BRININGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th October 2026, 7pm at Briningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs, Helena Gregory (Chair) (HG), Tracey Gardner (TG), Chris Rix (CR), Parish Clerk – Kerry. Harris (KH), NNDC & NCC Cllr Andrew Brown (AB), 3 residents

26/49 Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence.
HG welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies were accepted by all Councillors from Cllrs Crossley and Rix

26/50 To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensations for any agenda item
HG declared an interest in agenda items 9 (allotment matters) (iii) and (iv)). A dispensation was given to her as there are only 3 Cllrs present at the meeting.

26/51 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th July.
These were Approved by All on a Proposal by HG and seconded by TG. They were signed by HG.

26/52 Matters arising in the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda.
The Clerk had written to Rose Cottage at the beginning of September after the end of bird nesting season and the hedge has since been cut.
Cllr Rix has contacted Willow House regarding the hedge and has been informed that the hedge will be cut after the bird nesting season.

26/53 Open forum for Public Participation.

(i) Questions and comments from residents and members of the public – A resident reiterated his concerns from the last meeting about the lack of a speed limit through the village and cars driving at excessive speeds for the road. He accepted that the PC had made attempts in the past to rectify matters but has decided to take the following actions himself and wanted to let Cllrs know his proposed actions in advance:

- To find out who he should complain to at NCC as it appears incomprehensible to him that the speed limit increases from 40mph to national as vehicle turn into the village;
- To write to the national newspapers about this situation

Cllrs said they were supportive of his actions.
The resident also said that he was investigating the cost of signs to be placed on the Highway requesting vehicles slow down and which he would request the PC pay for.
Cllrs expressed support but cautioned the placement of signs on the Highways without permission from NCC Highways. The PC did not consider any funding by the PC for signs purchased.

AB said that the NCC portfolio holder for Highways is Cllr Tom Dickerson

There is now a programme to get a Priority System in place for Thornage Bridge – but this requires a Traffic Order, so how quickly this happens will depend on the Legal Department obtaining this. The hedge line will also need resolving to improve the line of sight.

(ii) To receive reports from NCC and NNDC Cllr Brown –

NCC written report - included information on the Parish Partnership scheme – final deadline for applications is 1st December, the NCC Crisis and Resilience scheme for families struggling with back-to-school costs, Norfolk Trading Standards – action on illicit cigarettes and tobacco, Flu vaccinations, a consultation on a proposal to introduce an administrative charge for its Appointee Service which runs until 12th October.

NNDC written report: It explained that District Council costs were increasing due to new requirements such as the food waste collection and an increase in the costs of services such as children and adult social care; Collection rates for revenues for NNDC was 98%, 4th best in the Eastern Region; NNDC publishes a monthly newsletter "The Know" which releases the latest business news – enter "Invest in Norfolk" on the NNDC website; Lidl has received planning permission in Holt, Aldi has been refused; Local Government reorganisation has been paused by the National Government and District Council elections have been reinstated for May 2027; National Government has introduced the National Scheme of Delegation to planning which means that most planning applications will be decided by Planning Officers rather than being decided by Cllrs at the Development Committee

26/54 Financial and Governance Matters

(i) To Approve the cashbook, Receipts and Payments since the last meeting

The Balance in the Current Account is £5,216.63. The Balance in the Business Premium Account is £10,432.57. The Balance in the NS&I Account is £6,607.03.
Receipts since the last meeting – 2nd Precept payment £1,180.00
Payments to be Approved: Clerk's salary (July - September) £411.98, Tax on salary £103.00, ICO Annual Subscription £47.00
This was Approved by All on a Proposal by CR and Seconded by TG.

(ii) To Appoint the Internal Auditor for 2026 - 27

Mrs Dann was appointed on a Proposal by TG and Seconded by CR..

(iii) To note the Local Government Pay Award of 3.3% backdated to April 2026

This was noted.

(iv) To Approve 20% contribution towards payment for the Clerk to attend the NPTS Preparing for the 2027 Elections - £10.40

This was Approved by All on a Proposal by CR and Seconded by TG.

(v) To Approve the following policies: Allotment, FOI Publication Scheme, Data Protection.

The Policies were Approved by All on a Proposal by HG and Seconded by CR.

26/55 To receive an update on Devolution and the Reorganisation of Local Government

This has now been paused and the 2027 District Elections reinstated.
Cllrs were interested in the cost so far. AB estimated £150k, much of which would have come from the Central Government New Burdens funding – but this remained Taxpayers money.

26/56 To consider and Approve any action to request NNDC for a Community Governance Review to increase the number of Parish Councillors from 5 to 7.

Cllrs considered the difficulty of finding 5 people to come forward, but the election in 2023 was contested. HG suggested a larger number of Cllrs could lead to a healthier dynamic. The resolution passed by 2 votes and 1 abstention on a Proposal by HG and Seconded by CR.

26/57 To receive an update on Allotment matters and to Approve any action

(i) To receive an update on the installation of gates for the Memorial Field and Approve any action

The farmer who maintains the field was concerned about access if gates were installed. It was agreed not to proceed.

(ii) To consider a resident's comments on the use of the Memorial Field.

Cllrs considered that the guaranteed income from the farmer, that the field is looked after and the hedges cut and the flexibility to use more land for resident's allotments when requested was more sustainable than seeking a new and unknown tenant. They thanked the resident for her interest.

(iii) To review and Approve Allotment Rents for the Year starting November 2027

The cost for a full allotment is £50 and for a half allotment £30 per year. Cllrs agreed to keep this at the same rate for a further year on a Proposal by CR and Seconded by TG.

(iv) To review and Approve General Rules relating to Allotment Tenancy for the Year starting November 2026

The General Rules were accepted with no changes on a Proposal by CR and Seconded by TG

26/58 To receive an update on Highways matters and Approve any Action

(i) To receive an update from NCC Highways re the erection of notification signs in the village

Potholes have been marked up for repair. It is understood that the road will be top dressed next year.

(ii) To consider and Approve any action to apply for Parish Partnership funding for 2027

The Clerk will contact the Highways Engineer to see if any of the posts and signs required for the village would be eligible for this funding.

26/59 To receive an update on any Planning matters and Approve any action.

There are none.

26/60 To Approve any action on empty properties in the village.

There are no longer any empty properties.

26/61 To note any Correspondence

Planning Policy Consultation
Police Online Neighbourhood Drop In Sessions
Anglian Water webinar
NPTS Updates
Cllr Andrew Brown reports
Letter from Deputy Leader of NCC
NNDC Mobile Connectivity Survey
Parish Partnership Invitation
Police & Crime Commissioner Consultation

26/62 To set the date for future meetings

Monday 18th January 2027 Future dates will be confirmed at the next meeting.

26/63 Any other business – for information and future agenda

Any action on speed through the village to be reported to the next meeting.

26/64 To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.07pm

Signed: ……. Date: …….