

**Thompson Parish Council (TPC)**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting**  
**held in Thompson Community Hall on Tuesday 20 January 2026**

Present:	Robert Garcia	Chair of this meeting
	Ron Powrie	Vice Chair
	Duncan Gregory	
	Jo Shelton	
	Tony Snelling	
	Jean Wagner	
	Kim Austin	Clerk
	Phil Cowen	Breckland District Councillor

Also present: There were no members of the public present.

The meeting opened at 19.30

- 1. To elect a Chairperson to chair this meeting. Declaration of acceptance of Office**  
Cllr. Robert Garcia volunteered to be elected to chair this meeting. Cllr. Wagner proposed and Cllr. Powrie seconded this proposal. The vote was unanimous and Cllr. Garcia was duly elected. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr. Garcia and witnessed and signed by the Clerk.
- 2. To consider accepting apologies for absence**  
Apology received from Cllr. Karen Keen.
- 3. To record declarations of interest from members in any items on the agenda**  
There were no declarations of interest.
- 4. To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 18 November 2025**  
The minutes had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Powrie and seconded by Cllr. Shelton. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. Garcia.
- 5. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes (Tuesday 18 November 2025) not on the agenda**  
There were no matters arising.
- 6. To adjourn the meeting for public participation, an opportunity for members of the public to raise any queries and concerns.**  
The meeting was not adjourned as there were no members of the public present.
- 7. & 8 To discuss transfer of Breckland Community Land to Parish Councils (PC)**  
Background: PC said we know when Breckland disappears, that Council Tax will increase disproportionately. Band D in Breckland is the lowest in the country. Under a unitary body, Breckland residents will be worse off. What Breckland can do to protect communities is transferring management of car parks. This is not part of the Breckland Community Land Transfer. Towns will then decide how they will be managed.  
Breckland has acquired over many years, various bits of land in towns and villages, mostly small and not very useful, such as verges etc. Some has been sold to landowners and householders. Breckland Community Land Transfer is to transfer parcels of land to Parish councils for them to maintain as Community Assets. These parcels of land then are no longer part of the Breckland 'Estate' that will pass to the unitary body. This enables Parish Councils to take control. For example: in Caston there is

a children's playground behind the hedge at Coronation Terrace on transferred land. Breckland are trying to accelerate this process.

The land is not for sale but is transferred at NIL value. Legal Fees would need to be paid. The PC would take on the responsibility of maintaining that land. Thompson has two pieces of land. Plot 1 is at the junction of School Road and Griston Road and Plot 2 is to the left of the entrance to the Airey Houses off Tottington Road. The PC does not have to take them on, and they would then become part of the estate. If the land was sold on in the future an overage would be applied to get best value and Breckland would be paid, based on any sale price. Residents can apply, possibly in a few months-time. PC should express an interest as soon as possible should they wish to take on any land identified for transfer.

Cllrs. Powrie and Keen are attending a 'Breckland Land Workshop' on 30/1/2026.

Could establish a Working Party or EGM or online communication to discuss.

#### 9. **To discuss British Heart Foundation (BHF) offer of free, fully funded defibrillators**

The Clerk had received an email that The British Heart Foundation was offering free, fully funded defibrillators to eligible non-profit, community-focused groups, including Parish Councils. Cllr. Gregory proposed the PC apply, seconded by Cllr. Shelton. The PC agreed unanimously to apply with a view to installing at the Church, Duncan's Barn or the Chequers Public House. Cost of electricity could be £50 per annum for heating the cabinet for 3 months in the winter. Pads and batteries supplied for 10 years. Cllr. Wagner volunteered to submit an application as soon as possible as offers closes 26/2.

To qualify, applicants must ensure the defibrillator will be:

- Installed on an external wall, accessible 24/7
- Placed **200m or more** from the nearest public access defibrillator
- Housed in the non-lockable cabinet provided
- Registered on The Circuit, the national defibrillator network
- Supported by a commitment to CPR training using BHF's free RevivR tool

Successful applicants receive a **defibrillator, cabinet, replacement pads and batteries, and CPR training resources.**

**Post meeting note:** Cllr. Wagner had completed the application form and has now received notification that Thompson PC has been successful. Well done and thank you Jean. Need to decide where new defibrillator will be sited, considering electricity supply and listed building consent etc.

#### 10. **To discuss Breckland Local Plan and Call for Sites (RP/KK)**

RP said there was very little to report. Breckland is under pressure because they are currently unable to demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing land. The latest calculation demonstrates a 2.8 year supply.

#### 11. **Update on Woodland Trust Project (RG).**

Email update received from Woodland Trust (13/01/26).

Over the past couple of months, the main priority for the Woodland Trust has been the planting of the northern third of the site between Griston and Church Roads. In this area, over 26,000 trees have been planted through a mix of contractors and volunteers. We have held planting events for the local school, our corporate partners and the local community. We are now beginning planning in earnest for our 2nd phase of planting, in late 2026. Over the last couple of months, we have unfortunately had several signs stolen and removed from the site, as well as some damage to some of the Woodland Trust's infrastructure, which is hugely frustrating. We have also added our dog walkers code signs to the major entrances and gates of the site.

RG also had sight of a copy of an email update to a parishioner about the hares on part of Thompson Wood site. As follows:

The remaining hares in the other fenced blocks have been largely dealt with. As already mentioned, all efforts to drive them out have failed so we will not be persisting with that approach, hence we have had to use lethal control. We have installed one-way gates now, so if we do inadvertently get more hares into the fenced blocks in the future, they may be able to find their own way out. This is not a tried and tested approach though, so at the moment we can't state any confidence in this being the

main solution. Lethal control remains the best option, for reasons already outlined, including animal welfare. But the gates do at least provide another possible option as we go forward.

RG was asked to write to the Woodland Trust in his capacity as WT liaison delegate about several issues (i.e. warning signs whilst shooting, the Portaloo, overgrown field at Field Hall Lane).

It was agreed it would be a good idea to invite Tom Bolderstone to a future meeting.

Some councillors and residents do not approve of shooting hares to reduce hare damage to young trees developing on the site

## 12. To update on flooding and drainage (TS)

The PC were very grateful for Cllr. Snelling volunteering to take on the issue of flooding and drainage in the Parish. His work with contacting and discussing flooding and drainage with landowners was much appreciated. TS had follow up meetings with Edward Raker (ER) landowner, Luke Denney (LD) Highways Engineer and provided a report.

### **Edward Raker (ER).**

On Thursday 20 Nov 2025, I met with Edward Raker (ER) (1-1/2 hours) to discuss flooding at the junction of Tottington (Tot) and Marlpit (Mpit) roads. It was a very informative meeting and I found him very engaging and willing to explore the root causes of other flooding issues.

We walked most of the central area of the village, including MG, Tot, Mpit, Hallfield and Mill roads, and a couple of Raker's fields. I explained how rainwater from Tot & Mpit roads would, in the past, flow into the ditch near the beet pad, but said ditch was now filled in to create a new field access. During our walk we had a fortuitous meeting with **Chris Sales (CS)**, who confirmed what I'd said, and went onto tell us some historical details of this flooding problem. To me, ER seemed a little taken aback by this. I also found out that part of the ditch on **Robert De Grey (RDG)** land from Mpit to Tot road was filled in when the Farriers was built, thus not allowing De Grey's land to freely drain into ditch 2 MG via a pipe under Tot road. After heavy rain, I've only observed a trickle. We walked Mpit road and walked this ditch to see for ourselves. Mill road and the Millennium Green ditch 2 was walked, then onto ditch 5 at Hallfield road, and from there, down the side of Fear Nought, the old P.O, onto Raker's field to look at the pipe outlet from ditch 5 into ditch 6. ER suggested that LW might need to sort out his ditch from Mpit that runs onto Julia Blakes land and then stops at the Farriers.

Overall, my impression was that ER was interested. I tried to get him to feel as if he was part of our community and asked him to come onboard with us. He said that he would speak with his manager on Monday, as he was currently on holiday.

I wrote to ER on 17 Dec 2025 asking him if he'd spoken to his manager and if he had any plans but had no reply. I rang ER's office and left a message on 13 Jan 2026.

