

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
7.00pm on Monday 3rd November 2025

Present:	Philip Leslie	Chair
	Richard Harrison	Vice-chair
	Amanda Jayne Buckland	
	Phil Dingle	
	Tim Ford	
	Anne Jones	
	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 were received from Cllr. Bryan Swaddling due to illness.
2. **To record declarations of interest from members in any items on the agenda**
There were no declarations of interest.

Chairman Cllr. Philip Leslie announced he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr. Richard Harrison who would be resigning as of 4/11, tomorrow. Richard was resigning after 7 and a half years on the Parish Council, during which time, Richard has put a tremendous amount of work, especially in terms of planning, flooding and speed monitoring, to mention just a few areas. Richard is resigning to spend more time on family matters. Richard will be greatly missed by all and was presented with a card and a gift to show the appreciation of the Parish Councillors and the Clerk. Richard would still assist with planning, Breckland Local Plan and flooding. Thank you Richard.

3. **To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1 September 2025**
The minutes had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. Ford proposed they be accepted, Cllr. Harrison 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 (1 September 2025) 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 7:06. There were no comments from members of the public present and the meeting reconvened.

6. **To update on Breckland's Local Plan (RH)**
Cllr. Harrison had circulated his report to all councillors prior to the meeting.
On 20 October, a Special Meeting of Breckland Council Cabinet resolved that the Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18 - 'Preferred Options') be approved and published for consultation for a period of at least six weeks. This, of course, is the second attempt at this stage of consultation - as the first was dropped following the new Government significantly increasing required housing numbers, and after the Parish Council had held public meetings and issued an extensive document of representation !
On 31 October, the Breckland Principal Planning Policy Officer issued the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents for consultation. The consultation period finishes at 23:59 on Monday 15 December 2025.
The main consultation document runs to some 619 pages, with supporting documents adding many more - so we have something of a challenge in front of us!

Signed

Date

Links to the Draft Plan, Policies Map and Evidence base can be found at:
<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/local-plan-2025>

The latest Draft Local Plan introduces a completely new 'Parish Hierarchy' - consisting of:

'Strategic Development Areas (SDA)'

'Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUE)'

'Market Towns'

'Key Service Parishes'

'Primary Parishes'

'Secondary Parishes'

'Tertiary Parishes'

'Other Parishes'

Rocklands has been re-categorised as a 'Secondary Parish'. (see Draft Local Plan p.38)

Following the repeated 'Call for Sites' exercise - where numerous potential development sites had been put forward by landowners for consideration, the Draft Local Plan out for consultation now proposes just two potential sites for Rocklands:

PROPOSAL ROC 1 (065): North of The Street (see Draft Local Plan p.471-473)

This is the area immediately North of the junction of Rectory Road, Magpie Lane and The Street - where it is proposed that approximately 10 dwellings could be located.

PROPOSAL ROC 2 (064): South of Bell Road (see Draft Local Plan p.474-476)

This is the site South of Bell Road - extending from the end of the current row of houses - where it is proposed that approximately 15 dwellings could be located. This is a significant reduction from the 115 dwellings proposed in the last 'Call for Sites' exercise.

Breckland Council will be holding a number of drop-in events where the Draft Local Plan can be seen and where Council Officers will be available to explain it and discuss matters.

Information on the dates and times of the public events are as follows:

Swaffham - Swaffham Assembly Rooms (Indoor Market) - Date: Friday 7 November - Time: 9:30 - 13:00

Thetford - Thetford Library - Date: Monday 10 November - Time: 10:00 - 13:00

Dereham - Dereham Library - Date: Thursday 13 November - Time: 10:00 - 13:00

Attleborough - Attleborough Library - Date: Friday 14 November - Time: 11:00 - 14:00

Watton - Watton Library - Date: Wednesday 19 November - Time: 12:00 - 15:00

RPC will once again hold a public meeting before submitting representations on behalf of residents.

Post meeting note: To be held on Saturday 29 November, Rocklands Village Hall, 10.30-12.30.

Note: Issues with delivering proposed development at Swanton Morley has shifted focus to Larling, which is now first choice for 2000 dwellings at Barkers Farm.

7. Speeding: To update on SID (flashing speed sign) (RH)

Cllr. Harrison had circulated his report to all councillors prior to the meeting.

