

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cawston Parish Council
held on Thursday 18th September 2025 at 7.23pm at Cawston Village Hall**

Attendance: Cllr Arneill, Cllr Durrant, Cllr Hellewell, Cllr Purdy, Cllr Reckert, Cllr Soanes (Chair), one parishioner Cllr Greg Peck (County Councillor) and Sarah Vergette, Clerk.

- 1. Apologies & approval of absence.** Cllr Buttifant, Cllr Livingstone, Cllr Sinclair, Cllr Thomas (District Councillor) Approved.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** None.
- 3. To approve as accurate the minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the last, having been circulated, minutes were **approved**.
- 4. Public participation**
 - 4.1 None.
 - 4.2 Cllr Peck sent a report which had been circulated and noted.
Cllr Thomas sent a reported which had been circulated and was noted.
 - 4.3 Police report . None received
- 5. Matters Arising from the previous meeting**
 - 5.1 Clerk's report. A report had been circulated and was noted. The clerk reported that there had been correspondence from Barclays offering compensation for the data breach, the offer had been refused and further information has been asked for.
- 6. Finance**
 - 6.1 To approve payments

a.	S Vergette	£729.15
b.	HMRC	£456.48
c.	Norfolk Pension Fund	£275.20
d.	PKF Littlejohn	£378.00
e.	NPower	£681.43
f.	Community Heartbeat	£465.60
g.	TT Jones	£52.52
h.	Feeney Tree Services	£450.00

Approved.
 - 6.2 To approve the bank reconciliation. **Approved**
 - 6.3 The conclusion of the external audit was noted.
 - 6.4 Grass cutting contract. The clerk had provided a specification for consideration which was agreed. After some discussion Cllr Purdy proposed that tenders are sought for each area separately as well as a whole, this was unanimously agreed. The hedge cutting should be included in the tender cost.
It was noted that the lavender would need cutting back.
- 7. Planning matters**
 - 7.1 nothing to disucss.
- 8. Cemetery/Church**

- 8.1 Cllr Purdy reported that he had been looking for some slate in garden centres but needs to confirm that the slate he found is Welsh. Total costs for the project are in the region of £577, this information will be passed to Mr Walters in Lampeter.
- 9.2 To discuss the Church Wall. The clerk met with a contractor who specialises in lime plastering. The contractor will send a quote for work to the wall. No work should be carried out until spring. Cllr Purdy stated that the gate at the east side of the church had dropped. The clerk will check to see who is responsible for this.

9. Playing Field/Village Hall

- 9.1 The new play equipment has been ordered and the deposit paid. Installation should be mid-October.
- 9.2 Football Club Agreement. The final agreement has been sent to the Football Club and signed by them. An invoice for the rent will be sent. There are ongoing problems with regard to use of the village hall car park and parking in the village when matches are held. A representative of the club will be invited to the October meeting.

10. Highways

- 10.1 The SAM2 dated had been circulated and was noted. The 85 percentile is looking reasonable at 30.6mph and 97% of all vehicles travelling at or below 35mph. There are still a couple of vehicles speeding, one recorded at 50mph and one at 55mph. It was noted in Cllr Peck's report that he had a meeting with PC Evans and Highways to discuss traffic matters.
- 10.2 Cllr Reckert stated that the Parish Council should be aware that the 20mph through the village is temporary and a request to make this permanent needs to be made six months before deadline. The clerk will follow this up. The yellow lines should also be removed at the expiration of the TTRO.
- 10.3 Cllr Purdy stated that the 20/30mph sign is still missing in Chapel Street. The clerk will contact Highways.

11. Allotments

- 11.1 Geotechnical quote for the allotment, cemetery extension. It was agreed to obtain further quotes and discuss this matter at the next meeting.
- 11.2 Allotments rents. Cllr Durrant proposed an increase in rents to £15, this was seconded by Cllr Arneill with all in agreement.
- 11.3 It was agreed that more land is needed for allotments, local land owners could be approached.

12. Correspondence

Nothing to discuss.

- 13. Date of the Next Meeting.** The date of the next meeting was set for Thursday 16th October at 7pm. Items for the agenda should be sent to the clerk by Monday 6th October

14. Any Other Business/Information

Cllr Purdy stated that Norfolk Ponds are currently digging out the pond on Heydon Long Lane.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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Chair
Cllr Peck Report

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Date

Cawston Parish Report - September 2025.

I have had a couple of meetings with PC Denis Evans, our local community officer, and Richard Pearson, Highways Engineer, to look at ways we can reduce speeding through Cawston. Currently a review of speeding is being carried out by PC Evans, to monitor the extent of the problem. If it is deemed action is required, the results will then be reviewed by Highways to see what the most relevant mitigations are, if indeed there are any. At that point I may need to use some of my personal Highways Fund to pay for them. Before any action is taken, the proposals will be shared with you, the Parish Council. I will keep you informed of the progress.

I have mentioned before, that in addition to my personal Highways fund of £12,000, this year I also have a Community Fund of £5000 to spend on local community projects. If you are aware of any community group or activity which needs funding, please let me know. It is on a first come first served basis, and some money has already been committed

Below is my Parish Report which I give to all the 21 Parish Councils in my division. I know some of you don't like it very much. If so, please ignore it! For those who might find some of it interesting I have attached it to this email.

One of my roles on the County Council is having responsibility for their wholly owned stand-alone companies. I am currently a Director of Norse Group and Hethel Innovation Ltd, in addition I have been a Director of Repton Development, mentioned in the third item, since it started and two years ago I became Chairman, a post I currently hold. This is in addition to other responsibilities on the council. Just in case you think all I do is attend Council meetings and attempt to get potholes fixed.

My Parish Report for September is below:

Norwich Castle Keep reopens following £27m redevelopment.

Norwich Castle Keep reopened to visitors following a comprehensive five-year redevelopment project that introduced new accessibility features alongside new galleries and interpretive displays.

Funded by £12 million from Norfolk County Council and over £13 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, all five floors of the newly named People's Palace were opened to the public for the first time ever.

The Grade I listed castle, originally commissioned by William the Conqueror 900 years ago and completed by his son Henry I in 1121, retained its historic significance while embracing modern improvements.

A new light-filled atrium adjacent to the Keep was unveiled in the first phase of the redevelopment in July 2024. Visitors also benefited from a new café, gift shop, and additional toilet facilities to enhance the visitor experience.

Importantly, a lift was installed to provide full wheelchair accessibility throughout the Keep, allowing access from the basement all the way up to the battlements, where visitors could enjoy panoramic views across Norwich.

Nationally recognised 'AI programme to be rolled out across Norfolk to prevent falls

A new, nationally recognised proactive intervention scheme is rolling out across the whole of Norfolk. The initiative will be delivered in collaboration with local partners including Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSE), city, district and borough Councils and NHS organisations, aims to reduce falls in vulnerable and older adults.

Following a successful pilot with 1250 residents, the programme, which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify residents at risk of escalating needs, enhances the safety and wellbeing of those at risk of falls. The latest Artificial Intelligence technology, natural language processing is used to 'read' case notes and automatically extract meaningful insight about our residents. This technology enables the council to identify and prioritise individuals in Norfolk most at risk of falling, allows for proactive intervention before they fall.

AI is a rapidly developing technology with the potential to improve the delivery of services. The council is using AI to benefit the people of Norfolk in a safe, ethical and transparent way.

Falls are a major concern, particularly among older or vulnerable adults, and can lead to severe injuries and a decline in quality of life. Through this programme, the council will be able to predict people who are at higher risk and offer timely and targeted interventions to support them.

For more information about preventing falls visit [Preventing and dealing with falls](#) on the NCC website.

Repton Property delivers £1 million dividend.

Repton Property Developments, Norfolk County Council's wholly-owned property development company, has announced a £1 million dividend to the county council after a successful 2024/25 financial year.

This follows a £735,000 dividend paid out last year, bringing the total returned to the authority to over £1.7 million in just two years.

Established in July 2017, Repton was created with the aim of unlocking the value of underutilised council-owned land and buildings, while generating financial returns to ease the pressure on the public purse.

Since its inception, Repton has focused on building high-quality and environmentally conscious housing developments across Norfolk.

Repton has achieved this success by also at the same time considerably over achieving the number of affordable houses required by the local planning authorities. For example, on their first site in Acle (144 homes), 25% are for rent via a housing association, another 25% are shared equity starter homes.

Long Stratton Bypass opens to traffic.

Motorists using the A140 south of Norwich begun using the long-awaited Long Stratton Bypass for the first time during August.

This project is a true collaboration with South Norfolk Council and Norfolk Homes, with developer contributions and major funding commitments from The Department for Transport, Greater Norwich Growth Board and South Norfolk Council supporting the project's (£46.9m) overall budget.

Road treatment brings long-term benefits to Norfolk.

Norfolk County Council, in partnership with Roadtechs Group, has successfully completed a record-breaking road rejuvenation project on the A1066 near Thetford, delivering long-term benefits for local communities, businesses and the environment.

In just under five hours, over 9km of the A1066 was treated with Reclamite, a sustainable asphalt rejuvenator that extends the life of road surfaces and helps prevent potholes. This marks the largest area of highway ever to be treated with Reclamite in a single shift in the UK.

The A1066 is a vital route connecting Thetford and Diss, serving local residents, businesses, and the Shadwell Estate. By completing the work in one shift under a full road closure, the Council significantly reduced disruption for road users, reopening the road before the evening rush hour.

This treatment is designed to extend the life of the surface to prevent it needing full resurfacing at a cost of £3.7 million and taking up to 11 weeks to complete. Instead, this innovative approach has saved time, money, and carbon, producing just 2.31 tonnes of CO₂e compared to 508 tonnes for a traditional resurfacing project.

Cllr Thomas Report

Please accept my apologies but i will be unable to get to the meeting, there is an Extraordinary meeting of Full council at Broadland to discuss, debate and approve the LGR submission (if it finishes early i'll head to the Village Hall)

It was in the EDP (<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25456327.maps-reveal-norfolk-carved-three-councils/>) The Broadland proposal being put forward is for a 3 Unitary option for Norfolk. Essentially:
1) a Greater Norwich, taking in Hethersett, Horsford, Drayton, Taverham, the St Faiths, Spixwoth, Poringland, Hellesdon, Sprowston, Old Catton, Thorpe St Andrew, Costessey, Brundall and Blofield and as far west as Honingham.
2) Then the rest of Norfolk is cut in half following the NNDC and KL&WN boundary down to where it meets the Greater Norwich, then from there it follows the SNC and Breckland Boundary to the Suffolk Border.

The main overriding issue I have with this and ANY proposal is the staggering amount of debt that Norfolk County Council has, any new council would have to adopt this (for example, a 3 unitary option would see each new council start from day 1 with that debt divided amongst them.....)

Also with a new Minister responsible for local authorities and the LGR being a pet project of Angela Rayner, there is the slim chance it might be scrapped. All a little bit of a mess, lets see.

For Cawston:

A) I have (had) My cllr surgery on Saturday 13th at Cawston village hall (at time of writing Ive heard from 4 people who wish to come speak to me)

B) I have a growing list of Clarion issues, a wall they wont repair on Jubilee Close, 3 properties in the village that are empty, up for auction but the gardens have been left to overgrow to a ridiculous state (one has been cleared i think on Norwich Road)

C) A few little items repair, the drain near All Things Nice that rattled, the exposed frame outside the pub on the High Street.

D) Both recent solar applications are now closed for consultation comments - i do still have people message me about them - I dont have any firm dates when the Exagen one is going to committee, my guess (this is a personal view) will be October? maybe - The Grupotec one will probably go to Committee, there have been a lot of objections but i will confirm if it will.

E) attended the meeting with James and the Clerk with planning to discuss several issues, the one item that i was surprised and had to ask for confirmation was that UKPN could expand or upgrade the substation without the need for standard planning permission (Did James hear it that way?

F) I met with some residents and had a meeting at Broadland Council re adoption and planning applications in/around William Bush Close - the adoption is with highways (will they/wont they, planning have agreed to chase) and in regards to the host of planning applications around WBC over the last few years, none are active or valid anymore. the only one is the Norwich road one for 3 properties.