### **Treatment plant.**

On Wednesday 17 December 2025, I had a chance to talk to an engineer who was working at the treatment plant on Tot road. He allowed me to have a look at the end of ditch 2 at the rear of Beech cottage and the plant. I was told that ditch 2 originally continued on to well corner but had been filled in. However, I could see that the ditch took a left turn and then went underground via a drainpipe (Beech cottage's garden), which appeared to go towards ditch 5, Hallfield road. The condition of this pipe is unknown as is not in the survey report. Having said that, in my opinion, there could be a potential for flooding in the area of the treatment plant once the drainage at BSC is corrected.

### **Luke Denney (LD)**

I met with Mr. Luke Denney, Highways area engineer, on the 12 Jan 26, 1½ hours. I thanked him for meeting with me.

From local knowledge and the CCTV survey (2023), I had decided to prioritise the two main areas of concern, which are linked.

**Firstly**, Bus stop corner and then Ditch 5 at Hallfield road. When the issues at BSC are resolved, this will then allow water to flow unimpeded towards ditch 5 via ditch 2, at Tot road, and then through the drain adjacent to the property Fear Nought and into Raker's field, ditch 6. I outlined my concerns and shared my observation, and as I discussed the survey report for BSC with LD, a couple of villagers passing by stopped, and the owner of No.1 school road walked over to us, all shared their personal experiences with us, LD found this very helpful. We then walked onto ditch 5 stopping to discuss ditch 2, and then finally going through the problems associated with the drain that connects ditch 5 to Raker's

field, ditch 6. One problem is that the drain runs partway through Fear Nought land and is at risk of collapsing. We walked Marlpit road, and I showed him where the water flows onto the road because it doesn't drain away quick enough from the top field (RDG), because of the ditch being filled-in adjacent to the Farriers. Pockthorpe was briefly mentioned.

On his departure he said that he enjoyed his visit, had a much clearer idea and appreciated our problems. He will do all he can to push this forward, and that he will raise a work order immediately. At Highway's next gateway meeting he will argue for funds as he only has a budget for maintenance and these works fall outside these parameters, as it's only a "small job". He will try to slot it in earlier, if he can grab some funds from a job that may come in under budget. Budgets are set the year before, that is to say, that next year's budget has already been set.

Since our meeting, I've obtained some video and a video of BSC and have forwarded them onto him to help build a case.

Thank you to TS for all his hard work.

Exposed telephone cables had been noticed and were mentioned. JW offered to send email to Openreach.

### 13. To update on NEW Parish website/laptop (KA)

RLS Computer Services had requoted as the quotes had expired.

**Laptop.** The quote for the laptop etc. was the same price except for the laptop itself being £52 cheaper. The Clerk will discuss which extras/maintenance are needed or not with Geoff Winslow and accept the quote to progress the purchase.

**Website.** The quote for the website was the same price as already quoted.

Website one-off fee construction and movement of content from old website. £290

Website (first year) gov.uk domain name, hosting and emails £140

Website (Annual fee thereafter \*) £190\*

The Clerk will accept the quote and scan to RLS to start construction of new website.

RG had already expressed an interest and would also be invited to be involved. Ideally would have two people to maintain and do updates to the website.

Need to keep monthly costs as low as possible.

### 14. To receive reports

#### 14.1 District Councillor (PC Executive member - Finance, Revenues and Benefits)

LGR. Both Norfolk and Suffolk County councils have voted to support the government's proposal for a joint mayor and thus in May 2026 elections will be held to appoint a joint Mayor to represent the strategic interests of both Counties. It is therefore anticipated that county council elections will be held to coincide with the Mayoral elections. We await the decision from the Minister as to which unitary proposal, if any, he decides to pursue through the consultation phase but indications are that all three proposals put by Norfolk will be consulted upon. Consultation closed 11/1/2025. Response to consultation has been approved. Minded to propose preference in March 2026 - will announce the option. Once decided there will be a lead in time. Council Tax 2028. April 2028, unitary body will start. Shadow elections May 2027. Appointing members, government structures, how services will function. DC elections will not happen in 2027. DC will start to drop off as unitary body comes in. PC believes the elections should go ahead. Elections needed to elect new authorities. PC would prefer democracy to continue. Last restructuring was in 1972-1974 - a 2-year lead in period.

Currently, business as usual. Draft budget based on requirements placed on Breckland by central government. Domestic Food waste collection is continuing to be introduced. Band D council tax increasing by £2.40 per week. No benefits from LGR.

14.2 County Councillor (FE) No report received.

14.3 Community Hall report (JK) Apologies from JK that the report was not received in time for the meeting but is included in these minutes.

**Reclaim the Rain** Nothing to report.

**Community Hall:** Bookings are steady. Have a new booking for a twice monthly art class which appears to be well attended so we are hopeful that this will become a fixture. The Warm Spaces

sessions on Wednesdays have now finished. The book sales will continue into this year with sales in March, July and November. Sorting and pricing the book stock which we accumulated last year is progressing well and the sorters from the 3 charities should complete this before the March sale. Classic Cars and Coffee events on the first Sunday of each month will start again in April.

#### 14.4 The Millennium Green report (JS)

The Clerk had received an email report from Cllr. Jo Shelton. (JS) and had circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. This report was delivered by JS at the TMGCT Trustees meeting held on 12 January 2026. Teresa Blake, Jean Kaye, Jo Shelton and Andrew Cook were present. Minutes from the last meeting were signed off.

##### **Management**

The Chair remains vacant. There is a real need for new members. JK will put another plea in the Waylander. If no new members can be persuaded to join the committee there is a risk that the running of the Green may revert to the PC. It was noted the PC would not wish this to happen.

##### **Records**

There are still a lot of historic records to go through and archive. TB is taking the lead on this.

**Insurance:** No change.

##### **Finances**

Jo Shelton and Andrew Cook to be added as bank signatories.

Current account - £1233 and Savings - £20,099.59

The saving's account should be thought more of a capital account. This amount is being reserved for any future capital outlay.

£1746 grant money can now be released for the pathway map/noticeboard. It was thought sensible to keep the money back until the issue with Pockthorpe had been settled so this too could be added to the map.

**Query.** The Clerk queried this amount as the amounts being held by PC for sports equipment and noticeboard are reported as follows.

Allocated to Sports Equipment maintenance (TMG)	£	1746.00
Allocated to Notice Board	£	1084.30

##### **Maintenance**

The hedges have been cut on Tottington Road and School Road.

AC proposed a ditch alongside the treeline (greenside) from the path from the carpark. The ditch would be 1ft deep. A 12inch pipe sunk underneath the path from the Green to the pond to enable the Green to drain. JS suggested that he talk with Cllr. Tony Snelling re drainage issues and forwarded Tony's email to AC.

Angus has also done some low-level hedge trimming as in previous years. The working party on 18 January was postponed until 1 February 2026 to enable TB to send out emails. Work to be carried out includes a general tidy up, brambles cut back and fruit trees pruned.

##### **Community Engagement**

The **website** is nearly ready with a few more photos to be added. AC asks that everyone has a look and points out any errors and forwards any suggestions to him at [www.thethompsonmilleniumgreen.com](http://www.thethompsonmilleniumgreen.com)

**Thompson Community Run** A date has been set for 4 October 2026.

**Fundraising** Nothing to add.

**Reclaim the Rain** No update.

##### **Other Business**

Re the £2000 requested by the MGCT committee. This is for the maintenance and up-keep of the exercise and play equipment. The amount is an average amount thought to be needed and it is not based on a specific invoice. It was decided that it would be more appropriate for TMGCT to approach TPC directly (after the annual survey of equipment) for funds for work based on quotes received. Quotes will be forwarded to the PC.

**A question:** Could the Community Hall and Millennium Green committees merge ?

#### 15. To report on financial matters

##### 15.1 Financial position

**Bank account balances at Tuesday 20 January 2026**

Barclays Community Account	£	3319.43
Barclays Business Premium Account (Savings)	£	8618.94
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>11938.37</b>

**Summary (Including monies allocated)**

Allocated to Sports Equipment maintenance (TMG)	£	1746.00
Allocated to Notice Board	£	1084.30
Thompson Parish Council	£	9108.07
<b>TOTAL as per bank</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>11938.37</b>

**15.2 Money in since last meeting (18 November 2025)**

8/12/2025 Barclays Savings Account	£	25.40
<b>TOTAL IN</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>25.40</b>

**15.3 Bank Reconciliation**

<b>Opening balance</b> at bank, Current (Last meeting, 18 Nov 2025)	£	4958.05
<b>Opening balance</b> at bank, Savings (Last meeting, 18 Nov 2025)	£	8593.54 (£13551.59)
PLUS Money in since last meeting (as above)	£	25.40
MINUS Money out since last meeting (Total cheques 18 Nov 2025)	£	1638.62 (£1421.62 plus £217)
<b>Closing balances</b> at bank (This meeting, 20 Jan 2026, as above)	<b>£</b>	<b>11938.37</b>

The chair signed the Bank Reconciliation documents prepared by the Clerk.

