

Rocklands Parish Council (RPC)  
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting  
7.00pm on Monday 2 September 2024

Present:	David Howie	Chair
	Richard Harrison	Vice-chair
	Tim Ford	
	Anne Jones	
	Philip Leslie	
	Bryan Swaddling	
	Kim Austin	Clerk

Also present: 11 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 19:00

**Cllr. David Howie, chairman**, announced that this would be his last Parish Council meeting as he and his wife Julie would be moving house towards the end of September. Until then he would continue in his role and tender his resignation when he had a moving date. David joined as chair of Rocklands Parish Council on 9 September 2013 so in a few days time he will have served his community in this role for an impressive **11 years** ! Cllr. Howie thanked all the councillors for their support over the years, his Clerk and members of the public that attended the PC meetings, with special note to those that attended on a regular basis. All agreed Cllr. Howie had worked tirelessly for the good of the Parish and would be missed by all. Always being professional, diplomatic and fair.

David was presented with a Peter Beales 'Joy of Life' rose in a planter as a thank you from the councillors and Julie was given a bouquet of flowers as a thank you to Julie for putting up with David being involved in Parish Council business.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr. Sarah Suggitt, Cllr. Ed Connolly who was attending another Parish Council meeting and Cllr. Amanda Jayne Buckland who was unwell.

**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 1 July 2024**

The minutes had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. All councillors approved the minutes. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. David Howie.

**4. To approve the minutes of the EXTRA Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24 July 2024**

The minutes had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. All councillors approved the minutes. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. David Howie.

**5. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (1 July 2024) not on the agenda.**

There were no matters arising.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 19:10.

Cyril Ruffles would like to install a flagpole by the war memorial on the corner of Wayland Road and The Street. There would be no cost to the Parish Council as Cyril would provide, install and maintain the pole and flags. Cyril had approached Breckland Council and they had no problem with this so long as the Parish Council was happy with the arrangement. The flag would be a 5x3 ft and could be a Union Jack or maybe a field of poppies on a white background with 'Lest We Forget'. Cllr, Howie said this was

Signed .....

Date .....

something that he had always wanted to do. On a vote, all councillors were very pleased to accept Cyril's very kind offer. It was noted that the installation should be independently checked to ensure it was up to standard and safe. Proximity of any overhead power/phone lines should be noted and the ground checked for underground cables before installation. Thank you to Cyril.  
The meeting reconvened at 19:15.

#### 7. To discuss Breckland Council's proposed planning changes (DH/RH)

Parish Councils had received an email on 6 August, sent on behalf of Cllr. Sam Chapman-Allen, leader of Breckland Council, who wanted to make everybody aware of some important issues relating to the National Planning Policy. Cllr. Harrison read out the email as follows:

Last week the Government announced a rapid consultation on some significant new changes to the planning system, the details of which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

These are potentially very significant for Breckland, and include proposals to:

- Introduce a new mandatory housing figure based on new methodology, which would mean a **39% uplift in Breckland's housing requirement**, to 917 per annum (256 more houses per annum)
- **Make the new target mandatory imminently**. Potentially by the end of the year. This could have a significant impact on our five-year housing land supply.
- Increase requirements on neighbouring authorities to provide even more additional housing (Kings Lynn & West Norfolk 88% more, and North Norfolk 69% more houses)
- Increase the need for strategic, cross boundary co-operation, including potentially meeting any unmet housing need for neighbouring districts.
- Remove or weaken issues like the availability of agricultural land used for food production from our consideration when determining applications.

We are still reviewing and digesting the implications, understanding what they mean for our current and under-development Local Plan, and agreeing how we can respond as a District and Local Planning Authority. Whilst we support the need for some new housing in Breckland and were positive about the shape our emerging Local Plan was taking, clearly these requirements - if enacted - are of a profoundly different order of magnitude. I will keep you appraised as we are able to better analyse and understand the situation, but I wanted you to have this information now - and encourage you to engage with the consultation in your own rights.

Cllr. Harrison said the whole review process had been paused due to these government announcements.

#### 8. Speeding: To update on SID (flashing speed sign)

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

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

The Street - Approaching Crossroads from Village Hall

Deployed: 11:00 hrs 6 June 2024

Finished: 10:00 hrs 9 July 2024

The analysis results show:

13,029 vehicles detected

Average 389 vehicles/day

Morning peak time - 08:00 to 09:00

Afternoon peak time - 15:15 to 16:15

10,085 vehicles (77.4%) within **30 mph** speed limit

2,944 vehicles (22.6%) exceeding speed limit

- of which 503 vehicles (3.7%) over 35 mph - and likely open to a fine\*

Top speed: **55 mph** - 10/06/2024

Signed .....

