

FRAMINGHAM EARL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 7.00pm at The
Methodist Church

Present:

Cllr Dave Todd – presiding (DT), Cllr Rodney Aldis (RA), Cllr Louise Bishop (LB), Cllr Libby Cook (LC), Cllr Steven Peet (SP), Cllr Trevor Spruce (TS), Cllr Jane Walker (JW), Paul Stanley (PS) – Tree Warden, District Cllr Nicola Fowler (NF), District Cllr John Overton (JO), County Cllr Vic Thomson (VT) and Yvonne Wonnacott – Parish Clerk (YW).

Apologies:

Jennifer Parker (JP) – Tree Warden and PC Tom Goodrum.

Members of the Public:

None.

2025/047 Chair's welcome (to include any apologies for absence for approval)

Chair welcomed all attendees to meeting. Apologies received and approved from Jennifer Parker, Tree Warden, and PC Tom Goodrum.

2025/048 To receive declarations of interest

None.

2025/049 To approve a time limit for the meeting

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

2025/050 To agree minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held 7th October 2025 and Extraordinary PC meeting held 3rd November 2025.

The proposed minutes of the PC meeting held on 7th October 2025, and the Extraordinary PC meeting held on 3rd November 2025 as previously circulated were unanimously approved as correct. Chair signed both sets of minutes.

2025/051 Matters arising from the minutes of the PC meeting held 7th October 2025
Royal Mail service levels

Meeting noted an improvement in service levels.

2025/052 Adjournment for public participation

None.

2025/053 County/District Councillors report(s)

Noted report from County Cllr Thomson as previously circulated. County Cllr Thomson highlighted following key items.

- Norfolk County Council (NCC) welcomes back the Giving Tree appeal for Christmas. Hosted at Waterstones, Castle Street, Norwich, the Giving Tree is decorated with tags,

each representing a child and the book or genre they would love to receive. Shoppers can select book and purchase the chosen book. NCC will then wrap and deliver the gifts in time for Christmas Day

- Norfolk and Suffolk have agreed to the Devolution deal. There will now be a Mayoral Combined Authority.
- The Government's statutory consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for Norfolk has launched. Anyone with an interest in the future of local government in Norfolk — including town and parish councils, local partners, businesses, and members of the public are encouraged to respond. The consultation will run until Sunday 11 January 2026.

Parish Clerk requested update on the traffic survey on Long Road, District Cllr Thomson advised that the Safety Officer was in favour of reduced speed limit to 30mph and believes item is now with the legal team. District Cllr Thomson advised that he hoped to be able to assist with any future funding with regards to this item.

Noted report from District Cllr Fowler as previously circulated. District Cllr Fowler provided overview to meeting, key points summarised as follows.

- Members grant – Allocated part of grant and in process of allocating balance. Members grant will start afresh from April next year.
- A brand-new South Norfolk app for waste replaces the old bin collections app and comes packed with handy new features.
- As mentioned earlier the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has launched the consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposals for Norfolk. All three proposals submitted for Norfolk will proceed to the consultation phase.

District Cllr Overton advised that the small pylon located on Stoke Road has been without flashing lights for three months, a local pilot has raised safety concerns. District Cllr Overton has spoken to several parties to try and get this issue resolved. Question was raised by Cllr with regards to the forthcoming introduction of food waste collections, and the cost implications with being a rural area. District and County Cllrs advised this was a scheme that had been requested by central government. County Cllr Thomson left meeting at 7.24pm.

2025/054 Finance matters

Expenditure for approval/to be noted, as per Finance and admin report

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

- Fourdot Affinity Ltd @ £22.06 + vat, Perspex cover for sign at The Dell, expenditure agreed at October meeting
- Westcotec @ £91.50 + vat, replacement battery, expenditure agreed at October meeting
- Parish Clerk expenses, October @ £47.07, includes £4.93 vat and £13.00 training
- Parish Clerk expenses, November @ £35.79, includes £2.26 vat and £9.00 training
- CK Professional Tree Services @ £510.00, to note £490.00
- Parish Clerk gross pay, December, January & February @ £490.10 per month
- Parish Clerk pension, Norfolk Pension Fund, December, January & February @ £110.27 per month
- The Garden Guardian @ £1,303.00 + vat

Question raised as to what chemicals the grounds maintenance contractor uses, Parish Clerk to check and report back to PC – YW.

Winter pressures grant

Noted Framingham Earl High School (FEHS) received a £500 grant. The grant will go towards covering the cost of hampers for vulnerable families over the Christmas period

Donations, current financial year 2025/26

Following donations agreed.

- Poringland & Framingham Earl Churches Together @ £100
- Poringland & Districts Men's Shed (PDMS) @ £100
- EACH @ £100
- Poringland Playing Field @ £100
- High Ash Farm (permissive paths) @ £100
- Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's @ £100
- Poringland and District Community First Responders @ £100

Donation request previously received from Norfolk Age UK was considered, agreed no donation to be made to this charity at present time. Parish Clerk to arrange payments – YW.

Donation requests for 2026/27

Agreed for next financial year £700 will be allocated in budget for donations and £50 for Remembrance wreaths. At December meeting PC to decide how donations will be distributed, to consider donating to a smaller number of recipients, with larger donations. Item to be added to March agenda, to consider how donations will be administered – YW. Parish Clerk to notify this year recipients that PC will be reviewing donations process and policy next year – YW.

Budget/precept 2026/27

PC approved previously circulated budget/precept, with precept requirement @ £15,126, a 5.54% increase on this financial year based on a tax base of 462. Noted tax base may change.

2025/055 Parish Clerks service

Meeting noted that Parish Clerk had been with the PC since 2014. Thanks, expressed for her continued professional service and the key role she plays within the PC. Parish Clerk was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

2025/056 Planning

Applications for consideration

None.

Decisions

2025/2664, 23 Bligh Close. Proposal: Single-storey side extension. Approval with Conditions, (Delegated).

Framingham Earl Sports Centre

Noted Framingham Earl Sports Centre extension plans.

2025/057 Administrative updates

Meeting dates 2026/27

Following meeting dates were agreed.

- 5th May 2026
- 30th June 2026
- 6th October 2026
- 1st December 2026
- 2nd March 2027

Parish Clerk to book Methodist Church for meetings – YW. Agreed possibility of holding June meeting in FEHS new outdoor classroom.

Mindful Town and Village event

PC agreed to hosting a joint Mindful town and village event. Training session on mental health awareness in the community as part of South Norfolk and Broadlands Mindful Town and Villages project. Caistor St Edmund and Bixley PC has agreed to joint event. Chair to contact event co-ordinator to arrange a date and will notify PC – DT.

Five-year plan

Noted updated plan and Vision Statement as previously circulated. Vision Statement to be non-formal working document, to act as a reference/guide.

2025/058 Environmental matters

Dog fouling signage

Signage obtained free of charge from District Council. Proposed signage erected on village green and playground on Earlsmead estate.

The Dell

Noted quotation received for reinstatement of steps and platform at The Dell. Considering value of quote, agreed no further action at present time. Agreed if PC were to pursue this further at a later date, PC would need to issue detailed specification of works and obtain three quotations as per Financial Regulations. Parish Clerk to contact contractor thanking them for quote and advise no further action at present time – YW. Noted no bike tracks presently at The Dell and no litter. Noted tree works undertaken and bird and bat boxes installed.

Gull Lane

Parish Clerk to contact NCC Highways to request clearing of grips and rodding of drains and culverts located on Gull Lane – YW. Second request to be submitted for cleaning of signage within the parish, to include street names and bus stop signage – YW. Chair to contact Crown Point Estate for update on previously agreed works to footpath entrance off Gull Lane – DT.

Roundabout

Noted planting scheme as previously circulated that was provided by local gardener for consideration. Chair to contact NCC Highways to obtain approval for proposed planters location – DT. Trial planter to be installed – DT/TS.

Tree Wardens and Footpath Warden reports

Tree Warden advised that twenty small trees had been planted at The Dell and ten trees were donated to FEHS. Confirmation received that the Oak tree situated in The Dell has a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Thanks, expressed to both Tree Wardens for their works. Footpath Warden advised that Poringland and District Men's Shed were carrying out works in relation to the mounting of the biodiversity poster that will be located at The Dell, there will be a charge for these works. District Cllr Overton advised that the lease between Crown Point Estate and South Norfolk District Council for Poringland Woods was still under discussion.

2025/059 Correspondence and consultations

Design Code SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) consultation

Noted, no further action.

Public consultation on joint draft supplementary planning documents

Noted, no further action.

NCC Bus shelter grant scheme, launch of final phase of funding.

PC looked at feasibility of bus shelter on Hall Road, this was deemed unfeasible due to space restraints, the fact that no requests had been received and the low usage was also taken into consideration. No further action.

Government consultation on Norfolk's local government future

As discussed earlier in meeting, noted.

2025/060 Date of next meeting, 3rd March 2026, and items to be considered for agenda

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

2025/061 Chair's announcements / administrative updates

Cllr advised that feedback they had received re proposed development of homes and public open space at land east of Bungay Road, was people were not against proposal. Chair advised FEHS are in favour of proposed development. Cllr raised overgrown hedges on Norwich Rd, member of Cllr proposed situation is reviewed in January as private landscapers are still cutting hedges because of weather conditions experienced this year. PC agreed to a bi-annual newsletter and members were happy to assist with the distribution.

Meeting closed 8.36pm.

Minutes prepared by Yvonne Wonnacott, Parish Clerk, 04/12/25

Approved:

Date: