

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 18 September 2025
At 7pm Held at Bawburgh Village Hall**

Present: Peter Markham – Chair (PM)
Phil Quinn (PQ) Tony Collins (TC)

Others Present:

9 members of the public and PC James Smith

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Kay Hipperson, Alex Findlay, Nicola Ledain, Kathryn Cross and David Bills.

2. Interests

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 May 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4. To consider the petition received re parking on St Walstan's meadow

Chair closed the meeting to enable the public to discuss the issue

Steve Lord, as spokesperson for the petitioners, outlined their grievances (submitted with the petition). Initially there was a hostile discord, due to the perceived lack of information given to the Councillors. The Chair emphasised that most information had been circulated to Councillors, and the matter would not have been addressed any sooner. The opportunity was for everyone to have the opportunity to speak.

In summary the petitioners spoke of their difficulties to safely exit both the St Walstons Close, the Stocks Hill cul-de-sac and the Warren, on to Stocks Hill (main highway). Excessive parking around the Village Hall on Stocks Hill was described as blocking access or inconveniencing the delivery of goods, mail, and access for caravan and trailers. The difficulties arose several times a week but also at weekends. The activities during the week were associated with the use of the Hall by the Bridge Club.

Various suggestions were made of solutions to the problem; such as parking on the playing field, shared transport by users, extended hard surface parking and restriction of numbers at events.

The Chair said he would also discuss these issues with the VHMC and the Chair of the Bridge Club who were the main users. Cllr. Collins reminded the meeting that when the housing development took place opposite the VH, that there would probably be yellow lines prohibiting parking around the entrance.

There would be further discussions at the next PC meeting.

The Chair re-opened the PC meeting.

5. To receive reports from County/District Councillors/Police and Public Questions

5.1 There were no reports in the absence of the District and County Councillors.

5.2 Further discussions had taken place with the Police and King's Head about CCTV and signs to monitor the Village Green. This item would be discussed at future meetings

6. Previously reported items

6.1 Footpaths and John Innes Centre (JIC)

There was nothing to report.

6.2 Hard Surface Car Parking Spaces

Hard Surface car parking estimates (for disabled person access) were still being awaited from Highways (Adam Mayo).

6.3 Bridge maintenance

Cll Collins reiterated that Highways showed no interest in the apparent disrepair of the bridge as it was deemed “safe”. It was suggested that the Developers of the housing site should be approached for help at the appropriate time.

Chair raised the issue of fallen trees in the river and on the banks. Although it was a worry to many residents near the river , in view of flooding potential, it was not a responsibility of the PC but the bank owners. Chair would look into solutions.

7. Highways

7.1 There had been issues with flood water / rain run-off in Church Street and on Sparrows Hill. The Chair had investigated the problem and identified a number of “minor” issues contributing to the flooding. These had been raised with Adam Mayo at Highways, and he sent a team the next day to assess the situation and address the items.

7.2 A group of Parishioners had volunteered to clear the debris from the banks and brook of the stream running through the water meadows from the west of the Mill to the Bridge. All land owners had been consulted. This had been completed.

8. Planning

8.1 The issue of the Crocus Development was raised by a letter from Mark Tudor. Cll Collins acknowledged that all had been done that could be done to delay and oppose the number of houses. The final objections would be raised at the up coming South Norfolk planning meeting. Cll Collins was thanked for all the huge amount of work he had put into objections on behalf of the PC. He pointed out the 106 Section in development contracts seemed of little value.

8.2 No objections were raised to applications 2025/2273 and 2025/2167.

9. Finance

9.1 The financial statement was agreed.

9.2 The following payments were agreed;

Clerk salary – August / September: £426.20 plus £20 WFH expenses = £446.20

South Norfolk Council – dog bin emptying: £834.00

10. Comments from individual Council members (for information only).

- Chair was disappointed to announce that the Village Hall had failed to get a grant from Orsted to repair the Children’ s playground area
- PC still waiting for estimates from Adam Mayo re hard standing (disabled parking)
- VH was still waiting for estimates for repairs to VH car park fencing, play area, and new path and paving around the VH.
- Chair also said he would like to see further co-operation between PC and VHMC. Future meetings were needed.
- Also damage to the Mill Stone plinth had been reported by Janet Ratcliff (21/08/2025)

11. Items for next meeting

12. The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 20 November 2025.

Meeting finished at 20.51