

## BROCKDISH PARISH COUNCIL (inc. THORPE ABBOTTS)

Minutes of scheduled Parish Council Meeting  
Thursday 9th January 2025 7pm WHC, Brockdish

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**Present:** Cllrs MacKenzie (Chair), Castagnetti (Vice Chair), Clark, Cobbold & Russell.

**Public:** 2

**In Attendance:** District Cllr Hudson + Clerk

**1. Welcome**

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. To consider accepting apologies for absence:**

County Cllr Wilby, District Cllr Thompson & Cllr McCluskey.

**3. To consider declarations of interest:**

Nil

**4. To approve the minutes of the last meeting of 28/11/24.**

The minutes of 28th November were ratified as a true record of the meeting & a hard copy signed by Cllr MacKenzie (Chair).

Proposed: EC (Vice Chair) Seconded: DC

**5. The meeting adjourned for public participation:**

Cllr Clark spoke on behalf of the public, suggestion: Could we include information on discussions held at PC meetings in the Mardler report? This was agreed by all Cllrs & Clerk to action. Minutes are posted on websites. Dates of meetings are published in the Mardler & posted on both village notice boards, also websites. Agenda posted on both village notice boards prior to meetings, also on the website. A notice board placed at the top of the village (Brockdish, by Waveney Heights junction) could be beneficial. It was agreed to hold a Drop In Surgery on Saturday 15th March 2025 10am-12noon at Brockdish Village Hall (notification to be included in the Mardler, report due 12/01/25).

CH, Chair of Thorpe Abbots Village Hall Committee, updated the meeting re: Thorpe Abbots Village Hall. Priorities for 2025 are to gain registered charity, develop events & activities for the Community, visit other village halls, update maintenance plan, create a strategic business plan, maintain hall to ensure it can continue to be used & insured for the next 3 to 4 years, consult village residents on the future of the building i.e. to renovate the existing village hall or to knock down & replace with a new building. We are halfway through work to the car park & will re-commence during March. We plan to have a website with a calendar of events & booking form. We were pleased to receive a grant of £235.50 from SNC Go For It Grant for a walking group & will be applying for a further grant so we can hold bingo sessions. We would like further storage & will be applying for a grant from Adnams. We were pleased to win SNC photo competition prize (a hamper) with a photo of our Christmas party. We plan to get somebody to look at the leaking roof soon.

- 19.25 hours: Members of the public left the meeting. District Cllr Hudson arrived.**
- 6. To receive District Cllr Hudson's report - see Appendix A.**  
 Delivered to the meeting by Cllr Hudson.  
**To receive County Cllr Wilby's report - see Appendix B.**  
 Circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.  
**To receive District Cllr Thompson's report - see Appendix C.**  
 A copy of the report will be forwarded & attached to minutes.
- 7. Planning (applications/decisions/updates as notified by SNC):-**  
**At Risk Register:-**  
**37 The Street, Brockdish**  
 Chris Bennett, Heritage Officer, SNC previously reported the property is now being investigated by another department (a very long process).  
 The Community Enforcement Officer is involved & the council do have capacity to serve an improvement notice which requires remedial works to the property that would make the property safe for occupation. The notices tackle hazards within the property & its curtilage but are not targeted specifically at the appearance of the property - however they can consequently assist in the building being repaired which is important from the heritage point of view. An urgent work notice can not be served if the building is occupied - the owner is stating & providing evidence that this is the case, even though it is in poor condition. No further progress to report.  
**Application: 2024/3672 1 The Street, Brockdish**  
 Electric car charging point to the building.  
 Supported by PC.  
**Decisions: Approved by SNC & supported by PC.**  
**2024/2912 Abbots Gate, Grove Road, Brockdish**  
 Extension to existing garage.
- 8. Correspondence to note : (sent to Cllrs upon receipt).**  
 VE Day 8th May 2025. Include on Agenda of next meeting.  
 English Devolution White Paper published. Mayors to be equipped with a new range of powers (proposed new Mayors to be elected 2026).
- 9. AOB/Updates/Matters Arising:-**  
 \*Cllr MacKenzie reported the passing of Jan Croxson BEM (a former Cllr). It was agreed to dedicate the proposed new Brockdish village sign to Jan (attach a plaque in her memory) provided the family are in agreement. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to speak with family/PC. Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) to speak with a local graphic designer.  
 \*Flooding: Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported RDN/leaky dams are working well. The ditch has been dug out running alongside the field, however rubbish has been left & photos taken of this. Local farmers dug out the ditch & residents feel it will make a difference. Will need to keep communicating with Saffron.  
 The rationale behind the installation of the Flood Warning Sign & Depth Gauge is part of a County wide project to review, and improve the signage at all fords in the County following a tragic fatality at a ford early 2024.  
 The signage at all fords across the county were reviewed by the area-based teams, and signs replaced/installed at each ford based on individual risk assessments.

