

LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Little Dunham Parish Council held on Thursday 2nd July 2026, at 7.30pm in the Village Hut.

Present: Cllr Simon Fowler (Chair)
Cllr David Walker (Vice Chair)
Cllr Jane Harding
Cllr Nina Forsyth
Cllr Alice Rossi
Cllr Sarah Clark-Quick
Cllr Roy Macintyre

District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
County Cllr Tom Dickerson
One Member of the Public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th May 2026.

Cllr Harding proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Forsyth and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no matters raised.

5. County/District Councillor reports.

District Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported:

- The Local Plan regulation 19 consultation will commence on the 31st July and run until 16th September 2026. The plan will now run for 15 years, until 2043.
- The Drovers solar farm enquiry will close on the 6th November 2026. Breckland has employed an ecologist to assist with the cumulative impact report.
- The High Grove solar farm is still at the pre-application stage, with submission expected in October.

- Planning applications for up to nine dwellings will now be dealt with by delegated decision. Over nine dwelling applications will mostly be dealt with by delegated decision but can be called into a reduced Committee.
- Food waste caddy's will be distributed in August. In response to a query, Cllr Kiddle-Morris confirmed that all households must have one.

D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will also speak to Planning regarding the installation of a septic tank at the Village Hut.

County Cllr Tom Dickerson reported:

- He had recently attended a solar farm meeting and discovered that solar farms are not 'bat friendly'. Given the objections from Natural England regarding the link road, this will be used to campaign to 'scrap solar farms'.
- The Norfolk CEO has resigned and an interim will be covering the role until the appointment of a new CEO.
- The Reform Council have asked for a Judicial Review to challenge Local Government Reorganisation.
- The Members' Fund has been cancelled and Council was advised to approach the County Cllr if any highway improvements are required.
- The Link Road project is starting again, with a proposed amended route on an existing road.
- Small electrical items can now be taken to recycling centres again but cannot be left out with bins.

In response to a query, both County and District Cllrs will find out how 'sharps' can be disposed of as they can now only be left at a few locations and they are piling up.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors and they both then left the meeting.

6. To consider Highway and Footpath matters.

a) Matters previously reported to Highways and any new issues:

Council noted the following updates.

- The Barrows Hole Lane street sign was replaced badly and has been reported to Breckland.
- The Street sign, nr bus shelter, is missing and has been reported to Breckland.
- Missing SLOW prior to the old railway bridge – heading towards Lt Dunham on Station Road – Highways requested to complete and this will be chased up.
- Roadside degradation on Necton Road – will be reported to Highways.
- 30mph on Necton Road faded - will be reported to Highways.
- The wobbly white line on Necton Road will be reported to Highways as an example of poor workmanship.

b) To receive an update regarding Footpath and Trails Cutting.

Council noted that all were in good order.

7. To receive an update regarding the proposed solar farms: Great Dunham, The Drovers & High Grove, and any related matters.

This matter had been dealt with at item 5 above and the Chairman also added that the Gt Dunham solar farm is waiting for a connection to the grid.

8. To consider Planning matters.

a) Applications to consider.

There were no applications to consider.

b) To note any planning decisions.

Council noted the following application has been approved.

- PL/2026/0476/HOU – Manor Cottage, Sporle Road - extension to existing dwelling, conversion of garage and internal renovations.

Council noted the following decision remains pending.

- Appeal Notice 6009588 - ASHBRIDGE HOUSE, 47 Necton Road, Little Dunham – proposed 1 No dwelling with rear first floor Juliet balcony and associated garage.

c) To receive an update regarding enforcement matters.

Council noted there was no further update regarding enforcement.

d) To receive an update regarding the Breckland Local Plan.

This matter had been dealt with at item 5 above.

e) To consider approval of the Tree Protection Order and Dark Skies correspondence.

The Dark Skies policy had been queried by a resident and the Chairman responded that the policy is to encourage residents to be more environmentally friendly, as leaving lights on at night and uplighters is bad for wildlife. A survey of lights at night in the village had suggested that a leaflet drop to all households would be worthwhile.

In respect of the Tree Protection Orders, Council agreed the recipients and an informing letter will be sent to each property.

9. To receive a report regarding the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field and Play Area, including matters raised in the 2026 annual inspection.

Cllr Macintyre reported that the annual inspection report had raised some minor maintenance issues and these are being dealt with. Nothing urgent was raised. He went on to say that at some point in the future significant expenditure will be required to remove or replace deteriorating equipment, particularly where there is wood in the ground, which is rotting away.

Cllr Walker proposed that the stepping logs be removed as these were in the worse condition, this was seconded by Cllr Macintyre and unanimously agreed by Council.

Cllr Macintyre will continue to monitor the equipment. He will also carry out a tidy up on Charles Way which is becoming overgrown.

