

# FRAMINGHAM EARL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 7.00pm at The  
Methodist Church

## **Present:**

Cllr Louise Bishop – presiding (LB), Cllr Rodney Aldis (RA), Cllr Libby Cook (LC), Cllr Steven Peet (SP), Cllr Trevor Spruce (TS), Cllr Jane Walker (JW), District Councillor Lisa Overton-Neal (LO), County Cllr Jim Webber (JW), Jennifer Parker (JP) and Paul Stanley (PS) - Tree Wardens and Yvonne Wonnacott – Parish Clerk (YW).

## **Apologies:**

Cllr Dave Todd (DT) and District Cllr Nicola Fowler (NF).

## **Members of the Public:**

None.

### **2026/032 Chair's welcome (to include any apologies for absence for approval)**

Chair welcomed all attendees to meeting. Apologies received and approved from Cllr Todd and District Cllr Nicola Fowler.

### **2026/033 To receive declarations of interest**

None.

### **2026/034 To approve a time limit for the meeting**

All agreed to aim for meeting to finish by 8.30pm.

### **2026/035 To agree minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

Cllr Aldis proposed minutes of the PC meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 as previously circulated to be agreed as correct, seconded by Cllr Cook, and unanimously agreed. Minutes signed by Chair.

### **2026/0036 Matters arising from the minutes of the PC meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 Replacement dog bin, village green**

The meeting noted that a replacement dog bin had been installed on the village green. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Spruce for carrying out the installation. Member suggested that a dog waste bin be installed near the existing litter bin at the entrance to the footpath between Cawstons Meadow and Romany Walk. As this area falls within the parish of Poringland, it was agreed that the PC would forward the suggestion to Poringland Parish Council for consideration – YW.

### **2026/037 Adjournment for public participation**

None.

### **2026/038 County/District Councillors report(s)**

Meeting noted report from District Cllr Overton-Neal as previously circulated. Key items summarised as follows.

- The next Neighbourhood Policing Meeting is on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October from 2-3pm
- Let's Go: Final website has been launched. Showcases our fantastic places to visit, things to do, local events, walking and cycling routes, attractions, accommodation, food and drink venues, and independent businesses across our districts. [Explore South Norfolk and Broadland - Lets go!](#)
- South Norfolk Council are offering a free Community Climate Action Training course for parish councils, village hall committees, and community groups across the district.
- Local Plan – Call for sites: not all sites will go into the plan but the numbers we now have to provide has been increased massively and we have got to find an additional 2,590 homes per year across Greater Norwich.
- New NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) which was published on the 17 August and comes into immediate effect.
- 5-year land supply: We always used to rely on having a 5-year land supply which gave us more control over being able to refuse applications. When the new government came in, they raised the number of houses we had to build in Greater Norwich, this made our Local Plan out of date as we had not planned for the number of homes they wanted which meant we lost our 5-year land supply.
- National Scheme of Delegation: This is also something new that comes into effect on the 31 October.
- Secured £40,000 grant from the CFG which South Norfolk Council operated this year, the grant is for Framingham Earl Church and will enable them to have a toilet installed at the church.
- 2026 is South Norfolk's biggest-ever litter pick a record 64 groups organised litter picks across the district this year, up from 52 in 2025.
- The Government has announced that it is launching a review of LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) plans, including those relating to Norfolk. As part of this review, the previous decision relating to Norfolk (three unitary model) has been withdrawn while the review is undertaken. We have since heard that it is now cancelled until further notice.
- The Government has also confirmed that local elections in May 2027 will proceed on existing council boundaries (i.e. district councils elections will go ahead in May 2027).

District Cllr Overton-Neal emphasised the call for sites and highlighted the number of sites identified in neighbouring parishes, including the large number of sites in Caistor St Edmund and Bixley. Members were recommended to review these sites. A Member asked whether the District Council would be seeking reimbursement of costs incurred in relation to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). District Cllr Overton-Neal confirmed that this was being investigated.

Meeting noted report from County Cllr Webber as previously circulated. Key items summarised as follows.

- The NCC Budget Setting process is underway, and a number of initiatives have been identified to fund the budget gap for 2027/28.
- George Freeman, MP chaired Norfolk's First Solar Summit on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Further events are expected.
- Apex has indicated that the planning application for this controversial data centre is expected to be submitted this year.

