5 Commonwealth Games with my sport as Coach, Press Officer and General Manager, I was also a Technical Official at the 2012 Olympics in London. I still sit on England Shooting committee and have held this post for the last 30 Years. My background in organising and my open approach to solving problems, might be of use to the Parish Council. I have a very open mind and listen to all viewpoints and offer my own thoughts to engage in constructive discussions.

Cllr, Jones proposed Martyn be co-opted as a Parish Councillor, Cllr. Buckland seconded. There was a unanimous show of hands. Martyn was duly elected and signed a 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form, witnessed by the Clerk. Martyn would complete the 'Disclosable Pecuniary Interests' form online within 28 days.

6. To elect a new Vice Chair/Deputy Chair

There was a vacancy for Vice-chair on the Parish Council. The Chair, Cllr. Leslie asked all councillors if anyone wanted to take on the position. There were no volunteers and Cllr. Leslie proposed Cllr. Buckland for the role. Cllr. Buckland was happy to accept. Cllr. Jones seconded the proposal. There was a unanimous show of hands. Amanda was duly elected and signed a 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form, witnessed by the Clerk.

Signed

Date

7. To adjourn the meeting for public participation, an opportunity for members of the public to raise any queries and concerns

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06. There were no comments from members of the public present and the meeting reconvened.

8. To discuss overhanging trees on Barham land – Wayland Road (AJB)

As a resident herself and on behalf of other residents in Wayland Road, Cllr. Buckland wrote to Mr. Dean Barham back in October 2025, to bring his attention to the trees lining the ditch that have now grown, covering the width of the ditch and the bottom of the residents' gardens. Some residents estimate an overhang of over 5 metres. This is causing loss of light, putting the area of garden into darkness, and leaf and fruit fall (acorns) is causing an issue. Cllr. Buckland has taken down her greenhouse as two panes of glass have been broken.

Some residents present, reported a build up of leaf and fruit debris which they were just about able to keep on top of, but an elderly person would not be able to. They were concerned about rodents with the build-up of leaf cover on the ground.

Mr. Barham did not reply but Cllr. Buckland received a letter from a Mr. Yardley of Landscape Survey, Design & Management (on behalf of Mr. Barham) and disagreed with his conclusions that made reference to the length of their gardens, which is irrelevant. Cllr. Buckland sent further emails and photos to Mr. Yardley. The residents are not asking for the trees to be cut down, but instead for the overhang to be cut back and for the trees to be maintained at a manageable height. Mr. Yardley was invited to visit.

Cllr. Buckland will contact the Breckland Tree Warden and Environmental Health with reports and photographs from all neighbours.

There was also mention of the overhanging trees at the crossroads where there had already been problems. These are Mrs. Firman's trees. Cllr. Buckland will make contact.

9. To discuss open ditch concerns – Junction, to the Mere, Chapel Street and Bell Road

A resident had raised concerns about an open ditch (amongst the brambles) at the junction to the Mere, Chapel Street and Bell Road. Some confusion as to who owns the land. Cllr. Leslie will check Land registry using 'what3words' provided by Cllr. Ford.

10. To update on SID (flashing speed sign) (TF)

Cllr. Ford had taken over this activity from Cllr. Harrison and had circulated his report to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Location Attleborough Road (B1077) - Vehicles approaching from Great Ellingham.

Period 01-11-2025 to 30-11-2025

Total vehicles detected 45,589

Average per day 221

Average per week 1,551

Peak time AM 08.00 – 09.00

Peak time PM 16.00 – 17.00

Total vehicles under 40MPH 36,930 – 81%

Total vehicles over 40 MPH 8659 – 19% of which

1851 – 21% over 45 MPH and would be open to enforcement.

Max Speed 85 MPH 21-11-2025 Time 16.30

Tim takes these reports to the SNAP meetings. All villages have problems with speeding. Police are monitoring by bike and van. Even today in cold, icy conditions, cars still travelling at over 40mph.