**15.4 Direct payments (authorised)**

DPO01 Kate Winslow - Christmas Tree	£	55.00
DPO02 NPTS - Chairing with confidence training - Cllr. Garcia	£	90.00
DPO03 NPTS - Code of Conduct - Cllr. Garcia	£	72.00 (217.00)
DPO04 Clerk's wages x2 M9/M10 Dec 25/Jan 26 (to be authorised)	£	566.80 (566.8)
<b>TOTAL OUT</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>783.80</b>

THOMPSON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS										INCOME			
										YEAR ENDED 31 March 2026			
Date	From	Description		PRECEPT	SAVER A/C INTEREST	RECYCLING GLASS & PAPER	GRANTS ETC	VAT	MISC	TOTAL			
08/04/2025	Breckland Council	Precept 1 of 2	DIR	4,150.00						4,150.00			
02/06/2025	Barclays	Barclays Saver A/C Interest	DIR		31.66					31.66			
23/07/2025	Breckland Council	Glass recycling payment	DIR			97.39				97.39			
08/09/2025	Barclays	Barclays Saver A/C Interest	DIR		31.74					31.74			
24/09/2025	Breckland Council	Precept 2 of 2	DIR	4,150.00						4,150.00			
08/12/2025	Barclays	Barclays Saver A/C Interest	DIR		25.40					25.40			
				<b>8,300.00</b>	<b>88.80</b>	<b>97.39</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,486.19</b>			

**£8486.19**

THOMPSON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2025 - 2026										EXPENDITURE											
										YEAR ENDED 31 March 2026											
Date	V To	Description	CHK	CLERKS WAGES	POSTA GE	PAYRO LL	COUN CIL	HALL HRE	PRINTE R	INSURANC E	AUDIT	DONATIONS	SUBS	GRASS CUTTING Etc.	WEB SITE	DEFIB	MISC	CAPIT AL	VAT	TOTAL	
20/05/2025	Info Commissioner	Annual Data Protection Fee	849											52.00							52.00
20/05/2025	Wymondham garden	Internal Audit 'Plant Hamper'	850								35.00										35.00
20/05/2025	NPTS	New Councillor Training	851				135.00														135.00
20/05/2025	Zurich Municipal Insur	Annual Insurance	852							264.00											264.00
20/05/2025	TTSR Limited	Grass cutting 1 of 4 (25%)	853										476.18							95.24	571.42
20/05/2025	Kim Austin Clerk	Clerk's wages M1/M2 Apr/May 25	854	549.12																	549.12
15/07/2025	TTSR Limited	Grass cutting 2 of 4 (25%)	855										476.18							95.24	571.42
15/07/2025	Kim Austin Clerk	Clerk's wages M3 June 25	856	274.56																	274.56
31/08/2025	TTSR Limited	Grass cutting 3 of 4 (25%)	857										476.18							95.24	571.42
30/07/2025	NPTS	Training New Cllr. (Tony Snelling	858				65.00													13.00	78.00
16/09/2025	Annual donation	St. Martin's grass cutting (On inv	859								507.46										507.46
16/09/2025	Kim Austin Clerk	Clerk's wages M4/M5 July/Aug 25	860	557.96																	557.96
16/09/2025	Kim Austin Clerk	Clerk's wages - backpay	860	35.36																	35.36
16/09/2025	Annual donation	Thompson Community Hall	861								350.00										350.00
16/09/2025	Annual donation	Wayland Partnership	862								350.00										350.00
16/09/2025	Annual donation	Millennium Green - TMGCT	863								550.00										550.00
31/10/2025	TTSR Limited	Grass cutting 4 of 4 (25%)	864										367.69							73.54	441.23
18/11/2025	Kim Austin Clerk	Clerk's wages M6/M7 Sept/Oct 25	865	566.80																	566.80
08/11/2025	Kim Austin Clerk	Clerk's wages M8 Nov 25	866	283.40																	283.40
30/11/2025	Kate Winslow	Reimburse TPC Xmas Tree	DP001																	55.00	55.00
09/01/2026	NPTS	RG - Chairing meetings training	DP002				90.00														90.00
09/01/2026	NPTS	RG - Code of conduct training	DP003				72.00														72.00
20/01/2026	Kim Austin Clerk	Clerk's wages M9/M10 Dec25/Jan 26	DP004	566.80																	566.80
				<b>2,834.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>362.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>264.00</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>1,757.46</b>	<b>52.00</b>	<b>1,796.23</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>372.26</b>	<b>7,527.95</b>

**£7527.95**

## 15.5 Budget Vs Actual

Thompson Parish Council Budget Vs Actual			
AT 20/01/2026	Budget	Forecast	2025 - 2026
	2025/2026	2025/2026	Actual to date
	2025/2026	2025/2026	2025/2026
<b>INCOME</b>			
Precept	8,300.00	8,300.00	8,900.00
Recycling	100.00	100.00	97.39
Interest (Barclays Saver)	10.00	10.00	88.80
VAT	350.00	350.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,760.00</b>	<b>8,760.00</b>	<b>9,086.19</b>
			AS ACCOUNTS
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Staff Costs including PAYE	3,294.00	3,294.00	2,834.00
Payroll services	96.00	96.00	0.00
Internal audit fee	35.00	35.00	35.00
Postage	25.00	25.00	0.00
Insurance	264.00	264.00	264.00
Grass cutting	1,904.70	1,904.70	1,796.23
Training	150.00	150.00	362.00
Printer/consumables	35.00	35.00	0.00
Website	187.40	187.40	0.00
Capital	100.00	100.00	0.00
Defibrillator (Batts/Pads)	200.00	200.00	0.00
Miscellaneous/Contingency	200.00	200.00	55.00
Donation - St. Martin's Church	500.00	500.00	507.46
Donation - Wayland Partnership	350.00	350.00	350.00
Donation - Thompson Community	350.00	350.00	350.00
Donation - Thompson Millenium G	550.00	550.00	550.00
Subs - Norfolk ALC	155.00	155.00	0.00
Subs - Info Comm Registration	52.00	52.00	52.00
VAT	300.00	300.00	372.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,748.10</b>	<b>8,748.10</b>	<b>7,527.95</b>
			AS ACCOUNTS
<b>PRECEPT £8900</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Actual to date</b>
2025/2026	2025/2026	2025/2026	2025/2026

### Clerk's and finance notes.

#### Bank mandate and making direct transfers.

3 signatories: Duncan Gregory, Jean Wagner and Ron Powrie. The Clerk is named as a Barclays official. (So, 4 in total). Any 2 authorised persons to sign. Have now moved to making direct payments instead of writing/posting cheques. Thereby saving a small amount of money on postage. The Clerk would set up the payments and ask the signatories to authorise.

At the last meeting the clerk had voiced concerns regards accessibility to the accounts by councillors as she wanted this recorded in the minutes. See item 12.3 in minutes dated 18/11/2025. She didn't agree that a councillor being a signatory on Parish Accounts should allow an individual to make payments/transfers etc. themselves. As Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) for the accounts, the Clerk needs to be certain that all transactions have been initiated by herself.

The Clerk described an incident since the last meeting that highlighted her concerns voiced at the last meeting. All signatories agreed they would not endeavour to set up payments and would only authorise set up payments when asked.

#### Clerks Wages.

It was agreed that the Clerk could set up her monthly wages as a Standing Order/Direct Payment as the same amount is paid every month. To be paid 1<sup>st</sup> of the month every month.

#### TTSR Grass cutting - quote received for 2026.

TTSR have quoted for 2026. In summary the cost for the year has increased from £1904.70 plus vat (2025) to £1999.95 plus vat (2026) an increase of £95.25 for the year. An increase of £100 was planned for in the budget. All councillors agreed the quote for 2026. The Clerk would inform TTSR. VAT still to claim for the previous year.

**Training.** If anyone would like to attend any relevant training courses at NPTS please let the Clerk know. RG had recently attended a course on Chaining Meetings and will attend a Code of Conduct course on 23/4/2026. The Clerk confirmed it was OK for councillors to claim travel expenses to courses.

#### Chair role.

If anyone wishes to take on the chair position as a permanent role, they should let the Clerk know.

- 16. To consider planning applications**
- 16.1 Planning outcomes since last meeting (18 November 2025)**  
**PL/2025/1695/CLOPUD DALLI** 3 College Road, IP24 1QF. Remove window and replace with door. (CLOPUD Certificate of Lawful Development (Proposed Use)). (090)  
 PERMISSION - NO CONDITIONS  
**PL/2025/1849/DCA AINGE** Land adjacent to Farriers, Tottington Road, IP24 1PX (091)  
 INFO ONLY - NO RESPONSE NEEDED
- 16.2 Applications pending outcome**  
 No applications pending outcome.
- 16.3 New applications since last meeting (18 November 2025)**  
 No new applications.
- 16.4 Appeals**  
**Cherry Tree Farm APP/F2605/C/25/3375850**, Cherry Tree Lane, Stow Bedon, NR17 1BY. The Clerk had received an email and had circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. This explained, Breckland Council had issued an enforcement notice (ENF/118/23/PAR) on 9 July 2025 regards breach of Condition 2 of planning permission (3PL/2017/0878/F) to the applicant Wayland Farms. An **appeal** has now been made to the Secretary of State by the applicant.  
 After some discussion it was decided that the Parish Council did not need to comment further.
- 16.5 Enforcements Pockthorpe Lane turning head update (KK/KA)**  
**Pockthorpe Lane ENF/016/25**. This has been pending since August 2025. The Clerk is still requesting regular updates, but the contacts has now changed to Steve Hunt (Assistant Planning Enforcement manager) and Chris Curtis (Planning Enforcement Manager). Jean Kaye has now been removed as Breckland's contact.  
 They insist the delay rests with Norfolk County Council Highways Team. All enforcement options are still on the table and will be discussed at length at the Planning Enforcement meeting to be held on 26/2/2026. (Email from Steve Hunt dated 15/1/2026).  
 We continue to send photographs of continuing obstructions.  
**Griston Road encroachment/Boruch application (KK)**  
 A query had been submitted to Highway Boundaries (with photos) as it had been noticed that Green Farm had enclosed the tree line in their perimeter fence on Griston Road, near the crossroad with Mill Road, School Road and Tottington Road. Highways investigated and confirmed, the fence in question is indeed an encroachment and Area Engineer informed.  
 The PC has mixed views on this. Most don't like the idea of 'land grabbing' and believe Highways should be dealing with this but don't seem overly concerned. Not good at enforcement. Shouldn't turn a blind eye on blatant encroachments otherwise sets a precedent for others to do the same. Mixed views on writing a letter to the landowner as suggested by Highways.  
 After discussion, it was agreed RG would write to Highways to let them know the PC would not write to the landowner.

**17. To discuss any correspondence.**

There was no correspondence not already discussed.

**18. AOB – To receive items for the next agenda.**

**Noticeboard (JW)**. PC has been holding £1084.30 for noticeboard for a while now. It was thought sensible to keep the money back until the Pockthorpe footpath inquiry had concluded, so that, this too could be added to the map. At long last, the footpath is now open. Thank you to Karen Keen for her persistent emails to ensure this happened soonest.

It was decided to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting and invite Bron and Karen to attend.

**Spring Litter Pick (JW)** JW asked the Clerk to check when the spring one was held last year.

**Post meeting note:** Spring Litter Pick 2025 was held on 15/3. As this is the Thompson Fun Run weekend, now proposing to do the litter pick on Saturday 7 March meeting at the hall at 09.30am. Duncan will advertise in the Waylander. JW to ask Geoff Winslow if he can help with the trailer collection of the refuse bags.

**19. Resignation of newly elected chair**

Cllr. Garcia resigned as chair of this meeting.

**20. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 17 March 2026 in Thompson Community Hall. Start 7.30pm.**

Cllr. Tony Snelling agreed to chair the March 2026 meeting.

**Meeting closed at 21.45**