

Strumpshaw Parish Council

Minutes

Council meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday, 15 September 2026 at Strumpshaw Community Hall, Mill Road, Strumpshaw, NR13 4FS.

Present: Ellie Buckton (Chair), Russ Blake (Vice Chair), Brian Jones, Tina McAulay, and Bob Morgan.

In attendance: Tanya Rowlandson (Clerk), County Councillor & District Councillor Jan Davis, District Councillor Eleanor Laming. Members of the public: Five

Tribute to Elizabeth Cameron

Cllr Tina McAulay paid tribute to Elizabeth Cameron, a long-standing resident of Strumpshaw who recently died. Elizabeth was described as an indomitable presence in the village, a committed member of the church, and a dedicated community fundraiser whose contribution to parish life was deeply appreciated.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declarations of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest

Cllr Bob Morgan declared an interest as a member of the Yare Valley Rotary Club in relation to item 7, and a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of the Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust in relation to item 9.

No dispensations were requested.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 24 August 2026

Agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Public Open Forum and to receive the updates from Count Councillor Jan Davis and District Councillors Jan Davis and Eleanor Laming

County & District Cllr Jan Davis and District Cllr Eleanor Laming presented highlights from their reports (attached).

- **Member of the public (1):** Raised concerns about delays in removing outdated Highways signage, including the 10mph skid-risk sign on Long Lane and old road-closure signage. Cllr Davis is in contact with Highways.
- **Member of the public (2):** Asked about the robustness of the Neighbourhood Plan under the revised National Planning Framework (NPF). Cllr Laming advised that around 90% of applications will be determined by officers but confirmed the Neighbourhood Plan remains a material consideration.
- **Member of the public (3):** Asked about progress on Neighbourhood Plan community action projects. Highways have advised they do not support new Quiet Lanes, additional road-safety signage (e.g. "Beware Horse Riders"), or speed-limit reductions from the national limit, noting roads are self-regulating. The Council is progressing the Village Gateways project and, following successful Norfolk County Council grant funding, is advancing installation of a new bus shelter opposite The Huntsman.

6. Chair's Update

Cllr Ellie Buckton advised that her husband, Mark, will repair the Mill Road community noticeboard. She asked councillors to respond promptly to emails and WhatsApp messages. The Council will aim to retain the tradition of holding the Strumpshaw Fayre on the first Saturday in July. The Council agreed to send Christmas cards again this year. A mound of mud/garden waste near the trod will be reported to Broadland District Council as potential fly-tipping.

- 7. Community Hall Committee (CHC)**
Rotary Club Request
Council declined the request to install a plaque on the Community Hall wall but agreed the club may display a poster on the external noticeboard.
Electricity Contract
Council delegated authority to Sarah Cartwright (CHC Chair), Cllr Ellie Buckton, and Cllr Tina McAulay to secure a new three-year electricity contract from August 2027 to avoid missing time-limited offers.
- 8. Speed Awareness Message Sign (SAM2)**
Bob Hunt reported that the SAM2 unit continues to rotate location every four weeks with assistance from Carlos Inacio.
Average daily traffic remains around 1,000 vehicles (one direction).
The average speed has reduced slightly to 26.2mph.
The highest recorded speed was 50mph at 6am, which may have been an emergency vehicle.
- 9. Buckenham Wood**
Cllr Bob Morgan reported that BADCOG continue to hold regular work parties. The spring on the pedestrian gate has again been damaged; a stronger replacement will be investigated, and alternative options may need to be considered. Police have carried out patrols following a recent unsavoury incident, with no repeat reported. The trees planted by the Yare Valley Rotary Club have been strimmed. A meeting of the Buckenham Wood Working Group will be arranged to discuss future projects. The Clerk reported that Highways advised the exclamation sign near the unofficial car park should not have been installed and wording warning of a blind entrance cannot be added. Highways suggested the Council may wish to consider cutting back the hedge to improve visibility.
- 10. Community Emergency Plan**
Bob Hunt aims to have a final draft ready for the November meeting. He noted the potential value of a WhatsApp group, similar to the Buckenham and Hasingham residents' group, and suggested co-ordinating with neighbouring parish councils.
- 11. Finance**
 - 11.1 Payments and income reviewed against the budget; payments approved; income noted.
 - 11.2 Bank reconciliation reports checked against bank statements.
 - 11.3 Reserves reviewed.All items agreed by Council.
- 12. External Audit**
Council noted the final external auditor report and certificate from PKF Littlejohn (24 August 2026) for 2025/26, and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit.
- 13. Internal Audit 2026/27**
Council resolved to reappoint Sonya Bluth as Internal Auditor for 2026/27, confirmed her independence, and noted her fee of £125.
- 14. Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27**
Council noted the National Joint Council agreement on the 2026/27 pay award (1 April 2026-31 March 2027), which will be backdated to 1 April.
- 15. Clerk Update and Correspondence Received**
 - Chair and Clerk met Tom Cox (Highways) regarding Village Gates and trod re-routing. Men's Shed gates cannot be used (post width outside specification). Tom is reviewing options to use £6,000 trod reserves plus a possible £1,000 Neighbourhood Plan contribution.
 - Bus shelter outside 30 Norwich Road: Highways have confirmed boundaries. Cllr Tina McAulay and Cllr Ellie Buckton will visit the resident and hand-deliver a boundary letter.

- Community noticeboard: Cllr Buckton has picked this up; Mark Ellis will carry out the repair.
- Exclamation sign at Buckenham Wood: covered under item 9.

16. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday, 17 November 2026 at 7:30pm, Strumpshaw Community Hall

The meeting closed at 8:52pm

Chair's Signature Date