Thank you to Richard for his assistance and donation of a Samsung phone to enable the downloading of data from the sign.

11. To receive Parish Councillor reports

No reports.

Signed

Date

12. To receive District Councillor/Couty Councillor reports

No reports received prior to the meeting.

Breckland Local Plan - Regulation 18 - Preferred Options - December 2025

A public meeting was held in Rocklands Village Hall on Saturday 29 November 2025 - where a presentation was delivered by RPC to outline the revised Regulation 18 consultation, and residents had the opportunity to express their views. Email responses - both before and after the meeting - have also been received and taken into account. Rockland's response can be found on the Parish Website. Rockland Parish Council consultation response had been submitted to Breckland on 14/12/2025 the day before the deadline. This had involved a huge amount of work and Cllr. Leslie thanked Richard Harrison for the enormous effort he had put in and the extremely detailed report he had produced. Regulation 19 will be the last consultation phase and then Breckland will then come back with proposals.

Local Government Reorganisation and Breckland Community Land Transfer

An email was received from Breckland re land transfer information on 5/1/2026. Following the announcement of Local Government Reorganisation, Breckland District Council (BDC) is undertaking a district-wide review of its land assets to ensure they continue to be protected, managed, and used for the benefit of the communities they serve.

As part of this process, BDC want to provide all Parish Councils with the opportunity to take ownership of BDC owned land within their parish boundaries. Where appropriate and subject to the necessary governance and legal processes, the transfer of assets to Parish Councils would enable land to remain in local control and be managed directly for the benefit of residents.

To assist with planning and prioritising this work, BDC are asking PCs to consider whether there are any BDC land sites within the Parish that the Council may be interested in taking ownership of. BDC officers will contact each Parish Council directly with more specific information on the terms of such Transfers, we also welcome expressions of interest submitted in advance. These will be considered on a first-come. PCs are advised to register interest at their earliest convenience.

BDC 'Land Workshops' are to be held. Rockland councillors will attend on Friday 30 January, 1.00pm-3.00pm, Elizabeth House, Dereham to see how transfer of ownership may work

All known BDC land assets can be viewed at [My Maps - Breckland Council](#). Some people had found it difficult to view the parcels of land. TIP: Need to keep zooming in to the layers where the parcels of land can be seen. There are 2 parcels in Rocklands at end of Wayland Road. It was agreed Rockland PC would be very interested in this land as it is considered very important as attenuation area for flood risk mitigation and could be a nature area. Questions: who would cut the grass? Any associated costs? A resident suggested allotments.

Post meeting note: The Clerk registered interest by email to property@breckland.gov.uk on 8/1/2026. Flooding (RH). RH confirmed still waiting for reply from NCC to arrange meeting re mitigation projects.

13. To receive news from village organisations and churches

Little Rocky's Parent and Toddlers Group (Sharon Brown)

This report was received after the meeting but has been included in the minutes here.

- We had a very successful fund-raising event at our Winter Market. We are very grateful to so many people from the village for supporting this event. Santa was very busy trying to grant all the children's Christmas requests.
- Our children enjoyed their Christmas party although sadly some children were very unwell so missed the event.
- We had to finish the term a week earlier than expected as our original date for Christmas party clashed with GE Preschool. As many of our children also attend Preschool, we decided to bring our party forward to enable our children to attend both events.
- All volunteers have newly purchased corporate aprons sporting the LR logo. We have all purchased our own jackets personally, with the LR logo also. Parents will certainly be able to identify all the volunteers.



Signed

Date

- We are now entering the cycle of updating our Safeguarding training. Two volunteers will be in the first phase with myself and Shena undertaking further DSL training in the near future.
- We will be launching an advertising campaign in the next few weeks to try to recruit more families as 16 of our children will be leaving in July to start school.
- Despite rising costs, we have tried to maintain the same level of refreshments but regrettably, we have been running at a loss. We have taken the decision to increase our subs by 50p for each child (£3 for first child and £2.50 for siblings) with the view of monitoring how this increase affects our finances. It is hoped that this nominal increase will cover all our costs but it will remain under review.
- We look forward to welcoming our families back on Friday 9th January as our Spring term commences. With so many children starting school in September 2026, we will start to include more pre-reading skills, number activities and developing independence skills.
- Our next fundraising event will be in March for the Easter Bunny Hunt. Watch this space !!