SID (flashing speed sign) (RH)

In the last period, the speed sign was deployed as follows:

The Street - Vehicles Approaching Crossroads from Village Hall

Deployed: 10:00 hrs 12 August 2025

Finished: 11:00 hrs 27 September 2025

The analysis results show:

17,060 vehicles detected

Average 371 vehicles/day

Morning peak time - 08:00 to 09:00

Afternoon peak time - 15:15 to 16:15

13,357 vehicles (78.3%) within **30 mph** speed limit

3,703 vehicles (21.7%) exceeding speed limit

- of which 579 vehicles (3.4%) over 35 mph - and likely open to a fine*

Top speed: **50 mph** - 31/08/2025 and 05/09/25*

Signed

Date

Note that, for this period, the speed sign was deployed for much longer than usual - due to my time constraints.

Since the last deployment monitoring traffic approaching the crossroads from the Village:

- vehicle movements averaged 371 per day - virtually the same daily traffic volumes as previously.
- vehicles speeding numbered 3,703 (21.7%) - virtually the same proportion of vehicles speeding.
- vehicles open to enforcement action numbered 579 (3.4%) - a 0.4% decrease in vehicles open to enforcement.

*Note that 2 vehicles were recorded travelling at 50 mph during this period.

That over a fifth of vehicles were speeding on a village street with no pavement remains disappointing.

Cllr Tim Ford and I moved the speed sign to monitor traffic on Attleborough Road (B1077) approaching from Great Ellingham, on 30 October.

As always, I am indebted to Tim for his continued support.

Cllr. Tim Ford will be taking over this activity from Cllr. Harrison and will provide reports in the future from the next meeting in January.

8. To update on Flooding and Rockland's Flood Group.(RH)

Cllr. Harrison had circulated his report to all councillors prior to the meeting.

I have now spoken with both local landowners associated with the land to the East and West of The Street - where the Natural Flood Mitigation (NFM) opportunities proposed by the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) could be established - and they are amenable to discussions with ourselves and the LLFA.

I have asked our District Councillor, Sarah Suggitt, to suggest an appropriate contact from Breckland - who own the land at the rear of Wayland Road, where the attenuation lagoon for the East site would be located. This site offers the greatest potential benefits. An attenuation pond with nature area for school. Water here would not be so deep as to require mandatory fencing.

When all representatives have been identified, we will progress meetings for these sites.

I have reminded our Area Highways Engineer of our request regarding the LLFA suggested improvements to reinforcement of the Village Hall ditch.

Village Hall ditch

Communicated with Highways and Cllr. Ed Connolly and had a response this morning saying that Ed Connolly had no money left in his member's fund and Highways have suggested an application to the Parish Partnership which would be 50:50 funding. A quote to do the work has been requested from Highways. I have requested that Highways or their contractors attend the site for quotation purposes, and that Dave Jones should be the contact going forward. Any payment by the PC would have to come from reserves.

9. To discuss the Rocklander (Karen Roseberry KR - editor)

Chair, Cllr. Leslie, thanked Karen for attending and for providing a recent update on financials.

It was agreed it was a very attractive magazine. Well done to Karen for managing to reduce print costs per magazine and for securing more advertisers which has helped to reduce the shortfall for this official year. It was agreed Karen needed someone to help, particularly with sponsorship and advertising. Changing to subscriptions, or anything that needed administering is not viable. KR not keen to move to bi-monthly magazines as would have to charge less for advertising and advertising events etc. would be more difficult.

Everyone agreed it would be a terrible shame not to have the magazine and Cllr. Leslie said he would try and get Karen some help, but it was not possible for the Parish Council to increase its precept to cover ongoing costs. Therefore, the PC is not able to cover any shortfall.

10. To receive District Councillor/County Councillor reports.

No reports were received prior to the meeting. Cllr. Ed Connolly's Parish Report was received the day after and so is included here.

Councillors back new devolved powers and funding to boost jobs and growth

Signed

Date

New powers and funding to boost jobs, transport, housing and growth are coming to Norfolk and Suffolk, after councillors voted in favour. Following a discussion at full council Norfolk County Council's cabinet voted in favour of proceeding with devolution,

Under the Government's devolution priority programme, Norfolk and Suffolk have been offered:

- The transfer of powers and funding from Whitehall, to enable decisions on jobs, skills, transport and housing to be taken in Norfolk and Suffolk
- A multi-million pound investment fund for 30 years, to spend on local priorities

The decision means that the new devolved powers and funding would be overseen by a mayor, elected by voters in May 2026, to lead a new combined authority. The combined authority would be made up of the mayor, plus councillors from Norfolk and Suffolk. The mayor and the combined authority will take responsibility for a range of functions and funding, including:

- Local transport
- Skills and jobs
- Housing development
- Economic growth and regeneration
- Environment and climate change
- From 2027, taking on police and crime commissioner/fire and rescue authority functions

Positives of Devolution for Norfolk and Suffolk

1. Greater Local Control and Tailored Solutions

Devolution will empower local leaders to make strategic decisions closer to the communities they serve, rather than relying on central government. This enables more responsive, integrated, and locally relevant public services.

2. Significant Long-Term Investment

The establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) will unlock an investment fund of £37.4 million per year for 30 years, over £1.1 billion in total. This provides long-term financial certainty and autonomy for planning and delivering place-based projects, reducing reliance on short-term, competitive funding pots.

3. Economic Growth and Resilience

Devolution enables the development of tailored economic strategies, boosting productivity, attracting inward investment, and supporting local businesses. It also allows for the creation of innovation hubs, infrastructure projects, and skills programmes that are specific to local needs.

4. Improved Transport and Infrastructure

The new authority will have powers over local transport planning, bus franchising, and the ability to coordinate a Key Route Network. This should lead to more consistent and strategic transport policies, better integration, and targeted investment where it delivers the greatest impact.

5. Skills and Employment

Control over adult skills funding will be devolved, allowing the region to tailor skills provision to local economic needs, target key sectors, and increase access to lifelong learning. This flexibility should help address skills shortages and support economic growth.

6. Housing and Regeneration

Devolution brings new powers to accelerate housing delivery and regeneration, including direct partnerships with Homes England and the ability to allocate housing and regeneration grants locally. This should help address local housing needs more effectively.

7. Environment and Climate Change

The authority will have a role in regional energy planning, heat network zoning, and local nature recovery strategies. This enables more coordinated action on decarbonisation, energy security, and environmental protection

8. Health, Wellbeing, and Public Service Reform

There will be a statutory duty to improve health and reduce inequalities, with the Mayor and CCA required to factor health outcomes into every decision. This should lead to more joined-up approaches to public health and social care.

9. Public Safety

Signed

Date

The Mayor will take on Police and Crime Commissioner/Fire and Rescue Authority functions, aligning public safety governance with other devolved powers for integrated service delivery.

10. Enhanced Local Voice and Influence

Devolution gives the region a seat on the Council of Nations and Regions, amplifying the local voice in national policy-making and ensuring regional priorities are heard and acted upon.

11. General Power of Competence

The Strategic Authority and Mayor will have a general power of competence, allowing them to innovate and act in the public interest, provided actions are not prohibited by law.

12. Inclusive Growth and Equality

The Equality Impact Assessment highlights that devolution can be used as a catalyst to embed 'accessible by design' in new strategies and services, better aligning them to the needs of vulnerable and protected groups, and reducing inequalities.

You can find out more about devolution at www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution.

New Norfolk-wide highways contract awarded with strong focus on boosting local skills and employment

Norfolk County Council has appointed Kier as its new long-term contractor responsible for the maintenance and construction of the county's highway network. Kier will deliver a comprehensive programme of highways maintenance and improvement, including road resurfacing and surface dressing, bridge works, drainage and the delivery of new transport infrastructure. As part of the contract, Kier will invest significantly in its existing site in Wymondham, upgrading facilities to reduce energy consumption and support the latest in sustainable construction and materials innovation, which will benefit the wider Norfolk economy. A key feature of Kier's approach to the contract will be its commitment to local skills and employment. At any given time, Kier will employ at least 15 apprentices, providing structured training, professional qualifications, and career pathways for young people across Norfolk. The company will also run an annual 10-week programme for young people in care and care leavers, offering taster sessions, work experience, and employability skills, with support from supply chain partners.

Give Norfolk County Council your views on fire and rescue priorities

A public consultation on Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service's safety and risk plans for the next five years has gone live. Residents, businesses and organisations now have an opportunity to feedback on areas the service has identified as priorities for 2026-2031, to mitigate risk and keep our county as safe as possible. Eight proposals have been put out for the public to comment on, around the areas of:

- Road safety
- Prevention activity
- Building safety
- Preparing for and responding to emergencies
- Responding to climate change (specifically extreme weather risks such as flooding and wildfire)
- Supporting our people
- Fire station improvements
- Responding to medical emergencies

Details of the eight proposals are below. The public can fill in an online survey via www.norfolk.gov.uk/crmp to respond.

Norfolk's budget consultation - Have your say

As the county council's annual budget consultation has launched, people are being urged to take a look at the proposals and have their say. The county council is working to set a balanced budget, despite need to save £41.6m in 2026-27. This year there are 50 budget saving proposals, and proposals to increase council tax, which provides a large part of the funding the county council needs. These proposed savings add up to £35.7m - which would make a big contribution to the overall amount that needs to be saved. To help deal with cost pressures and invest in vital services, the current budget planning for 2026-27 is based on an assumption to increase council tax.

Three options are being considered:

- An increase of 3%

Signed

Date

- An increase of up to 5%
- An increase of more than 5%

People can find out more and have their say at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget. The consultation opens on Monday 27 October and closes on Monday 15 December 2025.

'It's never too late': Norfolk County Council is supporting healthy ageing

Looking after your health as you get older is not just a recommendation - it's a vital investment in your future quality of life. Evidence shows that staying physically active, keeping up with recommended vaccinations and screenings, and maintaining social connections are among the strongest predictors of how well you age. These actions play a direct role in preventing illnesses, reducing the risk of falls and long-term conditions, and supporting mental wellbeing. Norfolk is home to one of the highest ageing populations in the UK. Now, the county council's Public Health department has launched a new campaign to encourage residents aged 50 and over to prioritise their health so they can live healthier, more connected lives as they age. The campaign is centred around a brand [new Healthy Ageing subsite](#), called 'It's never too late', which highlights resources, guidance and opportunities to help residents make positive changes to their health and wellbeing. This includes:

- Protecting your health: information on vaccination eligibility and booking, NHS screening appointments, and NHS health checks.
- Being active: information on moving more, strength and balance, falls prevention, and finding local groups.
- Feeling connected: finding clubs, groups and one-to-one support, building new connections, and practical guidance on transport and digital skills.

To explore the new webpage and find out more, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/healthyageing.

Major refurbishment announced for Millennium Library to mark 25-year anniversary

Norwich's Millennium Library is set to undergo a £1m transformation in 2026, marking 25 years since it first opened its doors. The refurbishment has been shaped by extensive feedback from library users and will include a re-designed early years library as well as new homes for both the 8+ and teen library areas, each with their own identity. There are also plans for a bookshop-style entrance for easy browsing and an increase in study space, primarily on the first floor. Accessibility has been a key part of the design with lower shelving units throughout the library and improved signage and wayfinding. Visitors can also look forward to improved lighting, new furniture with built-in power points and a new gathering space for events and talks. Work is scheduled to begin next year. While some disruption to services is expected during the refurbishment, full details will be shared closer to the time.

Norfolk bucking national trend for recruiting adoptive parents

Norfolk is bucking the national trend for recruiting adopters, with the numbers of adopters increasing in the county. Across the country, there are 12% fewer families considering adoption this year compared to last, whereas in the year 24/25, Norfolk County Council's Adoption Service recruited 43 adoptive households - a 53% increase on the number of adopters who were approved in 23/24. Of these 43 households, 37 were couples and six were single adopters. The council has also seen an increase in adopters from global majority backgrounds and from the LGBTQ+ community. The news comes as the county marks National Adoption Week, with this year's focus being on busting the misconceptions about who can adopt. People considering whether adoption is right for them are invited to contact Norfolk Adoption Services on 01603 638343 for a friendly chat and invitation to an information event where they can find out more.

11. To receive news from village organisations and churches

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

- An enormous vote of thanks to Amy Nudds for organising the Tractor Run and Quiz Night, to raise funds for Little Rocky's. Both events raised a colossal sum of money in excess of £1,000 to buy new sensory and role play resources.
- Our thanks also extend to Graham Cole for being the quizmaster, The White Hart for hosting the quiz night and Richard Ives for cooking the bacon rolls on Sunday morning.



Signed

Date

In terms of buying new resources:

- We have already started to purchase new role play equipment to broaden the children's everyday experiences
- Montessori sensory puzzle boards with switches, dials and knobs to operate
- a wooden frame similar to a marble run with large wooden balls. This resource will also encourage hand/eye coordination. The adults were fascinated too !
- Light changing 'rain makers' which are really therapeutic to watch and small enough for little hands.
- We will be ordering more resources to support the children's development and feel so privileged that we can provide our families with such high-quality materials/experiences.
- Our maintenance manager (JB) has recently completed his recent project of creating a 'water maze board' for the children. This maze consists of twirling plastic pipes and funnels; the children can watch the water course its way through the twists and turns and pour out into the waiting receptacles.
- As we continue to improve our practice, we have now placed an order for new aprons with Little Rocky's logo embroidered on the bib for all volunteers.

With the winter months approaching at an accelerated pace, much of our weekly revenue will be swallowed up by heating. With tiny immobile babies, it's imperative that the hall is kept at a constant temperature, so we often operate at a loss for a short period of time.

The coming weeks will be very busy, as we become fully immersed in all the activities taking place locally. So many of our families are supportive of the events which take place within our village.

There are diary dates for special mornings and planned fund-raising events:

Friday 14 November - Children in Need fundraising morning: cake sale

Sunday 16 November - Pudsey Lunch

Saturday 6 December - Winter Market in conjunction with St. Peter's Church

Friday 19 December - Christmas Party and a visit from You Know Who !!

St. Peter's Church (John Brown)

- The Remembrance Service will be held at the Memorial Bed on 9 November at 10.45 am followed by hot soup and a roll at the village hall.

Caretaker. Cllr. Leslie announced that Cllr. Buckland had been appointed as 'caretaker' of the memorial bed and surrounding area by the Parish Council to formalise responsibilities. Any work to be undertaken in this area needs to go through Cllr. Buckland.

Rockland's Youth Club. Dave Jones said the Youth Club continued to thrive.

Rocklands Village Hall (James Alger, Chair)

James Alger provided a report which was delivered by the Clerk.

Further works have been carried out to both maintain and improve the hall. An extractor fan has been installed in the kitchen along with additional emergency lights in the annexe and the entrance lobby. The potholes in the driveway/car park were filled last week.

Over the past 12 months we have spent quite a lot of money on both maintaining and trying to improve the hall with most of the money coming from our reserves. This is not something that can continue much longer, so we will be looking to grant fund, future projects.

In the run up to Christmas in addition to our regular hirers, we will be hosting amongst others, the advent lunch and the Christmas Fayre, both of which are usually well attended and show that the hall continues to be a vital part of the village.

All Saints Church (CJ)

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

- Vandalised stained glass window. The concern from the Parish Council and others was much appreciated. After lots of convoluted paperwork, the Diocese has now given permission for the repair of the East Window. This won't be until 2026 as the specialist company are too busy before then. Hopefully the temporary seal will keep the worst of the weather out over the coming months.

Signed

Date

The PCC agreed to have the full repair of the window structure as advised and will use a legacy bequeathed by Evelyn Harrand to pay for the work. Insurance will cover the repair of the part broken by the rock, leaving a balance of £20k+. Some generous donations have already been received - thanks to those villagers.

- Church Events: (i) Outdoor service for Pets and Harvest Thanksgiving was well attended and enjoyed by all. A collection was sent to Leprosy Mission as usual after the service.
(ii) Harvest Supper is taking place this Saturday (8 November) at 7pm. Tickets need to be booked in advance with cutoff date tomorrow or Wednesday at very latest. (See Cath or Dave Jones if you haven't already booked and would like to come along) £10 each including two course home-cooked meal and entertainment from the Roskettes afterwards.
(iii) Christmas services will start on 30 November, with Advent Carols at All Saints at 10.30 which is only service involving 12 churches in big new benefice, covering Rocklands, Ellingham, Hingham with Scoulton, Woodrising and High Oak that day. Our popular Christingle service will be held on 7 December with children arriving to make their Christingles at 2.30 followed by an informal service at 3pm. Finally, 'Midnight' Mass on Christmas Eve at 10pm.....all welcome at this traditional candlelit service (as we have no electricity, we have little choice in this, but for safety reasons, we do have a generator so that people can see their way out safely when all candles have been blown out and so that the congregation can see the words of the carols!)
RAS PCC wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a happy and peaceful 2026.

Rockland Playing Fields (AJB)

PF is still looking for volunteers to join the committee. Richard Davies has joined as the new treasurer after Sarah Good stepped down. Deepest gratitude is sent to Sarah for all she has done for the Playing Field over the years. She will be missed and we wish her the best.

PF main income comes from the bar and the user groups that hire the facilities. The Pavillion is in desperate need of repair. We have previously spent ~£3500 on new windows and kept up with general repairs. Currently a new fire escape door is needed. I have received a quote for £944 plus vat from Andrew Claxton who has fitted windows and doors to PF and VH. We have been unsuccessful in securing grants and funding and would therefore ask if the PC as landlord would help with the cost of replacement of the new door. It was agreed the PC would pay for the replacement fire door.

Thank you to Timothy Halls for cutting the grass at play park and to William for cutting the hedge.

Library in the phone box (SS)

Sue Steel thanked the PC for the LED lighting in the phone box. Especially important this time of year with the nights drawing in and important as it is reliable. The Library is well supported and a recent donation of children's books has been well received. A dehumidifier runs in the phone box from October through to April to keep the books dry. Thank you to Sue and Cyril for looking after this amenity and thank you to those that use it. Thank you to Cllr. Harrison's neighbour, Matt Slade for cutting the grass and maintaining the green around the phone box.

Chapel Green Wildflower Meadow (SS)

Quiet this time of year. Due another cut, but easier now we have our own mower. Renovating the notice board. Have approached the Hardy Orchid society. Speaking with Norfolk Wildlife Trust re the meadow as a designated nature site, - which helps with its protection.

(See item 17 Correspondence.)