Cllr Walker has cut back the other entrance off Back Lane but the neighbouring property needs to cut back their hedge/repair fencing which is encroaching quite badly on the access.

It was also noted that a hedge/brambles at a property on Barrows Hole Lane are also encroaching, both on Barrows Hole Lane and Sporle Road, and the owners will be requested to cut it back.

10. To receive a report regarding the Amenities (Conservation) area.

Cllr Forsyth said that the Tree Protection Officer at Breckland had visited the site and advised that there is nothing wrong with the trees, other than one tree which needs a limb removed. He also advised that regular risk assessments be carried out by a qualified person and a quote is being obtained. The Officer said it was a wonderful habitat for wildlife and minimum works such as moving fallen branches into heaps, strimming pathways and raking leaves etc was required.

Cllr Walker reported that he had been quoted £400 for a tree risk assessment survey and it was agreed to wait for the second quote before making any decision regarding an inspection.

11. To receive a report regarding the Village Hut and Phone Box (and defibrillator).

Council noted that both the Village Hut and Phone Box are in good order.

Council agreed that funds raised at village events should continue to be placed in the Village Hut fund, rather than the toilet fund, but that transfers can be made if necessary.

In respect of the proposed toilet, Cllr Walker said it was important that any works should be kept away from the centre of the site in the event that the Hut was replaced at any time in the future. He then outlined the costs involved to have plans drawn up, apply for planning permission (if required), apply for building control regulations, install a septic tank an accessible toilet unit, which would amount to at least £15,000.

Council then considered if they should continue with the project, given the high costs, and it was agreed to investigate the costs of purchasing an accessible port-a-loo, and the costs of emptying that.

Cllrs Walker and Clark-Quick said that there will be some disappointed residents if the toilet does not go ahead.

12. To receive an update regarding the transfer of Breckland owned community land to the Parish Council.

The Chairman said that he is waiting for the paperwork from the Breckland Legal Team.

Council agreed that the recently donated, memorial seat should be sited at this plot, once the transfer is completed. This was with the approval of the family.

13. To consider any correspondence received.

There was no correspondence to consider.

14. Financial and Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2027.

The financial report (attached) was noted.

b) To authorise financial payments as detailed below and note any receipts.

Cllr Rossi proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Harding and unanimously agreed by Council. Council agreed that before payment was made, the surcharge on the grass cutting contract should be queried as the cost of fuel has come down considerably. The receipts were noted.

PAYMENTS

P8	Play Area Annual Inspection	£109.20
P12	Replacement Swing Seats	£128.40 (£107 – S106)
P13	Clerk Salary & Allowance – June	£157.92 (SO)
P13	HMRC PAYE	£37.00
P14	Water Plus – June	£6.86
P15	Website Hosting & Management	£140.00
P16	Grass Contractors (2 of 4)	£653.13
P17	Clerk Salary & Allowance – July	£157.92 (SO)
P17	HMRC PAYE	£37.00

RECEIPTS

R3	Donations – Village Hut	£19.00
R3	Donations – Toilet Fund	£100.00
R4	Elections – Village Hut	£250.00
R5	Donations – Toilet Fund	£113.00
R5	Donations – Village Hut	£18.00

15. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items for the next agenda.

16. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 3rd September 2026, at 7.30pm in the Village Hut.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.54pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2027

Financial Report - JULY 2026

BUDGET UPDATE	Actual 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	To date	% Spend		
PAYMENTS					Bank Reconciliation	
Admin	1,342	1,384	888.18	64%	Balance at 01.04.2026	11,141.67
Salary	2,164	2,310	739.68	32%	Less expenditure @ 07.05.2026	2,297.32
Village Hut	501	683	116.10	17%	Plus Receipts @ 07.05.2026	4,416.17
Playing Field	88	140	91.00	65%		<u>13,260.52</u>
Open Spaces	115	200	0.00	0%	Bank Balance at 07.05.2026	
Grass Cutting	1,993	2,093	1,058.54	51%	Current Account	4,342.11
Donations	200	200	0.00	0%	Savings Account	<u>9,193.01</u>
TOTAL	6,403	7,010	2,893.50	41%		13,535.12
RECEIPTS					less outstanding payments	274.60
Precept	6,038	6,635	3,317.50	50%	plus outstanding receipts	-
Interest	84	25	26.12	104%		<u>13,260.52</u>
Elections	-	250	250.00	100%	including:	
Recycling	148	100	0.00	0%	S106 - Play Area	148.56
TOTAL	6,270	7,010	3,593.62	51%	Village Hut Reserves	2,009.84
Surplus/Deficit	(133)	0	700.12		Village Hut Toilet	1,806.85
					Highway Reserves	2,247.25
					General Reserve	7,048.02