Date .....

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

- vehicle movements averaged 389 per day - a 2.1% increase in daily traffic volumes
- vehicles speeding numbered 2,944 (22.6%) - a 3.3% increase in the proportion of vehicles speeding.
- vehicles open to enforcement action numbered 503 (3.9%) - a 0.3% increase in vehicles open to enforcement.

Together with a small increase in daily traffic volumes, the increases in both vehicles speeding, and those open to enforcement is continues to be disappointing. A vehicle recording 55 mph on a 30-mph village street is totally unacceptable.

Traffic from Great Ellingham - Attleborough Road (B1077)

Deployed: 10:00 hrs 9 July 2024

Finished: 15:00 hrs 9 August 2024

The analysis results show:

45,930 vehicles detected

Average 1,472 vehicles/day

Morning peak time - 08:30 to 09:30

Afternoon peak time - 16:30 to 17:30

36,769 vehicles (80.0%) within **40 mph** speed limit

9,161 vehicles (20.0%) exceeding speed limit

- of which 2,904 vehicles (6.3%) over 45 mph - and likely open to a fine\*

Top speed: **75 mph** - 24/07/2024

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

- vehicle movements averaged 1,472 per day - a 4.7% increase in daily traffic volumes.
- vehicles speeding numbered 9,161 (20.0%) - a 1.9% decrease in the proportion of vehicles speeding.
- vehicles open to enforcement action numbered 2,904 (6.3%) - a 0.9% decrease in vehicles open to enforcement.

Together with a small increase in daily traffic volumes, the small decreases in proportions of vehicles speeding are a modest improvement. A vehicle recording 75 mph in a 40-mph speed limit is very much unacceptable (but this may, as always, have been an emergency vehicle).

Cllr Tim Ford and I moved the speed sign to monitor traffic on Attleborough Road (B1077), on 9 August - where it is monitoring traffic approaching from Caston and will be moved again in a couple of days. As always, I am indebted to Tim for his continued support.

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

Cllr. Harrison's report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

On 2 July, myself and representatives from other Parishes - together with representatives from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Breckland Officers - met with the consultants engaged to review the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to support the developing new Local Plan. This was an on-line 'Teams' meeting. I had supplied the consultants with a detailed history and supporting documentation on flooding in Rocklands, in advance of the meeting. I believe that I got our points across.

The Principal Engineer from the LLFA usefully pointed out a number of errors/inaccuracies with the consultants' report, and I pointed out that the serious issues - particularly in Autumn/Winter - with very high groundwater levels in the part of the village North of the B1077 had been entirely missed out.

Subsequently, my colleague from the Watton and Saham Flood Action Group has requested that the consultants give us, the stakeholders, sight of the final report before it is submitted to the Council - so that we have the opportunity to see what changes have been made, and to correct any errors/inaccuracies. The Breckland Interim Principal Planning Officer has responded thus:

*"... we will receive the final report from JBA consultants towards the end of August. Our expectation is this will address each of the comments made and make appropriate changes to the SFRA report. The final report will be made available to the stakeholder group and if there are substantial issues*

Signed .....

Date .....

that could impact the robustness and suitability of the SFRA to inform Local Plan preparation these will need to be addressed before the document is completed."

So, we will have an opportunity to examine and comment - but only after the report has already been delivered to the Council... Should be the other way round.

Although I was unable to attend the CPRE conference in May, my colleague from the Watton and Saham Flood Action Group has sent me copies of the presentations. I have not read them in detail yet but will be passing them on to members of the Rocklands Flood Working Group. Particularly of interest is a presentation delivered by Helen George and Abygail Hadley of the Environment Agency - "Creating and implementing a Natural Flood Management Plan, Case study: Hempnall".

I have written again to the Head of the NCC Water Management Team (LLFA) regarding getting the Environment Agency specialist to visit us in Rocklands and advise on surface water flooding mitigation options which could be adopted. I have copied-in the Environment Agency specialist, Helen George, referenced above.

Cllr. Harrison was thanked for all the work he is doing regards flooding in the Parish. As always this is much appreciated.

### **Village hall ditch (James A)**

JA raised concerns about the very deep ditch at the Village Hall on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. The depth of silt/sticky mud at the bottom of the ditch is a safety issue. This poses a danger to anyone falling into the ditch, but especially to small and young children. Cyril said It was the worst he had ever seen it.

