FRAMINGHAM EARL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2026 at 7.00pm at The Methodist Church

Present:
Cllr Dave Todd – presiding (DT), Cllr Rodney Aldis (RA), Cllr Libby Cook (LC), Cllr Jane Walker (JW), District Cllr Nicola Fowler (NF), District Councillor Lisa Overton-Neal (LO), County Cllr Jim Webber (JW), Jennifer Parker - Tree Warden (JP) and Yvonne Wonnacott – Parish Clerk (YW).

Apologies:
Cllr Louise Bishop (LB), Cllr Steven Peet (SP), Cllr Trevor Spruce (TS), District Cllr John Overton (JO), and Paul Stanley – Tree Warden (PS).

Members of the Public:
None.

2026/019 Chair's welcome (to include any apologies for absence for approval)
Chair welcomed all attendees to meeting and extended a particular welcome to the new County Councillor, Jim Webber. Apologies received and approved from Cllr Bishop, Cllr Peet, Cllr Spruce, District Cllr Overton and Paul Stanley, Tree Warden. Chair proposed that Item 7, *County and District Councillors' Reports*, be brought forward on the agenda to allow the County and District Councillors to leave the meeting after this item, should they wish to do so. This proposal was agreed by all Members present.

2026/020 County/District Councillors report(s)
County Cllr Webber provided brief report to meeting. Key items summarised as follows.

- Help with Living Costs – Norfolk County Council (NCC) has recently published a useful booklet on the different schemes available to help residents with living costs.
- NCC has announced the closure of the popular Norfolk Communities Fund and the Highways Local Member Fund.
- Local Government Reform - A judicial review has been submitted by NCC in response to the proposed reorganisation of Norfolk.
- The Norwich South and Bergh Apton recycling centres are currently able to accept only a limited range of electrical items for recycling, due to a fire at a treatment plant.
- On Friday July 10th a Virtual Dementia Tour Bus is at The Forum, Norwich from 10am-1pm and 1.30-4pm. It is a free drop-in "immersive, scientifically proven experiential training program that simulates the physical and mental challenges of living with dementia."
- Norfolk has published a three-year plan to improve support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- NCC's Redundancy Support Service (RSS) has recently launched a new online portal to help residents and businesses access support where there is a risk of redundancy.

- The Chief Executive of NCC is leaving his post after 7.5 years of service. NCC is currently searching to make an interim appointment, prior to making a permanent appointment.

Chair reported they had been advised that the proposed speed limit reduction for Long Road/Pigot Lane had been approved. However, implementation funding is now uncertain with the removal of Highways Local Member Fund. PC noted potential alternative funding options, including local funding, the precept, and funding from future developments. Agreed to investigate whether the scheme would meet criteria for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding - YW. District Cllr Webb is working with Highways to explore ways of reducing implementation costs - JW.

Noted report previously provided by District Cllr Overton-Neal. Key items summarised as follows.

- South Norfolk House has been sold. The sale, which is conditional on planning consent, will be for a minimum of 60 high-quality 100% affordable homes.
- Introducing a new free weekly food waste collection service for households in South Norfolk. Food waste collections will start to roll out in phases from July 2026, with all South Norfolk households included by the end of September 2026.
- Framingham Earl Leisure Centre - £5 million project is split into two phases, and the first phase will be starting in the school summer holidays this year.
- South Norfolk and Broadland (SNAB) Community Links is a network established in the South Norfolk and Broadland districts. It is designed to bring together individuals who serve as community leaders, volunteers, or are affiliated with voluntary groups and organisations operating within these districts.
- Police meeting - The next neighbourhood policing meeting will be Sunday 19 July 2026, 6:30pm - 7:30pm.
- The Government has recently published draft new national guidance that will significantly change how planning applications are determined. The key change is the introduction of a National Scheme of Delegation.
- Local Government Reform – South Norfolk Council have decided to go ahead with a legal challenge against the Government's decision for a three unitary model.

District Cllr Overton-Neal advised that District Cllr Overton has asked for her to notify the PC that a planning application for Burgate Lane had been submitted, approximately 98 houses.

District Cllr Fowler provided report to meeting. Key items summarised as follows.

- Members grant still available
- CAF grant, deadline for submissions 16th of August 2026.
- Public consultation event on proposals for the Norwich Apex Data Centre. Tuesday, 7th July 2026, at Keswick Reading Room, 19 Low Road, Keswick, Norwich, NR4 6TZ, from 3pm – 7pm.

District Cllr Overton-Neal and District Cllr Fowler left meeting 7.37pm.

2026/021 To receive declarations of interest

None.

2026/022 To approve a time limit for the meeting

All agreed to aim for meeting to finish by 8.15pm.

2026/023 To agree minutes of the Annual Parish Council (PC) meeting held 5th May 2026.

Cllr Aldis proposed minutes of the Annual PC meeting held 5th May 2026 as previously circulated to be agreed as correct, seconded by Cllr Cook, and unanimously agreed. Minutes signed by Chair.

2026/024 Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual PC meeting held 5th May 2026

Internal auditor

Noted as agreed at Annual PC meeting, internal auditor engaged to carry out internal audit for this financial year 2026/27.

2026/025 Adjournment for public participation

None.

