Minutes of the Meeting of Lessingham Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall

Present: Peter Peruzzi, Chair
James Holden, Vice Chair
Sue Allen
Gina Dunn
Helen Twining
Sara Burns, Parish Clerk

Also present: Dst Cllr Luke Paterson, Cty Cllr Matthew Taylor, 3 members of public

1. **Apologies for absence**
   None

2. **Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda**
   None

3. **Public Forum**
   a. **Public**
   Bob Wood, the secutary for Eccles Beach Caravan Park attended and updated the Council with the following: The caravan park is planning to resurface Church Lane, past the Church down to where the road joins Beach Lane. They are also proposing to fix the issue of a large puddle after heavy rain fall at the junction with Church Lane, contractors have advised digging a culvert into the side of the road, heightening the road so surface water drains. The surface will comprise of Bitumen, 10mm stone and 6mm stone. This work should be done in April/May 2027. This road was last resurfaced five years ago in 2022. It is a long-standing tradition for the caravan park to carry out this work on this unadopted road. Previously a letter was sent to Bush Estate residents asking for a contribution, the same will happen again this time and the suggested contribution will rise from £35 to £40. The letter contains support from the Parish Council. Bob Wood will email a draft copy of the letter to the Clerk, for the Parish Council to review before this is posted to residents of Bush Estate.

   b. **County/District Councillors**
   Dst Cllr Luke Paterson reported the following:
   Local Government Reorganisation has been paused and there will be District Councillor elections next year – 6th May 2027 based on the current boundaries. Luke Paterson will write a letter of support, should the Parish Council wish to apply for money from NNDC.

   Cty Cllr Matthew Taylor reported the following:
   A Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk is still going ahead, despite the pause on LGR.
   There is a new Chief Executive at NCC – Denis Bacon.
   A new beat manager for Stalham – Jack Houghton will be starting on 14th September 2026.
   Several complaints have been received from residents regarding the bridge on Heath Road, this has been passed to NCC highways and costs are being prepared to resolve this issue.

   c. **Police**
   None in attendance

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2026**
   The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th July were approved, proposed by Helen Twining seconded by Sue Allen, approved by all.

5. **Applications for co-option of Parish Councillor (2 Vacancies)**
   Two members of the public in attendance applied for co-option of Parish Councillor. Both expressed their reasons for application. After discussion, both were co-opted as Parish Councillors, proposed by James Holden, seconded by Gina Dunn, agreed by all. The Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed and Kt Brewster and Sheridan James were welcomed to the Parish Council and joined the meeting.

6. **Chair Report**
   Peter Peruzzi reported the following:
   The SAM2 has been returned, 1 battery has been replaced and is functioning much more efficiently.

7. **Finance**
   a. Cllrs previously received information on income and expenditure to the 31st of August and bank balances of:
      £3277.47 – Current Account
      £9389.76 – Savings Account

   b. Payments – it was agreed to pay the following. Proposed by Gina Dunn seconded by Helen Twining, all agreed:

i.	Sara-Louise Burns	Salary July & Aug 2026	£334.72
ii.	HMRC	PAYE July & Aug 2026	£81.00
iii.	Sara-Louise Burns	Expenses (Printer Ink)	£43.49

   c. The following payments were ratified, proposed by James Holden seconded by Sue Allen, agreed by all:

i.	Lessingham Village Hall	Hall hire (Jan-July 2026)	£63.75

   d. To discuss and agree a donation to Happisburgh Coastwatch
      After discussion, it was agreed to make a donation of £100 to Happisburgh Coastwatch. Proposed by Peter Peruzzi seconded by James Holden, all agreed. Clerk to action.

   e. National Joint Councils (NJC) Pay Scales 2026-27
      Clerks' salary increase in line with NJC pay scales for 2026-27 from SCP15 £15.56ph to SCP15 £16.08 including back-dated payment to April 2026 was approved, proposed by Sue Allen seconded by Helen Twining, agreed by all.

8. **Correspondence and Consultations**
   a. Invitation to Peoples Emergency Briefing film screening in Sheringham, noted.
   b. RSPB Meeting 22nd Sept at Lessingham Village Hall, noted.
   c. Email from Brity regarding a free webpage containing locations of nearby defibrillators, noted.
   d. Anglian Water webinar, noted
   e. Norfolk Police Online neighbourhood drop-in sessions 7th October and 4th November, noted.
   f. Mobile Connectivity Survey from NNDC with a deadline of 15th Sept, noted.
   g. Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership 2027-28, discussed and will not be applying on this occasion.

9. **Planning**
    a. New Applications
    None

    b. Applications considered between meetings
    None

    c. Decisions
    NMA/26/1710 – Mirabella, Bush Drive, Bush Estate, Eccles-on-sea – non-material amendment to planning permission PF/25/0238 (Demolition of existing 2-bed bungalow and erection of replacement single storey 2-bed dwelling (self-build) to allow for change in colour of external wall cladding from yellow to black. - **Approved**

10. **Policies to review:**
    a. Health and Safety Policy
    b. Financial Regulations
    c. Standing Orders
    d. Training Policy
    All policies were reviewed and approved, proposed by Gina Dunn, seconded by Sue Allen, agreed by all.

11. **Highways and Parish Assets**
    a. To report general highway issues
    Speeding throughout Lessingham was reported, after discussion, it was agreed to add this to the next agenda. Clerk to action.

    b. To report any issues within the Parish and general Parish Council assets
    None

    c. Signs at Bush Estate
        i. Environment Agency to reinstate signs at the flood gates
        This was noted. After discussion, it was agreed to set up a working group to focus on this matter. This is to be added to the next agenda to be agreed.

12. **Items for inclusion on the next agenda**
    a. To set up a working group for village signage within Eccles
    b. To receive update from Police regarding quad bikes on the beach
    c. Village Hall improvements

13. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th November 2026 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall**

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm.

CHAIR