The depth gauge sign is a County wide approved sign, with the requirements for imperial and metric markings. There were two size options, a 6ft sign and a 3ft sign, it was the decision to go for the smaller 3ft sign, as the 6ft alternative was not necessary, & would have looked totally out of place at Brockdish Ford.

\*Speeding: Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) has no further data to report from the Speed Safety Camera Team. Cllr Cobbold reported he has placed the Slow Down sign opposite White House Farm, Brockdish, no further speed data to report. Quote required for wheelie bin stickers A4 size Slow Down 30mph quantity 100/200 for Brockdish & Thorpe Abbots. Cllr Cobbold to hand deliver stickers to households in priority locations.

Documents re: PPS speed signs (Bid accepted) has been submitted to NCC & awaiting approval. Clerk requested update & paperwork is now with GL, once he has approved units can be ordered.

\*The Commons/WVfN inc. Biodiversity (Action Plan).

Cllr Clark reported concerns regarding pollution of the River Waveney, information provided by the River Waveney Trust. Clear events of when a dangerous level of chemicals are present (phosphate is a serious one). Plans to have a bathing point at the end of the Common. PC approves. Cllr Clark suggested RWT River Waveney monitor/data information collector attends a PC meeting to speak about pollution etc. This was agreed for the 22nd May meeting (annual parish meeting followed by scheduled PC meeting). Cllr Clark to confirm the date & time with the speaker. WVfN plans to hold an Open Day at WHC again this year. Local groups & organisations to be invited to make the day more of a village event (Thorpe Abbots included). The PC could have a stand/stall. Cllr Clark to log all activities that are taking place on the day to help with Wildlife Friendly Village monitoring.

\*Erosion of verges around the Pump, Thorpe Abbots. Cllr Russell reported at least 2 feet appear to be worn away & possibly the school bus responsible. It was agreed to get photos of the bus/verge. Cllr Russell to undertake. This has occurred in the past, previous minutes recorded: 'NCC Highway Engineer will not permit posts to be installed on the verge at this location, as they would be an obstruction to highway users. NJUG regulations would not permit excavation under the tree canopy as this would cause damage to the roots/trees. NCC has the final say over SNC Conservation Heritage Officers'.

\*Parking/Verges Scole Road, Grove Road, The Street, Brockdish. This was discussed but unfortunately there is nothing we can do. It is recommended that residents speak with each other to help solve inconsiderate parking. NCC states it is not illegal for drivers to use verges, & normally the grass will recover in the spring.

\*Neighbourhood Plan. To note: two local incidents where Neighbourhood Plans have been completely disregarded. These plans one of which DDNP, were adopted by SNC a short time ago after years of work & effort by volunteers to complete.

Training Session re: Neighbourhood Planning to be held on 25/03/25 7pm-8.30pm online cost £30.

\*Cllr McCluskey reported 'dead' trees in a wooded area, Thorpe Abbots at the last meeting. Clerk reported to NCC. Cllr Russell to photograph 'dead' trees & forward to Clerk to forward to NCC.