12. To discuss Parish website

To be compliant, Rockland Parish Council needs a new website. The new website would conform to the necessary standards and assist with data security and GDPR. Councillors will have gov.uk email addresses. Due diligence has been adhered to and quotes for a new website have been received from multiple companies (Including RLS and NALC). These have been compared and the various options discussed. Ian Scholes who maintains the current website has been included in all discussions.

Signed

Date

It was agreed RLS were the preferred supplier and the most cost effective. Cllr. Harrison asked again, that RLS confirm that all files and data would be RPC property and that RPC would own, and have access to the code. Cllr. Leslie confirmed that this was the case. The Clerk confirmed when asked that more than one administrator of the website could be appointed. RLS had said, 'Typically the clerk is the person responsible for updating the parish council website. However, this can be delegated to others should Council agree.' Ian Scholes had very kindly agreed to continue maintaining and updating the new website. There would be a one off cost for set up of **£290 plus vat**. There is an annual charge for maintenance and looking after the PC in terms of legal and rules and regs requirements and website of **£190 plus vat**. (£140 for the first year as a new customer.) No hidden extra costs.

Cllr. Ford proposed and Cllr. Buckland seconded a proposal to use RLS Services to provide RPC with a new website. There was a show of hands and all remaining councillors voted in agreement. Proposal was carried. Clerk to progress.

13. To report on financial matters

13.1 To agree Precept for 2026/2027

The Clerk had circulated figures to all councillors prior to the meeting to help them discuss the finances and decide on the precept for 2026/2027. See below.

FIGURES FOR PRECEPT				2026-2027
	2024-2025 FINAL FIGURES at March 2025	2025-2026 ACTUAL to date - 27/10	2025-2026 PROJECTED to March 2026	2026-2027 PROJECTED to March 2026
RECEIPTS				
Precept	8500.00	8500.00	8500.00	8500.00
Bus Saver Account Interest	5.07	42.74	100.00	140.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	8505.07	8542.74	8600.00	8640.00
PAYMENTS				
Clerks Salary	4104.75	2822.95	4240.00	4316.00
Insurance	264.00	264.00	264.00	300.00
Donations	1575.00	690.00	1000.00	1000.00
Electricity	890.73	476.34	900.00	900.00
Street Lighting	176.40	117.60	200.00	220.00
Clerks Reimbursements	108.27	0.00	50.00	Ink, paper, heatin 50.00
Subscriptions	40.00	137.00	137.00	150.00
Misc	886.90	49.95	500.00	500.00
Training	0.00	0.00	200.00	New councillors 200.00
Grass cutting & Maint. etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hall Hire	167.50	0.00	170.00	170.00
Audit	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00
Councillors Expenses	72.98	7.99	35.00	35.00
Website	103.77	143.87	150.00	650.00 NOTE 1
Capital	0.00	0.00	0.00	None expected ? 0.00
Rocklands Play Park (NEW for 2025/26)	0.00	296.02	320.00	1500.00 NOTE 2
TOTAL PAYMENTS	8425.30	5040.72	8201.00	10026.00
		(7 months)		
	NOTE 1 NEW WEBSITE (£500) One off cost £290 plus vat. Annual maint. Charge £190 plus vat.			
	NOTE 2 NEW EXPENSE (??) NEW DOOR ?? Anything else ??			

	2025-2026
PRECEPT	INCREASE
2018/2019	£5,500.00
2019/2020	£6,200.00 700.00
2020/2021	£6,200.00 0.00
2021/2022	£6,200.00 0.00
2022/2023	£7,200.00 1,000.00
2023/2024	£7,200.00 0.00
2024/2025	£8,500.00 1,300.00
2025/2026	

Signed

Date

After discussion it was suggested that the precept for 2026/2027 be increased by £1500 to £10,000. Cllr. Harrison proposed and Cllr. Ford seconded the motion. A show of hands, all councillors agreed and the motion was carried. Precept Form B prepared by the Clerk, was signed and dated by Cllr. Leslie. The Clerk would email the completed form to Breckland Council as required.

13.2 Finances

13.2.1 Financial position

Bank account balances on Monday 1 September 2025

Barclays Community Account	£	6453.61
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	10389.44
TOTAL as per bank	£	16843.05

Summary

RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan/Village Survey	£	200.60
Community Fund (Summary below)	£	4839.64
RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	11802.81
TOTAL as per bank	£	16843.05

ROCKLANDS COMMUNITY FUND ACCOUNT				
DATE	DE TAIL	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)	
	TOTAL	£325.23			

13.2.2 Money in since last meeting (1 September 2025)

8/9/2025	Barclays Saver Account - Interest	£	34.37
24/9/2025	Breckland Council - Precept.	£	4250.00
	TOTAL IN	£	4284.37

13.2.3 Money out since last meeting (1 September 2025)

13.2.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

12/9/2025	nPower - Electricity - (DD) 5 months Mar-July 2025	£	348.65
12/9/2025	nPower - Electricity - (DD) August 2025	£	71.94
10/10/2025	nPower - Electricity - (DD) September 2025	£	79.57
1/10/2025	Clerk's wages (SO) M6	£	354.25
1/11/2025	Clerk's wages (SO) M7	£	354.25
	TOTAL OUT	£	1208.66

Note: NPower Invoicing - 5 months invoices received for March to July 2025 in August 2025 (Delayed) .