2026/026 Finance matters

Expenditure for approval/to be noted

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

- Framingham Earl Methodist Church @ £120.00, room hire
- Parish Clerk gross pay, July, August and September @ £490.10 per month
- Parsh Clerk pension, Norfolk Pension Fund, July, August and September @ £95.57 per month
- Parish Clerk, expenses, May @ £31.23, includes £0.90 VAT
- Glasdon UK @ £295.80, includes £49.30 VAT, CIL to be used (replacement dog bin, village green)
- Parish Clerk, expenses June, @ £24.32
- HMRC, Parish Clerk, quarter 1 @ £32.88

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Noted current CIL balance is £6,727.93. The PC has five years from receipt to spend CIL.

- £92.54 to be spent by October 2027
- £366.72 to be spent by October 2029
- £6,268.67 to be spent by April 2030.

PC to contact District Council to establish when any CIL payment is due for the 4 new build properties on the land adjacent to 58 Long Road – YW.

HMRC mileage rate increase

Formally approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) rate increase from 45p per mile to 55p per mile, backdated to 1 April 2026.

Dog bin, village green

Noted dog bin situated on the village green is damaged and not repairable. Formally approved purchase of replacement bin @ £295.80; this includes £49.30 VAT. Agreed CIL monies to be used.

In Bloom grant

Noted payment of £775.00 received, as previously agreed PC to match fund using S106 funds. As previously agreed, grant to be used for acquisition of planters.

Charitable donations

Item to be deferred to October meeting – YW.

2026/0027 Planning

Applications submitted
2026/0861, The School House, The Street. PC responded stating no overriding objections, but asked Planning Officer to consider the fencing arrangement on the perimeter and conditions to prevent the dangers of parking on Long Road at a "blind" curve, particularly at peak times.
Applications for consideration
2026/1394, Foxhills, 70 Long Road. Agreed PC to object to the proposed variation of Condition 2, citing concerns that the changes to the access arrangements constitute a material alteration requiring a separate application, the loss of established beech hedging without adequate mitigation or replacement planting, and potential highway safety implications – YW.
2026/1608, The Nightingale Centre, 1 The Street. Agreed PC to respond "no comment" – YW.
Decisions
None.

2026/028 Administrative updates
Publication of Parish Clerks home address
Noted that there is no legal requirement for the Parish Clerk's home address to be published. PC is required to provide a means of contacting the Clerk, which can be achieved using an official email address and telephone number. Agreed that the Parish Clerk's home address will not be published on any future correspondence, documents, or the PC website.
PC newsletter
Draft newsletter as previously circulated agreed in principle. Chair to amend to include articles on pathway encroachment and biodiversity if space permits – DT. Amended newsletter to be circulated for approval - DT.

2026/029 Environmental matters
Biodiversity
Community screening of The People's Emergency Briefing was held at Poringland Community Centre, film focuses on the climate and nature crisis. 95 attendees.
The Dell, illustration board
Noted Chair had contacted Framingham Earl High School (FEHS) who advised that the school would be interested in working on a new design/illustration for the board. Chair awaiting point of contact from FEHS.
Water/drainage issues
Noted Chair and Clerk met with the Surface Water Drainage Officer to inspect issues at the Hall Road end of Gull Lane. There were no immediate solutions, but PC will continue to report blocked "grips" and gulleys as well as potholes. An analysis of Google Street Map images going back to 2009 reveals this is a consistent and persistent issue. However, issues nearer the footpath crossover further along the road are much improved following the work carried out by NCC a few years ago.
Roundabout, planters
Poringland Parish Council in process of drawing down S106 funds. Once received order to be placed for additional planters.

Tree Wardens and Footpath Warden reports
Tree Warden reported that the black walnut tree is in good health with foliage. The crown lift and clearance of growth around the base of the chestnut tree on the Village Green have been completed, and the tree is looking in good condition following the works. Footpath Warden

advised that the wildflower meadow in Poringland had been cut in error. Noted Clerk had spoken to Crown Point Estates with regards to their previous agreement to kindly undertake repairs to the entrance of the footpath between Gull Lane and Yelverton Road. Contact at Crown Point Estates agreed to hasten with appropriate party

2026/030 Correspondence and consultations

Age UK Norfolk

Correspondence noted, donation request to be considered when PC considers and agrees donations for current financial year.

Road closure, Long Road, footway maintenance

Noted NCC carrying out footway resurfacing works, to improve pedestrian safety and address the poor surface condition of the pavements. Works are scheduled to take place from Monday 6th July to Wednesday 2nd September 2026, with working hours between 7.30am and 5.30pm. To allow the works to be carried out safely, Long Road will be closed to through traffic during working hours.

2026/031 Date of next meeting, 6th October 2026, and items to be considered for agenda

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

2026/032 Chair's announcements / administrative updates

Risk assessment Speed Awareness Machine (SAM)

Agreed to adopt Risk assessment with immediate effect – YW.

Damaged speed sign

Noted speed sign situated at junction off Long Road to St Anne's still laying on ground and waiting repair/replacement. Damaged sign reported online. District Cllr Webber to investigate on PC's behalf – JM.

Reports of foul smells, near roundabout

Noted reports received of foul smells from roundabout area, entering local businesses and affecting trade. Possible sewage problem. PC to initially report to District Council – DT/YW. PC to contact local business to obtain update on situation – SP.

PC walk around community land

Suggested Members of PC undertake walk around community land.

Cleaning of signage

PC expressed thanks to Chair and members of their family for undertaking the pressure-washing of all the road signs, bus stops etc., including the village sign on the Green.

Meeting closed 8.27pm.

Minutes prepared by Yvonne Wonnacott, Parish Clerk, 01/07/26

Approved:

Date: