

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

Present: Philip Leslie Chair  
Richard Harrison Vice-chair  
Amanda Jayne Buckland  
Philip Dingle  
Tim Ford  
Anne Jones  
Bryan Swaddling  
Kim Austin Clerk

Also present: 10 members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 19:01

**1. To consider accepting apologies for absence**

Cllr. Anne Jones sent her 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 6 January 2025**

The minutes had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. Buckland proposed they be accepted, Cllr. Swaddling 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 (6 January 2025) not on the agenda.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation**

Cllr. Leslie thanked everybody for attending. Cllr. Swaddling proposed to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cllr. Ford, the meeting was adjourned at 19:04.

**Application.** A resident mentioned that the Breckland site notice for application PL/2025/0173/FMIN TUBBY had been displayed for a very short time and then had disappeared. Residents on Bell Road may therefore not be aware of the application. A resident had contacted Breckland, and they had said that they would attend to sort-out a new notice. Cllr. Harrison advised that planning notices had been discussed with Breckland previously, and they did not appear to be consistent.

The meeting resumed at 19.05

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

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

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

**a) Traffic from Caston - Attleborough Road (B1077)**

Deployed: 11:00 hrs 11 December 2024

Finished: 12:00 hrs 14 January 2025

The analysis results show:

34,274 vehicles detected

Average 1,007 vehicles/day

Morning peak time - 07:30 to 08:30

Afternoon peak time - 15:00 to 16:00

32,386 vehicles (94.5%) within 40 mph speed limit

1,888 vehicles (5.5%) exceeding speed limit

- of which 314 vehicles (0.9%) over 45 mph - and likely open to a fine\*

Top speed: 60 mph - 12/12/2024

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

- vehicle movements averaged 1,007 per day - a 35.0% increase in daily traffic volumes.
- vehicles speeding numbered 1,888 (5.5%) - a 2.6% decrease in the proportion of vehicles speeding.
- vehicles open to enforcement action numbered 314 (0.9%) - a 0.3% decrease in vehicles open to enforcement.

Note that 2 vehicles were recorded travelling at 60 mph during this period.

**b) The Street - Vehicles from Crossroads**

Deployed: 11:00 hrs 14 January 2025

Finished: 11:00 hrs 13 February 2025

The analysis results show:

11,787 vehicles detected

Average 393 vehicles/day

Morning peak time - 08:00 to 09:00

Afternoon peak time - 15:00 to 16:00

9,478 vehicles (80.4%) within 30 mph speed limit

2,309 vehicles (19.6%) exceeding speed limit

- of which 395 vehicles (3.4%) over 35 mph - and likely open to a fine\*

Top speed: 50 mph - 01/02/2025

Since the last deployment monitoring traffic approaching from Great Ellingham:

- vehicle movements averaged 393 per day - the same daily traffic volume as previously.
- vehicles speeding numbered 2,309 (19.6%) - a 2.6% decrease in proportion of vehicles speeding.
- vehicles open to enforcement action numbered 395 (3.4%) - a 0.6% decrease in vehicles open to enforcement.

Cllr Tim Ford and I moved the speed sign to monitor traffic on The Street approaching the crossroads, on 13 February 2025.

I continue to send the data/analysis to the police.

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

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

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

I have yet again chased-up the long overdue Breckland Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) - due in August last year - and await a response. The recipient (Planning Policy Manager) has read my mail but not yet responded. My colleague from the Watton and Saham Flood Action Group chased earlier and was told that this was on-hold whilst the Local Plan work is suspended. I have challenged this, as the SFRA informs planning policy and decisions - not the other way round...

On 28 January, we made representations to Breckland Council regarding a further application (PL/2024/1157/VAR) from the developer of Kemp Meadow - to make changes to three of the conditions imposed by HM Planning Inspectorate. Effectively, these were to 'regularise' aspects of the development as they have actually been built - not as per the conditions originally imposed by HM Planning Inspectorate. The expiry date was advertised as 06 February 2025 but, as I write, this application remains undecided.

On 24 February, the ditch (recently deepened and widened by the developer's contractor) in front of the Kemp Meadow development, filled and overflowed onto, and across, Mill Lane. Such was the extent that NCC Highways attended to position 'Flood' warning signs. Cllr Ford and some residents forwarded photographs to me. I wrote the same day (with photographs) to the Breckland Assistant Planning Enforcement Officer who had previously attended site to investigate a number of non-conformances reported by us and residents (he had also had words with the developer). I also copied-in the Director of Planning and Building Control, the Head of the NCC Water Management Team (Lead Local Flood Authority), our District Councillor, our County Councillor, and our MP.

I reiterated the history of this site, our objections to the original application and subsequent variations/applications - and I pointed-out that, unlike previous events, there had been no sustained

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periods of heavy rain. I finished by asking the three functional officers what they now intended to do to resolve the issues.

The following day, I received a response from the Breckland Director of Planning and Building Control. He stated that, "I consider the matter has been properly investigated by my team and that no further action is to be taken. I also note, however, your continuous issues at this site which may be due to other matters. I have asked my team to continue to liaise with NCC Highways and LLFA to see if there is any further action they can take as the regulatory flood and highway authority."

As of this afternoon (03 Mar 2025), I have received no response from Breckland Planning Enforcement or the NCC Water Management Team. Nor have I heard from our District or County Councillors, or our MP.

On 10 January, the NCC LLFA Senior Flood Risk Officer (Technical Lead), responded to my long-standing request for attendance by him and the Environment Agency specialist - to investigate flood mitigation opportunities in Rocklands. However, he was unable to get here due to a broken arm - expected to resolve in 6-8 weeks. I have now chased this up and await a response.

**Kemp Meadow** There had always been concerns about access to the ditches, which are still in the ownership of the developer/applicant and not the residents. Last weekend NCC had needed to attend to put up FLOOD signs when Mill Lane flooded, but they did not attempt to address the blockage. At some points the water in the ditches was ~5ft deep and there was discussion about needing 'Deep Water' signs. It was thought the blockage may have been under the road and caused by debris from hedge trimming, and eventually the weight of the water had cleared it. A Kemp Meadow resident had worked to help clear the blockage.

Cllr. Harrison suggested that Kemp Meadow residents may consider forming a Residents Association to sort issues. Could approach local MP who had been very useful and understanding in the past. A resident suggested contacting TV and Radio to expose the issues.

**8. To update on Green Lane and Green Lane Working Group (PL)**

A **Community Projects Working Group** is to be set up rather than individual working groups. This will include Green Lane. There will be representatives for all projects. Currently in process of reviewing documents and putting together Terms of Reference. Cllr. Leslie has commissioned a full legal position on Green Lane before the working group starts. This will be used as a starting point and will be the basis for the working group. This brief will be ready for the next May meeting.

**9. To receive District Councillor/County Councillor reports.**

**Norfolk County Council Report.** Cllr. Ed Connolly had sent a report which had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

**Norfolk County Council updates**

**Devolution and Local Government Reform update**

Norfolk has been announced as a priority area for new powers and funding.

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner announced on 5 February that Norfolk would be one of its priority areas for devolution and local government reform. Ministers want to see a devolution deal covering Norfolk and Suffolk, with an elected mayor. They also want "two tier" areas like Norfolk - where responsibility for key services is split between county and district councils - to replace existing councils with unitary authorities. County council leader Councillor Kay Mason Billig said: "I'm delighted that the Government has placed Norfolk and Suffolk on the priority programme for devolution and local government reform. "This shows ministers' confidence that we can deliver economic growth and jobs, building on our work on the previous devolution bid. "To give us the time we need for the complex work of setting up a Mayoral County Combined Authority, on a very tight timescale, the Government is putting orders in place to postpone May's County council election. "We also have the opportunity to create a council system that is fit for the future. I hope that Norfolk's district councils will work with the county council on local government reform, to explore how we can create the most efficient and cost-effective way of delivering the services our residents need. "I will keep you updated as and when more detail becomes available." For background on the story so far, the Government's devolution white

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paper and the Local Government Association's answers to frequently asked questions, please visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution). A video explaining devolution and local government reform in Norfolk is available here.

### **Norfolk's Local Growth Plan**

Norfolk's Local Growth Plan and new grants were recently launched at an event hosted by the Norfolk Business Board. Norfolk's new Local Growth Plan is the result of extensive collaboration between local authorities and hundreds of other partners and seeks to build on Norfolk's influence in key sectors like clean energy and agri-tech, and cutting-edge research. Aiming to put the county at the forefront of the UK economy, it is based on four strategic pillars: local business; people and skills; infrastructure, and placemaking and community. A new £1.1m Business Growth Fund will offer businesses grants of between £5k and £50k, funding up to 30% of each proposal. Additionally, the £1.2m Made Smarter Adoption programme for the East of England, which Norfolk County Council is running on behalf of the East of England, will provide a welcome boost for the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector with grants of up to £20k, funding up to 50% of successful projects. To find out how to apply for grants from April 2025 via the Made Smarter Adoption programme, visit the Made Smarter Adoption Programme East of England webpage.

### **Intellectual Property Day at the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library**

Intellectual Property is the 'IP' in the Business and IP Centre Norfolk, run by Norfolk County Council's Library & Information Service. The Centre is holding an Intellectual Property Day at the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium library on 27 February. This is a day of free sessions to find out everything you need to know- whether you are a start-up, or looking to develop and monetise your business, plus meet and network with some of the top professionals in the field. The morning sessions are aimed at anyone who would like a basic understanding of IP. There will then be a networking session over lunchtime, with the chance to chat to other entrepreneurs and IP professionals. The afternoon sessions will then go into greater depth about how you can exploit the IP your business owns.

### **Bird Flu (avian influenza) in Norfolk**

Cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (bird flu) are increasing in both kept poultry and wild birds across multiple areas of Great Britain and a further case has been identified in Norfolk. On 31 January following official testing at the premises, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial poultry at a premises near Loddon, South Norfolk, Norfolk. All affected poultry on the premises are being humanely culled. A 3km protection Zone and a 10km surveillance Zone have been put in place surrounding the premises. Norfolk and Suffolk remain in a regional avian influenza protection zone (AIPZ) which requires all bird keepers to keep their birds housed to protect them from bird flu. This applies to pet birds, commercial flocks and just a few birds in a backyard flock.