**Options:** Culverting the ditch was not an option. NCC would not allow culverting without their written permission, only LFFA can authorise ditch/drainage work. Culverts make maintenance difficult or impossible. An idea of using a layer of hardcore in the bottom of the ditch would not work as would stop the ditch from working properly. The last ditch digging was done by NCC Highways. Cllr. Harrison will write to Helen George, Environment Agency specialist for advice.

**Suggestions:** Emergency fencing to increase safety straight away. Road safety netting and pig tail pins. Some sort of grid over the top of the ditch, Signs warning of deep ditches. (Already in place).

Cllr. Leslie went outside to look at the ditch with JA, DJ and CR and then rejoined the meeting. Cllr. Leslie thought he could identify a metal cover system that would work, and he had a contact at NCC who could clear the ditch with ditching buckets. Suggested fencing such as picket fencing might need to be permanent. Cllr Leslie will report back.

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

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

- We have had another successful summer programme welcoming back many of our Little Rocky's siblings, who now attend school. It was so lovely to see how these older children have matured and become independent.
- 11 of our children are now ready to start their school journey this week. One of those children came to us at 4 days old so he really has been our longest attendee. 7 of these 11 children will be starting at Rocklands so those of us who still do the school run, will see our little fledglings daily.
- We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Amy Nudds and Beth Wyeld for organising the recent tractor run. Half of the funds raised have been donated to Little Rocky's. We are going to put these funds towards buying outdoor musical instruments for our children.
- We are continuing to develop our outdoor environment as this is where the children become relaxed and creative in their play. We have had Go Kart tyres donated to us recently which the children love. Personally, I wouldn't use tyres to build a tower but then it's a long time since I was three/four years old.
- In the light of the recent tragic events in Southport, we have received a raft of guidance from Safer Norfolk which we will have to implement where applicable. We are already having a real drive against the use of the mobile phones in the setting. We regularly remind parents that the use of phones is not permissible and have posters on display from an Early Years' forum to that effect.

Signed .....

Date .....

- We have a strong dedicated team of volunteers who focus on the activities for the children. The social interaction between the parents is a by-product of the sessions. We are willing to support and 'signpost' parents, but our remit is to engage the children.
- We are looking forward to starting our new term on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September with an exciting first term leading up to Christmas.

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

The congregation is dwindling. On 29 September, there is a harvest service at 10.30am and a free lunch at 12 o'clock and produce to take away.

**Rockland Primary School (DJ)**

DJ said he was no longer chair of governors at the school as his term of office was up. He had been joint chair with Hugh Collier but Hugh was now chair with two vice-chairs. The Federation is strong. DJ thanked Cllr. Howie for the work he had done behind the scenes in the last 4 years regards the school, including an attempt to get permission to build a new school and use the old school as a special referral base for children outside main-stream school. Although not successful on this occasion, the proposals have been banked at County Hall and could be resurrected if appropriate.

Everybody present was sorry to hear that Charles McIlwhan had suffered a stroke and wished him well.

**Ofsted.** The government are proposing to abandon the 'one word' assessment of school performance which will be most welcome. Both GE and Rockland schools are rated good. Often schools are not given any notice of Ofsted attending which can be disruptive. Need to use professional due regard. The change may not be immediate and therefore, the regime may be the same next year.

There was some discussion regards the extra classroom for GE school promised the Bowsfield developer. DJ thought may be built by September 2025.

**All Saints Church (CJ)**

CJ's report was read by the Clerk.

We are very pleased to announce that the Revd Tori Venmore-Rowland is being inducted as rector of Hingham, High Oak and Shellrock benefice on 24 September at 7pm in St Andrew's Hingham. DJ extended an invite to all Parish Councillors to attend this induction, should they wish. Tori has just moved with her husband and children into the new Rectory in Hingham and we look forward to welcoming them all. With twelve churches to look after, it is unlikely that she will be able to be in Rocklands too often but we are sure that she will do her best to get to know us all very soon. She has a background in RAF weapons maintenance, which is interesting!

We are again combining the **Harvest Festival and Pets Service** which will be held this year on **15 September at 10.30**. This will again be an informal outdoor service (weather permitting!) and is always unpredictable. Bringing a pet is not obligatory but, if you have one, do please bring it along with you. (We like to see as many different animals and birds as we can - including ponies, small animals, chickens, goats.....iguanas, stick insects - all creatures great and small, in fact!) The music will be led by the Benefice Music group as always. We ask for donations to the Food Bank instead of traditional garden fruits and vegetables and the normal church collection will be sent to the Leprosy Mission, as we have done for many years now.