Signed

Date

13.2.3.2 Direct payments (DP- authorised)

DP013	Play Park signage - Reimburse Cllr. Buckland	£	32.96
DP014	Play Park zip ties - Reimburse Cllr. Swaddling	£	12.67
DP015	Webhosting renewal - Reimburse Ian Scoles	£	100.66
DP016	K&M Lighting Services - (2 months) Oct, Nov 2025	£	35.28
DP017	Clerk reimbursements - ink, post, heating - 11 months	£	46.32

TOTAL OUT £ 227.89

Finance/Clerk's Notes:

NPower electricity account for Streetlighting.

Npower, invoicing has been on hold since March 2025 due to NPower updating their computer systems. Now sorted and they have sent five months invoices through at once.

14. To consider planning applications

14.1 Planning **outcomes** since last meeting (Monday 1 September 2025)

PL/2025/0298/FMIN (FULL) MOUSER The Spinney Low Lane, Rockland All Saints, Rocklands, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1TU, Change of use of annexe to private renting (retrospective) (317) **REFUSED**

PL/2025/1188/VAR QUINN 1 Mount Pleasant, Rockland All Saints. Var. conditions 2 & 3 - change of materials. (321) **GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS**

14.2 Applications/Appeals **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)

14.3 **New applications** since last meeting (Monday 7 July 2025)

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) The deadline for comments for this application had been extended until the day after this PC meeting 4/11 so some discussion had already taken place and a draft response produced by Cllr. Harrison - to be ratified at this meeting. A few points were noted - this application is not 'off Thieves Lane', but Attleborough Road. The proposed site is way outside the settlement boundary, and in no way adjacent to it. One of the directors of the appointed agent was previously director of Parker Planning and is an ex. Breckland planning officer. The Planning Statement skirts around some planning policy and draws a comparison with the Rookery Farm development, where there is none, as this was a Class Q, permitted development of existing agricultural buildings. Highways have serious concerns. Rocklands are already over 15% in excess of their housing allocation, and therefore significantly (200%) in excess of the 5% 'significant' excess set out in policy HOU04. There was a unanimous decision to **ROBUSTLY OBJECT** to this application.

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)

The councillors all agreed they had **NO OBJECTION** to this application. and to include any new applications received after agenda finalised.

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). Retrospective and adjacent to other farm buildings. The councillors all agreed they had **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

Changes to Breckland Planning Website. The Clerk gave an update and expressed her concerns.

Signed

Date

- We used to receive a 'weekly' list from Breckland (New and determined etc.) This has stopped a while ago and I must say it hasn't really been missed.
- Breckland Planning continue to send an email to the Clerk to notify of new planning applications in our Parish, inviting comments - 21 days from the date of the letter attached to the email.
- I noticed we are no longer receiving updates or decisions made on these applications. This has only recently been stopped.
- It has also been noticed that representations made on the planning website by Parish Councils or members of the public are no longer visible - so no historical data.

The Clerk queried these changes with Breckland, they said:

When we moved to our new software provider in late 2024 we made it known to Parish Councils and our elected members that we no longer had the facility to send weekly reports on applications received and decisions made. It was agreed we would notify all Parish Councils of an application within their parish but we would not be providing updates on the application. Parish Councils were advised they would need to obtain this information themselves from the public portal.

In terms of representations made by the parish council and residents, to comply with GDPR all comments are removed from the date of decision.

This is new. Would appear not to be due to GDPR as when comments are submitted via the planning portal, the submitter is fully aware their comments will be in the public domain, and personal details redacted. Appears just like Breckland are hiding everything away. What happened to transparency ? We do keep a copy of what we post but will not be able to revisit what members of the public posted. Breckland have said: *If you were to ever need to view previous comments from the parish council on a particular application, then we would be able to provide these to you.*

Cllr. Harrison will contact Breckland about our concerns.

