

Brockdish (including Thorpe Abbots) Parish Council

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Tel: 01379 308617

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

Present:-

Cllr Christine MacKenzie (Chair)

Cllr Enrico Castagnetti (Vice Chair)

Cllr John Mallows

Clerk

Members of the public: 1, County Cllr Kerrison and District Cllr Hudson.

01.Welcome

Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

02. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were considered and accepted from Cllr Woodruffe and Cllr Cobbold.

03. To receive declarations of interest for the items on the Agenda.

None received.

04. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026.

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

05.Public Open Forum

A Brockdish resident expressed concerns re: alleged on street parking at the Street, Brockdish which causes visibility problems when exiting their drive. Options were discussed eg. yellow lines and parking permits. It was felt these options would cause further issues and would require permission from NCC, Highways. No enforcement re: on street parking.

Action: Clerk to forward contact details of County Cllr Kerrison to the resident to send photographic evidence.

To receive a report from District Cllr Hudson.

Grants update provided on last report. Community Action Fund (CAF) has increased and new for 2026/27 is the Community Facilities Grant (CFG).

An update given on the East Pye Pylons, the Western Link road was turned down due to bats and this will be registered as an interest regarding East Pye Pylons.

37 The Street, Brockdish has taken a step forward.

SNC will be challenging the proposed LGR, there will be a financial impact to support his challenge estimated at £5-6 of the average council tax charge. SNC agreed on two. LGR may change due to the change of PM which is expected shortly.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) by-election will take place on 16th July 2026 (due to a resignation).

SNC will begin food waste bin collections late Summer.

County Cllr Hudson passed on apologies, he is unable to attend the next PC meeting.

To receive a report from County Cllr Kerrison.

County Cllr Kerrison gave his introductory report, copy attached Appendix A.

06.Responding to and Working with Other Bodies

a. To consider responses to Planning Applications.

2026/1223 Home Farm, The Street, Thorpe Abbots

Convert adjoining outbuildings to form habitable accommodation for the existing dwelling house, removal of an existing roof to form an open courtyard area and partial conversion of the cart lodge to form a therapy room and associated window and door adaptations.

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Circulated prior to the meeting. The PC supports the application.

2026/0426 Shingle House, Common Lane, Brockdish

Replacement windows and re-render.

Circulated prior to the meeting. The PC supports the application.

To note Planning Application decisions determined since the last meeting.

2026/0854 Grove Thorpe, Grove Road, Brockdish

Install broadband antenna to existing dormer window bargeboard on rear of existing dwelling.

SNC approved the application and PC support.

At Risk Register: SNC

37 The Street, Brockdish (ongoing)

Update requested from Chris Bennett, SNC Heritage Officer, following site visit on 18th June 2026. Response received from Mark Siddall, SNC Community Enforcement Officer, as follows:-

I have visited previously on behalf of Housing Standards in connection with reducing the number of empty homes in the districts of South Norfolk and Broadland DC. I attended on the 18th but wasn't provided access. The trip wasn't wasted as there was enough to look at outside for my immediate purposes. I attended with an architect specialising in historic properties for input beyond my own experience. I noted the further failure of the render on the NE gable. Whilst disappointing I think it may contribute to my case for intervention here. I hope to ask for work to be completed on the property by the owner. Should the owner fail to do this then the Council may complete works in default. If this occurs I would hope to gain a little leverage over the future of the property. I am concerned that any works in default could be prohibitively expensive and on that basis I would look to prioritise elements. Although even then the nature of the building and its condition could throw up costs that the Council is reasonably cautious about. It will be a step by step approach and so I am not keen to express great hope for a really successful conclusion, but I am keen to give it a try. I will let you know if any landmarks are passed. Hopefully you may see further notices appear at the property.

b. Highways, Pavements & PROW to hear updates:

Speeding/Traffic Calming: Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) reported Carl of the speed enforcement safety camera team has visited the village. Captures recorded as follows: 10/03/26 = 3, 08/04/16 = 1, 21/04/26 = 5 and 26/05/26 = 2. Note: no Brockdish addresses captured. Carl will be moving on shortly, therefore a new officer will be appointed. County Cllr Kerrison suggested forwarding SID Units data to NCC, Highways.

SID Units Solar Upgrade. NCC PPS Bid successful. Clerk has submitted acceptance of the scheme form, signed by Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) and Clerk, which NCC has accepted. Clerk has forwarded updated prices to NCC and awaits their approval, once received solar panels and poles/posts can be ordered. One SID2 Unit currently with the supplier for inspection, as possibly faulty.

Action: Awaiting response from NCC prior to ordering.

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.

PROW Footpath 6 re-routing

Action: Cllr McKenzie continues to follow up.

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) to follow up.

Footpath Scole Road to St. Peters Close, Brockdish. Overgrown with nettles, etc.

Clerk has informed Saffron Housing who have reported to their maintenance team.

d. Flooding. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) has contacted Nathan Harris, SNC to arrange a meeting re: a Flood Plan for Brockdish. Cllr Woodruffe will also attend the meeting.

Action: Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) to contact Nathan Harris again to arrange a meeting.

Alleged sewage pollution + odour, ditch beside 25 The Street, Thorpe Abbots. Reported to EA. Response received, as follows: We are in the process of sending letters to address this pollution incident and will be following up with residents to find the source of the issue.

Action: Clerk has requested a further update.

08 Management of the Parish Council

a. To note one Councillor vacancy Cllrs noted, vacancy to be filled by co-option. Notification of vacancy on noticeboards, website and Mardler.

Resignation received this evening from Cllr McCluskey.

Action: Clerk to notify Electoral Services at SNC.

b. To note: correspondence received from SNC re: an update in the law affecting the publication of Cllrs home addresses in Register of Interests and other related public records (29/06/26). Clerk confirmed Cllrs home addresses are not published on websites.

08 Projects/Assets updates

a. Proposed new Village sign, Brockdish. Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) informed the meeting the graphic designer is adding items, making amendments to the design drawing and will produce a draft drawing shortly.

Action: Cllr Castagnetti (Vice Chair) to arrange a meeting and will update at the next meeting.

b. Proposed notice board by Waveney Heights junction, Brockdish. Proposed to be sited on the right hand side of junction NCC land, therefore their permission may be required.

Action: Clerk to contact Gary Overland, NCC (cc County Cllr Kerrison).

c. Grass/Hedge cutting contract. Abbotts Handyman Services completed ground maintenance. To carry out ground maintenance again. Note: Ensure the area near Brook/Ford,, The Street, Brockdish is cut prior to the Pink Ladies Tractor Run on 5th July 2026.

Action: Clerk to contact Abbotts Handyman Services.

d. Thorpe Abbots Pump. Cleaning of roof tiles and proposed hedging around the pump green area. To note: Clerk advised hedging would require permission from SNC, Heritage Officer as a Conservation area. Previous suggestion 'no parking signs'?

Action: To c/f to the next scheduled meeting Agenda.

e. Old School Playing Field, Brockdish. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) contacted NCC for an update. Response received from Simon Waters, NCC as follows: I am seeking formal approval for the acceptance of the Parish's offer. Once that has been given, I can pass it to nplaw to progress (nplaw have already been instructed and have allocated the case to a solicitor). (Note: FYI. nplaw is a public legal service operated by NCC, providing legal support primarily to local authorities and public sector organisations).

09. Village Organisations

a..To hear an update from the Parish Cllr representative re: WVfN. Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) is to arrange a meeting with WVfN Chair and Cllr Woodruffe re: a management plan as soon as possible.

Action: Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) and Cllr Woodruffe.

b.To consider request from Brockdish Village Hall for support from the PC re: applying for a grant from SNC CAF, proposed purchase of a lockable fridge and possibly a screen.

Cllrs agreed to support the request.

Action: Clerk to inform Brockdish Village Hall of decision.

10. Finance

a.The following payments made were noted and approved.

£260.96	nPower	Electricity street lighting
£37.50	Pearce and Kemp Ltd	Street Lights maintenance
£260.59	NALC	Annual subs
£339.50	Abbotts Handyman Services	Ground maintenance
£225.17	nPower	Electricity street lights

£1123.72 Total payments May, June to date.

Account bal: £13827.48

+ Holding monies: (£6979.48 = **£20798.86**

£224.29 Brockdish Defibrillator (funds from clothes bank)

£591.76 Donations re: xmas light switch-on - proposed new Brockdish village sign?

£6163.33 CIL payments received (re:Hall Road, Brockdish)

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

AOB matters raised/updates from previous meeting.

Cllr Mallows reported: a. burning smell in the village, possibly coming from the Syleham Road area - to be monitored. b. hedge overgrown upper Scole Road, Brockdish - Clerk to report.

Items for next month's Agenda

c/f: A108d Thorpe Abbots Pump

Approve annual donations to village organisations/groups

12 Date of next Meetings: Tuesday 28th July 2026 7pm Brockdish Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.35 hours.

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

Cllr C. MacKenzie

APPENDIX A

Dear Councillors & Residents of Brockdish & Thorpe Abbots,
Introductory Letter:

Firstly, I thank you for your warm welcome into my new role as your elected County Councillor for East Depwade. Regardless of who you voted for and which political party you align yourself with, I am honoured to represent you and will be a strong voice for you on Norfolk County Council. I ask that Brockdish & Thorpe Abbots Parish Council distribute my official email as far and wide across the area as possible; I am readily available for all and any concerns you may have which I may be able to help with.

I have been made Deputy Cabinet Leader for Highways and Transport, the benefits of which I am looking forward to bringing to our area which is in need of organisation and efficiency when it comes to road maintenance, repairs and stronger rural transport links.

We are heading into a period of uncertainty with regards to Local Government Reorganisation. I cannot think of a division more likely to suffer the expensive and disproportionate consequences of becoming part of the new 'East Norfolk' unitary authority. I will be fighting against LGR in the hopes that we do not dilute our local identity and are able to deliver key services such as Adult Social Care and Children's Services in a smooth and orderly way which gives people a better chance at improving their quality of life.

In the coming days, we will be focussing on which grants are available and how best to distribute them; with my priority being the protection of rural character and heritage, support for local services and community facilities, and incentivising local business and initiative.

If there is anything I can do to support the various projects you have ongoing or wish to establish for the betterment of our local area, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Joseph Kerrison
Division East Depwade

Email: joseph.kerrison.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Direct Dial: +441603228988

Please see helpful information and updates from County below:

Children and young people urged to learn key water safety tips this Drowning Prevention Week

Children and young people in Norfolk are being urged to learn water safety skills during Drowning Prevention Week following a rise in drowning incidents nationally.

The campaign promotes simple actions such as calling 999, floating to regain control, using buoyancy aids, and avoiding entering the water to rescue others.

Schools, parents and youth groups are encouraged to use local resources and attend free sessions to help keep young people safe ahead of the summer holidays.

More Illegal Tobacco seized in Great Yarmouth inspections

Further to the announcement from Trading Standards last week on the seizure of illegal tobacco, a further 40,000 illegal cigarettes and 13.8kg of hand rolling tobacco have been seized from four businesses in Great Yarmouth following joint inspections by Trading Standards and partner agencies. The action, part of Operation CeCe, highlights ongoing efforts to disrupt organised crime linked to illicit tobacco and protect communities.

Authorities warn that illegal tobacco sales harm the local economy, enable underage sales, and may be connected to wider criminal activity.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun – Summer 2026 – July 20th – September 2nd

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun, funded by the UK Government, provides free holiday activities and nutritious meals for eligible children and young people across Norfolk.

The Summer 2026 programme is open to children aged 4–16 who receive benefits-related free school meals, including 4-year-olds in Reception.

Awarded Places are also available for particularly vulnerable children, including refugees, young carers, children in care, children excluded from school, socially isolated children, and victims of domestic abuse or exploitation.

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What is available...

- Free, enriching holiday activities delivered by trusted local providers across Norfolk.
- A nutritious meal at every session.
- Inclusive provision, including support for children with additional needs.
- Online booking through the Eequ activity finder.
- Activities include multisports, cycling, swimming, outdoor adventure, drama, dance, arts and crafts, and more.
- Members are asked to help promote the programme locally so eligible families are aware of the support available.
- Share campaign messages through divisions, community networks, newsletters and local meetings.
- Share posts from Active Norfolk and Norfolk County Council social media channels.
- Signpost families to the campaign webpage:
www.norfolk.gov.uk/big-norfolk-holiday-fun.
- Professionals should refer vulnerable children for Awarded Places where appropriate. Further information: bnhf@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk has published a three-year plan to improve support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/DelegatedDecisions/tabid/67/ctl/ViewCMIS_DecisionDetails/mid/391/Id/2016/Default.aspx

National Updates

Mayors to drive public service reform

The government has announced plans for mayors to “drive” reforms in how public services are procured, commissioned and delivered, saying this will boost local bargaining power and help “crack down on profiteering”.

In a ministerial statement on June 17th, communities secretary Steve Reed said the government would set up a “task and finish group” that will “jointly define the role of mayors and strategic authorities in public service reform”

The move follows the granting of new powers for mayors in May, including the capacity to make decisions on transport and works act orders in their areas.

It falls within the ‘right to request’ process, part of the devolution act which enables mayors to request new controls, funding and partnership from government.

This follows five regional mayors earlier this month being provided additional abilities to shape specific local initiatives under the right to request in areas such as flood resilience.

Pubs, shops and local assets protected with communities in charge

The government has announced a £61m Community Right to Buy Fund to help local people take over pubs, shops and other valued community assets at risk of closure.

This forms part of a wider £301m package to support high streets and shift power to communities, alongside reforms to give tenants more control and improve local service delivery.

Additional measures include funding for community-led service pilots, better data sharing, and action to tackle profiteering in housing and children’s social care

Every child to get access to enriching activities to build skills and confidence for life

The government has announced a £132.5m “Every Child Can” programme to ensure all children can access enrichment activities such as sport, arts and outdoor learning, both in and outside school.

New national benchmarks will guide schools and colleges in delivering high-quality opportunities to build skills, confidence and wellbeing, helping reduce inequalities in access.

The initiative forms part of wider investment in youth services, sport and culture to tackle isolation and improve outcomes for young people.