- Norfolk County Council's annual Recycling Centre Survey is now open until 18 October 2026. It seeks views from both users and non-users to inform future improvements to the service.
- The new PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) is consulting before setting a budget for 2027/28.
- Standing Up for Norfolk 2026-28: The County Council has published a new strategic plan with 5 high level priorities.
- The Government has announced a draft Environmental Delivery Plan (EDP) that could unlock up to 15,780 new homes in Norfolk and fund improvements to rivers, wetlands, and wildlife habitats
- New legislation takes effect from 31 October 2026, limiting the type of planning decision which can be taken by local planning committees. It affects both County and South Norfolk Councils.
- The Government funded British Business Bank has announced the East of England Investment Fund with £140m of funding for local businesses.
- Norfolk County Council's three-year plan to improve support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has been accepted by the Government.
- Community and voluntary organisations can apply for grants to improve local places and help bring people together. The Common Ground Award 2026 to 2027 will fund buildings, facilities, equipment and other long-term improvements for eligible voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations in England

County Cllr Webber advised meeting of following;

- Future hazardous waste recycling event, will provide details to Clerk – **JM**.
- At cabinet meeting question was raised would reserves for LGR be released, answer was no due to the uncertainty.
- New Chief Executive onboard.

District Cllr Overton-Neal left meeting 7.19pm.

## **2026/039 Finance matters**

### Expenditure for approval/to be noted

Following items of expenditure were formally noted and/or approved.

- Parish Clerk, expenses, July @ £24.14, includes £1.66 VAT
- Parish Clerk, expenses, August @ £25.95, includes £1.75 VAT
- Parish Clerk, expenses, September @ £24.00, includes £1.28 VAT & £6.00 training
- HMRC, Quarter 2, Clerk @ £32.88
- Parish Clerk @ £46.00, includes £7.67 VAT, reimbursement for poppy wreaths
- Bungay Printers @ £100.00, newsletter
- ICO, renewal fee @ £47.00
- Parish Clerk gross pay, October @ £602.94, includes backdated pay rise
- Parish Clerk gross pay November @ £506.22
- Parish Clerk pension, Norfolk Pension Fund, October @ £117.55, includes backdated pension
- Parish Clerk pension, Norfolk Pension Fund, November @ £98.71
- GeoXphere Ltd @ £45.00, includes £7.50 VAT, annual online mapping subscription

- South Norfolk District Council @ £742.50+ VAT, annual dog bin charge.

#### Amendment to AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statements 2025/26

Formally noted and agreed that an amendment was required to Section 2 – Accounting Statements. The Council is not a sole managing trustee and, therefore, the response to Box 11 should be recorded as “Yes”. The AGAR was amended accordingly and initialled by the Chair.

#### Introduction of new Digital AGAR Portal

Noted that SAAA (Smaller Authorities’ Audit Appointments Ltd) is introducing a new Digital AGAR Portal to simplify and improve the security and efficiency of AGAR submissions. The portal is expected to be available for the 2027 AGAR submissions and will initially be voluntary, with SAAA intending it to become the primary submission route and potentially mandatory from 2029. PC agreed in principle to register for and use the scheme, including taking advantage of any incentive available for early adoption.

#### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The current CIL balance of £6,481.43 was noted. The PC had contacted South Norfolk Council regarding outstanding CIL payments relating to planning application 2022/0650. The PC was advised by the CIL Officer that South Norfolk Council had not been aware that works had commenced, as no Commencement Notice had been received and the Building Regulations application associated with the development had been recorded incorrectly on their system. The CIL payment was therefore due immediately. It was noted that the developer is unable to pay the full amount immediately and has agreed with South Norfolk Council to make monthly instalment payments, with the first instalment due by the end of September. County Cllr Webber advised that he had been unable to secure match funding from Norfolk County Council (NCC) towards the proposed speed limit reduction on Long Road/Pigot Lane. However, a reduction in the costs had been successfully negotiated. It was agreed that the PC would consider funding the cost through CIL, subject to receipt of the outstanding CIL payment relating to planning application 2022/0650.

#### The Local Government Services Pay Award 2026/27, Clerk

Approved the Local Government Services Pay Award 2026/27 for the Clerk. The award provides for a 3.3% increase, effective from 1 April 2026, and is a one-year award covering the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

#### In bloom grant

Poringland Parish Council has placed an order for 15 planters, with delivery expected within the next four weeks. The PC’s gardening contact is considering whether there will still be sufficient time to plant winter plants and/or spring bulbs, or whether planting will need to be deferred until spring. The Poringland Rangers have offered to assist with installation of the planters. Several volunteers have also expressed an interest in helping to maintain the planters next year. PC to speak to new owners of the Nightingale Centre to request approval for planters to be erected on the railings outside their premises – **TS**.