\*Mill Road, Thorpe Abbots patching work re: road damage of uneven surface GL, NCC inspected & hopefully the work will be completed during January 2025.

Update: Work to be completed end of February/March as road closure requires a minimum of eight weeks notice. Potholes reported earlier this month will be repaired as soon as possible.

\*Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) reported that the Brockdish telephone kiosk phone is not working. Clerk to report to BT.

\*Brockdish War Memorial. 3 additional names to be added/inscribed as per request of Church Warden PT. The War Memorial Trust does not recommend items to be fixed to war memorials i.e. plaques & if separate/not fixed would affect the setting, no room to add to existing lists. (SNC Planning Officer confirmed this).

Requires listed building consent as grade II listed. Clerk has contacted the Heritage Officer at SNC. Advised there would be no problem in adding names to the bottom of lists already in place, however no space to do so & in this case HO not quite sure what the plan would be - it would in some respect not be ideal to inscribe on the octagonal bases/plinths as these do not have any writing on at present. It may be better to add another tablet like the one attached (as previously suggested by PC) HO asked do we have any background to the people we are proposing to put on it so it is clear why they are not on it already? Update: Clerk has forwarded names & rank details to the HO. No further update, Clerk to contact again.

\* Village website. AS continues to update the website. NALC website is updated..

\* PC has vacancy for one Councillor (co-option) notifications placed in the Mardler & on notice boards.

**10. Payments/Transactions for approval/authorisation: Dec 2024 & Jan 2025 to date.**  
 COMMUNITY ACCOUNT (current). Proposed: CM (Chair) Seconded: EC (Vice Chair)

Payee	Description	Amount
Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Streetlight maintenance	£37.50
NPower	Streetlights electricity	£345.69
J. Elsdon	Xmas Trees	£95.00
121 Computers	Printer Ink (3 cartridges)	£90.97
Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Streetlight maintenance	£37.50
NPower	Streetlights electricity	£365.99
Total Expenditure		£972.65
BAL to date c/f		<b>£8054.66</b>

\* monies we hold: £872.53 re: Brockdish 'Xmas Switch On' donations (village sign?)  
 £275.79 re: Brockdish Defibrillator (funds from clothes bank)  
 £280.83 CIL October 2022 Hilltop Farm, Brockdish  
 £2155.83 CIL October 2023 Hilltop Farm, Brockdish  
 £5566.01 CIL April 2024 Hilltop Farm, Brockdish

\* 5 years to spend CIL payments. a) The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or  
 b) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an Area.

**To consider & agree precept requirement 2025/26**

Councillors unanimously agreed to the precept request of £16340.00 (in line with 2025/26 budget figures).

Clerk to submit precept request form section 50 to SNC by 13/01/25.

**11. To consider date of next scheduled meeting:**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on 27th February 2025 7pm  
 Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

The meeting closed at 20.55 hours..

SIGNED.....DATE.....  
 Cllr C. MacKenzie (Chair)

## **District Cllr Hudson's Report to the meeting 09/01/25      Appendix A**

Pleased to see that the planning application for Abbotts Gate, Grove Road, Brockdish, extension to existing garage has been approved.

The Diss Swimming Pool re-opens on 13/01/25 following refurbishment which will reduce the carbon footprint & running costs. SNC has acquired the old John Grose site in Diss & a gym is planned to overlook the Mere.

Gritting of roads. Recent fatality at Pulham Market where road not gritted.

Devolution back on the agenda, proposals going forward. Council should consider what this means for Town & Parish Councils going forward & distribution of responsibilities on volunteer councillors. NCC will not hold elections in May 2025, to be held May 2026.

To note: King's Head, Brockdish possibly up for sale.

## **County Cllr Wilby's Report to the meeting 09/01/25      Appendix B.**

County Councillors have backed a bid to secure new powers and funding to benefit Norfolk. At the full county council meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> and then the cabinet agreed to apply to be part of the Government's priority programme for devolution. The Government wants to extend devolution of powers and funding, plus local government reform, across England. It invited councils to express an interest in being part of the first phase, by January 10<sup>th</sup>. 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. Elections for a Norfolk and Suffolk mayor could take place in 2026 and being on the devolution priority programme could lead to the postponement of county council elections scheduled for May this year, so that devolution and local government reform plans could be developed.