### **National updates**

#### **Local Government Finance Settlement**

The Government's final Local Government Finance Settlement confirmed an overall funding increase of 6.8% in cash terms compared to 2024/25. This above the 6.0% increase suggested in the provisional local government settlement. The rise is primarily due to the inclusion of grant funding for employers' National Insurance contributions. The Government also confirmed that it will maintain the 5% referendum principle on council tax increases. (Local authorities with social care responsibilities, such as Norfolk County Council, can raise council tax by up to 4.99% annually without a referendum, while those without social care duties can increase it by up to 2.99%). Some Councils in need of 'Exceptional Financial Support' due to financial pressures will be permitted to increase council tax above their referendum limits, although the approved increases are lower than the amounts requested by those councils. The Institute of Fiscal Studies, an independent economic think tank, finds that 2025-26 will continue the substantial above-inflation increases in funding for English councils, but also notes that council costs have been outpacing inflation.

#### **Consultation on proposed changes to Ofsted inspections**

The Government has launched a consultation on proposed changes to the way Ofsted undertakes and records its inspections of schools. The proposed changes, intended to come in from the autumn term 2025, would move from the current one or two-word judgements, to a new report card approach

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describing what inspectors have found on key aspects of each school. Under the proposals, evaluations will vary slightly by education phase, but all will include a focus on inclusion. Inspectors will assess how well providers support vulnerable and disadvantaged children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). A separate part of the report card will say whether the school's duties with regards to safeguarding have been met. The other proposed areas for inspection include: - achievement; leadership and governance; curriculum; developing teaching; personal development and wellbeing; attendance; behaviour; and attitudes and inclusion. The report card will be a suite of grades covering each key area for which there will be five possible grades: - exemplary, strong, secure, attention needed, or causing concern. The Ofsted consultation asks for views from parents, carers, professionals or learners about their proposed new methods for inspection and reporting. The consultation opened on 3 February and closes on 28 April 2025.

### **School Accountability Reform Consultation**

In parallel with Ofsted's consultation about their proposed changes to inspections, the Government has launched a consultation on school accountability reform, seeking views on:

- The approach to, and the principles of, school accountability.
- The introduction of a new digital service - school profiles, which will be a one-stop shop with information on schools for parents.
- The approach to improvement and support, with a stronger more timely, proportionate and effective approach to intervention.

The consultation opened on 3 February and closes on 28 April 2025.

### **Changes to laws relating to domestic abuse**

Coercive control is to be put on a par with other forms of domestic abuse in England, with offenders serving a sentence of at least 12 months for controlling or coercive behaviour now being automatically managed under multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA). This means that all agencies involved (potentially including local authority social care services and/or Youth Offending Teams) will be legally obliged to share information about offenders that suggests they are a risk to others. The Government says evidence shows that offenders who are managed under MAPPA have a reoffending rate less than half of the national average. The announcement also contributes towards the Government's mission to halve violence against women and girls.

### **Land Use Framework Consultation**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is consulting on their vision for land use in England and how to deliver it. The Land Use Framework was due to be published in 2023 but has faced delays, with the scope and focus of the promised policy changing over time. The new consultation is calling for ideas on how England should manage land use changes to balance food security, nature recovery, infrastructure needs and climate goals. The consultation opened on 31 January and closes on 25 April 2025.

### **Funding for flood protection**

The government says it will spend more than £2.6bn, over the next two years, to protect more homes and businesses in England from flooding - £250m more than previously announced. The money will be committed to build or maintain up to 1000 flood defence projects ranging from tidal barriers and flood walls to nature-based solutions that slow water flow. The full list of schemes to benefit will be announced in the coming months.

### **New National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage**

Government legislation this week has confirmed a new National Living Wage of £12.21, and a new National Minimum Wage of £10.00 per hour from April 2025. The Government says that the increased income is set to boost financial stability for millions of families and improve spending power which will drive economic growth.

### **Parish Report.**

#### **Norfolk announced as priority area for new powers and funding**

Norfolk is set to gain new powers and funding following a significant Government announcement on 5th February 2025. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner revealed that Norfolk would be a priority area for devolution and local government reform. As part of this, the Government is seeking to create a devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk, which would include the introduction of an elected mayor. In

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addition, there are plans to reshape local government in Norfolk. The Government intends to replace the current two-tier structure, where services are shared between county and district councils, with unitary authorities. This would centralize decision-making and service delivery into a single authority, streamlining local government processes and potentially increasing efficiency and saving taxpayers money. These changes will empower local areas with more control over their services and funding. For further details on the progress of devolution and the impact of these reforms, visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution), where you can also find answers to frequently asked questions from the Local Government Association.

#### **Multi-million-pound business grants unveiled at launch of ambitious economic plan for Norfolk**

Norfolk has launched new grant programmes as part of its five-year economic blueprint. The £1.1m Business Growth Fund offers grants of £5k to £50k, covering up to 30% of project costs. The £1.2m Made Smarter Adoption programme will provide grants of up to £20k, funding up to 50% of advanced manufacturing and engineering projects. These initiatives aim to boost key sectors like clean energy, agri-tech, and research, while unlocking private sector investment. Grants will be available from April 2025. For more details, visit the Made Smarter Adoption Programme East of England webpage.

#### **Working Well Norfolk helping people with long-term health issues to keep working**

A scheme to support people in Norfolk with long-term health issues get back into employment or continue in their jobs has already helped more than 1,100 participants. The Working Well Norfolk programme, launched in October 2023, supports individuals with long-term health issues to return to or stay in work. It has already helped over 1,100 participants, with 200 moving into work and 150 staying employed despite health challenges. The programme has received 1,600 referrals and will continue for another 18 months, with additional funding to help 730 more people, totalling 1,830 participants by September 2026. The £5.2m project is managed by Norfolk County Council and delivered by Seetec Pluss and Standguide Ltd. For more info or to refer, visit Working Well Norfolk - Seetec Pluss or call 01603 561054.

#### **500,000 trees planted as part of 1 million Trees for Norfolk scheme**

Norfolk County Council has reached the halfway point of its 1 million Trees for Norfolk initiative, planting the 500,000th tree. The milestone tree, a Norfolk Oak, was planted at Priscilla Bacon Lodge with support from Paul Bussey, who has funded several tree planting projects. Grown by volunteers at Gressenhall Community tree nursery, the tree is part of the scheme launched in 2020 to plant one million trees across the county. The project has engaged local communities, schools, businesses, and landowners, with the council aiming to plant 150,000 trees annually until the goal is achieved.

#### **Get hands-on with technology at your local library throughout February**

DigiFest is an annual celebration of digital creativity held across Norfolk libraries throughout February, offering free events for children and young people up to age 16. The festival, part of Norfolk County Council's digital inclusion strategy, aims to inspire the next generation of coders and creators by helping hundreds of children develop new skills, boost confidence, and have fun. Over 100 free events will take place in 47 libraries across Norfolk, including activities like stop-motion animation, basic coding with robots, and 3D pen creations. Special sessions include Lego™ robotics with ICT Solutions, cyber security escape rooms in Thetford and Great Yarmouth, and a virtual reality workshop in Norwich hosted by UST. DigiFest runs from February 1-28, with many events scheduled during half-term week. All events are free, but pre-booking is required for most. For more information, visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/digifest](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/digifest).

#### **Made Smarter to boost region's manufacturing and engineering sector**

Advanced manufacturing and engineering SMEs in the East of England will receive funding and tailored support through the Made Smarter Adoption East of England programme, managed by Norfolk County Council. The £1.2m grant scheme, in partnership with the Department for Business, Trade, aims to help SMEs adopt Industrial Digital Technologies (IDT) by offering impartial advice, digital readiness roadmaps, and leadership development programs to upskill their workforce. The programme seeks to address key growth barriers such as limited awareness of IDT and challenges in accessing funding for IDT adoption. SMEs can apply for match-funded grants of up to £20k to invest in new technologies in 2025-2026. In the pilot year, the programme expects to engage 133 businesses, conduct 80 digital roadmap sessions, provide leadership training for 20 senior leaders, and support 24 operational

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managers in workforce development. It is also anticipated that 24 match-funded grants will be awarded. The East of England is the UK's third-largest region by GVA, with manufacturing accounting for 10.4% of its output, above the national average. The largest manufacturing sectors in the region include Food, Drink, Pharmaceuticals, and Machinery Equipment. Manufacturing jobs in the region make up 7% of the workforce. Made Smarter, a partnership between industry and government, aims to help UK manufacturing thrive through digital tools. The initiative projects significant benefits, including an additional £455bn in GVA, a 30% productivity increase, 175,000 new jobs, and a 4.5% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2027.

Following the integration of the New Anglia Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (NAAME) sector support program into Norfolk County Council, the Made Smarter Adoption programme results from ongoing discussions with East of England authorities and stakeholders. The programme's delivery will be monitored by the Made Smarter East of England Programme Board, which includes industry representatives and officials from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Cambridgeshire. Businesses can register for the programme starting 1 April 2025 via the national Made Smarter Adoption website. For inquiries, contact [madesmarter@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:madesmarter@norfolk.gov.uk).

#### **Campaign sees nearly 2,000 potentially dangerous batteries and chargers removed from sale**

A regional campaign led by Trading Standards from nine local authorities in the East of England removed over 1,800 potentially dangerous batteries and chargers from sale. This action followed a rise in fires involving lithium-ion batteries, commonly found in devices like phones, laptops, and power tools. Trading Standards tested 22 items, all purchased online, with 13 failing safety checks, including risks of fire and electric shock. Residents are advised to follow charging recommendations and avoid charging devices while asleep or away. For safety tips or to report unsafe products, visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/lithiumbatteries](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/lithiumbatteries) or contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service at 0808 223 1133. In case of a fire, evacuate immediately, call 999, and avoid re-entering the building. Dispose of lithium-ion batteries at recycling centres, not in household bins. Visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres).