St. Peter's Church (John Brown)

The Clerk delivered John's report.

I haven't got very much to say about Rockland St. Peter, however, would you please tell everyone that the money raised from Santa's Tour on 19 December and the Carols outside the shop on Christmas Eve came to **£613.17p** This will be sent to E.A.C.H. East Anglia Children's Hospice.

Rocklands Village Hall (James Alger, Chair)

The report received from James was delivered by the clerk.

A happy new year to everyone. Since my last report in November there has been no further work on the Hall and nothing major is planned at the moment as we need to have the funds in place before embarking on future projects. The hall continues to be well used and remains a vital part of the village. As has been mentioned in previous reports, the Committee, although dedicated and hard-working, remains short on numbers. All our committee members are already involved in running other organisations and it is probably significant that both Chair and Vice-chair of the Playing Fields Committee are also active members of the Village Hall Committee.

This is a problem which affects other organisations as well, many of which regularly submit reports to the Parish Council. Might there be some benefit it making this issue an agenda item in the hope that ideas can be shared and a more collaborative approach developed in addressing this issue?

All Saints Church (CJ)

Cath Jones provided a report which was delivered by Dave Jones.

The Christmas season hit with a bang on November 30th, the 4th Sunday before Christmas, marking the beginning of a new year in the Anglican church calendar, when All Saints hosted the Advent Carol service which was the only service for the 12 churches that comprise the new 'Big Benefice' (as yet un-named!) We were pleased to welcome worshippers from Hingham and High Oak, Scoulton and Woodrising, as well as the 'usual suspects' from the Ellinghams and Rockland St Peter's of course. We had a full church and managed to park everyone safely and all enjoyed an uplifting service.

Our annual Christingle service was held the following week when over 50 children (the youngest only a couple of weeks old) and their families came, made their Christingles in the schoolroom and enjoyed a candlelit informal service in the church as the sun went down. The highlight was when they all congregated in the chancel and the Christingle candles were lit (no LED lights for us!) and the children sang 'Away in a manger'.....magic! We were pleased to welcome the Rocklands School choir who sang two songs a cappella beautifully and I was thrilled to see a 25-year-old who came to our first Christingle service as a very small boy and came this year because of his happy memories. We all left feeling very 'Christmassy'!!

Our final Christmas service was the traditional 'Midnight' (in Bethlehem time!) Mass held on Christmas Eve....again in candlelight as we have no electricity and general opinion was that the generator should not be used to provide artificial light! Once more, we welcomed many newcomers and it was a lovely

Signed

Date

service led by Rev. Tori. She and the organist, Peter, had to rush off afterwards to conduct another Midnight (this time GMT!) service at Hingham- their third service that day!

Many villagers also enjoyed singing carols informally outside the community shop on Christmas Eve when well over 100 people sang their hearts out, not all necessarily singing the same carol at the same time or to the same tune, but good fun was had by all and over £257 was raised for EACH at the same time! (This was added to the monies raised by Santa and his elves as they went round Lt Ellingham and Rocklands just before Christmas so a total of over £600 will be sent to the charitywhat a fantastic amount!)

Our other news is that the vandalised window at All Saints is, as I write this, being removed by the specialist company so that it can be repaired and restored. We are extremely grateful to villagers (many anonymously) who have contributed so generously to this project, which will cost in the region of £20 000 in all, only a small fraction of which is covered by the Ecclesiastical Insurance. However, the PCC felt that it was important to do a long-term repair, not just a quick fix, and we are also having a protective guard fitted so it shouldn't happen again! The East Window will be boarded up while the work is carried out, which may take some time!

