

Brockdish (including Thorpe Abbots) Parish Council

email clerk@brockdishandthorpeabbotts.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Tel: 01379 308617

Minutes of Meeting Thursday 26th February 2026 Thorpe Abbots Village Hall 7pm

Present:-

Cllr Christine MacKenzie (Chair)

Cllr Adam Cobbold

Cllr Sarah McCluskey

Cllr Stuart Woodruffe

Cllr John Mallows (co-opted this evening)

Clerk

Members of the public: 3 including County Cllr Martin Wilby and District Cllr Clayton Hudson

01. Welcome

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

02. Apologies

Received and accepted from Cllr Enrico Castagnetti (Vice Chair).

03. Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda

None received.

04. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th January 2026

These were agreed as a true record of proceedings and hardcopy signed by Cllr MacKenzie (Chair).

05. Public Open Forum

1. To receive a report from District Cllr Hudson.

Delivered to the meeting by District Cllr Hudson - see Appendix A.

2. To receive a report from County Cllr Wilby.

Delivered to the meeting by County Cllr Wilby - see Appendix B.

3. To consider the co-option of a new Councillor to fill the current vacancy.

John Mallows was co-opted to the PC. Cllr Mallows signed the Acceptance of Office document and joined Cllrs for the remainder of the meeting.

06. Responding to and Working with Other Bodies

a. Planning Applications SNC

2026/0237 58 The Street, Brockdish

Single storey rear extension

It was agreed to support the application

2025/3928 Land North East of 68 The Street, Brockdish

Approval of matters reserved following outline application 2025/1102 for layout, scale, appearance, landscaping for plot 1.

Comment submitted: The development is close to the village boundary and on a stretch of road where vehicles often speed, both entering and exiting the village. In the interests of highway safety, we feel there may be a large number of vehicle movements in and out of a single driveway serving all three properties. We feel that not enough off street parking is available for the size of the proposed properties and feel that the site access should not be changed. We strongly support, and refer to the recommended condition as provided by NCC, reference 9/7/25/1102 and trust these will be adhered to.

Planning Decisions determined by SNC

2025/3730 Valley View, Hall Road, Brockdish

Variation of condition 2 to increase ridge height and cladding changes of consented permission 2022/1241 (which consented to first floor front extension and detached cart lodge dated 03/10/22)

Approved by SNC and supported by PC

2025/3577 Chestnut Grove, Grove Road, Brockdish

Lawful development certificate (existing) for use of former agricultural field as residential garden

SNC granted certificate, supported by PC

2025/3922 Village Green, Brockdish

T1 Field Maple - remove fallen tree on village green T2 Hawthorn - remove small tree.

Replant tree and hedging.

No objections from SNC

At Risk Register: SNC

37 The Street, Brockdish (ongoing)

Update from District Cllr Hudson - Currently SNC is in discussions (ongoing) with owner re: repairs. Access to property is required.

b. Consultations/Reviews

Review of the Greater Norwich Local Plan - Call for Sites. This was noted and agreed no need to respond.

c. Highways, Pavements & PROW to hear updates:

Speeding/Traffic Calming: No further update received re: Speed Enforcement Team resuming presence in Brockdish. District Cllr Hudson advised Clerk to contact the Safety Advisory Team.

Action: Clerk to follow up.

Alleged speeding vehicle, Brockdish, noted at last meeting. Clerk reported to PC Phillips who plans to follow up with words of advice to the vehicle owner. Further action would be taken if the driver is caught committing the offence.

Completed.

SAM2. Clerk has SAM2 and awaits collection from Cllr Robin Twigge, Needham PC (can possibly be repaired).

Completed.

SID upgrade 1 Data Capture Radar. Cllr Cobbold will collect from the supplier, proposed date 06/03/26.

Action: Cllr Cobbold.

PROW Footpath 3 broken stile. NCC continues to follow up and is still trying to identify and contact the landowner.

Action: Clerk to continue to request updates.

PROW Footpath 9 access. NCC has contacted the landowner by telephone and awaits return of call. NCC has also written to the landowner again.

Action: Clerk to continue to request updates, as per Cllr McCluskey's reports.

Vehicles using farm access Hall Road, Brockdish. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) continues to follow up and proposes contacting South Norfolk Police road safety team.

Action: Cllr MacKenzie (Chair)

Trees (alleged danger of falling), Thorpe Abbots. Cllr McCluskey reported two trees with 'red dots'. NCC continues to monitor during their regular visits.

Action: Clerk to follow up.

Pot hole outside Thorpe Abbots Village Hall. Clerk has reported to Highways, NCC. Cycle event passing through Thorpe Abbots on 29/03/26, therefore it would be helpful if the pothole could be repaired before this event takes place.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways, NCC.

Sorn Vehicle parked on road, St. Peters Close, Brockdish. SNC following up. It was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda.

Completed.

To hear a suggestion from Cllr Cobbold re: provision of a pavement, Brockdish to Needham/Harleston. Suggestion discussed. A positive idea, however the final decision would lay with NCC and they consider a pavement would be too expensive.

Completed.

d. Flooding. No further updates. A positive meeting has taken place with Cllrs MacKenzie (Chair), Woodruffe, County Cllr Wilby and Katie Murrell, NCC Flood and Water Infrastructure.

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) has contacted Nathan Harris, SNC to arrange a meeting re: a Flood Plan for Brockdish.

Action: Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) awaits response re: date for meeting.

Blocked drain o/s Grove Cottage, Brockdish has now been cleared.

Completed.

07 Management of the Parish Council

a. To consider and approve ICT Policy (circulated to Cllrs).

Action: Cllrs to review, carry forward to the next Agenda.

b. To note renewal of Brockdish Allotments contract. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) & Clerk met with the landowner, contract duly signed.

Cllrs noted. Date of next renewal 28/02/2041.

Completed.

c. To note one Councillor vacancy Cllrs noted, vacancy to be filled by co-option.

Action: Clerk to place details of vacancy in the Mardler, websites and notice boards.

d. Councillor and Clerk training.

Cllr Mallows recently served as a Councillor for a neighbouring parish, therefore has completed Councillor Induction and Understanding Planning training.

Cllr Woodruffe to complete e-learning Introduction to Planning.

Clerk to complete Data Protection Training on 04/06/26.

e. To consider and approve purchase of a replacement laptop (Clerk). Estimate received in the sum of £299. Cllrs approved purchase.

Action: Clerk

f. Social Media Accounts (Facebook & Instagram) to be launched.

Action: Clerk

08 Projects/Assets updates

a. Proposed seating around the tree, Brockdish Village Green.

Action: Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) to update at the next scheduled meeting.

b. Proposed tree removal/replacement, Brockdish Village Green. Infill tree and hedging collected by Cllr Woodruffe.

Action: Cllr Woodruffe proposes to plant the tree and infill hedging 27/02/26, weather permitting. Cllr Woodruffe will send a copy of receipts to Clerk for payment/reimbursement.

c. Proposed new Village sign, Brockdish

Action: Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) to update at the next scheduled meeting.

d. Proposed notice board by Waveney Heights junction, Brockdish. Cllr Woodruffe reported

Gary Overland, NCC has confirmed land is not owned by NCC (Cadent/British Gas owners).

Action: Clerk to obtain prices for a small notice board..

e. Refurb of notice board, Thorpe Abbots.

Action: Cllr McCluskey to speak with Thorpe Abbots resident re: providing an estimate.

f. New 30mph sign, trim back hedge.

Completed.

g. Street Light Outages. 2 outages reported at St. Peters & St. Pauls Close, Brockdish. The contractor attended, both now working (replacement lantern required for one street light).

Completed.

h. To consider resident's request for a litter bin, Brockdish, lay-by Scole Road. This was discussed. Land belongs to NCC and permission will be required from them. SNC would need to approve the location to provide emptying service.

Action: Clerk to contact resident to inform of above.

i. Brockdish Defibrillator, replacement battery and pads requirement. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) advised no pads or battery replacement required. A new cabinet will be required at a later date.

Completed.

j. The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick 19/02/26-31/05/26. £50 to be paid to all group participants with £500 awarded to one group. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) proposed Brockdish Litter Pick to be held on 18/04/26 10am followed by refreshments after at the Brockdish Village Hall. Cllr McCluskey proposed Thorpe Abbots Litter Pick to be held on 11/04/26 10am followed by refreshments after at the Thorpe Abbots Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to register litter picks with SNC and to place notice in the Mardler + posters for notice boards and for websites.

09. Village Organisations

a. To hear an update from the Parish Cllr representative re: WVfN. Cllr Woodruffe reported Gareth Leech to clear brambles etc and mow grass, WVfN are not keen on clearing brambles. Sally Fisher is prepared to help and a resident will provide chipper (has provided chippings for Village Green). From gate to river, to be left as it is at the moment. Need to demonstrate more people are using the Common after clearance.

Clerk reported Gareth Leech can no longer carry out the contract for grass and hedge cutting (email received 26/02/26). It is unclear if Gareth is available to carry out odd jobs.

Action: Clerk to contact Gareth re: availability for 'odd jobs'.

Cllr McCluskey will speak with Thorpe Abbots resident re: undertaking grass and hedge cutting contract (quote will be required).

Waveney Valley Sustainable Communities invitation to register. To be held at Diss Corn Hall on 13/03/25. No Cllrs are available to attend.

b. To hear an update from the Parish Cllr representative re: proposed Brockdish Fete, 04.07.26.

Action: Cllr Castagnett (Vice Chair) to update at the next scheduled meeting.

10. Finance

a. The following payments made were noted and approved.