#### Charitable donations

Member to circulate draft updated policy – **SP**. Item to be added to December agenda – **YW**.

#### Remembrance wreaths

The purchase of two Remembrance wreaths, for placement at the Church and the village green, was noted. A Member raised that two Framingham Earl civilians lost their lives during the bombings of the Second World War and that these civilian casualties are not currently recognised within the village. PC agreed to establish further information - **TS**.

#### Litter pick award

Noted that the PC had received a £50 award for participating in the Big South Norfolk Litter Pick. County Cllr Webber advised that the award did not need to be spent on a specific item. Member advised that group of volunteers would be undertaking a litter pick on 12 October.

#### Winter pressures grant

Noted PC had advised Framingham Earl High School (FEHS) of this grant, and they had subsequently applied for £500 grant to provide 10 Christmas hampers to families who meet the Pupil Premium threshold linked to Free School Meals and who also have children undertaking Young Carer responsibilities within the home.

#### Tree survey

Noted tree survey due December/January, PC to obtain quotation – YW.

### **2026/0040 Planning**

#### Applications submitted

2026/1951, Foxhills, 70 Long Road: PC objected to application for following two reasons.

1. there would be a loss of established beech hedgerow and jeopardy to mature trees
2. visibility splays would be adversely affected

A further amendment to plan was received late August, with the addition of a gate to plans. PC responded advising welcomed clarification that any removed hedgerow will be replaced like-for-like and expects this to be conditioned. Deferred to Highways on visibility, vehicle access, and pedestrian safety. Objected to the proposed solid gates, which are oversized and out of keeping with neighbouring properties, and would prefer smaller, open-style gates. Clarification requested on whether the existing dropped kerb will be retained. PC noted that it also objected to the previous application at 60 Long Road, demonstrating a consistent approach.

2025/3955, Land East of Bungay Rd: PC submitted response with regards to developers response to matters raised by Highways. PC submitted response summarised as follows. Whilst welcoming the proposed extension of the 30-mph speed limit, maintained concerns regarding highway safety. PC highlighted the location of the proposed Toucan crossing, the limited benefit of the second access point, the potential for increased congestion following the removal of the right-turn filter lanes, and the cumulative impact of multiple junctions, bus stops, and pedestrian crossings along the B1332.

#### Applications for consideration

TPO Consultation SN0830, 68 Long road and Foxhills 70 Long Road: Agreed PC to respond strongly supporting TPO – YW.

#### Decisions

2026/1394 Removal/Variation of Condition, 70 Long Road. Withdrawn.

2026/0861 - Change of Use - Framingham Earl The School House, The Street. Approval with Conditions (Delegated).

2026/1608 - Change of Use - The Nightingale Centre, 1 The Street. Approval with Conditions (Delegated).

2026/1717, Works to TPO trees, 50 Long Road. Approval with Conditions (Delegated).

2026/2506, Works to TPO trees, 46 Long Road. Approval with Conditions (Delegated).

### **2026/041 Administrative updates**

#### Parish Clerk appraisal

Chair and Vice-Chair undertook Clerks appraisal on 10 September; all parties were happy with Clerk's performance.

#### Parish clerk job description

Updated job description approved, to be adopted with immediate effect.

#### Website, biodiversity

Noted biodiversity section of website updated, new subpages, each focusing on key topic areas to provide residents with more detailed information about biodiversity and environmental initiatives within the parish. Noted PC had implemented Biodiversity policy in the past 12 months through the following ways.

- Updated the Biodiversity section of the PC website by adding new subpages, each focusing on key topic areas to provide residents with more detailed information about biodiversity and environmental initiatives within the parish.
- Actively encouraged residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs through articles published in the PC newsletter(s).
- Organised the annual community litter pick event.
- Considered the impact on biodiversity when commenting on planning applications.
- Continued to sensitively manage The Dell without changing its character.
- Installed bird, owl, and bat boxes at The Dell to provide additional nesting and roosting opportunities for local wildlife.
- Maintained PC representation at biodiversity-related events, sharing information and updates with the wider Council.
- Worked in partnership with neighbouring Poringland Parish Council to secure grant funding towards the installation of planters on the railings surrounding the roundabout. A proposed planting scheme has been developed, and the first planter has now been installed to begin enhancing biodiversity and visual amenity within the parish.
- Introduced new board at The Dell, working with local pupil at Framingham Earl High School who designed informative poster for new board.

#### Norfolk Parish Training and Support, Autumn Seminar

Noted Clerk's attendance, slides from seminar had been circulated to full PC.

#### PC newsletter

First PC newsletter, Summer 2026 had been circulated and positive parishioner feedback received.

#### Governance documents

Biodiversity policy – Agreed to adopt updated policy as previously circulated with immediate effect – YW.

IT policy – Agreed to adopt updated policy as previously circulated with immediate effect – YW.

Dignity at work policy - Agreed to adopt updated version as previously circulated with immediate effect – YW.

ICO Model Publication Scheme Version 1.2 – Agreed to readopt scheme – YW.

Guide to information and schedule of charges - Agreed to adopt updated guide as previously circulated with immediate effect – YW.

Lone working policy - Agreed to adopt updated policy as previously circulated with immediate effect – YW. Member raised question if Clerk works from home is this considered as lone working? PC to investigate – YW.

Complaints procedure: Agreed to adopt updated procedure as previously circulated with immediate effect – YW.

Business continuity plan – Agreed to adopt plan as previously circulated with immediate effect – YW.

#### **2026/042      Environmental matters**

##### Long Road/Pigot Lane – Proposed reduction of speed limit

Item previously covered under minute reference 2026/039.

##### Biodiversity

Item previously covered under minute references 2026/041.

The Dell, illustration board

FEHS have confirmed that they would like to contribute to the replacement of the infographic at the Dell. PC to liaise with the art department – **LC**.

Roundabout, planters

Item previously covered under minute reference 2026/039.

Tree Wardens and Footpath Warden reports

Tree Wardens had spoken with owner(s) of 26 Fitzgerald Road and reported they were happy with the proposed reduction of the Oak. Tree Wardens had introduced themselves to the new Tree Officer at South Norfolk. Noted Crown Point Estate had advised that the repairs to the footpath near Gull Lane are now top of their list of upcoming works. They are also planning to clear the many fallen trees in Primrose Grove (further along Gull Lane) and improve drainage on that piece of land. Member advised of Horse Chestnut disease that had affected trees in other parishes.

**2026/043 Correspondence and consultations**

Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045 Scoping Consultation

Noted PC had submitted response.

Norfolk Police and Crime Plan Consultation 2026-2030

Noted, no further action.

Parish Partnership Scheme 2027/28

Noted, no further action.

Community Climate Action Training

Cllr Aldis and Clerk attending. Clerk to circulate email to Tree Wardens for their reference – **YW**.

South Norfolk Council - Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and Conditions Greater

Noted, no further action.

SNDC Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) - Vehicle-related anti-social behaviour

Agreed PC to respond “yes” to following two questions - **YW**.

1. Do you agree with the regulatory controls contained within the existing PSPO?
2. Do you agree with the proposal to extend the existing PSPO for a further three years?

Poringland fireworks display

Poringland Parish Council would welcome any volunteers.

**2026/044 Date of next meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2026, and items to be considered for agenda**

Noted. Councillors to notify Parish Clerk of any items for agenda – **ALL**.

**2026/045 Chair’s announcements / administrative updates**

Framingham Earl Sports Centre project

An update was provided regarding the Framingham Earl Sports Centre project. It was noted that the project has been delayed pending consideration by the Department for Education, with the project due to go to committee in October 2026. Enabling works are scheduled to take place from 19 to 30 October, during which traffic control will be in place outside the school site.

Poringland Parish Council – Nature conservation grant application

Member advised that Poringland Parish Council had submitted a £10,000 application to the Nature conservation grant in relation to the wild flower meadow.

Reports of foul smells, near roundabout

County Cllr Webber advised Norfolk County Council had cleared out drains; nothing was found that could have contributed to this problem. Believe could be a result of a sewage problem nearby. Anglian Water have set up a monitor in the vicinity of The Railway Tavern.

Y11 student at FEHS receives award

A year 11 student at FEHS has been named winner of the BBC Norfolk Make a Difference Environmental Award.

Overgrown hedges

Noted PC had written to residents on Oakcroft Drive requesting the hedgerow to be trimmed back to the edge of the tarmac pathway, ensuring that the full width of the path remains accessible. Positive response received to date. PC to monitor.

Meeting closed 8.17pm.

Minutes prepared by Yvonne Wonnacott, Parish Clerk, 07/10/26

Approved:

Date: