

**Minutes of a meeting of Carbrooke Parish Council
held in the Community Hub on 10 December 2024**

Councillors present: N Defew (Chair), K Jones, W Leport, D Page, L Poole, G Redfern.

In attendance:- N Hartley (Parish Clerk), Cllrs H Crane and P Bate (Breckland Council), P Arrowsmith (Community Hub), one member of the public.

Public Participation

A member of the public expressed her views on electric charging points. She noted the Hub will be in competition with other nearby providers. The Council noted that no decision has been taken as yet.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Borrett, who had a prior engagement and Cllr Bowes (Norfolk County Council).

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Defew declared an interest in item 18 as Treasurer of the Millennium Green and in the purchase of car parking signs for the Village Hall car park, as his brother will provide the signs.

3 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2024. The Chair signed the minutes.

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Reports from Breckland Councillors

Copies of the reports are attached to the minutes.

6 Planning Decision

North Farm, Broadmoor Road, Carbrooke

APP/F2605/W/24/334626
Appeal dismissed

7 Finance

7.1 The following payments were approved in accordance with the budget:-

N Hartley, clerk's salary, £975.66
HMRC, clerk's Paye & Hub manager's Paye (November), £546.86
N Hartley, reimbursement for McAfee subscription for Council laptop, £64.99
Carbrooke Parish Council (Hub account), drawdown payment, £3,000
Z Vinnai, staining parish council noticeboards and benches, £1,260
N Defew, reimbursement of costs associated with works to the Village Hall car park, £498.72
Top Garden Services, grass cutting Village Hall car park, £55.44
Mansfield Fencing, remove and install bins at Blenheim Grange, £240
Mansfield Fencing, install Christmas tree in Carbrooke churchyard, £95

7.2 The following payments were made from the Commuted Sum:-

Top Garden Services, grass cutting at Blenheim Grange, £637.56
Edit Davies, maintenance of open space areas at Blenheim Grange, £1,400

7.3 The following payment was received:-

Carbrooke Parish Council (Hub account), payment for manager's Paye (Nov), £283.80

7.4 The meeting received a report of Actual to Budgeted expenditure

8 Co Option of New Councillors

Cllr Redfern noted there was not sufficient representation on the Parish Council from Blenheim Grange and that the Parish Council does not promote itself enough.

9 Knee-rail fencing at Blenheim Grange

Areas of knee-rail fences around some of the open spaces are in need of removal. The Council considered a quote from one of its contractors. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Mansfield Fencing to carry out the work.

10 Appointment of Grass cutting contractor 2025

The Council considered quotes from two contractors. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Top Garden Services.

11 Appointment of Open Space Maintenance Contractor 2025

The Council considered a quote from its current contractor for the maintenance of the flower beds and hedges at Blenheim Grange. It was **RESOLVED** to obtain further quotes.

12 Replanting open space area at Blenheim Grange

The Council considered a quote from its contractor to replant the open space at Washington Drive. It was **RESOLVED** to obtain further quotes.

13 Litter bins at Blenheim Grange/Norwich Road

The Council considered a request from a resident for litter bins at the front of Blenheim Grange. It was noted that the amount of litter was currently minimal. The resident noted that the amount of litter may increase when the weather improves in the new year. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will not purchase any further bins at this point, but will monitor the amount of litter. It was **RESOLVED** to buy two Litter signs from Breckland Council.

14 Hub Manager's report

The report is attached to the minutes.

15 Hub's Finance report

The report is attached to the minutes. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a further payment of £2,000 to the Hub to cover ongoing expenditure.

16 Electric Vehicle charging points

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed to the next stage with Norfolk County Council for charging points at the Hub and the Village Hall car park. The Council will pursue grants for solar panels at the Hub.

17 Village Hall Car Park Path

The Council considered three quotes for a path into the Village Hall car park to improve accessibility. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Gary Cooper Paving. Cllr Poole and the Clerk will meet the contractor. The Clerk will contact Norfolk County Council and check the proposed path is compliant with disability law.

18 Maintenance of the War Memorial (Carbrooke churchyard)

The Clerk has made a pre grant application to the War Memorials Trust and requested a quote from Bretts for a new memorial. Members of the Council suggested that if the Memorial needs to be replaced, the Council may need to consider a different location for a new memorial.

19 Anniversaries of VE and VJ Day 2025

The Council has made a grant application for £500 from Norfolk Community Foundation. The Millennium Green and Village Hall committees have also made applications for the same

amount. The plan is for an event similar to the D Day commemorations, culminating with lighting the Beacon.

20 Maintenance of the Plough

Cllr Redfern noted the Plough needs to be re-stained. It was **RESOLVED** to varnish the wood.

21 Neighbourhood Plan

It was **RESOLVED** to register the Council's interest in a Neighbourhood Plan with Breckland Council.

22 Representatives' reports

It was noted that the Hub Christmas party had been well attended and there had been positive feedback.

The Village Hall has been reshingled. The shingle was provided by Mick George at no cost to the Council. An electricity supply has been connected under the car park to the Millennium Green.

Cllr Defew will obtain car parking signs for the car park.

23 Items for inclusion on the next agenda

An update on the Neighbourhood Plan and sources of funding for a Plan.

24 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in the Community Hub on 14 January 2025.

The meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

Signed Chair

Date

Cllr Crane's Report

The Boundary commission has reported it's conclusion regarding the new boundaries for 2027 and there are changes for Carbrooke which the PC should be aware of. We were extremely disappointed that the work done cross party at Breckland was ignored by the commission. This of course could all be mute if district councils are disbanded with before that date and we await the white paper on this.

Orchard at Blenheim Grange-I have been liaising with Ed Buscall and Jerry Darby along with members of the community Hub Committee, the hope is that the trees will be planted in January subject to weather. A resident has also contacted me who lives close by, is trained in forestry and arboriculture and is also very keen to get involved.

Shipdham residents have been receiving Anglia Water rebates regarding charges on their bill for water surface run off. I suggest that residents of this parish check their bills and if they have soakaways that take their water and not Anglia Water infrastructure, and are being charged for this service they could be entitled to a rebate. This will not happen automatically and residents need to contact Anglia Water themselves. Refunds have been back dated to 2017.

Cllr Bate's Report

Parking and Solar panels although still in the background were not the main topic of conversation. This was the proposed devolution of Norfolk.

The ruling party seem to be exceedingly worried about it and spent a large amount of their time letting the rest of the council, which included a sitting MP, know how good they are and how necessary they are for the continued economic success of Breckland. A white paper is coming out in December which will introduce the government's plans for east Anglia.

A possibility, and quite a strong one, is that Norfolk County Council and all the local district councils will cease to exist, possibly at the next district council elections. I do not know but I imagine a period of public consultation will take place. This will possibly be the point that Breckland District Council will regret their fantastically unpopular decision to bring in parking charges.

There was a vote on the council's new policy on the acquisition and disposal of public land. The opposition had several objections on the details of the proposals and an objection based on the poor morals shown when the ruling party make decisions. The ruling party all voted for the policy the opposition all voted against.

December 2024 Community Hub Report

Bookings Payable hours and Community Hours

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Total Paid Hours	106	100 TBC			
Total Community Hours	30	28			

NHS overdue account – I have contacted a number of people connected to paying the overdue account I am pleased to say **that both invoices have been paid.** The NHS have thanked us for our patience and understanding, they said they have had put into place several actions with the intention that small businesses with not have to go through what we have had to get invoices paid.

Play-park the gates have been moved to the hub pending a decision to repair them or not.

The children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 7th December 2pm - 4pm all welcome.

Booked hours are looking promising for 2025 with two of our regular bookings increasing their hours. Abbotts, NHS, Meditation, Breaks Jam Club, Independence Dance Training, and the Bridge Club are all continuing their regular bookings.

Thank you and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Pam Arrowsmith

Treasurers Report Community Hub As of 01/12/2024

Produced by P Arrowsmith

Lloyds Business Account

Opening Balance on 01/11/24	£3087.35
Payments out	£1982.97
Payments received.	£2993.00
Closing Balance 31/11/24	£4097.38

Predicted Income Dec 2024	£680.00 (some groups have already Paid)
Predicted Out goings Dec 2024	£3464.24 Approx
	£300.00 Gas /electric £ 1204.71 Salary £260.00 PAYE £80.00 Cover for manager £68.00 Breckland Council Waste Disposal £104.00 Internet £28.13 Mobile phone £250.00 Community Hub Stay and Play £599.40 repair of 2 shutters £320.00 Expenses (Transmitter receiver for sound system/Christmas event/Remembrance Day £250.00 Deposit returns

£230 ringfenced with in bank account donation from the Kings Arms Public House

The Hub Committee are requesting a payment form the Parish Council into the Community Hub Account of £2,000 to top up the finances