

26th MAY 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday 26th MAY 2026 in the Community Centre at 7.00pm.

In attendance Mr A Ketteringham(AK), Mrs A Binns (AB) Mr J Leggett(JLg), Mrs J Lusher(JL), Mrs A Shepherd(AS), Mr A Thomas(AT), 8 Members of the Public & the Clerk Jean Sangster & Mr F Eagle District Councillor.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Leighton (RL) due to family commitments, Mr A Howell (AH) due to family commitments, Mr K Kissiedu (KK) due to family illness,

First Item on Agenda was to Elect Chairman for the ensuing Year

Mr Ketteringham was proposed by JLg seconded by AS. AK thanked all his fellow Councillors for their support during the last year and accepted the position on the understanding that he cannot do everything and would appreciate help. AK was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Election of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Year

Mr Leighton was proposed by JLg seconded by AB. There being no further nominations RL in his absence had agreed to accept the position and was duly elected and will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office His acceptance is on the understanding that due to family health problems there may be times when he is unable to attend meetings and it was agreed that should this become a problem in the future a dispensation could be granted.

Allotment working Party

It was agreed that if it becomes necessary the following Councillors will form the Working Party and report to full meeting :- AK, RL, AS, JLg and Mr Ready in an advisory capacity.

Proposal that the two named members and Clerk remain as signatories to the Bank Accounts

It was proposed by JL seconded by AB that these remain as RL, AK and the Clerk. All agreed.

To confirm positions of Footpath Warden

AT confirmed that he is willing to continue as Footpath Warden and it was agreed by all.

To Appoint a Councillor to check Defibrillator on regular basis

AB to continue with this.

The minutes of last meeting held on 28th April 2026 had been circulated and were passed and signed as a correct record.

Report from Mr F Eagle District Councillor

He firstly expressed his thanks to people who had supported him in County Council Elections and the messages sent to him following this. He felt that in his time as County Councillor he had achieved a great deal for his Ward and represented his residents well.

AK thanked him for the help he has given Ashill and Public concurred.

He went on to give details of what's on in Breckland and their proposals to provide housing for younger residents.

FE wished to ensure that Ashill keep up with their campaign against the provision of Solar in particular the routes that could be used if this goes ahead and asked that all previous hazards be confirmed to NCC Planners.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Resident reported the dangerous state of pavement in Church Street following the fall of resident. This will be reported.

Again the 'Flag Pole' problem was raised and parishioner wished to know the outcome of the Trustees meeting. AK re-iterated that this was not a PC matter and that full details are in next edition of Ashlink. He pointed out that as the Trust is a Welfare Charity they could not spend funds to provide a new pole and flag and were asking for donations. He thanked the resident who had carried out the survey and for all the input from residents

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

Highways – Replies received to all matters reported last month and drains have been jetted in Watton Road/Swaffham Road.

Dog Waste Bin – Clerk to advise LD Highways Engineer of decision to site at entrance to Acacia Avenue and then to complete application to Breckland Council.

Play Equipment – Inspection not carried out but will be done in next few days. Reported that tennis court needs to be swept. Thanks expressed to all who helped with the recent ‘clean-up’ of equipment and surrounds. Request for an outside tap to be installed will be made to Community Centre committee.

Playing Field – Pickleball has tried the tape but this will not stay stuck down so further investigation is required. Report back at next meeting.

Football Club – AK reported on recent meeting held with Shipdham United Football Club and Community Centre members. He felt that new Chair was very positive and hoped that this will continue and any problems can be sorted out. It was confirmed that they did not wish to make use of the compound that had been erected previously at side of container so it was agreed to remove this. JLg offered to get this done.

Discussion followed regarding the field hire charge for new season. It was proposed by JL seconded by AS that this remain at £10-00 per week paid in two instalments in advance. A vote was taken and passed by 5 -1 AT felt that this is a sport for children and should not be charged but it was pointed out that no Ashill children are involved.

The Chair of SUFC had stated that there was no need for the existing goal posts to be removed as they were not in their way so will remain for time being.

Community Centre – AB advised that there had been no meeting but that kitchen floor and small hall floor have been completed and carpenter is coming to fit kick boards and look at sliding doors.

