

LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Little Dunham Parish Council held on Thursday 3rd September 2026, at 7.30pm in the Village Hut.

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

Two Members of the Public
D/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

In the absence of Cllr Fowler, Cllr Walker took the chair.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Rossi were approved.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd July 2026.

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

The Chairman then agreed to take **item 5, County/District reports** next so the D/Cllr could get away promptly.

The D/Cllr reported the following:

- The current Local Plan consultation will close on the 23rd September 2026; it is hoped the plan will be finalised in 2027.
- The new National Policy Planning Framework has been issued. Nearly all planning applications will now be decided by a single planning officer, with no route for Cllrs to take applications to committee.
- The weekly food waste collections start on Tuesday 8th September.
- The Drovers solar farm enquiry re-opens soon.
- In respect of Local Government Reorganisation, County has withdrawn from the contract with consultants, leaving no experience/support in place for the changes coming.

In response to a query from a member of the public regarding environmental mitigation in respect of the proposed solar farms, the D/Cllr and Cllr Forsyth both said that the Government wants the solar farms to go forward and appear to ignoring concerns raised.

A member of the public referred to the remarks made at the previous meeting by C/Cllr Dickerson, regarding bats and solar farms, and said that evidence does not support those claims.

D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris also confirmed he continues to try to obtain funding for the proposed Village Hut toilet.

4. Open Forum for Public Participation.

A member of the public said he would soon be cutting back his hedge which is currently growing over Barrows Hole Lane and asked if he was able to trim his tree, which likely to be subject of a TPO, for highway safety reasons. The D/Cllr said that permission should be obtained from the Breckland Tree Officer.

5. County/District Councillor reports.

See above.

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 has been chased up and works are programmed.
- Roadside degradation on Necton Road –reported to Highways and will be repaired.
- 30mph on Necton Road faded – reported to Highways and now replaced.
- The wobbly white line on Necton Road was reported to Highways as an example of poor workmanship and the contractor has been asked to return and make good.
- Palgrave Road potholes – reported to Highways and repaired.
- Blocked drain on Necton Road – reported and now resolved.
- Raised drain on The Street – reported to Highways and works programmed.

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

All are in good order with a fallen branch recently cleared away from the railway footpath.

c) To consider an application to the Parish Partnership Scheme.

There were no suggestions and this will remain on the agenda for the next meeting for further consideration.

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

The D/Cllr updated Council at item 5 above.

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 appeal 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.

There was no update regarding enforcement matters.

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

Council agreed no response to the current consultation as none of the changes impacted Little Dunham.

e) To receive an update regarding Tree Protection Orders and Dark Skies correspondence.

Council noted that the dark skies letters will be circulated to every household with the October Church & Village.

In respect of the Tree Protection Orders, the Chairman outlined the responses received from residents to the letters setting out the Council's proposed actions. Council agreed that, although residents had raised some relevant points, Council should proceed and apply for orders on the trees identified. It was noted that there may be some additional trees along the village boundary which need to be investigated.

9. To receive a report regarding the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field and Play Area.

Cllr Macintyre had circulated his inspection report and confirmed that it, together with the annual inspection report, raised no major problems. Upon inspection of the agility trail, he confirmed that although there is some rot at the root and underground it would be premature to remove it at this stage and he will continue to monitor closely. He will continue to keep the area tidy. In respect of the Barrows Hole Lane emergency access route, this remains overgrown and the fence is now under real pressure – this will be monitored to see if any action is taken by the household.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Macintyre for his work.

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

Council await the second quote for the tree risk assessment survey. The area is in good order.

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.

Cllr Walker continues his toilet investigations and a permanent portaloo will cost approx. £5,000, although this would not be accessible/disabled. It is hoped that D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris can help with funding for the septic tank option and no decisions can be taken until then.

12. To receive an update regarding the transfer of Breckland owned community land to the Parish Council and to consider an application to install a dog/waste bin on the land.

The land transfer is now complete, with thanks to Cllr Fowler for dealing with the legal side.

'Ray's bench' has been installed and there were suggestions for some tree planting and wooden planters. It was agreed that no bin is required as there is one nearby at the Village Hut. The asset register has been updated and insurance cover confirmed.

It was agreed to consider a name for the land at the next meeting.

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. Council noted that the fuel surcharge has been removed from the most recent grass cutting invoice.

b) To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2027.

Cllr Harding proposed that Mrs Dann be appointed as internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2027, at a cost of £40. This was seconded by Cllr Forsyth and unanimously agreed by Council.

c) To consider 'Martyn's Law' in respect of the Village Hut.

Council noted this new legislation which is to protect the public from terrorist attacks in public buildings but does not apply to the Village Hut as it is too small.

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

Cllr Macintyre proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Forsyth and unanimously agreed by Council. The receipts were noted.

PAYMENTS

P18	Octopus Energy (deposit)	£87.26
P19	EON – Village Hut Electric	£48.87 (DD)
P22	Clerk Salary & Allowance – August	£157.92 (SO)
P22	HMRC PAYE	£37.00

P20	Water Plus – July	£9.45 (SO)
P21	Octopus Energy	£87.26 (DD)
P16	Grass Contractors (2 of 4)	£653.13
P23	Water Plus – August	£6.86 (SO)
P24	Octopus Energy	£87.27 (DD)
P25	Clerk – Postage	£7.28
P27	Clerk Salary & Allowance – September	£157.92 (SO)
P27	HMRC PAYE	£37.00
P26	Grass Contractors (3 of 4)	£616.00

RECEIPTS

R6A	Donations – Toilet Fund	£10.15
R7	Donations – Village Hut	£80.00
R8	Donations – Village Hut	£22.00
R8	Donations – Toilet Fund	£152.00
R9	Breckland – Recycling	£126.39
R10	Donations – Toilet Fund	£302.00
	Octopus Account – Sign-up bonus (added to balance)	£75.00

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

Cllr Macintyre wished to thank the two local people who regularly walk the village clearing litter and wondered if Council could help with the purchase of any equipment. Cllr Walker agreed to speak to them to see if there was any help required.

16. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 5th November 2026, at 7.30pm in the Village Hut.

The date of the next meeting was noted and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2027
Financial Report - SEPTEMBER 2026

BUDGET UPDATE	Actual 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	To date	% Spend	
PAYMENTS					
Admin	1,342	1,384	915.46	66%	
Salary	2,164	2,310	1,109.52	48%	
Village Hut	501	683	440.73	65%	
Playing Field	88	140	91.00	65%	
Open Spaces	115	200	0.00	0%	
Grass Cutting	1,993	2,093	1,587.81	76%	
Donations	200	200	0.00	0%	
TOTAL	6,403	7,010	4,144.52	59%	
RECEIPTS				Received	
Precept	6,038	6,635	3,317.50	50%	
Interest	84	25	26.12	104%	
Elections	-	250	250.00	100%	
Recycling	148	100	126.39	126%	
TOTAL	6,270	7,010	3,720.01	53%	
Surplus/Deficit	(133)	0	-424.51		

Bank Reconciliation	
Balance at 01.04.2026	11,141.67
Less expenditure @ 13.08.2026	3,701.99
Plus Receipts @ 13.08.2026	4,654.71
	<u>12,094.39</u>
Bank Balance at 13.08.2026	
Current Account	2,938.38
Savings Account	9,193.01
	12,131.39
less outstanding payments	37.00
plus outstanding receipts	-
	<u>12,094.39</u>
including:	
\$106 - Play Area	148.56
Village Hut Reserves	2,031.84
Village Hut Toilet	1,817.00
Highway Reserves	2,247.25
General Reserve	5,849.74