



LITTLE BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall on
Thursday, 2nd July 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: S Wright (Chairman)
W Binder
J Svendsen-Cook
B Palmer
A Brown

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
District Cllr A Marriott
County Cllr A Downing

LB24/26/27 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Keen and Cllr Latham, which were approved.

LB25/26/27 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wright declared an interest in item 9 (c) on the Agenda as it in relation to his land.

LB26/26/27 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

LB27/26/27 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19th MAY 2026

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19th May 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

LB28/26/27 – PUBLIC FORUM

Seven members of the public were present.

A resident, who had initially contacted the Parish Clerk about the issue of speeding, was present and reported to the Parish Council that he and his wife had recently moved into the village.

He was extremely concerned about the noise and danger of cars accelerating aggressively up and beyond 60mph past his property, on the edge of the village. He therefore asked what could be done to improve the situation.

Members explained to the resident that whilst they sympathised with him and agreed that speeding was an issue, especially with motorbikes, spot checks had been carried out by the police in the past. Also, the Parish Council had looked to put together a Community Speedwatch Team of which six volunteers were required. Unfortunately, no volunteers had come forward so it could not be taken forward.

County Cllr Downing reported that he would take photographs of that part of the village and would contact the Police's Speed Management Team, along with Highways, to see what could be done.

Cllr Palmer informed Cllr Downing of another issue needed to be discussed with the Highways Department, which was the ongoing issue of Lorries doing U-turns on the B1113 at Great Blakenham as well as parking on the chevrons in the early hours of the morning waiting to enter the recycling site.

Cllr Downing confirmed that he had already spoken to the County Council in relation to the issues with the Lorries with no replies being received.

On other matters Cllr Brown reported that a resident adjacent the Village Hall had contacted the Parish Council in relation to the land at the rear of the hall. The resident stated that since the new Village Hall had been constructed, the area appeared to have become quite overgrown. There were also a number of pallets and materials behind the adjacent properties sheds, which it was understood may relate to the former storage area. This was currently preventing access to the resident's rear gate.

The resident asked who was responsible for the management and maintenance of the strip of land, and whether arrangements could be made to clear the pallets, cut back the overgrown area and reinstate clear access to the resident's gates.

Cllr Wright stated that whilst adjacent residents had no legal right across the land at the rear of the hall the Parish Council had never had any thoughts about stopping access. He confirmed that once the works had been completed, residents would have access once again.

Cllr Brown agreed to relay that information to the resident. **Cllr Brown to action.**

LB29/26/27 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR ASA DOWNING

Cllr Asa Downing introduced himself to all present at the meeting.

LB30/26/27 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR ADRIENNE MARRIOTT

Cllr Marriott's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

She went through her report and highlighted the following points:

- Better Recycling
- Innovative planning change to make windows in listed buildings more energy efficient
- Beautiful walks and foodie gems
- Port One warehouse
- Financial help with heating oil
- Consultation on Joint Local Plan
- Two new AI tools unveiled to modernize England's planning system
- New Community Right to Buy Fund launched
- Funding to help councils bring long-term vacant high street properties back into use announced
- New safety measures introduced to protect children around banned dog breeds
- Funding announced for simpler, fairer, more accessible farming schemes
- Rough sleeping no longer a crime as Vagrancy Act repealed
- Heatwave and cold-water shock comms toolkits and resources
- Young people to be offered two-dose MenB vaccine

LB31/26/27 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that EON had written explaining that the Parish Council's electricity account tariff for the Village Hall was coming to an end and various options were available.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council wait to see what happens with the surplus energy being exported back to the grid and what they did to monthly bills.

b) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 29th June 2026 was £12,158.82.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jun)	254.47
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jun)	26.00
EON	Electricity for Hall	44.05
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges - 10th Apr - 9th May	4.25
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Jul	190.80

There were no payments to be ratified:

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £239.10 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

e) **INCREASE IN MILEAGE COSTS**

It was AGREED: That the increase in mileage costs from 0.45p to 0.55p be approved.