#### **Norfolk Youth Justice Service rated good with staff who go above and beyond for children.**

Norfolk Youth Justice Service (NYJS) has received an overall rating of good after an inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP), describing staff as motivated and creative, going above and beyond to support the children they work with. The report followed a visit by inspectors in October - the first in 12 years. NYJS is a multi-agency partnership hosted within Norfolk County Councils Children's Services. Its aim is to prevent children from offending, help them repair the damage they cause victims and help children achieve their potential. The inspection found the governance of Norfolk YJS to be strong, with an experienced independent chair of the management board, who is skilled and knowledgeable. The quality of resettlement policy and provision was separately rated as outstanding.

### **10. To receive news from village organisations and churches**

#### **Little Rocky's Toddler Group (Sharon Brown, Group Leader)**

- Numbers holding steady and new families registering and some toddlers returning who were tiny babies when they were registered initially.
- New resources have been purchased to create new role play experiences and books for reading corner which address diversity and emotional/social issues.
- Layout has been reconfigured which has encouraged children to explore the layout with renewed interest.
- Our volunteers are the backbone of the group's popularity and success. The group would not exist without the volunteers.
- We are paying particular attention to cultural awareness and embracing as many 'feast days' as possible. Taking us up to Easter and through a range of craft activities, we will have celebrated: Burn's Night, Valentine's Day, St. David's Day, Shrove Tuesday, Holi (Traditional to throw paint but will be throwing 'pom poms' instead), Mothering Sunday and Easter.
- We have had to put a considerable amount of money in the heating during the very cold mornings. After we have deducted the cost of hall hire and the heating, there have been a few sessions whereby we have not had sufficient funds to cover our costs; in this instance we have had to use

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some of our savings. This becomes a particular issue to us as the savings are to replenish/replace resources for the children.

- We are open to siblings during the Easter holiday to cater for the needs our families, otherwise families would not be able to come.
- We have two fund raising events in the near future: Easter Trail on 6th April where the children have to find bunnies with their names on and a Strawberry Tea in June. We rely heavily on fundraising to boost our coffers. We hope members of the village will support us as we continue to make such a valuable contribution to Rocklands.

#### **St. Peter's Church (John Brown).**

John's report was given by Sharon Brown. Finances are very worrying and for the first time, we have been unable to the parish share of £5100. We have paid one fifth, A talk with Graham Cole the actor on 22/2 was most enjoyable. Cheese and wine planned for 22/3 (A combined churches event). VE Day, service of celebration planned for 4/5 at the memorial flower bed.

#### **Rockland Primary School (Julie Dekker - JD)**

The Clerk read out an email from JD. Nothing really to report from school this month, except that we will be celebrating the school's 150th anniversary on Sunday 6 July. We will have the school building open for visitors to see artwork, writing and a museum of artefacts from the school and village. As well as giving people the chance to see how the school has changed over the years. Hopefully, we will manage to advertise the day widely, as we would like to see as many past pupils as possible at the event. There will be refreshments and a chance to share experiences of being at our lovely school. More details will follow in The Rocklander.

#### **Community Shop (Philip Dingle)**

Friday was the annual members meeting where we presented the accounts for approval. There were over 30 people in attendance sufficient to make us quorate.

This time last year, we were preparing for our tenth anniversary, and now we're well past that milestone, still going strong, and looking for ways to improve, having been granted a new lease on the shop for the next ten years. We remain as busy as ever, showing how important it is that we continue to serve the Rocklands community.

Let's not forget, this is your shop, and it has so much to offer - it's important that we remind ourselves, and our neighbours, that actually, with the cost of fuel, why not consider using the shop before driving all the way to Attleborough or Watton to pick up a pint of milk, or some eggs. Our prices really are very competitive, and we've probably got most other things you need too. If you can think of things we could stock, please speak to one of the managers. Of course, if you feel you can help in the shop, please volunteer for a shift of just 2 hours but if you would like to help in other ways, there are opportunities to join us on the committee. And even if you don't feel you can commit to joining the committee, there are other ways in which you can help. For example, helping us apply for grants, with marketing, offering financial or legal advice, or any other contribution that will help keep the shop viable.

Sadly, I must report that, having served on the Committee from the start, Cath has decided to step down. Having been involved from the start, we will miss her very much at our meetings, although she still plans to volunteer in the shop.

We've always known that the shop might never make a profit, so grants are hugely important to us. We've relied heavily on these grants over the years, but we are less reliant than we were - you will see that our latest accounts show a small profit - however, this is partly down to another lottery grant. It's really important to talk to people about what the shop offers, and we always need to attract new customers, so we are actively keeping the website and our social media channels current with information about new products and what's happening at the shop. The shop is about so much more than selling groceries, and profit & loss. It's about providing a central hub in our community, hence the name. A place where people can meet over a coffee or catch up on things that are going on in the village - it provides an opportunity for those who have a bit of time to spare to do something that helps others in our community, to be part of something worthwhile. It also provides a safety net for those who may

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be vulnerable or lonely. If a regular customer doesn't come in for a while, that doesn't go unnoticed, and it might just take a phone call to check that everything is alright.

