

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
7.00pm on Monday 2nd March

Present: Philip Leslie Chair
Amanda Jayne Buckland Vice-chair
Phil Dingle
Martyn Edwardson-White
Tim Ford
Bryan Swaddling
Kim Austin Clerk

Also present: 14 members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 19:00

1. **To consider accepting apologies for absence**
Apologies received from Cllr. Anne Jones who was working.
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 5 January 2026**
The minutes had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. Swaddling proposed they be accepted, Cllr. Ford seconded the proposal and councillors unanimously voted with a show of hands to accept the minutes. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. Philip Leslie.
4. **To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (5 March 2026) not on the agenda.**
There were no matters arising.
5. **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 7:02. There were no comments from members of the public present and the meeting reconvened.
6. **To update on SID (flashing speed sign) (TF)**
Cllr. Ford had circulated his report to all councillors prior to the meeting.
Measurements are from two locations.
Location Attleborough Road (B1077)- Vehicles approaching from Caston.
Period 19-12-2025 to 12-01-2026
Total vehicles detected 20,862
Average per day 834
Average per week 5,838
Peak time AM 11.00 - 12.00
Peak time PM 15.00 - 16.00
Total vehicles under 40MPH 19,633 - 94%
Total vehicles over 40 MPH 1,229 - 6% of which
189 - 15% over 45 MPH and would be open to enforcement.
Max Speed 60 MPH 22-12-2026 Time 21.50 (60mph in a 40 mph zone !)

Signed

Date

Location The Street Vehicles from Village Hall towards the crossroads.

Period 12-01-2026 to 06-02-2026

Total vehicles detected 9,816

Average per day 373

Average per week 2,611

Peak time AM 08:00 - 09:00

Peak time PM 15.00 - 16.00

Total vehicles under 30MPH 7890 - 80.38%

Total vehicles over 30 MPH 1926 - 6% of which

313 - 16.25% over 35 MPH and would be open to enforcement.

Max Speed **50 MPH** 16-01-2026 Time 21.30 (**50mph in a 30 mph zone !**)

The traffic density from both the above locations has decreased slightly from the same periods last year but unfortunately the percentage of vehicles travelling at speeds that would be open to enforcement are stubbornly staying similar.

My thanks to Cllr Swaddling for his assistance in moving the sign.

These results were presented at the last SNAP meeting. A measurement strip had appeared in the road soon after that meeting but TF was not sure if it was placed there by the Police or by Highways. If it was the Police, TF would ask for the data.

RH said it could be to do with the planning application for the 9 self builds in that area as it was placed opposite the site. TF said he thought this was a different strip.

7. To receive Parish Councillor reports

No reports.

8. To receive District Councillor/Couty Councillor reports

No reports received prior to the meeting.

9. To receive news from village organisations and churches

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

The report received from Sharon was delivered by John Brown.

- We have welcomed some new families with children (thankfully) who are under 3 which means it will help to steady the numbers when the exodus happens in July.
- The wet and damp weather has meant the children have been confined to indoor play as wet grass is so slippery for little people and big people I hasten to add.
- We continue to offer the children a variety of activities which always includes an adult led task.
- We have been changing our role play recently, much to the children's delight. Our playhouse has been a supermarket and a veterinary surgery as well as being the usual home corner, in between times.
- We are making more effort to include environmental print around the hall to draw children's attention to the written word. All these little extras that we do, however, increases the preparation time., although we recognise the importance for the children's development.
- The children enter the hall on Friday mornings to a well organised setting with each activity clearly demarcated in its respective area. The children leave us with a hall that looks like a cyclone has passed through it but this is always a sign that the children have had a good session and engaged with all the resources in their own creative way.
- We have two events planned in the forthcoming months: our annual Easter Bunny hunt will be on Sunday 29 March. his was a huge success last year and we hope to have the same positive response this year. On Sunday 28th June, we have Strawberry Tea. Keep your eyes open for the advertisements around the village. We are fundraising for Little Rocky's as you will appreciate, we replace resources regularly due to wear and tear. We pride ourselves on



Signed

Date

ensuring there is quality provision and this can only be achieved with regular inspection of resources.