Footpaths – Still no handrail installed but info received that crossing inspected and no problem.

Police – No problems reported. Next SNAP meeting at Necton on 9th July.

Speedwatch – No report this month.

Ashill Estate to be discussed at end of meeting.

Allotments – AW has carried out inspection of water supply to site and found that all four standpipes have no ‘return valves’ fitted and will return for re-inspection in June. However AT has been unable to locate the meter to turn water off. Checking had been carried out with Highways as it could be that new bus stop had caused the problem. Now located but still problem to be checked out and four new taps will be purchased..

High Grove Solar – Awaiting information from NorfolkALC on employment of person to act on behalf of SuffolkALC and NorfolkALC.

LGR – This has now been agreed as THREE Unitary Authorities for Norfolk but newly elected Reform state they will fight this decision.

Local Plan Call for Sites – Breckland has advised that updated information will be available in July followed by further consultation.

Insurance Renewal – This had been scrutinised and on advice from Clerk that this only be renewed for 1 Year with Hiscox, it was agreed and to look elsewhere in future.

Report on AGM of NorfolkALC – AK reported that he had found this a very informative meeting and wished that other Members had attended. NorfolkALC covers 270 parishes across Norfolk and is now a co-operative affiliated to NationalALC. Information that following the introduction of Unitary, working together locally will become a necessity.

The Annual Conference is to be held in Sept. and AK hoped that as many as possible attend.

Lighting for Car Park – Quote received but Clerk was request to ask for site visit.

Tree Survey Report – This shows that there is one tree on Limes that need to be removed, a Chestnut tree on Playing Field has split and the Oak tree on Allotments requires ivy removing. Work to be arranged. Cost of Survey £312-00 and it was agreed that this be paid.

Textile Bank – Clerk had requested addition bank following increased use but Breckland has asked that present bins are emptied on fortnightly basis to see if things improve and if not an additional one can be requested.

Website – KK is organising new layout.

Other Matters – Closure of Scouts. Still no payment received and no news on clearing container which could be used by Football Club. Investigate further.

Correspondence

Newsletters from NorfolkALC circulated to Members.

Healthwatch Norfolk – circulated

Norfolk County Farms – Info re Grants and details of drop-in sessions.

Tesco Easy Fundraising – Help for Charities. Passed to Comm. Centre

Parliament & Breckland re Electrical & Batteries. Following fire at Recycling Centre In Thetford collection of these has been ceased.

Letter from County Officer had been circulated.

PLANNING APPLICATION

No new applications notified.

ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

Direct Debit - SSE Power supply April

£444-54

The following accounts due for payment for MAY 2026 were passed for payment proposed by JLg seconded by AB :-

K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights May

£120-50

Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden May)

Jean Sangster Clerks Salary May + 30 hrs)

Undisclosed

Expenses May

£86-70

NorfolkALC – Annual Subscription

£381-33

NorfolkALC Website

£86-88

WAVE (AW Business) Supply to Allots.

£49-36

AJGIBL GBP Annual Insurance Hiscox Insurance Co Ltd

£1962-05

Ravencroft Tree Services Survey

£312-00

Mr D Barber Internal Audit of Accounts

£80-00

Thanks expressed to Mr Barber for once again carrying internal Audit

AUDIT - Part 1 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/2026 was completed & agreed by all Councillors and then signed by Chair & Clerk.

Part 2 Accounting Statements for 2025/2026 was approved by all Councillors and Signed by AK Chair.

OPEN TO PUBLIC – Resident expressed his views on charging rent for use of playing field for youngsters playing football. Local youngsters should be encouraged.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Member of Public has offered sapling Conker plants for Autumn. This will be accepted.

The Clerk raised the question of renewing agreement with CADENT for use of part School

Piece allotment as this will be due in 2027. It was suggested that a shorter period be negotiated or explain that this part of site has already got permission to sell and ask them to relocate.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

The following resolution was agreed and passed :-

“That under Section 100(A) (4) of Local Government Act 1972, the Press & Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on Grounds that it includes the likely disclosure of confidential information”.

To Discuss Reserve Fund & Allotments.

Date of next Meeting – Tuesday 23rd JUNE 2026 at 7.00pm in the Community Centre.

Meeting Closed at 9.02pm

Signed

Date

