

BROCKDISH (inc. THORPE ABBOTTS) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of scheduled Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 27th March 2025 7pm WHC, Brockdish

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

Public: 0

In Attendance: Clerk

1. Welcome

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

2. To consider accepting apologies for absence:

County Cllr Wilby & District Cllr Thompson apologies received & accepted.

3. To consider declarations of interest:

Nil

4. To approve the minutes of the last meeting of 27th February 2025

The minutes of 27th February were ratified as a true record of the meeting & a hard copy signed by Cllr MacKenzie (Chair).

Proposed: EC (Vice Chair) Seconded: AC

5. The meeting adjourned for public participation:

No members of the public in attendance.

Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) reported from resident dog fouling in Grove Road, Brockdish. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to look at the cost of flags to highlight the problem. Cllr McCluskey reported footpath behind Thorpe Abbotts museum is obstructed by crop. Clerk to report to NCC with photo.

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported replacement defibrillator pads required for the Brockdish defibrillator. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to find supplier & costs.

6. To receive County Cllr Wilby's report - see Appendix A.

Delivered to the meeting by Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair)..

To receive District Cllr Thompson's report - see Appendix B.

Delivered to the meeting by Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair)

Discussion by Cllrs re: Devolution. Local communities should have stronger powers to influence decisions. Local government is becoming less & less 'local'. Cllr Clark to share concerns with County Cllr Wilby, District Cllrs Hudson & Thompson, NALC & the local MP (letter via email).

Cllr Clark has submitted PC thoughts in the Government consultation.

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.

Cllr Cobbold reported that the render has fallen from the side of the property (photo provided). Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to report to Chris Bennett with photos to show deterioration to the property.

Application: 2025/0777 Rose Cottage, Scole Road, Brockdish

Installation of through floor lift

Cllrs supported this application..

8. Correspondence to note : (sent to Cllrs upon receipt).

- Email received from Brockdish resident re: safety concerns whilst WVfN planting bulbs on verge, in Grove Road. Cllr Clark has spoken with WVfN. Clerk to reply to resident. Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) to speak with a resident who tends the verge.
- NALC Board Nomination. It was agreed PC are unable to nominate a Cllr to become a rep/member of NALC.
- NALC email re: Devolution
- SNC Leader email re: Devolution & Local Government reorganisation.
[Norfolk and Suffolk devolution consultation - GOV.UK](#) closes on 13/04/25.
- Town & Parish Council Summit on Devolution & local government reorganisation to be held on 2nd April 9am-12 noon at the Broadland & SNC Council Offices, Horizon Business Centre. Cllr Cobbold & Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) may be available to attend.
- Email received from UEA student re: Just Transformation to Sustainability. Cllr Clark has responded (WVfN).
- PFK Littlejohn 2024/25 AGAR external auditor instructions received (return date 30/06/25).
- Quotation received from GL
1.Cut footpaths fortnightly from April to October in the Common area. £680.00
2.Cut/Strim grass, cut hedge, fortnightly April to October. £800.
Both quotes approved & accepted by Cllrs.

9. AOB/Updates/Matters Arising:-

*Flooding: Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported not having heard much from NCC - still requesting clarification. Met with Ed King of RWT with SW, Ed will provide assistance with flooding. SW identified location, local farmer is landowner. Ed would lead & grants are available to landowners, Ed to investigate. Saw orange sludge in ditch, reported to EA with photos, they informed it is a natural occurrence. It is definitely run off from a covered heap, therefore EA will send somebody to look/investigate.

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) reported contact made with Jenny Bloomfield, Emergency Planner at SNC. She sent an example flood plan based on information found in the EA Community Flood Plan (CM to circulate to Cllrs). Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) & SW to draw up a plan which would require revising annually.

Clerk contacted Gary Overland at NCC re :update for depth measure gauge, Syleham Road, Brockdish - he will contact Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) & SW.

*Speeding: Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) has no further data to report from the Safety Camera Team, they will target Grove Road, Brockdish on their next visit.

Cllr Cobbold reported a good take up re: adhesive wheelie bin stickers for Brockdish & Cllr McCluskey reported a positive response from Thorpe Abbotts residents.

Cllr Cobbold has ordered a replacement battery & charger for SAM2. New SID units in operation. Cllr Cobbold to set speed at 25mph. A speed awareness culture is being created.

Cllr Cobbold reported data for Grove Road, Brockdish - winter 2025.