LB32/26/27 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/26/01972 - Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following approval of Outline ((Hybrid) Planning Application DC/22/06288 dated 09/05/2024 Town and Country Planning (Development Planning Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) details to be considered for Appearance Scale and Layout for proposed construction of 15 small warehouse units on Phase 2/Plot15. This reserved matters submission provides the layout and elevations for warehouse Units 15 to 30 on Phase 2/Plot 15. The design adopts the architectural language and material palette of Port One, with layout, scale and appearance following the principles established by, and being entirely consistent with, the outline part of the hybrid permission. The proposals extend Port One in a visually coherent and cohesive manner - Port One Business and Logistics Park, Bramford Road, Little Blakenham

Following a brief discussion, members agreed to object to the application and stated that their objection should be worded as 'previous objection still stood despite revision of plans'.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council objected to the application. **Clerk to action.**

LB33/26/27 – PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted:

Ref: DC/26/02529 - APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DETERMINATION - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a building for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6. Erection of an agricultural pump house, used to house irrigation pumping equipment, pipework, electrical controls and associated infrastructure serving agricultural irrigation activities on the farm - Inghams Farm, Nettlestead Road, Little Blakenham – **No Objections**

LB34/26/27 – DECISIONS TO BE RATIFIED

Ref: DC/26/02529 - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a building for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6. Erection of an agricultural pump house, used to house irrigation pumping equipment, pipework, electrical controls and associated infrastructure serving agricultural irrigation activities on the farm - Inghams Farm, Nettlestead Road, Little Blakenham – **No Objections**

LB35/26/27 – AI PLATFORM – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Brown reported that the Alliance Group he was involved in, which contained all the affected villages around the Port One site and surrounding land, had looked into an AI platform which was a tool that could be used to access planning applications that were significant in relation to the small communities they affected.

The AI platform could access a number of documents and state whether the applications had fallen at planning regulations, something that could save a lot of time for Parish Councils.

He explained that there was a 30 day free trial which had already been accessed and if all affected Parish Councils agreed, a contract could be entered into where costs would be split between those Parish Councils. The amounts being divided were dependent on the number of electors in that Parish. The cost of which for Little Blakenham would be minimal.

Members were in support of the AI platform being looked into further and Cllr Brown stated that he would liaise with the company, 'Objector' and arrange for them to attend a Parish Council meeting to share more information on how it would work.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Brown arrange the company, 'Objector', to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council. **Cllr Brown to action.**

LB36/26/27 – LORRIES – B1113

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

LB37/26/27 - VILLAGE HALL

a) Completion of Snag List

The crack on the wall had been repaired as had the wall socket.

No gravel had been laid along the fencing.

The grass outside of the hall had not taken so would need to be re-seeded in September.

b) Provision of Disabled Parking Space

The Clerk reported that she had liaised with Prohelp in relation to legal representation for the production of a lease for the piece of land outside the hall. She explained that a solicitor had responded and agreed to give the Parish Council a few hours' legal help free of charge.

The Clerk reported that whilst that legal help had been offered the costs for the District Council's part of the lease and also other costs remained which the Parish Council would have to pay and suggested funding pots be explored.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk look into funding, including locality funding, for the associated costs of the production of a lease. **Clerk to action.**

c) Defibrillator Training

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Mike Vorndran, 1st Responder from Needham Market, who had agreed to run a training session for the Defibrillator. He had asked for possible dates in order to book something in.

Members suggested that the training be left until September and stated that during one of the church coffee mornings would be a good plan when residents would already be present in the hall.

The Clerk stated that she would liaise with Mike and come back with a date. **Clerk to action.**

LB38/26/27 – JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There was nothing to report.

LB39/26/27 - PLAY AREA

Cllr Svendsen-Cook had taken over the task of gathering quotes and applying for funding for the new Play Area from Cllr Brown.

Cllr Svendsen-Cook reported that he had a meeting arranged with Sarah-Jane Hatt from the District Council on 22nd July to discuss the project and move it forward.

He stated he had spoken to some residents at The Beeches to ascertain their views of leaving the play area where it currently was or moving it to The Glebe at the Village Hall.

It was noted that the fencing around the current play area was in a poor state most of which was leaning over.

LB40/26/27 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Ditch that ran towards Lord Blakenham's land had been filled with cuttings from hedgerows. Discuss with Cllr Latham.

LB41/26/27 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held on Tuesday, 22nd September 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9pm.

Chairman: Dated: