

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HORSTEAD WITH STANNINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TITHE BARN, RECTORY ROAD, ON WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2025 AT
6.30PM.**

Present: Cllrs, Mr A Browne (Acting Chair), Ms L Austrin, Ms C Fleming, Mr D Hales, Mr J Langberg, Ms R McMaster, Mr Tebble and Ms P Weightman.

In Attendance: Becky Furr (Parish Clerk), District Councillor J Copplestone, County Councillor F Whymark and two members of the public.

Before the meeting began, Cllr Browne expressed his condolences on behalf of the parish council for the loss of Cllr Allan Kirby who died on the 13th January 2025. Cllr Kirby was passionate about improving the traffic congestion and road safety in Horstead and Coltishall and was keen to raise awareness as a valued member of the B1150 Special Interest Group. He also regularly inspected the children's play area. Allan was an important member of the parish council who will be sorely missed.

Public Participation

District Cllr Copplestone and County Cllr Whymark provided a report. Please see their summary reports at end of these minutes.

District Cllr Copplestone reported that Cllr Boakes attended the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel Meeting with her. Police report that diesel thefts are rife. Their main priority is speeding and road traffic congestion. Cllr Boakes has agreed to join the B1150 Special Interest Group.

A parishioner attended to discuss their planning application 2025/0163 with the parish council. The parishioner stated that their intention is to use their land all year round for safety briefings for off-site vermin shooting, deer stalking, deer photography, lunches, and toilet facilities.

1. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Stevenson and Cllr Boakes were received and ACCEPTED.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 8th January 2025

The minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting were AGREED AND SIGNED.

4. Matters Arising

The clerk confirmed that Mr H Gurney agreed to contribute £250 towards the costs of the removal of dead trees on their land (footpath adjacent to the River Bure).

5. Planning

2025/0163 – Removal Condition 5 – Increase commercial shooting season from September – February to all year round at Grove View, Frettenham Road. NO OBJECTION subject to there being no shooting on site as claimed by the applicant (see public participation for information).

6. Finance

a. Payments Received		
HMRC	VAT reclaim – Quarter 3	£500.26
b. Payments previously approved		
G.Thacker	Removal of 3 rd dead tree obstructing footpath	£475.00
c. Payments for Approval		
C.Jones	SAM2 Management	£38.00
Horstead Tithe Barn Community Association	Room hire for 2025	£412.50
B.Furr	Clerks Expenses including a £100 donation on behalf of Horstead with Stanninghall Parish Council to Norfolk Community Care Health and Care NHS Charitable Fund in recognition of the	£174.89

	service and hard work Allan Kirby gave to his community as a parish councillor.	
C.Moate	Repair and paint gate at play area	£245.00
Horstead PCC	Agreed donations in 2024-25 budget	£600
The Marlpit		£500
Horstead Poor Lands Trust		£100
Coltishall/Horstead GNS		£100
East Anglian Air Ambulance		£100
Norfolk Accident Rescue Service		£100
Tiddlers & Toddlers		£100
1st Responders		£100
Norfolk Lowland Rescue		£100
d. Payments for information only – previously agreed direct debits and standing orders		
Veolia	Horstead Mill Bin - December	£70.42
B.Furr	Salary for January 2025	£916.80
HMRC	Tax for January 2025 Payroll	£295.16

It was noted that J.Rice had not submitted a timesheet. Cllr Hales explained he and his wife had been carrying this out in J.Rice's absence and was thanked for doing this.

7. The quotation from the Virtual Internal Auditor for £120 was APPROVED.

8. Highways & PROW matters

- a. The clerk confirmed that NCC Highways would not support a Traffic Regulation Order to extend the 30mph speed limit on Buxton Road past Largate because they state it is a relatively undeveloped route and has a healthy safety record. Cllrs disagreed, noting that more development is planned for Buxton Road and there is already a campsite. Also, Cllr Browne reported that the road is full of mud from the Mick George lorries. County Cllr Whymark agreed to liaise with Mr Le May – Highways Engineer regarding this matter. In the meantime, the clerk will explore whether funding for a TRO can be provided by Mick George.
- b. Rotten/broken bollards – Cllr Hales reported that the bollards around the Mill are in disrepair. Cllr Fleming explained that the Community Payback Scheme have agreed to replace them. Cllr Browne suggested the wooden bollards are replaced with recycled plastic for sustainability.

9. Tree and Pond matters

Members of the Mill Working Group met on Saturday 8th February to discuss works the Community Payback Scheme can carry out. Cllr Stevenson has circulated a report of the detailed works which include a general tidy of the pond and removing overhanging branches on Norwich Road and making the footpath more accessible. The works identified were APPROVED.

10. Horstead Mill matters

- a. The clerk confirmed George Thacker will be carrying out the Willow Piling from 3rd – 5th March. The Community Payback Scheme will be helping on the 4th and 5th. The clerk has met with the clerk of Coltishall Commons Management Trust to agree the location for the toilet facilities on Upper Common. The quote from Brandon Hire Station was ACCEPTED. Further work has been identified for the Community Payback Scheme which includes
- Work to repair bank margins and path (possibly requiring faggots).
 - Cut back overgrown brambles and reinstate bollards (many rotten or removed) to prevent parking issues in the car park.
 - Removal of old stumps at Mill Island.
 - Cut back runners and shoots from trees.
 - Remove suckers and Holly Trees down to hedge height, litter pick and flatten area near existing launch.
- b. CCTV Quotations – Cllr Langberg will forward the contact details of another company he has contacted to the clerk to quote for the works.
- c. Tree Survey Quotations – The clerk obtained two quotations to survey the footpath adjacent to the River Bure from Mr Gillet and Target Trees. The quotation for Mr Gillet was APPROVED for £200. It

was agreed the clerk will share the survey with Mr Gurney who is the registered land owner for this area.

- d. Overnight camping and general use of the Mill by organisations. The parish council wished to thank the parishioner who brought this to our attention. Overnight camping is prohibited at the Mill. CCTV should help if there are future cases. The Mill was left in a poor state, maintenance is funded by council tax monies the parish council receive from the public. The clerk will liaise with Cllr Stevenson for an update regarding discussions with the Coastguard and Fire Organisations who use the Mill for training.
- e. Renewing Horstead Mill Lease with the Broad's Authority. The lease ends on the 20th March 2025. The Assets Manager at the Broad's Authority states they would like to renew their lease and invest in canoe infrastructure. There was discussion about whether the BA would take on the maintenance of the area the Environmental Agency are responsible for. Cllr McMaster has agreed to meet with the Assets Manager and report back.

11. Play area matters

Cllr Austrin has submitted her inspection report to the clerk. It was noted that the new latch for the gate has been fitted and both gates painted. There appears to be a lot of mole activity. The Annual Play Area Inspection quote from D.Bracey for £160 + VAT was ACCEPTED. This will be carried out in May.

12. Norfolk County Council's adjustment of planned admission numbers consultation for the 2026/27 academic year.

Cllr Austrin had received notification that the number of children per reception class will be adjusted from 30 to 15 pupils. County Councillor Whymark stated that parents could write into NCC if they are concerned and agreed he would investigate why this may change.

13. Gov.uk Parish Council website and Email Accounts

Two quotes were considered from Parish Online and NALC (Word Press). The clerk had circulated examples of what the parish council website would look like. The quote from NALC was ACCEPTED based on the website design and the cheaper price.

14. Items on the next agenda

Working Parties.

15. Next meeting

Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 6.30pm in the main hall of the Tithe Barn.

Meeting closed 19:41.

News from Broadland District Council- February 2025 (Devolution).

County Councillors in Norfolk & Suffolk have voted for a devolution deal in early January and we are now waiting to find out whether Government wish to place Norfolk & Suffolk in a 'priority programme,' to go forward towards Devolution at some pace.

County council leader, Councillor Kay Mason Billig, said that, while the Government was pushing councils to take a decision with "indecent haste" and to apply to postpone elections, the alternative was to be at the back of the queue for powers and funding. If Ministers agree the deal, we will see the May 2025 council elections scrapped, and the formation of a Mayoral Combined authority, with a Mayor elected in May 2026 for Norfolk and Suffolk, who will preside over single tier unitary authorities.

At Broadland councillors are considering our budget for next financial year, mindful that our annual Local Government Finance Settlement was far less than last year. The administration has decided to freeze level of Broadlands council tax at the same level as last year, which will be a relief to many households.

However, our council is facing significant homelessness pressures, with 97 households in Broadland being accommodated in temporary accommodation in January 2025, up from 55 households a year ago and 43 households two years ago. The Council has proactively purchased temporary accommodation with the use of a Government Grant, and now owns 44 bedspaces, but if there is further demand, more families will be placed in expensive B & B accommodation, and the cost to the Council will increase significantly, and this poses the biggest risk to Council budgets going forward.

Kind regards, Cllr. Jo Copplestone

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News from Norfolk County Council

County Cllr Whymark reported that Norfolk County Council is under significant financial strain to agree their budget for 2025/26. The abolition of the Rural Services Delivery Grant and the increase in National Insurance have added to the financial pressures. There is a significant demand in Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

County Cllr Whymark is now the cabinet member for Public Health and Wellbeing. He has been finding out about the advances in HIV treatment.