Our annual **Harvest Supper** is being held on 5 October at 7pm in Rocklands Village Hall. Please check the Rocklander for details.

**Chapel Green Meadow (Sue Steel - SS)**

Sue Steel's report was read by the Clerk.

The weather this year has been noticeably cold and wet, and this seems to have affected the plants on Chapel Green Meadow, as it has in our own gardens. Few orchids were seen this season, but this is not an immediate cause for concern, as many wildflowers will re-appear in later years.

Thanks to the availability of a motor scythe, it was possible for the Management Team to plan and then re-schedule the mowing of Chapel Green Meadow, to take account of wet weather, and holiday times. This was carried out on 27 August and the weather has so far remained dry. This allowed the Team and volunteers to turn the hay and some of this was collected on 31 August. Anyone who wishes to have some of this for their animals is welcome to go along and gather it - no appointment needed. Any hay remaining will be removed and composted after Friday 6 September.

Signed .....

Date .....

The meadow will receive a second cut in September to prepare it for the winter, and we hope that this second cut will further reduce the coarser grasses and plants and improve the chances of growth for the less vigorous wildflowers.

SS also mentioned in her email that the occupants of the Chapel have further encroached on to the meadow. She believes the edging sleeper has been moved and more ground on the meadow side of the track had been mowed, presumably to give the residents more room to turn their vehicles round. Cllr. Howie would investigate and speak to the residents at the Chapel. Cllr. Howie thought there were agreements in place and each property round the meadow would have one.

**Playing Field.**

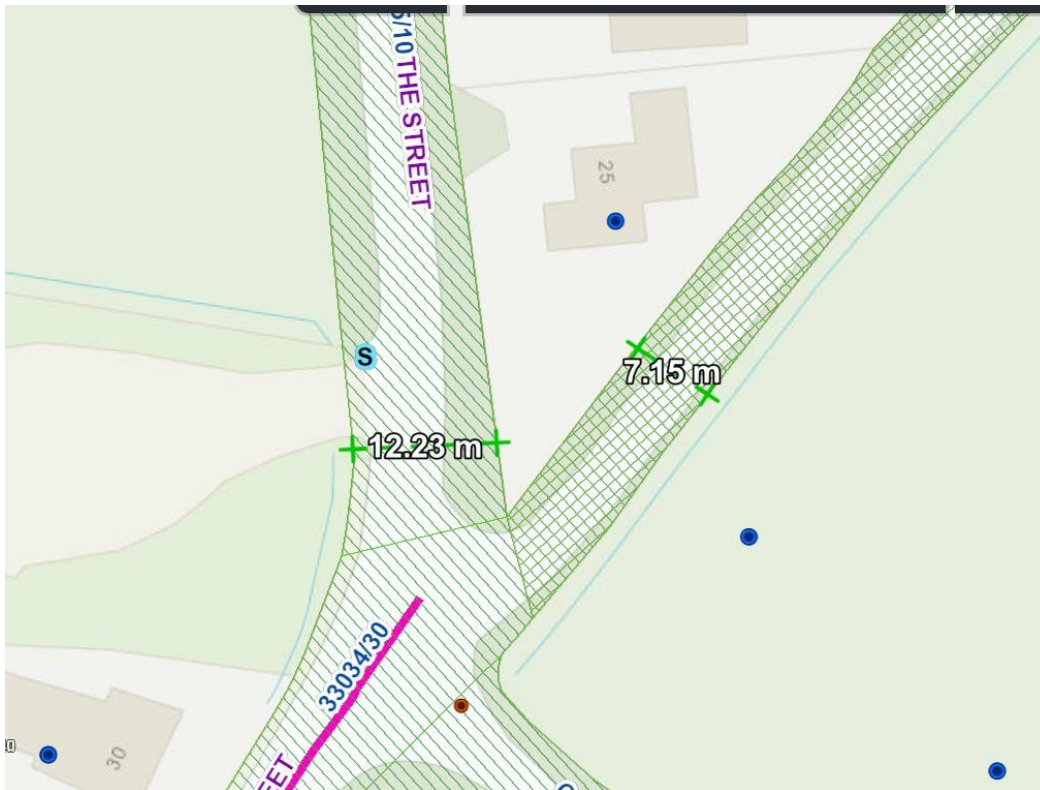
Cllr. Howie asked James if the playing field committee had purchased the equipment that they had raised funds for and said an update would be appreciated, especially for those that had donated. James said the equipment had been purchased. James would raise at the meeting next week.

Cllr. Swaddling said the hedge near the gate had died back and the shipping container was now more visible. It looks a mess as can see 'rubbish' that has been stored behind and around it. Needs a tidy up and maybe new hedging planted. The container is currently painted green except for the side visible from the road which is yellow. BS asked if this could be repainted green so it blends in more.

**Green Lane.**

Cllr. Howie thanked Cllr. Buckland (AJB) for progressing the issue of the surface of Green Lane. AJB had spoken to Malcolm Steward, Area Technician from the NCC Ketteringham Highways Depot had arranged to meet AJB on site on 5/7/2024. An email response was received from Malcolm saying: *I have done a bit of digging and this problem has been bought up before in 2020/21 about the dust. You can see from the map I have sent (below) that NCC owns the whole road and some verges each side !!!! I have spoken to the pro (Public Rights of Way) officer and she is in agreement with me that road planings would be a more suitable material to alleviate the dust.*

Road planings - also known as tarmac planings or scalplings - are a byproduct of road and path resurfacing, where a cold milling machine removes asphalt from the surface sub-base, ready to be recycled. Planings are hardwearing and weather resistant and can be repurposed for use on hardstandings, car parks, footpaths, farm tracks, a void filling material.



Cllr. Leslie suggested setting up a Community Working Group involving all key stake holders, residents of Green Lane, playing fields etc. The ownership of Green Lane should be checked at Land Registry. Leathes Prior has an extensive LR database and Cllr. Leslie will get the ownership verified. The PC were thankful for this. If NCC, they would be obliged to maintain but have admitted they have no money to do this.

Need a legal position and a proposed plan of action. Will be on the agenda for the next PC meeting.

Cllr. Howie had seen two massive potholes when he visited Green Lane this week. Cllr. Harrison confirmed that Limestone does contain silica.

### **District Councillors' report, All Saints and Wayland ward**

Sarah Suggitt had sent her apologies for this meeting but had also sent a report which Cllr. Harrison read out. This report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

**During August**, often referred to as the Council recess month, the work of officers and members of Breckland has continued apace albeit with many taking their annual leave. In addition to the day to day functioning of the council we have been engaged on a variety of initiatives, not necessarily of our own making such as:

#### **District Boundary Review**

The Boundary Commission advised us that as a result of demographic changes to the existing wards within Breckland (caused by housing growth in certain areas) that a review is to be undertaken. As a consequence, we have been working to provide the Boundary Commission with an amended warding pattern that will meet all of their criteria and provide a balance of representation across the district. This proposal is being reviewed by the Boundary Commission and any agreed changes will take place at the next district council elections in 2027

#### **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) document**

The New government has made much of the failure of local planning authorities to deliver much needed housing growth across the country and announced that they would be consulting on a revised draft of the NPPF that they anticipate will do much to help to unblock schemes. That consultation runs until 24 September and Breckland officers and members have been considering a robust response during August.

#### **Local Plan**

The likely changes to the NPPF will have an impact on Breckland's local plan on which officers have been engaged recently. The uncertainty about the outcome of the NPPF and its wider implications on national and local policy has meant that we have had to put on hold our work until we have clarity and can move forward with confidence.

#### **Budget setting**

This is the time of year when we commence in earnest our budget setting process for the coming financial year 2025-26. However, we are all aware that the new government will be delivering their own Budget at the end of October and there are likely to be nuances in national policies as a result that may have an impact on local decision making. Our team at Breckland are committed to ensuring that we deliver a balanced budget hence we are reviewing our activities to ensure we provide best value at the least cost to residents and businesses.

#### **Town and Parish Council Engagement Events**

The leader of the Council and the Chief Executive supported by appropriate officers and members have arranged a number of events across the district in September, the first of which is to be held at Shropham village hall on Monday 9 September, to outline subjects for discussion such as

**Flytipping:** Efforts and measures in place to tackle this issue.

**Breckland Rural Support Officer (Ranger):** Their role and the support they provide.

**Inspiring Communities:** Highlights of our work in community engagement and support.

**Housing:** Updates and information on housing projects and policies.

**Community Safety:** Initiatives to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents.

Cllrs. Howie, Richardson and Ford will be attending. This is a public should anyone else wish to attend. It was commented that some recycle centre light be introducing an appointment system, which people felt might encourage fly tipping.

Signed .....

Date .....