Norfolk is set to receive more than £56 million for highways maintenance next year thanks to recent funding announcements. The Government has announced funding allocations for every local authority across England, which can be used from April 2025 on roads that are in most need of repair. Cabinet member for Highways Graham Plant said "Norfolk's allocation of more than £56 million from the Government is very welcome news and is around £15 million more than we expected thanks to the additional funding being invested. We're ambitious for Norfolk and this money supports us in continuing our proactive approach to highways maintenance which aims to prevent potholes from forming across our highways. It also means we have more to spend on resurfacing cycleways and footpaths along with repairing bridges and delivering more drainage improvement schemes to reduce the impact and severity of flooding. If you see a pothole, let us know by completing our online form at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes)

Four additional tactical response vehicles have rolled into Norfolk as the latest addition as part of a multi-million-pound investment by NCC to modernise the fire and rescue fleet. The four Toyota Hilux 4x4s enable firefighters to quickly attend isolated locations and deal with emergencies in difficult weather conditions. These smaller vehicles are particularly useful in getting emergency workers on scene quickly to fires in isolated locations, such as forests and cliff tops and to incidents of flooding

and deep snow or ice. The investment in TRVS is the latest move to provide equipment for Norfolk and comes in addition to the recent £7 million investment of 22 new fire engines for Norfolk, which replace an aging fleet that has come to the end of its working life.

A compost demonstration site at County Hall is helping people learn how to recycle food waste. Garden Organic is a national charity that has demonstrations across the country, including in Norfolk. The sites show people how to recycle waste by composting. The charity aims to reduce food waste by showing people how to recycle it. The Norfolk Compost Demonstration Site is open to the public every day. For more information about the site, contact [dhalkyard@gardenorganic.org.uk](mailto:dhalkyard@gardenorganic.org.uk)

My next surgery is at HIP on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am

## **Cllr Delme Thompson's Report for the meeting 09/01/25      Appendix C.**

### **Go For it Grant**

I was delighted to hear that the walking group which is being set up as part of the Village Hall activities has received a grant of £235.50, and I actively encourage all groups within the villages to consider applying for support! A full list of all grants available from South Norfolk Council can be found here: [Community funding | Broadland and South Norfolk](#)

### **Town and Parish Forum**

The recording of the event held on 7 Jan can be found at <https://youtu.be/29IHqdbxTg0> The next Forum meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm.

### **Diss Leisure Centre**

Following the £4M refurbishment, the leisure centre is set to reopen on Monday 13 January. Parishioners can book a tour to view the new facilities and explore the various classes and services available, here: [Diss Swim Centre - South Norfolk Leisure](#)

### **Electrical and textile recycling events**

A drop off event is scheduled for Tuesday 28 January 2025, 10am to 2pm, at Mount Street car park, Diss, IP22 4WG. Full details of items that can, and cannot be recycled at the event can be found, here: [Recycling events | Broadland and South Norfolk](#)

### **Planning**

The revised [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#) was published on 12 December 2024. Key initial takeaways include: • South Norfolk (and a great number of other councils) are required to increase housing supply by 5%. • From 2026, Councils that have a 5 year housing supply, will also be required to have a 20% buffer on top, meaning the requirement is, in effect, a 6yr housing supply.

- The SNC planning team are reviewing the supply levels at present to confirm whether the council has a 5yr supply now, to meet the immediate increased requirement. Any council that does not have a 5yr supply, must implement tilted balance – meaning that to refuse an application, it must be shown that the proposed development will cause *more harm than good*. Significant weight will need to be given to the Government's edict to increase housing supply. The overall tone of messaging from central Government to councils, is that housing supply must be increased, or decisions will be taken out of local hands, and made centrally.