£54.00	Norfolk Parish Training	Clerk Training
£100.00	Harleston Town Council	Donation car park
£37.50	Pearce and Kemp Ltd	Street Light maintenance
£433.28	nPower	Electricity street lights
£150.00	Brockdish Village Hall	NCC grant
£19.98	TH reimbursement	Ink cartridge 121

£120.00	Westcotec Ltd	SAM2 Assessment
£273.80	Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Repair, + new lantern
£36.00	CPRE	Annual subs
£420.21	nPower	Electricity street lights
£1644.58	Total payments Jan Feb to date.	No receipts received.:

Account bal: £10277.48*

+ Holding monies: (£6914.38 = £17191.86)*

£159.29 Brockdish Defibrillator (funds from clothes bank)

£591.76 Donations re: xmas light switch-on.. New village sign?

£6163.33 CIL payments received

11. AOB and to consider items for next month's Agenda.

AOB matters raised:

a. Cllr McCluskey reported Thorpe Abbots resident would like an update from Anglian Water (David Baker) re: works/monitoring water flow (previously informed it will be a long process).

Action: Clerk to contact Anglian Water (David Baker).

b. Cllr McCluskey reported land adjacent to 23 Mill Road, Thorpe Abbots is currently for sale by online auction, ends 31/03/26 (guide price £20000-£30000). Residents concerned it could be used for housing (previously refused), and are keen to get hold of the land. Would like to collectively purchase the land if possible, Cooperative land ownership. It was suggested to contact NWT for advice. Cllr MacKnezie (Chair) advised that the PC are not in a position to purchase the land, but will support the community/residents proposals.

Items for next month's Agenda.

Approval of ICT Policy

12 Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 31st March 7pm Brockdish Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chair's Signature..... Date.....

Cllr C. MacKenzie

District Cllr Hudson's Report to the meeting 26/02/26. Appendix A.

There was 100% agreement on the 2026/27 district budget for a £5 annual increase to the charge. Included within the budget is a provision of £5000,000.00 for the Community Action Fund (CAF). and an increase to £2000 for members grants, which they can allocate (to improve village facilities).

This year's South Norfolk Community Awards are now open. Nominations until 15/05/26.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/leisure/south-norfolk-community-awards>

The District Council has intervened and been granted an injunction at the High Court to prevent the owner of the King's Head, Pulham St. Mary from knocking down the historic public house.

County Wilby's Report to the meeting 26/02/26. Appendix B.

On 22nd January the Government announced that it had decided that this May's county council elections would not go ahead, so that the council can focus on local government reorganisation and devolution. This accompanies their decision to cancel the Mayoral Elections scheduled for May as well. The council agreed to delay the 2025 elections in order to secure the Government's devolution deal, based on the promise that a Mayor would be elected in 2026. That timetable was changed without warning in November 2025, delaying the Mayoral election until May 2028, despite the significant work already done to prepare

There will be a county council by-election in Diss and Roydon on Thursday May 7th due to Cllr Keith Kiddie standing down. On February the 16th the government announced another U turn by saying that the County Council elections will now go ahead on May 7th so all 84 seats across the county will be contested.

Norfolk County Council's ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan has transformed public transport across the county, driving a 26% increase in passenger numbers since 2022 and making Norfolk a leading national example for sustainable travel. Some of the improvements include enhanced bus services on 44 routes including more evening and Sunday services, affordable fares, a Greener fleet with up to 100 zero-emission buses and improved passenger experience with real-time information and safer waiting areas.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has rolled out 160 new Axon body-worn cameras across stations in Norfolk to help improve safety and decision-making at incidents. Cameras have been issued to all fire appliances and operational officers, as well as to protection and prevention teams, fire investigation officers, the training school and Trading Standards officers. The Axon devices provide live streaming, location data and two-way communication, allowing footage to be shared in real time with control room staff during emergency incidents. This supports quicker, better-informed decisions, improves firefighter safety by identifying risks earlier and helps coordinate responses with partner agencies.

Research shows that children thrive best in family environments. More foster carers are needed to make family homes a reality for the five children a week who come into care in Norfolk. A new mini documentary has recently been launched that asks the questions people often have when first considering fostering. It follows writer, comedian and family man Adam Buxton as he visits two local authority foster families in Norfolk and Suffolk. Adam doesn't know anything about fostering or having children in care before he meets the foster carers. He finds out more over cups of tea, emptying the dishwasher, Top Trumps, a dog walk and a kick-about in the garden. The full documentary can be seen at www.fostereast.org.uk Residents are encouraged to consider fostering – to find out more visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/fostering

My members community award grant has been agreed, I have £5000 available (to be distributed at: £450 x9 and £475 x2).

Met with Cllr MacKenzie (Chair), Cllr Woodruffe and Katie Murrell two weeks ago at Brockdish. A positive meeting. Should hear results from surveys soon. PFR appears to be 'on hold' at mo.

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) raised the NFU survey/report Making Rural Roads Safer for Everyone, on behalf of a Brockdish resident. County Cllr Wilby is not aware of the report and will make enquiries.

Action: Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to send a copy of the campaign report to County Cllr Wilby. <https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/globalassets/campaigns/rural-road-safety/ruralroadsafety-1225-web-final.pdf>