## 11. Finances

### 11.1 Financial position

#### Bank account balances on Monday 2 September 2024

Barclays Community Account	£	11436.56
Barclays Saver (Reserve) Account	£	344.19
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>11780.75</b>

#### Summary

RNP Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan/Village Survey	£	200.60 *
Community Fund	£	4500.00 **
RPC Rocklands Parish Council	£	7080.15
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>11780.75</b>

\* Original donation from Breckland/Groundworks for £500.

\*\* £5000 original donation minus £500 paid to Rocklands Playing Field

\*\* NOTE: Surplus of donation given to Village Hall for D Day celebrations of £289.64 to be returned.

### 11.2 Money in since last meeting (1 July 2024)

4/7/2024	HMRC Vat refund	£	112.25
8/7/2024	Anonymous donation from the community	£	5000.00
2/9/2024	Barclays Savings Account - Interest	£	1.28
	<b>TOTAL IN</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>5113.53</b>

### 11.3 Money out since last meeting (1 July 2024)

#### 11.3.1 Standing Orders/Direct Debits

1/7/2024	Clerk's wages (SO) M3	£	329.55
17/7/2024	NPower Electricity (DD)	£	61.87
1/8/2024	Clerk's wages (SO) M4	£	329.55
19/8/2024	NPower Electricity (DD)	£	63.40
2/9/2024	Clerk's wages (SO) M5	£	329.55
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1113.92</b>

#### 11.3.2 Cheques out (to sign)

CHQ 835	Donation - Rocklands Playing Field	£	965.00 *
CHQ 836	TSO Host SSL Cert (10/7/24-9/7/25 Reimb. IS	£	49.99 **
CHQ 837	Cllr. Howie - reimburse for printer ink	£	32.41 **
CHQ 838	K&M Lighting services x 2 Aug/July '24	£	35.28
	<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1082.68</b>

\*£500 Community Fund/£465 Rocklands Parish Council - ALREADY SIGNED 835

\*\* ALREADY SIGNED 836/837

### Finance/Clerk's Notes:

Surplus of donation given to Village Hall for D Day celebrations of £289.64 not yet returned to PC.

## 12. To consider planning applications

### 12.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting (Monday 1 July 2024)

**3PL/2023/1016/F TWENTY55 HOMES LTD (DEVLIN)** Rookery Farm Watton Road NR17 1LB, Demolition of poultry shed and erection of five detached dwellings. Construction of new access road to Watton Road. (291, 296, 303) PERMISSION

Breckland Planning ignored NCC Highways objections regards dangerous junctions. Wondered if this development would add weight to this road having a 40mph limit.

Signed .....

Date .....



3PL/2024/0395/F WARNES Maple Barns Magpie Lane NR17 1UU, Proposed disabled/easy access self-build dwelling for purposes of long-term care. (306) PLANNING COMMITTEE - PERMISSION Cllr. Suggitt described the property as modest but is actually a big house.

### 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 Honeygot Hall & annexe Honeycomb Lodge to Woodland Lodge. (295) Not sure why this is still pending.

**APP/F2605/W/24/3336843 TUBBY** Land North of Bell Road, Proposed 1no. equestrian dwelling with cart lodge, stables and paddocks. Application REF: 3PL/2023/0702/F (302)

3PL/2024/0190/F STADDLE DEVELOPMENTS/DEAN BARHAM Land adjoining 13 The Street, Erection of one dwelling (self-build) and detached garage. (305) Just waiting to hear outcome.

### 12.3 New applications since last meeting (Monday 1 July 2024)

**3PL/2024/0594/VAR KIDD** The Donkery Sandy Lane NR17 1XF, Variation of condition 2 on 3PL/2023/0985/F, Alignment of eastern boundary revised, erection of 1.8m boarded fence (307)

All councillors agreed they had NO OBJECTION to this application.

**3PL/2024/0149/DOC JONES** Land at Swangey Lakes, Swangey Lane NR17 1XJ, Discharge of Conditions 5 & 8 on 3PL/2021/0133/F (308)

All councillors agreed they had NO OBJECTION to this application.

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

Cllr. Harrison's report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

We held a second Local Plan public meeting on 6 July in the Village Hall. It was again well attended, with more than 75 persons attending. The 'Preferred Options' phase of the Local Plan consultation was discussed - with questions asked and issues discussed.

Of particular note, Appendix 2 to the consultation documents - a Consultation Feedback Report - showed that, of a total of **184** responses on the question as to whether Settlement Boundaries should be kept, or a 'criteria-based' assessment method should be adopted instead:

- 53% agreed with keeping Settlement Boundaries
- 21% did not want Settlement Boundaries - but a 'criteria-based' method instead
- 27% responded as 'Unsure'

In spite of this, in the Preferred Options consultation documents, Breckland have ignored the significant majority and are proposing to do away with Settlement Boundaries?

Subsequently, the Parish Council's response was submitted to Breckland on 15 July. Copies were posted on the village website, and on the village Facebook page.

As part of the Local Plan consultation, comments were separately sought on three potential 'Strategic Development Sites' in the district:

- SDP 01: Barkers Farm, Larling - approx. 1,900 dwellings
- SDP 02: Dereham - up to 2,515 dwellings
- SDP 03: Robertson Barracks, Swanton Morley - approx. 2,000 dwellings

We were asked by Shropham, a neighbouring parish (likely to be significantly impacted by increased traffic movements) to raise awareness of the **Barkers Farm option**. Flyers, incorporating links where comments could be posted to Breckland, were posted on the Village website, and the Facebook page.

Cllrs. Howie, Ford and I will be attending a public meeting about the potential Barkers Farm development at Larling - at Great Hockham Village Hall on 5 September - where the Breckland Director of Planning and Building Control, Simon Wood, will be speaking, receiving comments and answering questions.

It is thought the local farmer at Larling has already signed the paperwork to sell the land. Goes against Breckland's own directive not to develop agricultural land that is used for food production - therefore should fall at the first hurdle. It is rumoured that Garboldisham Parish Council are for the development at Larling. This is considered to be the least viable of the three options.

At the time of writing, responses to the 'Preferred Options', the 'Strategic Development Sites' and the 'Sites' consultations are not visible in detail - apart from those responded-to via the online surveys. Online comments shown are 52, 63 and 755 respectively.

Signed .....

Date .....

These can be found at: <https://brecklandlocalplan.commonplace.is/>

However, they are extremely difficult to navigate due to a somewhat poorly designed staged 'loading' feature. It is very difficult to do a page search for keywords.

On 6 August, we received a communication from the Leader of Breckland Council - regarding the Government consultation on proposed changes to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system. It set out their interpretation of the proposed changes, and the Council's perception of possible increases (39%) in the number of housing allocations for the new Local Plan. To respond to the Government consultation, follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

Note that the deadline for responses is **11:45pm on 24 September 2024**. See notes above at item 7.

**14. To update on Rocklands Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) (PL).**

Progressing the RNP is on hold. It is futile to pursue until we know where we stand with reference to the changes being made to the Breckland Local Plan and planning policies and processes. The importance of having a NP is diminishing.

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

**Trees at Rookery Farm**

The Parish Council had received several emails from residents concerned about dangerous trees and branches at the Rookery, The Rookery has been sold but the owner still owns the meadow and the trees. Currently living in the barn. BT have done some trimming around phone lines. Adjoining residents believe the trees are a threat to their properties, should they come down. Cllr. Howie said the owner should sort as soon as possible and had spoken to them. A branch seen to be adrift had now fallen.

**Post meeting note:** The owner confirmed their tree surgeon would be dealing with the trees they would try and get a date from him to start the tree work. There are also 3 trees in Low lane and two in the street to be removed. One is dead and at the base and the others he has identified fungus.

Cllr. Howie asked that the tree surgeon be reminded that some trees have a TPO (Tree Preservation Order).

Ask Highways to inspect trees as a priority.

**16. Date of next Meeting - Monday 4 November 2024, 7pm. Rocklands Village Hall. Everybody welcome.**

**The meeting closed at 21:16.**

Signed .....

Date .....

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

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

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

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 .....

**Rocklands SID - Vehicles from Great Ellingham Direction (page 1)**

Start				09/07/2024	29/02/2024	02/10/2023
Finish				09/08/2024	07/04/2024	03/11/2023
Total Vehicles				45,930	54,262	48,903
Average Vehicles/day				1,472	1,406	1,520
Morning Peak				08:30-09:30	08:15-09:15	07:45-08:45
Afternoon Peak				16:30-17:30	15:30-16:30	15:30-16:30
Max Speed (date)				75 (24/07/24 - 23:15)	75 (17/03/24 - 11:30)	75 (05/10/23 - 18:55)
0-40 mph				36,769	42,416	38,933
%				80.05	78.17	79.61
40+ mph				9,161	11,846	9,970
%				19.95	21.83	20.39
45+ mph				2,904	3,884	3,032
%				6.32	7.16	6.20
45-50				2,114	2,751	2,222
%				4.60	5.07	4.54
50-55				612	851	624
%				1.33	1.57	1.28
55-60				141	211	141
%				0.31	0.39	0.29
60-65				30	55	34
%				0.07	0.10	0.07
65-70				6	15	10
%				0.01	0.03	0.02
70-75				1	1	1
%				0.00	0.00	0.00
75-80				0	0	0
%				0.00	0.00	0.00
80-85				0	0	0
%				0.00	0.00	0.00