I must thank our managers, Jane, Fay, Lottie and Rob for all their hard work and dedication - they have been, and continue to be, absolutely brilliant.

### Village Hall (Shena Scholes - SS)

The AGM has just been held and all members were voted back on. SS is applying to Breckland for a grant for VE day celebrations. There will be a service at the memorial flower bed and a 'bring a picnic' get together. There is a Ceilidh dance the following week. Another service to be held on 15/8 for VJ day.

## 11. To report on Financial Matters

### 11.1 Financial position

#### Bank account balances on Monday 3 March 2025

Barclays Community Account	£	13184.92
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	346.70
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>13531.62</b>

#### Summary

RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan/Village Survey	£	200.60
Community Fund (Summary available)	£	4839.64
RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	8491.38
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>13531.62</b>

### 11.2 Money in since last meeting (6 January 2025)

No money in since last meeting

**TOTAL IN** £ 0.00

### 11.3 Money out since last meeting (6 January 2025)

#### 11.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

20/1/2025	NPower Electricity (DD)	£	93.85
3/2/2025	Clerk's wages (SO) M10	£	343.20
19/2/2025	NPower Electricity (DD)	£	99.92
3/3/2025	Clerk's wages (SO) M11	£	343.20
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>880.17</b>

#### 11.3.2 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 847	Powerheart defib pads - Reimburse T Ford	£	59.94	SEE NOTE
CHQ 848	K&M Lighting services x 2 Feb/March '25	£	35.28	
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>95.22</b>	

NOTE: CHQ 847 to T Ford to be countersigned by Cllr. Leslie once authorised as a signatory as Cllr. Ford cannot sign his own cheque.

### Finance/Clerk's Notes:

**Barclays Mandate.** David Howie removed as signatory. In the process of adding Cllr. Leslie. Also, in the process of changing to paying invoices by BACS payments instead of cheques. Waiting for Cllr. Leslie, ID check and then pinsentry machines and cards for Cllrs. Leslie and Harrison.

### Community Fund Summary

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
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£5,440.14</b>	<b>£1,135.45</b>	<b>£4,839.64</b>

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**12. To consider planning applications**

**12.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting (Monday 4 November 2024)**

These two applications were NEW since the last meeting and OUTCOMES decided but the Parish Council were not informed and so no comments were not made by the Parish Council.

**PL/2024/1000/HOU POWELL** Demolition of existing attached outbuilding. Rebuild in Same Footprint with its use being changed to an annex for family member, Materials used to match the existing dwelling. Existing Porch Removed and replaced with part Brick, Part Timber Porch with dual pitch roof (313) **PERMISSION**

**PL/2024/1001/HOU POWELL** Demolition of existing attached outbuilding. Rebuild in matching materials to the dwelling and be used as an annex for family member. **New Annex footprint** to match 11768x6647mm. Existing Porch Removed and replaced with part Brick, Part Timber Porch with dual pitch roof (314) **PERMISSION**

**12.2 Applications/Appeals pending outcome**

**3PL/2023/1197/VAR BECKETT** Eden Meadow Riding Centre Sandy Lane NR17 1EN. Variation of Condition No 7 on 3PL/1990/1565/F - transfer of business occupancy from Honeypot Hall & annexe Honeycomb Lodge to Woodland Lodge. (295)

Parish Council are not sure why this application is still pending after a year.

**12.3 New applications since last meeting (Monday 4 November 2024)**

**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). The PC had objected comprehensively to this application and continue to object to the removal of conditions as a result of the applicant not conforming to the approved application.

**PL/2024/1197/VAR WARNES/RIDGEWAY** Magpie Barns, Magpie Lane, Rocklands, NR17 1UU. Variation of condition (2) approved plans of application 3PL/2024/0395/F (proposed disabled/easy access self-build dwelling for purposes of long-term care) to include the provision of a garage with care flat above (312)

**PL/2024/1197/FMIN WARNES/RIDGEWAY** Magpie Barns, Magpie Lane, Rocklands, NR17 1UU. Amendments to 3PL/2024/0395/F to include garage and additional NHS carers flat due to change in long term healthcare requirements for applicant, (315)

Cllr. Buckland abstained from comment. All other councillors agreed confirmation was needed regards the extra care requirements from the NHS as it was thought the previous application had already catered for those needs. It was agreed Cllr. Harrison would request confirmation from Breckland case officer.

**PL/2025/0173/FMIN TUBBY** Land North of Bell Road, Bell Road, NR171UQ, Proposed Chalet Bungalow (316).

Cllr. Harrison explained the original application had been refused and after appeal by the applicant, the Planning Inspectorate had also dismissed the application. The chalet bungalow is proposed in a similar position - but set back a little further from the road. Some of the original reasons for dismissal still apply and some of the points raised by the Planning Inspectorate have not been addressed. The Parish Council needs further discussion.

**13. To update on the Breckland Local Plan (RH)**

Development of the new Breckland Local Plan had been suspended, due to new Government housing targets, a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the decision by Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council to seek a 'Mayoral Combined County Authority' under a government initiative.

This afternoon (3/3/2025), I took part in an online 'Breckland Parish & Town Briefing' - where the subjects of discussion were 'Devolution' and 'Local Government Reorganisation'.

The Government has recently published a White Paper, and subsequent guidance, on its vision for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. With Norfolk being a confirmed area in the

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Government's "Devolution Priority Programme" - which could accelerate the adoption of both of these things locally. Breckland said 'As this could represent a very significant change to the local government landscape in Norfolk, and Breckland, we wanted to make sure there was a space to share the latest intelligence with parishes, answer any questions we can, and start to secure your feedback on what is happening. So will be using this session to share a short presentation on the current situation and answer any questions you have.'

County Council elections are cancelled. Mayoral elections will be in 2027 when new Local Plan is scheduled to be adopted according to government-imposed timescales. No funds have been mentioned for County Councils or Parish Councils to do anything. The government have said that they recognise the importance of Parish Councils and their local knowledge.

If 'concentration' takes place, Breckland Council will lose out because they balance their books and have no debts. They also claim to have the lowest council tax in the country. It was said that NCC on the other hand are £300million in debt. A new mayoral precept will be established. In the next 10 days, Parish and Town councils will be consulted.

Cllr. Leslie thanked Cllr. Harrison for all his hard work in this matter.

**14. To discuss any correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**15. AOB - To receive items for the next agenda.**

**40mph signs on road.** This was reported to the Highway Rangers and they agreed the signs needed repainting. The work had not been done and the Clerk had requested an update.

**Dog Poo bin.** The Clerk will try again to get the new location authorised.

**Internal auditor.** When asked by the Clerk, all councillors agreed to Michela Canham carrying out the internal audit of the accounts as she had done in previous years,

**16. Date of next Parish Council Meeting - Monday 12 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 20.12**

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**Rocklands SID - Vehicles from Caston Direction (page 1)**

Start					11/12/2024	09/08/2024
Finish					14/01/2025	12/09/2024
Total Vehicles					34,274	25,283
Average Vehicles/day					1,007	746
Morning Peak					07:30-08:30	07:30-08:30
Afternoon Peak					15:00-16:00	15:30-16:30
Max Speed (date)					60 (12/12/24 - 13:05)	60 (10/08/24 - 18:30)
0-40 mph					32,386	23,227
%					94.49	91.87
40+ mph					1,888	2,056
%					5.51	8.13
45+ mph					314	316
%					0.92	1.25
45-50					286	281
%					0.83	1.11
50-55					26	32
%					0.08	0.13
55-60					2	3
%					0.01	0.01
60-65					0	0
%					0.00	0.00
65-70					0	0
%					0.00	0.00
70-75					0	0
%					0.00	0.00
75-80					0	0
%					0.00	0.00

**Rocklands SID - Vehicles from Caston Direction (page 2)**

Start	11/04/2024	03/11/2023	30/06/2023	01/07/2022	04/03/2022	04/11/2021
Finish	01/05/2024	05/12/2023	22/07/2023	29/07/2022	02/04/2022	03/12/2021
Total Vehicles	21,053	37,055	23,692	30,578	36,234	34,719
Average Vehicles/day	1,051	1,160	979	1,087	1,253	1,202
Morning Peak	07:30-08:30	07:30-08:30	07:45-08:45	07:45-08:45	07:30-08:30	07:45-08:45
Afternoon Peak	16:00-17:00	14:45-15:45	14:45-15:45	16:00-17:00	15:45-16:45	14:45-15:45
Max Speed (date)	60 (15/04/24 - 21:40)	60 (20/11/23 - 19:00)	65 (17/07/23 - 22:10)	60 (04/07/22 - 21:35)	60 (07/03/22 - 15:50)	60 (15/11/21 - 02:50)
0-40 mph	19,488	35,045	22,162	27,708	32,642	32,001
%	92.57	94.58	93.54	90.61	90.09	92.17
40+ mph	1,565	2,010	1,530	2,870	3,592	2,718
%	7.43	5.42	6.46	9.39	9.91	7.83
45+ mph	244	317	258	538	643	454
%	1.16	0.86	1.09	1.76	1.77	1.31
45-50	220	280	227	468	548	412
%	1.04	0.76	0.96	1.53	1.51	1.19
50-55	22	35	25	62	84	40
%	0.10	0.09	0.11	0.20	0.23	0.12
55-60	2	2	5	8	11	2
%	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
60-65	0	0	1	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
70-75	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
75-80	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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**Rocklands SID - Vehicles from Caston Direction (page 3)**