Number of vehicles: 20951

8073 vehicles travelling over 30mph (39%)

46 vehicles travelling over 50mph

4 vehicles travelling over 60mph

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

Cllr Clark has produced large scale maps to plot wildlife, etc for Brockdish & Thorpe Abbotts which will lead to production of a database. There will be opportunities to display the maps at various local events. The Waveney Valley Sustainable Education Alliance is planning to hold a conference at WHC, on 7th July. This is a potential use of the WHC, Foredale Common & possibly the old school playing field. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) has contacted Cllr James Bensly, NCC to arrange a meeting re: the future of the old school playing field which he agreed to. Awaiting further response from Cllr Bensly.

*Village Sign, Brockdish. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) & Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) to meet to discuss ideas along with a local graphic designer.

*Erosion of verges around the Pump, Thorpe Abbotts. Clerk submitted photos to NCC & awaits further update (with the Highways Team).

*Cllr McCluskey reported 'dead' trees in a wooded area, Thorpe Abbotts at the last meeting. Clerk submitted photos to NCC & awaits further update (with the Highways Team). Clerk to contact the land owner.

*SNC The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to lead Brockdish, meet on village green at 11am on 26th April, afterwards refreshments at Brockdish Village Hall. Cllr McCluskey to lead Thorpe Abbotts, meet at Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall at 11am on 26th April, afterwards refreshments at Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall. Both litter picks are registered with SNC.

*PC Drop-In Surgery held on 15th March at Brockdish Village Hall was attended by 3 residents.

*Proposed notice board by Waveney Heights junction (green area) Brockdish. Clerk to contact Saffron Housing to ask if their permission is required to place a notice board. Suggestion to place on existing wooden posts by High Hedge Path.

- *Thorpe Abbotts residents would like a new notice board (same as Brockdish). Clerk to forward details to Cllr MacKenzie (Chair).
- *Cllr Clark reported the Brockdish Village Hall AGM is to be held on 15th April 7.30pm at Brockdish Village Hall. A new Chair needs to be appointed & additional committee members required. Income needs to be generated as expenses currently exceed income. Help & support is required to ensure the hall remains a vibrant part of the community. Support of PC/Cllrs required & would be helpful if Cllrs attended the AGM. Cllr Clark to Chair the meeting as the PC nominated trustee.
- *Scheduled PC meeting day/date & venue discussed. To be included as Agenda item for the next meeting.
- *Footpath info boards located by Brockdish & Thorpe Abbotts notice boards. Clerk reported to NCC. Response received to say: We have assessed this problem & it does not meet our criteria for repair at this time. We will continue to monitor the problem as part of our routine inspections.
- *Cllr McCluskey reported possible water leak/clogged ditch o/s entrance to fisheries, Thorpe Abbotts. Clerk reported to NCC & included photos 16/03/25.
- *Brockdish War Memorial. 3 additional names to be added/inscribed as per request of Church Warden PT. 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 progress to report at present.
- * 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: March 2025 to date.

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT (current). Proposed: CM (Chair) Seconded: EC (Vice Chair)

Payee	Description	Amount
Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Streetlight maintenance	£37.50
Brockdish Website	Domain Name	£19.20
Brockdish PCC	Donation (re: JC)	£50.00
Stocksigns Ltd	2 SID (NCC/PPS)	£5508.00
NALC	Annual Subs	£183.13
Westcotec Ltd	Tamtorque Bit Key SAM2	£18.00
Westcotec Ltd.	Battery+Charger SAM2	£210.60
WHC	Hire Charge	£20.00
Total Expenditure		£6046.43
BAL to date c/f		£1575.07 (+£8002.67* CIL)

*monies we hold: £872.53 re: Brockdish 'Xmas Switch On' donations (village sign?)

£279.79 re: Brockdish Defibrillator (funds from clothes bank) inc. payment £4 March

(£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.

11. To consider date of next scheduled meeting:

To be held on Thursday 22nd May 7pm WHC, Brockdish

Talk/Discussion by Waveney River Trust

Followed by: Annual Parish Meeting, Scheduled PC Meeting

The meeting closed at 20.35 hours

SIGNED.....DATE.....

Cllr C. MacKenzie (Chair)

County Cllr Wilby's Report to the meeting 27/03/25 Appendix A

Almost 100 towns and villages are to get new measures to make roads and footpaths safer, including electronic signs urging drivers to slow down. Norfolk County Council has agreed to make money available to help pay for 97 highway schemes, including vehicle-activated speed signs, bus shelters and new footpaths. NCC has agreed funding of £425,000 towards £850,000 worth of improvements through the popular annual parish partnership initiative. First launched in September 2011 the scheme invites communities to bid for cash to make improvements. Town and parish Councils will then match fund the county council money to pay the remaining cost of all the schemes. This year the scheme includes 22 village gateways, 21 SAM2 cameras, 8 'trod' footpaths, 4 new footpaths and 10 bus shelters.

A brand-new Norwich Park and Ride service has recently been launched with a number of key enhancements for residents and visitors to enjoy, along with free travel for everyone on the first day of operation (Sunday 30th March). Norfolk County Council selected two operators to run the services following the re-tendering process at the end of last year. The process was carried out with the objective of running the services from all five sites with no subsidy from the council. From Sunday 30th March, First Bus will operate services from Airport, Thickthorn and Sprowston while Simonds will provide the service from Harford and Postwick. The new service will offer: earlier journeys in the morning, later journeys in the evening, increased services at most sites, Sunday services at all sites, Airport Thickthorn and Sprowston will have zero emission buses and continued low fares thanks to BSIP funding. For full details of the services including timetables and ticket prices visit www.norwichparkandride.co.uk As part of the NCC budget for the upcoming year, additional household hazardous waste events will be held across the county. These events will take place at seven recycling centres this spring, supplementing the usual autumn events. The free events will be held throughout April and May 2025, and residents must use the recycling centre booking system to attend. Bookings will be open one week before each event. A list of acceptable items for disposal and the dates for these events can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste

Your Norfolk Extra, the council's monthly digital newsletter goes out to almost 6,000 subscribers on the first Monday of each month, bringing them information and service updates from NCC. To help boost readership a promotional campaign has been started which includes advertising on the front page of the council website, social media alerts and editorial in Your Norfolk Magazine. NCC has also partnered with local businesses to offer regular prize draws for subscribers to win days out in the county – Norfolk Museums and Watatunga Wildlife Reserve being the first to offer prizes. To sign up visit our website at www.norfolk.gov.uk

The Government wants to see all councils in Norfolk replaced with fewer, unitary councils—that would be responsible for all services in their area. They have invited NCC and the seven district councils to submit interim proposals on 21st March and then developed proposals by 26th September. The county council's initial work suggests that having one council would save the most, followed by smaller savings for two councils. Having three or more would cost more money.

District Cllr Thompson's Report to the meeting 27/03/25 Appendix B

Local Government Reorganisation – South Norfolk Council recommendation.

At a full council meeting on Tuesday 18 March, South Norfolk Council voted overwhelmingly in favour of doing further work to develop a two unitary model for Norfolk, One serving Norwich and East Norfolk including Great Yarmouth, and the other encompassing West Norfolk. Daniel Elmer, Leader of the Council said 'This structure, driven by the government's criteria of improved public service delivery, offers the optimal balance between cost-effectiveness and preserving local identities. By aligning with economic geographies, we can unlock the potential of Greater Norwich and Great Yarmouth, while ensuring rural communities remain connected to vital services. This model avoids disruptive boundary changes, and allows for rapid, cost-effective implementation without disrupting existing communities." Further work is ongoing on the recommended approach.

Town and Parish Forum

- The recording of the 4 March meeting can be found at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Biv20G586sM>
- The next in-person meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd April at 9am - 12pm.

Big Litter Pick

The annual Litter Pick is running from 1 March to 31 May 2025. In 2024, around 1,000 volunteers took part and collected more than 750 sacks of litter in our local communities. As usual, the Council will provide posters to help publicise community litter picks and arrange to collect the litter if required. There are twenty £200 prizes up for grabs across South Norfolk and every group that takes part will be given a £20 voucher to spend on their group, charity or local community.

South Norfolk Community Awards – Nominations Open.

Now in their 13th year, these awards celebrate the extraordinary individuals and groups who give their time, energy, and passion to make South Norfolk a better place to live, work, and visit. This could be through organising community events, supporting vulnerable people, or helping to protect the environment.

Award categories We're looking for nominations in nine categories, each designed to recognise different

contributions to our community:

- **Healthy & Active Award** – Celebrating those who encourage health, wellbeing, and active lifestyles.

- **Young Achiever of the Year** – Honouring an inspiring young person making a positive impact.

- **Volunteer of the Year** – Recognising a dedicated volunteer who selflessly gives their time.

- **Connecting Communities Award** – For those who bring people together and strengthen community bonds.

- **Environmental Champion Award** – Rewarding environmental champions who help protect our planet.

- **Business in the Community Award** – Showcasing businesses that go above and beyond for their community.

- **Community Organisation of the Year** – Recognising groups that make a meaningful impact.

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Celebrating someone who has devoted a lifetime to helping others.

- **Town or Parish Councillor of the Year** – Recognising an exceptional Town or Parish Councillor who has gone above and beyond to support their local community