**Rocklands SID - Vehicles from Great Ellingham Direction (page 2)**

Start	09/06/2023	02/10/2022	30/05/2022	03/02/2022	04/10/2021	03/06/2021
Finish	30/06/2023	04/11/2022	01/07/2022	04/03/2022	04/11/2021	03/07/2021
Total Vehicles	28,266	48,149	43,985	42,402	45,575	47,333
Average Vehicles/day	1,344	1,448	1,373	1,580	1,470	1,571
Morning Peak	08:00-09:00	08:15-09:15	08:15-09:15	08:00-09:00	07:30-08:30	08:00-09:00
Afternoon Peak	15:30-16:30	16:45-17:45	15:30-16:30	16:30-17:30	16:30-17:30	15:30-16:30
Max Speed (date)	70 (17/06/23 - 00:20)	75 (09/10/22 - 17:15)	75 (24/06/22 - 19:35)	75 (25/02/22 - 04:40)	75 (20/10/21 - 19:35)	80 (20/06/21 - 14:35)
0-40 mph	23,953	41,077	34,173	32,596	36,127	37,794
%	84.74	85.31	77.69	76.87	79.27	79.85
40+ mph	4,313	7,072	9,812	9,806	9,448	9,539
%	15.26	14.69	22.31	23.13	20.73	20.15
45+ mph	1,212	2,020	3,234	3,323	3,040	3,349
%	4.29	4.20	7.35	7.84	6.67	7.08
45-50	921	1,497	2,350	2,338	2,137	2,291
%	3.26	3.11	5.34	5.51	4.69	4.84
50-55	219	406	646	744	645	760
%	0.77	0.84	1.47	1.75	1.42	1.61
55-60	59	83	175	181	188	224
%	0.21	0.17	0.40	0.43	0.41	0.47
60-65	12	27	50	45	60	60
%	0.04	0.06	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.13
65-70	1	4	12	13	8	9
%	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02
70-75	0	3	1	2	2	4
%	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
75-80	0	0	0	0	0	1
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80-85	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Signed .....

Date .....

**Rocklands SID - Vehicles from Great Ellingham Direction (page 3)**

Start	03/02/2021	04/10/2020	03/07/2020	03/04/2020	06/01/2020	12/09/2019
Finish	04/03/2021	02/11/2020	04/08/2020	04/05/2020	05/02/2020	11/10/2019
Total Vehicles	35,237	44,434	44,605	24,131	49,654	41,427
Average Vehicles/day	1,215	1,532	1,399	773	1,653	1,433
Morning Peak	07:15-08:15	08:00-09:00	07:30-08:30	07:00-08:00	07:15-08:15	08:00-09:00
Afternoon Peak	15:00-16:00	15:15-16:15	16:45-17:45	16:30-17:30	15:30-16:30	17:00-18:00
Max Speed (date)	85 (28/02/21 - 21:10)	75 (10/10/20 - 06:30)	75 (10/07/20 - 19:10)	75 (10/04/20 - 17:45)	80 (17/01/2020 - 21:45)	75 (07/10/2019 - 07:05)
0-40 mph	27,054	34,808	33,509	14,900	38,267	32,681
%	76.78	78.34	75.12	61.75	77.07	78.89
40+ mph	8,183	9,626	11,096	9,231	11,387	8,746
%	23.22	21.66	24.88	38.25	22.93	21.11
45+ mph	3,022	3,487	4,062	4,357	3,932	3,088
%	8.58	7.85	9.11	18.06	7.92	7.45
45-50	2,047	2,385	2,749	2,667	2,802	2,105
%	5.81	5.37	6.16	11.05	5.64	5.08
50-55	720	790	943	1,156	865	705
%	2.04	1.78	2.11	4.79	1.74	1.70
55-60	199	237	281	389	186	210
%	0.56	0.53	0.63	1.61	0.37	0.51
60-65	41	57	70	121	63	59
%	0.12	0.13	0.16	0.50	0.13	0.14
65-70	11	14	16	20	13	8
%	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.08	0.03	0.02
70-75	3	4	3	4	1	1
%	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00
75-80	0	0	0	0	2	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80-85	1	0	0	0	0	0
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Signed .....

Date .....