Meanwhile it is 'service as usual' and we look forward to welcoming you to our next service at All Saints on February 1st which will be Candlemas- another informal family-friendly service.

The PCC wish everybody a very happy, peaceful and healthy 2026.

Rockland Playing Fields (AJB)

We continue to be run by volunteers and I am grateful for all of their support and help. We are still actively looking for volunteers to join our committee and are also looking for a new secretary to join us. If anyone would like to join our committee please do contact me and I will be happy to have a chat. Our main income remains the bar and the user groups that hire the facilities. The pavilion is open to being hired should anyone wish to enquire.

The cost of the new fire door, including fitting was £944. Andrew Claxton from Weathershield windows kindly gave us a further discount and we obtained the new fire door, including fitting, for £800. Thank you to Andrew (who was present) for his generosity and to the Parish Council for paying for the new door.

As landlord, the PC has a duty to ensure that premises in their ownership comply with all safety regulations - including fire safety provisions. Cllr. Swaddling was able to advise regards Fire Safety. When you move away from domestic property you need more specialist advice e.g. Norfolk Fire Service, Fire Safety Team, who will know the legislation for a pavilion. As a rough guide, the Fire door should be adequate and effective for the number of people using the building (including disabled). The regulations probably specify a certificated Fire door and possibly to include smoke seal, intumescent strips, self-closer, fire rated hinges and no more than a 3mm gap between door and frame.

A step has been built on the new patio (thank you Michael Garrod) outside the fire escape back door, I would assume that this does not meet the requirements due to size, disable use and no clear markings. I would also assume that this is not down to the PC as they did not install it. Cllr. Buckland to check. If this is covered in PF insurance.

The darker nights are drawing in and we are again facing issues with dog fouling. A polite reminder to please pick up after your dogs as the field is used regularly by children as young as 5 through to adults. Thank you to Cllr. Swaddling for performing monthly safety checks on the Play Park.

Rockland Primary School (JD)

The school continues to be over-subscribed in many, but not all, year groups with the number of children attending the school currently standing at 71 pupils. Rocklands Primary continues to benefit from being part of a federation and many joint activities take place each term across the 2 schools. We had a very successful open afternoon in October and expect to have a pleasing number of children join us in September.

As for all schools, our budget is very tight with financial decisions made at County and Government level having an often-detrimental impact on our finances. However, we have avoided having to make uncomfortable staffing decisions, so far.

Signed

Date

Chapel Green Wildflower Meadow (SS)

SS had sent an update which was delivered by the Clerk.

We haven't been able to do much to the Wildflower Meadow due to the wet weather. The second cut had to be postponed.

We were invited by the Hardy Orchid Society to submit an application for a grant. Jim has done most of the work obtaining quotes for new sleepers, gravel and a professionally produced information board. Chris supplied a lot of information about bird, butterfly and moth species, I updated the plant list and Karen Roseberry found 3 lovely Rocklander articles - application submitted - so now wait and see.

14. To report on financial matters

14.1 Finances

14.1.1 Financial position

Bank account balances on Monday 5 January 2026

Barclays Community Account	£	4083.50
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	10419.75
TOTAL as per bank	£	14503.25

Summary

RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan/Village Survey	£	200.60
Community Fund (Summary below)	£	4839.64
RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	10298.29
TOTAL as per bank	£	14503.25

ROCKLANDS COMMUNITY FUND ACCOUNT				
DATE	DETAIL	IN	OUT	BALANCE
	Balance			£534.95
	Donations collected - Coronation Celebrations	£100.50		£635.45
	Donation to Village Hall for D Day Celebrations		£635.45	£0.00
08/07/2024	Anonymous donation	£5,000.00		£5,000.00
01/09/2024	To Rockland Playing Field - machinery shortfall		£500.00	£4,500.00
01/11/2024	Surplus returned - D Day Celebrations	£289.64		£4,789.64
05/11/2024	Leftover from Neighbourhood Watch	£50.00		£4,839.64
	TOTALS	£5,440.14	£1,135.45	£4,839.64