17. To discuss any correspondence

Chapel Green Wildflower Meadow. (Discussed at Item 11) An email had been received from a resident, objecting to the report on the Wildflower Meadow in the minutes from 1/9/25 and asking for them to be amended. Prior to this meeting, the chair suggested the resident attend this meeting, but she declined to do so and therefore missed an opportunity to respond. It was unanimously agreed the minutes were a true representation of the report given at that meeting. Photographs are available of the spoil deposited on the meadow and encroachment of the boundary. The Parish Council would not be amending the minutes.

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

There were no items for the next agenda.

19. Date of next Parish Council Meeting - Monday 5 January 2026.

The meeting closed at 20.34

Signed

Date

Rocklands SID - The Street, Vehicles from Village Hall (page 1)

Start					12/08/2025	13/02/2025
Finish					27/09/2025	11/03/2025
Total Vehicles					17,060	9,624
Average Vehicles/day					371	370
Morning Peak					08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00
Afternoon Peak					15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15
Max Speed (date)					50 (31/08/25, 12:10)	50 (13/02/25, 14:45)
0-30 mph					13,357	7,532
%					78.29	78.26
30+ mph					3,703	2,092
%					21.71	21.74
35+ mph					579	363
%					3.39	3.77
35-40					534	307
%					3.13	3.19
40-45					43	50
%					0.25	0.52
45-50					2	6
%					0.01	0.06
50-55					0	0
%					0.00	0.00
55-60					0	0
%					0.00	0.00
60-65					0	0
%					0.00	0.00
65-70					0	0
%					0.00	0.00

Rocklands SID - The Street, Vehicles from Village Hall (page 2)

Start	03/10/2024	06/06/2024	04/01/2024	28/08/2023	28/02/2023	02/09/2022
Finish	12/11/2024	09/07/2024	22/02/2024	02/10/2023	21/04/2023	02/10/2022
Total Vehicles	15,343	13,029	18,864	13,246	17,764	10,458
Average Vehicles/day	383	389	381	379	341	350
Morning Peak	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00
Afternoon Peak	15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15	15:00-16:00	15:15-16:15
Max Speed (date)	55 (03/10/24, 11:05)	55 (10/06/24, 16:25)	50 (12/01/24, 17:40)	55 (23/09/23, 12:25)	60 (17/04/23, 15:45)	55 (12/09/22, 17:45)
0-30 mph	12,151	10,085	15,213	10,297	13,754	8,099
%	79.20	77.40	80.65	77.74	77.43	77.44
30+ mph	3,192	2,944	3,651	2,949	4,010	2,359
%	20.80	22.60	19.35	22.26	22.57	22.56
35+ mph	545	503	675	557	766	457
%	3.55	3.86	3.58	4.21	4.31	4.37
35-40	484	447	600	491	667	404
%	3.15	3.43	3.18	3.71	3.75	3.86
40-45	54	51	67	54	83	47
%	0.35	0.39	0.36	0.41	0.47	0.45
45-50	5	4	8	10	14	5
%	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.05
50-55	2	1	0	2	1	1
%	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01
55-60	0	0	0	0	1	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
60-65	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
65-70	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Signed

Date

Rocklands SID - The Street, Vehicles from Village Hall (page 3)

Start	03/05/2022	05/01/2022	03/09/2021	06/05/2021	03/01/2021	04/09/2020
Finish	30/05/2022	03/02/2022	04/10/2021	03/06/2021	03/02/2021	04/10/2020
Total Vehicles	10,581	10,281	11,577	10,280	6,557	10,757
Average Vehicles/day	391	355	375	368	212	360
Morning Peak	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	11:15-12:15	08:00-09:00
Afternoon Peak	15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15	15:15-16:15	15:00-16:00	12:00-13:00	15:00-16:00
Max Speed (date)	50 (14/05/22, 19:35)	55 (20/01/22, 12:30)	50 (07/09/21, 19:50)	55 (09/05/21, 18:20)	50 (04/01/21, 18:05)	65 (30/09/20, 14:05)
0-30 mph	8,138	7,956	8,719	7,484	5,060	8,016
%	76.91	77.39	75.31	72.80	77.17	74.52
30+ mph	2,443	2,325	2,858	2,796	1,497	2,741
%	23.09	22.61	24.69	27.20	22.83	25.48
35+ mph	474	493	618	686	340	671
%	4.48	4.80	5.34	6.67	5.19	6.24
35-40	413	429	553	584	302	562
%	3.90	4.17	4.78	5.68	4.61	5.22
40-45	58	56	58	92	30	100
%	0.55	0.54	0.50	0.89	0.46	0.93
45-50	3	7	7	9	8	7
%	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.09	0.12	0.07
50-55	0	1	0	1	0	1
%	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
55-60	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60-65	0	0	0	0	0	1
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
65-70	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Signed

Date