

MINUTES OF THE GARVESTONE, REYMERSTON and THUXTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16th JUNE 2025 AT 7:00PM

Councillors Present: Edward Stanford, James Smerdon (Chair), Graham Smith and Amanda Ward.

Members of the Public Present: 4

Clerk: Samantha Bromley

The Chair informed the meeting that he had recently received a scam telephone call from an individual claiming to be a resident of the parish and requesting financial assistance. The Chair shared this information to alert residents and councillors to this scam circulating in the area and advised everyone to remain vigilant.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr L. Sandford (alternative commitment).

2. Minutes.

- 2.1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Monday 16th June 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 2.2. The minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council meeting dated Tuesday 1st July 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest.

- 3.1. No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests, on any subject on the agenda, were received.
- 3.2. No dispensation requests were received.

4. To receive updates on matters not elsewhere on the agenda.

- 4.1. There has been an issue with booking the information session for the Government-Funded Septic Tank Upgrade Scheme, causing a delay; a new date is expected to be agreed upon in September.
- 4.2. The defibrillator has been received and is currently awaiting Mid-Norfolk Railway's readiness for installation. – Clerk to contact Mid-Norfolk Railway to request they store the defibrillator until it is ready for installation.
- 4.3. With regards to the escaped pigs, it is believed that livestock have returned to the field. An increase in bread deposits on the field by seagulls has also been noted. The situation will continue to be monitored.
- 4.4. An update was given that the Mobile Post Office van has not visited for the past two weeks. The Clerk has emailed the regional Post Office officer twice but has yet to receive a response. – Clerk to contact the Mattishall Postmaster to explore the possibility of setting up a mobile service in the Village Hall foyer.

5. Correspondence.

- 5.1. County Councillor: Parish report. Noted.
- 5.2. Mr Jackman: PC Website. Noted. – Clerk to research benefits and cost.
- 5.3. Village Hall. Accessing Hall. Noted.

6. Public Participation and Reports.

- 6.1. County Cllr Edward Connolly was not present.
- 6.2. District Cllrs Paul Claussen and Paul Plummer were not present.
- 6.3. The police were not present.

- 6.4. Open forum for members of the public (maximum of 3 minutes per person).
- 6.4.1. Concern was raised regarding a piece of land in the parish recently sold by Breckland Council. It was noted that while the land has overhead and underground cabling and pipework, current building regulations do not automatically prohibit development. However, any planning application would need to demonstrate that works would not interfere with the infrastructure and development may be costly as a result.
 - 6.4.2. Concerns were raised regarding the continued inconsistency of the Mobile Post Office service, with reports that it attended one week but failed to return for the following two, citing various excuses. It was noted that the operator is salaried to provide the service. – Clerk to submit a formal complaint via the Post Office website.
 - 6.4.3. The Council received a question about application PL/2025/0478/PAQ.
 - 6.4.4. The Council was provided an update regarding the Mid Norfolk Railway. An enquiry will be made about them storing the Council's defibrillator with the railway until installation is possible. An official notification has been issued about Tollers Lane being designated as a Public Right of Way (PROW), though the status of the level crossing remains unclear. Members of the public were asked to be patient and advised not to clear any overgrowth near the railway due to safety concerns.
 - 6.4.5. A question was raised about the current membership of the Parish Council. It was confirmed that all councillors were present except Cllr L. Sandford, and that there are currently two vacancies.
 - 6.4.6. A resident expressed sympathy for those living along the road, noting that it has become noticeably noisier since the new surface was laid.
 - 6.4.7. Concerns were raised about a recent incident involving escaped pigs, with a feeling that the situation has regressed. The Chair confirmed the situation will continue to be monitored. – Clerk to contact Police for an update.

7. Funding.

- 7.1. To consider applying for Section 106 developer contribution funding to support the purchase of new equipment for the Garvestone & Thuxton Village Hall playground. DEFERRED.
- 7.2. To consider potential bids for the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme 2026/27 and note the application deadline of 1st December 2025. DEFERRED – Councillors to forward ideas to the Clerk to research ahead of the next meeting.

8. Planning Matters.

- 8.1. To consider consultee response to applications received from Breckland District Council:
 - 8.1.1. PL/2025/0478/PAQ - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to 1 no Dwellinghouse (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Ash Farm, Mattishall Road, Garvestone. NO COMMENT.
 - 8.1.2. PL/2025/0995/HOU - Demolish existing rear Conservatory New rear single storey extension with flat roof - Meadowsweet, Dereham Road, Garvestone, NR9 4QT. NO OBJECTION.
- 8.2. To consider consultee response to any other applications received from Breckland District Council after the publication of the agenda:
(<http://planning.breckland.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningSearch>).
- 8.2.1. PL/2025/0984/OMIN - Outline application with all matters reserved except for

access for 5 no. dwellings with associated parking and garden amenity areas - Land South of Dereham Road, Garvestone. OBJECT. The Council considers the proposal contrary to Breckland Local Plan policies HOU05, GEN02 and COM01. Key concerns include inappropriate development outside the settlement boundary, unjustified loss of productive farmland, harm to the rural character and appearance of the village, increased highway safety risks on a narrow section of Dereham Road, lack of local services and the absence of a meaningful flood risk assessment. The application also closely resembles a previous application refused in 2020 for similar reasons.

8.3. To receive notifications of decisions made by Breckland District Council: None.

9. Financial & Governance Matters.

9.1. It was noted that a VAT refund, for £1,242.86, was submitted up to 31st March 2025.

9.2. It was RESOLVED to AGREE the following payment, proposed Cllr G. Smith, seconded Cllr A. Ward:

Payee	Description	Method	Net	VAT	Gross
Staffing	Salary/HMRC/Pension/WFHA	BACS	£682.25	£0.00	£682.25
Tesco	Mobile	DD	£11.66	£2.33	£13.99
Nick Kennedy	Internal Audit	BACS	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
ICO	Subscription	DD	£47.00	£0.00	£47.00

10. Administration.

- 10.1. It was agreed that the next Village Walk will take place on Thursday, 22nd August. The walk will begin at 4:30pm from Thuxton Station, following a leisurely route through the parish and finishing at the Village Hall pub event by approximately 6:00pm. All residents are welcome to join.
- 10.2. The Internal Audit Report was reviewed. The Declaration of Interest form for Cllr. Ed Stanford has been re-sent to Breckland Council. It was agreed to review insurance cover in April 2026 ahead of the June renewal, as current levels provide adequate single-item replacement. The review of outdated Covid-19 risk assessments will be added to the September agenda.
- 10.3. The Parish Council received information regarding the promotion of 'Ash Tree Farm' as an event venue. At this stage, no formal action will be taken. The situation will be monitored, and the matter revisited if necessary.
- 10.4. It was agreed to issue a letter to Lake View Farm regarding the overgrown Public Right of Way (PROW) on its property.
- 10.5. To review the Playground Inspection Report and AGREE any action. DEFERRED – Clerk to circulate to Cllrs.
- 10.6. The proposal to install signage displaying historical footpath names was discussed. Investigations into the original names are currently underway and NCC has been contacted for permission.
- 10.7. As part of the Community Champion Legacy, an initial discussion was held with a view to developing an "A to Z" of community skills. The aim is to compile a list of individuals within the parish who possess a wide range of skills, whether through work, hobbies or experience, that could be called upon by the Council when needed. The Clerk will maintain the list as a reference tool. Work on this initiative is in the early stages and will continue to be developed.
- 10.8. It was agreed that a replacement noticeboard should be purchased for Garvestone. Suitable options will be reviewed and considered at the next meeting.

11. Members Matters.

None.

12. Items for the next meeting.

None.

13. Next meeting of the council.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 15th September 2025 at 7:00pm in the Garvestone & Thuxton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

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