- We hope people from the village will support us for both these events and not be put off by family groups wandering around the village searching for the elusive bunnies.
- We will run a family session over the Easter break when siblings who have already started their school journey return to us. We love to see our veterans and marvel at how much they have matured.
- We have invested in new aprons with LR logo and we have all bought our own hoodies/fleeces with the LR logo so there's no mistaking who the volunteers are.

St. Peter's Church (John Brown)

Joint venture between RAS and RSP, coffee morning held on 28 February was a success. Cheese and wine evening to be held on 11 April in the Village Hall, starting at 7pm. £10 each which includes first drink and food. Tickets will be on sale in the shop or contact John Brown on 07802 433611.

A service for the Celebration of spring is to be held at 10.30 this weekend.

Rocklands Village Hall (James Alger, Chair)

The report received from James was delivered by the Clerk.

Recently the equipment in the hall along with that stored here by user groups (Youth Club and Little Rockys) passed our regular Portable Appliance Test (PAT). Thanks to Al Bainbridge and Ian Harrison for doing this and Kate Bainbridge for sending out the results.

As I mentioned in my last report the hall is struggling not only to find committee members but officers as well. For example, I am both the Chair of the Village Hall committee and vice chair of the Playing Field committee. The Village Hall currently has the same person (Sarah Good) as secretary and treasurer and she will be stepping down shortly. We were able to fill the position of treasurer but it will mean the same person (Richard Davies) filling the role at the playing field and the village hall. This is not ideal both from a governance point of view as well as the amount of work involved for someone who is volunteering. As this is a problem that affects not only the Village Hall, I feel the Parish Council is the best forum for this to be discussed and hopefully come up with a solution.

PL said there were plans afoot that he could possibly discuss at the May meeting.

All Saints Church (CJ)

Cath Jones provided a report which was delivered by the Clerk.

- No further developments about the East Window which is still in the workshop being repaired and renovated.
- Joint coffee morning with St Peter's in Village Hall on 28 February had been very successful with lots of people attending, chatting, eating delicious cakes and drinking unlimited tea and coffee, as well as buying second hand books. Several people asked if it was to be a regular event, so this will be investigated, as both churches went home a little better off.
- Our next fundraiser is on 11 April when we are holding another Cheese and Wine Evening in the VH, with entertainment by the Roskettes. Tickets will be on sale soon for this popular event so keep your eyes open.
- Easter services will be shared among the benefice as usual. The Palm Sunday service will be at Deopham this year. On Maundy Thursday, there will be an agape service at St Peter's, which is always very moving and meaningful. On Good Friday, the Walk of Witness from St James', Great Ellingham leaves at midday, and finishes at All Saints with a reflective service at about 2pm when the walkers have arrived. On Easter Day (Sunday) we are 'doing different' in true Norfolk fashion when we are meeting at All Saints at dawn and watching the sun rise from the top of the hill with a short outdoor service followed by something to eat. There will also be a traditional service at St James at 10.30 on Easter Day obviously, all are welcome at all events and services.
- John Brown reminded us there would be free wine and food at the agape service !

Signed

Date

Rockland Playing Fields (AJB)

We are still looking for volunteers to come forward for our community group. The field is still regularly used for football and we're getting closer to the cricket season starting with some warmer weather. We have a hire in March, where Fours will be holding their annual sports day. It's great to see the facilities being enjoyed by the community.

Thanks again to the current volunteers that continue to give up their valuable time. It is greatly appreciated.

Rockland Primary School (JD)

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

- Number of children on Roll: 74
- Current Year 6 parents are waiting to hear which high school their child will be attending in September. We have 10 year 6 children transferring to high school this summer.
- New parents are waiting to hear if they have been allocated a space for their reception child ready to start in September. We have 10 places for Reception children again this year.
- We are waiting to see how the new funding for special educational needs will impact our school budget but are not expecting good news.
- The Federation budget is very tight again this year and we always appreciate the support the village community gives us at our fundraising events.

Chapel Green Wildflower Meadow (SS)

The Management Group met on 25 February 2026. There was a detailed discussion about whether there is any prospect of a further cut of the meadow before the growing season takes off. Phil Dingle had kindly offered the use of his ride-on mower with a grass collector, but the weather conditions have not allowed this to take place. It was agreed that although not ideal we will wait for the main cut but hope to get this done in July this year to allow further mowing later in the year, to imitate traditional grazing. The mower will be brought out of winter storage and serviced, by a volunteer.