Start	03/07/2021	04/03/2021	02/11/2020	04/05/2020	05/03/2020	12/12/2019
Finish	04/08/2021	06/04/2021	03/12/2020	03/06/2020	03/04/2020	06/01/2020
Total Vehicles	39,567	38,508	31,201	24,850	29,009	24,913
Average Vehicles/day	1,232	1,165	1,007	832	1,000	993
Morning Peak	07:45-08:45	07:45-08:45	07:45-08:45	10:30-11:30	07:30-08:30	07:45-08:45
Afternoon Peak	16:15-17:15	14:30-15:30	15:30-16:30	16:15-17:15	16:00-17:00	15:15-16:15
Max Speed (date)	65 (19/07/21 - 23:55)	60 (05/03/21 - 07:05)	60 (11/11/20 - 14:35)	60 (05/05/20 - 05:50)	65 (12/03/20 - 05:35)	60 (13/12/19 - 18:50)
0-40 mph	35,989	34,370	28,173	21,279	25,125	22,051
%	90.96	89.25	90.30	85.63	86.61	88.51
40+ mph	3,578	4,138	3,028	3,571	3,884	2,862
%	9.04	10.75	9.70	14.37	13.39	11.49
45+ mph	622	811	528	815	915	588
%	1.57	2.11	1.69	3.28	3.15	2.36
45-50	543	693	470	692	751	501
%	1.37	1.80	1.51	2.78	2.59	2.01
50-55	70	111	50	112	148	80
%	0.18	0.29	0.16	0.45	0.51	0.32
55-60	8	7	8	11	15	7
%	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.03
60-65	1	0	0	0	1	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
70-75	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
75-80	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Rocklands SID - The Street, Vehicles from Crossroads (page 1)**

Start						14/01/2025
Finish						13/02/2025
Total Vehicles						11,787
Average Vehicles/day						393
Morning Peak						08:00-09:00
Afternoon Peak						15:00-16:00
Max Speed (date)						50 (01/02/25, 18:20)
0-30 mph						9,478
%						80.41
30+ mph						2,309
%						19.59
35+ mph						395
%						3.35
35-40						348
%						2.95
40-45						45
%						0.38
45-50						2
%						0.02
50-55						0
%						0.00
55-60						0
%						0.00
60-65						0
%						0.00
65-70						0
%						0.00

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**Rocklands SID - The Street, Vehicles from Crossroads (page 2)**

Start	12/09/2024	01/05/2024	05/12/2023	24/07/2023	17/01/2023	29/07/2022
Finish	03/10/2024	06/06/2024	04/01/2024	28/08/2023	28/02/2023	02/09/2022
Total Vehicles	8,265	12,392	10,227	11,166	14,309	11,735
Average Vehicles/day	393	344	341	321	340	335
Morning Peak	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	08:00-09:00	09:15-10:15	08:00-09:00	09:15-10:15
Afternoon Peak	17:45-18:45	17:00-18:00	15:00-16:00	16:00-17:00	15:00-16:00	17:00-18:00
Max Speed (date)	50 (14/09/24, 14:15)	60 (25/05/24, 22:50)	55 (16/12/2023, 13:40)	55 (09/08/23, 07:35)	55 (11/02/2023, 13:45)	70 (29/08/2022, 15:25)
0-30 mph	6,435	9,454	8,114	7,778	11,260	8,209
%	77.86	76.29	79.34	69.66	78.69	69.95
30+ mph	1,830	2,938	2,113	3,388	3,049	3,526
%	22.14	23.71	20.66	30.34	21.31	30.05
35+ mph	324	562	391	767	593	818
%	3.92	4.54	3.82	6.87	4.14	6.97
35-40	295	486	336	632	512	670
%	3.57	3.92	3.29	5.66	3.58	5.71
40-45	28	66	50	108	70	126
%	0.34	0.53	0.49	0.97	0.49	1.07
45-50	1	8	4	24	10	20
%	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.21	0.07	0.17
50-55	0	1	1	3	1	1
%	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01
55-60	0	1	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	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	1
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01

**Rocklands SID - The Street, Vehicles from Crossroads (page 3)**

Start	02/04/2022	05/12/2021	04/08/2021	06/04/2021	03/12/2020	04/08/2020
Finish	03/05/2022	05/01/2022	03/09/2021	06/05/2021	03/01/2021	04/09/2020
Total Vehicles	10,590	9,139	10,300	11,092	9,337	10,341
Average Vehicles/day	342	295	344	369	300	332
Morning Peak	08:00-09:00	10:30-11:30	09:45-10:45	08:30-09:30	11:15-12:15	09:30-10:30
Afternoon Peak	17:30-18:30	14:45-15:45	16:45-17:45	17:30-18:30	14:45-15:45	17:00-18:00
Max Speed (date)	50 (06/04/22, 18:05)	60 (15/12/21, 13:40)	55 (18/08/21, 23:30)	50 (07/04/21, 06:30)	50 (04/12/20, 13:10)	60 (31/08/20, 02:55)
0-30 mph	7,403	6,902	7,050	7,592	7,134	7,180
%	69.91	75.52	68.45	68.45	76.41	69.43
30+ mph	3,187	2,237	3,250	3,500	2,203	3,161
%	30.09	24.48	31.55	31.55	23.59	30.57
35+ mph	669	463	845	788	495	760
%	6.32	5.07	8.20	7.10	5.30	7.35
35-40	561	393	691	661	419	623
%	5.30	4.30	6.71	5.96	4.49	6.02
40-45	98	58	130	113	68	110
%	0.93	0.63	1.26	1.02	0.73	1.06
45-50	10	11	20	14	8	24
%	0.09	0.12	0.19	0.13	0.09	0.23
50-55	0	0	4	0	0	24
%	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.23
55-60	0	1	0	0	0	1
%	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
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 .....