

Minutes of the Bintree Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday August 6th 2025 at 7.00p.m. in St. Swithun's Church, Bintree

Councillors Present:- Cllr T Stephens, Cllr C Bone, Cllr J Hoskins, Cllr L Hollings and Cllr J Bayley

Other Members Present: - Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk and Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge

1. Welcome by the Chairman and to consider accepting apologies for absence.

Cllr Hoskins welcomed those present to the meeting and a particularly warm welcome to Mrs Hollings and Mrs Bayley, who had agreed to join the Parish Council, There were no apologies received but Cllr G Holmes was not present. Cllr Boner will investigate why she did not attend, just to make sure she is well.

2. To receive declarations of interest and consideration of any requests for dispensation.

None were received.

3. To co-opt onto the Parish Council Mrs Jean Bayley.

Cllr Hoskins proposed Mrs Bayley for the position of Councillor of the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Stephens and carried. Mrs Bayley accepted the position.

4. Clerk to receive signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

The Clerk received the signed Declaration of Acceptance form.

5. To co-opt onto the Parish Council Lynn Hollings.

Cllr Stephens proposed Mrs Hollings for the position of Councillor of the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Bone and carried. Mrs Hollings accepted the position.

6. Clerk to receive signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

The Clerk received the signed Declaration of Acceptance form.

7. To confirm and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2025.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Bones proposed the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Stephens and carried. Cllr Hoskins signed the minutes.

8. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of May (not on the agenda).

There were no matters arising.

Public Participation Period.

There were no residents present.

Cllr Bambridge stated that it is very likely that we become part of a "Unitary Council". The Government wants Mayors in all areas. There will be a single Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. This is unusual for such a big area. The Mayor will have ultimate responsibility for all strategic decisions. Elections are likely to be in 2027.

The current District Councils will also be merged; Breckland and West Norfolk are likely to become one; north and east Norfolk will be a second; the city of Norwich remaining separate. All eight districts support this structure. Breckland Council has considerable assets and the lowest council tax. Assets and debts will be shared.

9. To discuss any correspondence received.

Mr Geoff Frost had sent an email regarding the Playing Field Charity. The committee now has access to the bank account. Quotes for replacing some pieces of the play equipment are being sought. There was some discussion regarding putting up some signs to help slow down the traffic as it was felt this was a dangerous situation. Cllr Bone will investigate the cost of signs. Mr Frost will be invited to the next meeting.

Some residents had enquired about the payments from the Bintree Relief In Need Charity so one of the Trustees will be invited to attend the next meeting to explain the current situation.

10. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments.

Cllr Stephens proposed the following finances be authorised for payment. Seconded by Cllr Hoskins and carried.

Clerk's net salary for June/July £430.96 Tax for June/July £107.60 Clerk's expenses £41.70
J Fencing £1,500.00

11. To receive a financial update from the Clerk.

The document had been circulated and no-one had any questions regarding it.

12. To discuss any Planning Issues (if necessary).

There were no matters to discuss.

13. To discuss the Breckland Local Plan Update

Every five years officially, every District Council has to produce a Local Plan. It is to do with house numbers and where they can be built. The target was increased last year and it is now 900+, annually. The target has to be met, otherwise central government can intervene. As a result, Breckland's Local Plan was paused in the autumn and there was another Call For Sites. Breckland Council are reviewing new sites that have been submitted. In the New Year, the Plan will finally be approved. In Bintree Parish the only significant application is for 75 houses next to the Manor House. It was rejected following the last Call for Sites and the criteria for acceptance has not changed, so it is likely to be rejected again.

14. To discuss Highways Matters.

To gather any current concerns with highways around the village.

Regarding potholes, Cllr Bone has contacted Highways to discuss the potholes on the Yarrow Road and Billingford Road and he asked that the blocked drains also be sorted out, as this problem is ongoing. The drain in question is outside the Bintree Oak pub. Cllr Bone is trying to get Highways to unblock it. It becomes blocked because of silt. There is a bit of land on the corner of Mill Road and Norfolk County Council used to cut the grass there but they do not do it anymore. Cllr Bone is investigating whether they will do it again. The Parish Council thinks that speed cameras on the bypass would be useful but SAM2 sign cameras are not allowed to be put on that road. Cllr Bambridge suggested the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel team (SNAP) are contacted about cameras on the road.

15. To discuss footpaths.

There needs to be a dropped kerb in the village as it is difficult for wheelchair users. Highways can be asked about this, so investigations will be made.

There is a problem with accessibility to the footpath going from Twyford to Foulsham and Cllr Bone is in contact with the landowner to try to sort out the problem.

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16. To discuss Norfolk Roadside Reserves.

No one has heard anything about this yet. There are signs on various bit of roadsides but the signs are put on bits of land that are looked after anyway. The signs should go on bits of land that are not well looked after. Some of the verges are looked after and some are not. The Parish Council wants to know what the purposes of these signs are.

17. To discuss with Dist. Cllr Bambridge the Twyford Wetland Area.

Cllr Bambridge knows it is there and been approved and being used for mitigation. Cllr Stephens wondered about access onto it. There was some discussion regarding whether the land could be used for some public use. It is a very precious nature reserve. Cllr Bambridge offered to write to someone he knows to see if they could provide some information on this matter.

18. To discuss the Parish bids for funding from Norfolk County Council.

There was some discussion regarding the paddock, which some people refer to as the Village Green. Signage would be useful, so that residents know it is open for everyone to use. We need to discuss this with the Bintree in Need Charity.


There are various grants available for improvements to the roads and village amenities. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

19. To receive items for the next agenda.

To discuss the Bintree Relief In Need Charity.

20. To set date, time and venue of the next Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting will take place on 24th September 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in St. Swithun's Church, Bintree. There being no further business to discuss, Cllr Hoskins declared the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.


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Chairman

24 Sept 25
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Date