The application to the Hardy Orchid Society was unsuccessful. The feedback we received suggested that refreshing the car parking area with gravel and new sleepers, to promote controlled access to the meadow was not a conservation project, but that they might consider an application for fencing if we want to prevent people in 4x4s driving over the meadow! Our thanks to Jim Paine for trying to progress the application.

While Norfolk Wildlife Trust have offered funding for meadows in the past this is currently focused on advice for landowners. We would be grateful if the Parish Council would consider this project and can provide costings.

The existing notice board has been refurbished and we have been offered graphic design help within the village to print a new information display.

Phil Dingle has been seconded to the Wildflower Meadow committee.

Local Plan (RH).

A detailed report on the consultations had been released. RH had not read the report yet in its entirety. There was currently not a lot else to report on the Local Plan.

Flooding (RH).

Not managed to progress yet, a meeting between the Flood Team and the local landowners. Has been pending for a while now.

PL The Parish Council had applied to Breckland to transfer ownership to Rocklands of the Community Land on offer to the Parish. These parcels of land could be used at part of a flood mitigation plan. Breckland have recorded Rocklands as a strong interest, and some Heads of Terms will be drawn up for the Parish Council to review.

Signed

Date

10. To report on financial matters

10.1 Finances

10.1.1 Financial position

Bank account balances on Monday 2 March 2026

Barclays Community Account	£	3224.62
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	10446.13
TOTAL as per bank	£	13670.75

Summary

RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan/Village Survey	£	200.60
Community Fund (Summary below)	£	4839.64
RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	8630.51
TOTAL as per bank	£	13670.75

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)					
	Date	CHQ / DP Detail	Cost £		
Play Park	10/06/2025	DP008 Rospa - Playpark annual safety inspection	129.60	(Sarah Good/AJB)	
Play Park	13/07/2025	DP010 Annual insurance contribution	150.00	(PL/AJB)	
Play Park	07/10/2025	DP013 Play Park signage	32.96	(AJB)	
Play Park	09/10/2025	DP014 Play Park cable ties	12.67	(AJB)	
Playing Fields	05/01/2026	DP019 Fire door - new - pavillion	800.00	(AJB)	
		TOTAL	£1,125.23		

10.1.2 Money in since last meeting (5 January 2026)

25/2/26	HMRC VAT (2024-2025)	£	143.89
2/3/26	Barclays Saver Account - Interest	£	26.38
	TOTAL IN	£	170.27

10.1.3 Money out since last meeting (5 January 2026)

10.1.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

22/1/26	nPower - Electricity - (DD) December 2025	£	107.50
25/2/26	nPower - Electricity - (DD) January 2026	£	105.02
2/2/26	Clerk's wages (SO) M10	£	354.25
	TOTAL OUT	£	566.77

10.1.3.2 Direct payments (DP- authorised)

DP021	Rockland Village Hall - Hall Hire 2026	£	112.00
DP022	Defib4Life - Defib. Battery (4 yrs) Reimburse Cllr. Tim Ford	£	324.00
	TOTAL OUT	£	436.00

10.1.4 To appoint Internal Auditor for the end of year accounts 2025-2026

The Clerk proposed that Michaela Canham perform the internal audit of the accounts again this year. Michael is available to do so. Councillors agreed unanimously.

Signed

Date

11. To consider planning applications
- 11.1 Planning **outcomes** since last meeting (Monday 5 January 2026)
- 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) **REFUSED**
- 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) **PERMISSION**
- 11.2 Applications **pending** outcome
- 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)
- 11.3 **New applications** since last meeting (Monday 5 January 2026)
- No new applications
- 11.4 **Pending Appeals**
- 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)
12. **To discuss any correspondence**
- No correspondence was received, not already discussed.
13. **AOB - To receive items for the next agenda**
- No AOB.
14. Date of next Parish Council Meeting - **Monday 11 May 2025**. The Annual Parish Council Meeting (**AGM**) will be held at 7.00pm in Rocklands Village Hall and will be immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting (Annual Assembly).

The meeting closed at 19.40

Signed

Date