Minutes of the Bintree Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in The Parish Church, Bintree.

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

Other Members Present: - 2 Electors and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman and to consider accepting apologies for absence.
In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Cllr Bone, welcomed those present to the meeting and stated how encouraging it was to have two members of the public present. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Hoskins and these were considered and accepted.

2. To receive declarations of interest and consideration of any requests for dispensation.
There were no interests to declare or requests for dispensation.

3. To confirm and accept the minutes of the Annual meeting held on Thursday 21st May.
The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Bayley proposed the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Hollings and carried. Cllr Bone signed the minutes.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of May (not on the agenda).
There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Public Participation Period
A resident present raised the following points:-
1) Agendas and minutes being put on the notice board as well as the Website. He explained he does not have a computer and wished for agendas and minutes to be placed on the notice board. He was assured that in future draft minutes would be placed on the notice board and the agenda a few days before the meeting.
2} He asked about donations being given by the Parish Council and was assured donations are only given to well deserving charities and the donations are small, such as £25.00.
3) He spoke about cars parking at the Church car park and being left there over night. There is also a broken fence and soil has been put there. Mr Frost has been contacted about this and the situation is in hand. Vandalism has taken place to play equipment and the situation has been reported to the Police.
4) The hedges at the Church need to be cut and he was told the hedges will be cut soon. There are white crosses on the road and no-one knew why. Cllr Bone will contact Norfolk County Council to try to find out if anyone there knew anything about them.

Dog fouling was discussed and a resident is going to investigate the cost of buying one for the village. She thought one should be put on Mill Lane by Valley Farm. The Clerk will investigate with Breckland Council if this would be possible.

There was some discussion regarding having a Bottle Bank at the Bintree Oak Pub and the Clerk will send a letter to Mr Wilkinson, the Landlord, to gauge his thoughts on this idea.

5. To discuss any correspondence received.
Resignation emails from Mr Westbrook and Mrs Westbrook had been sent out to the Parish Councillors and the Clerk but it was thought no discussion was necessary.

6. To discuss the Parish Councillor situation.
The Clerk had advertised the vacancies by displaying the necessary paperwork from Breckland. It is now possible to co-opt onto the Parish Council any resident who wishes to join. A resident present said she was interested in joining so she will send an email to the Clerk and will be co-opted onto the Parish Council at the September meeting.

7. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments.
Cllr Bone proposed the following finances be authorised for payment, seconded by Cllr Bayley, and carried.
Clerk's net salary for June, July and August £628.00 HMRC Tax £156.80
Clerk's expenses for June, July and August £90.90
Since the last meeting in May, a bank charge of £4.25 was paid in May, June and July amounting to £12.75

8. To discuss the Eon electricity situation and the invoices amounting to £357.69
The situation was discussed at length and Cllr Bone will be making some investigations and contacting Npower as to why the invoices went unpaid since 2021. The Clerk had organised with Breckland an advance on the precept for 2027/2028. There will be another invoice issued to the Parish Council from Npower at the beginning of October. When the precept for 2026/2027 was requested, the Parish Council had no idea these invoices existed. The Clerk suggested a payment of £375.00 be requested and the Parish Council agreed with this. Without this advance, the Parish Council would fall into deficit after paying Npower and they have no choice but to pay these outstanding invoices.

9 To receive a financial update from the Clerk.
The document had been circulated and no-one had any questions regarding it.

10. To discuss any further ideas on the subject of a Village Fete
The Church has been opened up again so meetings and events can take place in it, plus Fetes and Coffee Mornings. There will be an Afternoon Tea taking place in the Church on 22nd August between 2 pm and 4 pm. There was a discussion regarding having some Compost Toilets put there. It is hopeful that a big Fete will take place in Bintree next year. Cllr Bone wished for a vote of thanks be given to the Bintree group, of which Cllrs Bayley and Hollings are a part of, for all the hard work being done at the moment, regarding getting the Church used for occasions.

11. To discuss any Planning Issues, if any
There were no planning issues to discuss.

The Local Plan Regulation 19 and final consultation is now starting and the draft plan was published on 31st July. Anyone can comment in writing or attend a meeting on August 20th from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. in Dereham Library

12. To gather concerns with Highways around the village, inc. road sweeping Update on potholes.

There are no current pothole problems. Breckland Council will be contacted to ask them to do a road sweeping exercise but it is known that they will only carry this out on curved roads so they will only do it on The Street. Cllr Bone will deal with this.

13. To discuss Footpaths

Cllr Bone needs to check whether the path from Twyford to Foulsham has been cleared yet. He thinks it may have 'changed hands'.

14. To receive an update on the new play equipment situation, if possible

The resident in attendance offered to contact Mr Reeder at NFG Play Ltd.. as he knows Mr Reeder, and he will see if he can find out if there is any progress.

15. To discuss speeding in the village, especially where it goes from 60 to 30 mph

The Parish Council agreed that the 30 m.p.h. zone on The Street should be extended to the Main Road. An email will be sent to Cllr Paul Carr asking him if he can do anything about the situation and he will be invited to attend the next meeting with some information, if possible. The Parish Council would like him to start the process to get the speed lowered if he can.

Another problem are the pavements along The Street on the Mill Lane Junction. They need to be dropped to allow access for pushchairs and wheelchairs, which currently struggle with the situation.

Parking on Mill Lane and The Street junction is also a problem, as cars are being parked right on the actual junction, which is hazardous and dangerous. Cllr Carr will be asked how the Parish Council can do something about this and does he know what the legal situation is regarding this. Does the Parish Council have any options regarding trying to resolve this problem.

16. To submit any questions to the County Councillor, Paul Carr, if he is present

Cllr Carr was not present, so no questions were put to him.

17. To submit any questions to Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge, if he is present.

Cllr Bambridge was not present, so no questions were put to him.

18. To receive items for the next agenda.

Co-option onto the Parish Council of Mrs Jennifer Pitcher
To discuss the quotes received for grass cutting for April to September 2027

19. To confirm date, time and venue of the next Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 22nd October at 7.00 p.m. in Bintree Parish Church.

There being no further business to discuss, Cllr Bone declared the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.

..... 22 Oct 26

Vice Chairman Date