

Great Ellingham Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held at the Recreation Centre on Wednesday 18 June 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr S Mellor (Vice-Chair,) Cllr P Bonner, Cllr A Broughton, Cllr H Mellor, Cllr T Mellor, & Cllr S Southcott

Apologies received from: Cllr P Ewin (Chair), Cllr R Croft, Cllr I McDonald

In attendance: Parish Clerk and 16 residents

1. **Vice Chairman's Welcome** – The vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the following statement.

"Before we begin this evening's meeting, I would like to remind everyone that Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who serve our community with integrity and dedication. We are here to represent the interests of Great Ellingham and to carry out our duties in a respectful, fair, and democratic manner. We welcome input from members of the public and value constructive contributions to our discussions. However, it is essential that any comments made—whether verbal, written, or shared on social media—are based on facts and expressed respectfully. Personal attacks, defamatory remarks, or hostile language directed at councillors, planning officers, developers, or any individuals involved in Parish Council business are not appropriate and fall short of the standards we expect in our community. To be clear: while we fully support open and honest discussion, we will not ignore behaviour that causes distress or unfairly targets those participating in Parish Council matters or the planning process in good faith. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their role or viewpoint. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of civil and respectful public engagement — after all, we all live in this village.

Moving on from that, at our last meeting, we were asked to report back on the Call for Sites event held at Breckland District Council. Many of you expressed a range of views and concerns ahead of that meeting, and I believe we succeeded in capturing and presenting all of those in the document that was submitted to Breckland District Council officers on the night. You will find a copy of that document on your seats this evening. The only difference between your version and the one submitted is that your copies include additional feedback gathered during the event itself. As you will appreciate, there is a significant amount of information within that document that has yet to be fully debated, and much of it is dependent on the potential allocation of Significant Development Areas (SDAs) across the wider district. You'll be relieved to hear that none of the proposed SDA locations fall within the curtilage of Great Ellingham. Some of the proposed developments elsewhere in Breckland involve the construction of thousands of new homes. We are very pleased to welcome our District Cllr. Suggitt this evening, who will be joining us to explain the broader planning challenges that both Breckland District Council and parish communities like ours are facing challenges that arise in direct response to current Government housing policy.

Due to Councillor Suggitt being delayed, the Vice-Chair moved on to Item 5 on the Agenda Open Forum – An opportunity for any parishioner to speak on parish matters, other than planning.

5. **Open Forum – An opportunity for any parishioner to speak on parish matters** - A member of the public supported the Vice-Chair's opening statement and also requested the speed restriction on Hingham Road, be extended. Cllr Croft to discuss with Highways at their meeting in July **ACTION: Cllr Croft**. A request was put forward to the traffic calming along Long Street be added back on the agenda and solutions be pursued **ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Croft**. It was reported that walking along Long Street was very difficult due to heavy use by HGVs. This had been reported at the SNAP meeting and members of the public were encouraged to report anything they saw direct to the police using this link (<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/making-a-road-traffic-incident-report/>)

A resident requested the overgrowth be cut back along on Mill Lane be pursued – this is part of the Council maintenance programme but would be reported again **ACTION: Clerk**.

(District Councillor Suggitt arrived at 7.20).

A member of the public discussed the village pond and wondered whether the enforcement notice was still in place. Cllr Suggitt responded Simon Wood, Head of Planning, had suggested this was not a planning matters and there was nothing that could be done using the tools at the Planning Department's disposal – however, he

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would be invited along to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the issue, although Cllr Suggitt suggested he would not tell the public what they ultimately wanted to hear **ACTION: Cllr S Mellor**.

The meeting then returned to Item 3 on the Agenda, Councillor Suggitt's Report.

3. **To receive a report from District Councillor S Suggitt** – District Councillor Suggitt starting her report with a background synopsis to the Local Plan. Following the Governments change in housing targets from 625/year to 903/year, there was a new call for sites which ended April 2025. Some sites for Great Ellingham had been brought forward but does not necessarily mean there will be additional development. All sites would be assessed for development viability. It is anticipated, following various consultations, the plan will be put to the Planning Inspector at the end of 2026. A member of the public asked about the infrastructure and, especially the water pressure which had been greatly reduced following recent development – Cllr Suggitt said each part of the infrastructure was managed by different department – i.e. the water was ultimately in the hands of Anglian Water and they would decide how to best facilitate the requirement of Norfolk. The settlement boundaries were to be investigated as may be too restrictive to obtain the housing numbers required. Cllr Suggitt confirmed that the Planners had no jurisdiction over other departments – i.e. education, so any requirements in this area would be decided by the Education department at Norfolk County Council. She concluded that even though it was very frustrating, and the process was not ideal, she urged those present to write to their MP, to the Parish Council and make their feeling felt. The Vice Chair thanked Cllr Suggitt for attending and hoped that Simon Wood (Head of Planning) could attend the next meeting.
2. **To consider and approve apologies for absence** – Cllr P Ewin, Cllr I McDonald & Cllr P Croft apologies were received and approved.
4. **To receive a report from the Local Plan Round Table** – Cllr S Mellor brought the meeting's attention to the summary handout placed on all seats.
6. **To receive any declarations of interest in any item on the agenda** – None were received.
7. **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of 21st May & 5th June** – The Minutes were confirmed to be an accurate record of the meetings and signed.
8. **To report matters arising not on the agenda and hear the Chairman's Report** – The Chairman's report was read out. He thanked the Councillors who had put together evidence for the Local Plan Round Table held on the 11th June. He was pleased to report that NCC Highways had cut the vegetation on the roundabout, although informed him that they would only cut it twice per year (May/June and Sep/Oct). Therefore, the Chair had obtained a quote from a local business to provide more regular mowing/strimming, which Cllrs discussed later on the Agenda. The two sets of traffic lights have been removed and the requested work on the loose manholes completed. An Open Reach engineer has also attended to the raised manhole in the pavement opposite Poppy Way. Flagship had been chased regarding bollards near the new play space at Crown View, and they are in discussions with the developer and will report back. Cllrs Ewin and Croft have provided Ed Connelly and the Highways engineer with two possible dates in mid-July for the proposed village highways walk around and it was hoped this could be reported on at the next PC meeting.
9. **To receive reports from Councillors and/or the Clerk** – Cllr Southcott to bring to the next meeting details of his discussions with the RBL remembrance Sunday and the placing of poppies/wreaths **CLLR Southcott**
10. **To consider responses to planning applications, previously circulated to Councillors:**
PL/2025/0743/HOU - Rear single storey extension 6 Honeybee Close
PL/2025/0679/HOU - Single storey rear/side extensions to bungalow dwelling 35 Chequers Lane
PL/2025/0644/FMIN Amended Proposal - Erection of 2 bungalows and detached double garage (plot 1) Site:
Land north of Woodlands Farm West Carr Road, Attleborough

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The first two planning applications did not have any drawings on the portal – clerk was requested to write to planning to get this amended. Also the description of the amended proposal to PL/2025/0644/FMIN appeared incorrect, so this was also to be amended. A request was to be made for all consultation periods to be extended to allow the changes to be made **ACTION: Clerk**

11. To consider the following payments:

Rec. Centre – June x 2	£54.00
NPTS - Chair Training – S Mellor	£62.40
D Ewin - Allotment Payment	£143.00
J Ewin - Allotment Payment	£143.00
E Tinsley - May Salary & WFH	£370.15
C Arnold – Planting Project	£79.21

All payments were unanimously agreed.

12. To receive an update on the village pond between Lake View and Mill Farm, Church Street – This had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

13. To receive an update on the roundabout – The Chair had sourced a company who would strim (leaving the shrubs in situ) for £55 per visit. Spray off all weeds for £85 per visit or rotovate to pull out any existing deeper roots & allow a soft bed for the grass seed to take at £115 (all plus VAT). Following a discussion Cllr T Mellor to give the Clerk names of specialist companies who maintain roundabouts to obtain quotes from them and decision to be deferred until the next meeting. **ACTION: Cllr T Mellor.**

14. To consider items from Councillors: to be received by the Clerk in advance of the meeting – None

15. To consider correspondence received: all circulated – Cllr T Mellor brought to the meetings attention that the correspondence circulated from Tom McCabe re. the local re-organisation is not the preference of Breckland Council. The Local Re-organisation is to be added to the agenda going forward **ACTION: Clerk.**
Annual Reports from the Allotment Society and ChitChat had been circulated to the Parish Councillors and will be posted on the Website **ACTION: Clerk.**
An updated regarding the new village hall is to be added to the agenda for the next meeting **ACTION: Clerk.**

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 16th July 2025 at the Recreation Centre commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.18pm