ROCKLANDS EXTRA COSTS - NOT BUDGETED FOR (PL)			Year 2025-2026		
(To be considered at next precept setting)					
		Cost £			
Play Park	Rospa - Playpark annual safety inspection	129.60	(Sarah Good/AJB)		
Play Park	Annual insurance contribution	150.00	(PL/AJB)		
Play Park	Play Park signage	32.96	(AJB)		
Play Park	Play Park cable ties	12.67	(AJB)		
Playing Fields	Fire door - new - pavillion	800.00	(AJB)		
	TOTAL	£1,125.23			

14.1.2 Money in since last meeting (3 November 2025)

8/12/2025	Barclays Saver Account - Interest	£	30.31
	TOTAL IN	£	30.31

14.1.3 Money out since last meeting (3 November 2025)

13.2.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

24/11/2025	nPower - Electricity - (DD) October 2025	£	92.90
19/12/2025	nPower - Electricity - (DD) November 2025	£	99.17
1/12/2025	Clerk's wages (SO) M8	£	354.25
2/1/2026	Clerk's wages (SO) M9	£	354.25
	TOTAL OUT	£	900.57

Signed

Date

14.1.4 Direct payments (DP- authorised)

DP018	Reimburse Richard Harrison - Ink cartridges	£	198.41
DP019	Weathershield Windows - New fire door - pavilion	£	800.00
DP020	K&M Lighting Services - (2 months) Dec 2025, Jan 2026	£	35.28
TOTAL OUT			£ 1033.69

15. To consider planning applications

15.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting (Monday 3 November 2025)

PL/2025/1282/HOU MCCARTHUR Mill House Mill Lane, Rockland All Saints, Rocklands, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1XR. Proposed temporary change of use of an outbuilding to granny annexe ancillary to the main dwelling (323) **GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS**

PL/2025/1624/FMIN GARROD Two Oaks Farm, Two Oak Farm Sandy Lane, Rockland All Saints, Rocklands, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1EN. Erection of general-purpose agricultural storage building (retrospective) (324) **GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS**

15.2 Applications pending outcome

PL/2024/1157/VAR CJB Developments/KIDDELL Site on corner of Mill Lane and Green Lane, Rocklands All Saints, NR17 1UA/Kemp Meadow. Variation of conditions 2, 5 and 14 on pp 3PL/2023/0521/VAR to allow minor changes to scheme prior to completion and regularise changes (311)

PL/2025/1140/OMIN RIDER Land Off Thieves Lane, Rockland St Peter, NR17 1UG. Outline planning permission for 9no. self-build dwellings with all matters reserved except access. (322)

15.3 New applications since last meeting (Monday 3 November 2025)

PL/2025/1452/FMIN JACKSON Shepley House Scoulton Road, Rockland St Peter, Rocklands, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1UW. Change of use from Holiday let to Residential. Deadline extended to 5/1/2026. (325)

All councillors agreed they have NO OBJECTION to this new application. The Clerk will submit to Breckland Planning website.

PL/2025/1875/DPO BECKETT Riding Centre, Eden Meadows Sandy Lane, Rockland All Saints, Rocklands, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1EN. Variation of Section 106 Agreement attached to 3PL/1990/1565/F - To remove land being retained from the tie land transferred to Woodland Lodge. For info only. No response required. (327)

15.4 New Appeal since last meeting (Monday 3 November)

APP/F2605/W/25/337 (PL/2025/0173/FMIN) TUBBY Land North of Bell Road, Rocklands, NR171UQ. Proposed Chalet Bungalow. Deadline for comments 12/1/2026 (326) This appeal was discussed and it was agreed that as nothing had changed, the Parish Council would continue to object for the same reasons as previously submitted for previously refused applications and dismissed appeal.

No applications received after agenda finalised.

16. To discuss any correspondence

17. AOB - To receive items for the next agenda.

There were no items for the next agenda.

18. Date of next Parish Council Meeting - Monday 2 March 2026.

The meeting closed at 20.00

Signed

Date