

Strumpshaw Parish Council

Minutes

Council meeting held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 20 January 2026 at Strumpshaw Community Hall, Mill Road, Strumpshaw. NR13 4FS

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

In attendance: Tanya Rowlandson (Clerk). Members of the public: five including Sarah Cartwright (Community Hall Committee Chair) and Bob Hunt (SAM2 Volunteer)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and noted, from Cllr Michael Green, County Councillor Andrew Proctor, and District Councillors Jan Davis and Eleanor Laming.

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

Cllr Bob Morgan declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 as a trustee of Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust (BAWT).

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18 November 2025

These were agreed as a true record of proceedings.

4. Matters Arising

Planning Application 2025/3983 - Land Adjacent to Hemblington Road, Strumpshaw. Application Type: Agricultural. Proposal: Agricultural building for drying/storing corn and storing agricultural vehicles. **Decision: Prior Approval Not Required. Decision notice issued by Broadland District Council on 16 January.**

Cllr BM raised concerns regarding the positioning of the proposed building.

5. Receipt of reports from County and District Councillors, followed by the Public Open Forum

• District Councillor's Report

A written report was submitted by Cllr Jan Davis.

• County Councillor's Report

A written report was submitted by County Councillor Andrew Proctor.

Copies of both reports are attached to these minutes.

Public Open Forum

• Member of Public 1:

- Reported that the grit bin on Mill Road remains unfilled. The Chair (Cllr EB) confirmed this had been reported to Norfolk County Council (NCC) several times and that refilling had been scheduled for the previous week. The Clerk will follow up with the Highways Engineer.
- Raised concerns about overgrown vegetation obstructing access to the post box on Norwich Road. Bob and Lynda Hunt kindly volunteered to cut this back.
- Asked whether the Parish Council was aware of NCC decommissioning works to remove gas pipes on the closed landfill site. The Clerk confirmed that information had been posted on the Parish Council Facebook page and that works were expected to take up to eight weeks.

6. Chair's update (Ellie Buckton)

- Cllr Buckton expressed condolences on behalf of the Parish Council following the sad passing of Paul Ashford. A sympathy card had been sent to Sheila on behalf of the Council. Members noted that Paul was a longstanding resident who had been actively involved in the community.
- Cllr Buckton reported that she had visited the Men's Shed last week to follow up on progress regarding the village gateways and the new community noticeboard. The volunteer leading on this work was not present, and she will make a further visit shortly.
- Following Bob Cameron's assistance in successfully recruiting a Tree Warden for the parish, the Council has been informed that the Broadland Tree Warden Group is currently on hold due to insufficient members to form a new committee

7. Community Hall Committee (CHC) (Sarah Cartwright)

The Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) is now in place. A copy of the update is attached to these minutes.

8. Speed Awareness Message Sign (SAM2) (Bob Hunt)

Monthly reports continue to be uploaded to the Council website. The average speed recorded was 29mph. Vehicle movements in one direction remain at approximately 20,000 over a 28-day period. The maximum speed recorded was 60mph in the 30mph zone at 3pm on 28 December. Council expressed its thanks to Bob Hunt for his ongoing work and noted that it continues to advertise for an additional volunteer to assist when Bob is unavailable.

9. 9.1. Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust (BAWT) update

Submitted by Cllr Michael Green. A copy is attached to these minutes.

9.2. Buckenham Woods (SPC) - Report from Cllr Bob Morgan

- The Council's Future for Nature Fund application has been successful; Broadland District Council has awarded the full £3,440 requested for northern path improvement works at the Lingwood entrance.
- Conservation Arboriculture has submitted the draft 10-year Management Plan for SPC's part of Buckenham Wood. Cllr Russ Blake kindly volunteered to join the SPC Buckenham Wood Management Plan Working Group.
Post meeting note: The working group will meet on Tuesday 3 February, 7:30pm at The Shoulder of Mutton to review comments and collate feedback for CA.
- BAWT chestnut fencing alignment has been agreed; no further action is required from SPC at this time.
- The replacement spring latch on the car park kissing gate remains intact.
- Tyres near the car park entrance require disposal, as does the rubbish in the eastern part of the site.
- A noticeable increase in dog fouling was reported. The Clerk will obtain Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) dog-fouling signage from BDC.
- Cllr BM will discuss with the BAWT Chair arrangements for further meetings on joint working agreements between SPC, NWT, and BAWT.

10. Neighbourhood Plan update

The final report from the Independent Examiner (Andrew Ashcroft) has been uploaded to the BDC website. The consultant (RL) will now make the required amendments. The Examiner has recommended that the plan proceeds to referendum.

11. Community Emergency Plan

Bob Hunt has kindly agreed to act as Plan Co-ordinator. Recruitment of a deputy is ongoing. BH will meet with District Councillor Jan Davis to review the draft plan.

12. Finance

Council reviewed payments, income, bank reconciliations, and reserves. Reports were accepted, payments approved, and documents signed at the end of the meeting. Copies of the finance reports are attached to these minutes.

13. Correspondence and Clerk update

- **Councillor Vacancy**
Following the resignation of Will Faulkner, the Notice of Casual Vacancy has been published and expires on 28 January. If no election is requested, the Council may proceed to co-option. An article will be included in the next edition of Parish News.
- **Annual Parish Meeting - 21 April 2026, 6:30pm**
The Clerk will circulate a draft list of invitees for councillors to review. Arrangements discussed included refreshments, sticky labels for name badges, and menu holders to display organisation names.
- **Broadland District Council - Future for Nature Fund**
As reported under item 9.2., the Council's application has been successful. Agreement forms will be signed and returned to BDC.
- **Community Noticeboard - Advertising Consent and Funding**
A Planning Application for Advertising Consent (2025/3867) has been submitted. The Strumpshaw Trust has generously awarded £500 towards the project. The Clerk will send a letter of thanks to the Trustees.

14. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday, 17 March, at 7:30pm.
The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

Chair's Signature..... Date.....