Minutes of the Meeting of Lessingham Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall

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

Also present: Dst Cllr Luke Paterson and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**
   Cty Cllr Matthew Taylor sent his apologies.

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

3. **Public Forum**
   a. **Public**
   A member of public present wanted to note the lack of dog bins along North Gap and has asked the Council if one can be supplied. The Council noted there was previously not enough support for one, but perhaps this has now changed and would be added to the next agenda for discussion. KT Brewster noted they would be happy to have one on the edge of her land.
   It was also noted that the member of public has submitted a report regarding a dumped and smashed fridge by the bridle path on Heath Road at the bend shortly before The Marrams, it has been moved to the side and the path is clear.

   b. **County/District Councillors**
   Dst Cllr Luke Paterson reported the following:
   - Will be attending a committee meeting on Thursday 12th November regarding the planning application for 550 homes in Roughton, Cromer.
   - North Walsham has been granted permission for 2000 homes and noted he will be pushing for a better link between North Walsham and Norwich as vehicles travelling through Coltishall is unsustainable.
   - Is now the only independent Councillor in NNDC and has kept all positions which is very welcomed news.
   - Happy to receive emails or phone calls with any queries.

   c. **Police**
   None present; it was agreed to invite the Beat Manager to the next meeting. Clerk to email invite and agenda.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th September and Tuesday 6th October 2026**
   The previous minutes were approved, following amendments. 8th September: Item 3.b change bump to bridge. 6th October: To include views from two members of the public in support of the application. James Holden noted two items not on the November agenda, Clerk noted no response from Police and speeding can be discussed under Parish Matters. Proposed by KT Brewster, seconded by Sue Allen, agreed by all.

5. **Chair Report**

Peter Peruzzi reported the following:

- Attended the RSPB end of season meeting, the RSPB have carried out school liaison visits and noted there was some disgruntlement amongst attendees regarding the lack of policing around the beach area when there were fire safety concerns.
- Attended the Climate Emergency briefing at Sheringham held by Sheringham Town Council, very important briefing with lots of discussion.
- The SAM reports were positive, highlighting one occasion where 98% of vehicles were under the speed limit out of a total of 117 vehicles.

6. **Finance**

a. Cllrs previously received information on income and expenditure to the 31st of October and bank balances of:
£5435.06 – Current Account
£9435.91 – Savings Account

b. **Payments** – it was agreed to pay the following. Proposed by James Holden, seconded by Helen Twining, all agreed:

i.	Sara-Louise Burns	Salary Sept & Oct 2026	£334.22
ii.	HMRC	PAYE Sept & Oct 2026	£81.20

c. **The following payments were ratified**, proposed by Gina Dunn, seconded by Sue Allen, all agreed:

i.	NPTS	Autumn Seminar	£28.80
	(note two thirds to be paid by Mautby PC and Oulton PC)		
ii.	Sara-Louise Burns	Salary arrears April – Aug 2026	£27.85
iii.	HMRC	Tax arrears April – Aug 2026	£7.00

d. To discuss and approve the Budget for 2027-28 and agree the Precept
There were no comments, it was agreed to add to the next agenda for approval.

e. To consider Councillor training with NPTS
Training dates and costs were noted and KT Brewster and Sheridan James both agreed to attend the Councillor training with NPTS. Clerk to book sessions. Helen Twining agreed to attend the face to face Councillor training session, Clerk to book. Gina Dunn expressed interest in attending a Planning training session with NPTS, Clerk to look into Planning training sessions and share with Gina Dunn.

7. **Correspondence and Consultations**

The following correspondence was noted:

a. RSPB end of season meeting minutes
b. New Beat Manager- PC Jack Houghton – covering the Parish
c. The Broads Society third annual lecture
d. Eccles Beach Caravan Park (EBCP) Letter to residents regarding road resurfacing
e. Upper Thurne Working Group meeting, Thursday 3rd December
f. NCC Local List for Validation of Planning Applications Consultation Draft 2026
g. Winter Ready drop in event – Stalham Library 10th November

8. **Planning**
   a. New Applications
   PF/26/2211 – Willowmere, The Street, Lessingham – Replacement of existing swimming pool enclosure using the same footprint and same height as the existing structure. After discussion, the Council agreed there are **no comments or objections**, Clerk to submit.

   b. Applications considered between meetings
   LA/26/1883 – Little Manor House, Heath Road, Hempstead, Lessingham – Emergency remedial works to roof timbers (severely decayed and failing), and replacement of the existing fix wooden ladder-type staircase with a solid wood paddle tread staircase – **No objection**

   RV/26/2106 – Mirabella, Bush Drive, Bush Estate, Eccles-on-sea – Demolition of existing 2-bed bungalow and erection of replacement single storey 2-bed dwelling (self-build), without complying with condition 3 (materials) of planning permission PF/25/0238 to allow replacement of external wall corrugated fibre-cement cladding with vertical timber cladding – **No objection**

   c. Decisions
   LA/26/1883 - Little Manor House, Heath Road, Hempstead, Lessingham – Emergency remedial works to roof timbers (severely decayed and failing), and replacement of the existing fix wooden ladder-type staircase with a solid wood paddle tread staircase – **Approved**

   d. Other planning matters
      i. To note response from NCC Highways regarding conflicting responses to PF/26/1772 and PF/24/0056.
      The response was noted.
      ii. To receive an update from NCC National Trails regarding the positioning of the BOAT20.
      No update has been received to date. Peter Peruzzi to chase. Clerk to visit member of the public regarding documents of the public enquiry.

9. **To discuss and agree a working group for signs in Eccles and Bush Estate**
   After discussion, it was agreed for all Councillors to be part of the working group with Helen Twining managing the group. The working group will discuss and agree actions for signs to be put in around Bush Estate in Eccles to address the following matters: parking and fires. The proposed actions will be raised at the next Parish Council meeting.

10. **Highways and Parish Assets**
   a. To report general highway issues
      i. To note NCC Street works response to concerns regarding the Anglian Water works and road closures.
      The response was noted, and Councillors raised serious concerns regarding the diversion routes in relation to access and emergency services accessing Eccles, in particular Bush Estate. It was agreed, Gina Dunn contacts Anglian Water directly to raise these concerns. Clerk to discuss this matter with Cty Cllr Matthew Taylor.

   b. To report any issues within the Parish and general Parish Council assets
      i. To note the Parish Council laptop no longer functions and will be disposed of appropriately, noted by all Councillors.

c. **To discuss Village Hall improvements**
KT Brewster and Sheridan James are now on the Village Hall Committee (VHC). The VHC are looking into grant funding for 2027 to make improvements to the hall. They hope to have quiz nights running again. It was noted the VHC have their Annual General Meeting coming up where future events and projects are hoped to be discussed.

11. **Policies to review:**
The following policies were reviewed and adopted. Proposed by Helen Twining, seconded by KT Brewster, agreed by all.
a. Bullying and harassment (Previously Dignity at work)
b. Equality and Diversity (Previously Equal Opportunities)
c. Retention of documents (Previously File Retention)

12. **To discuss and consider a Community Emergency/Resilience plan**
Sue Allen attended the Winter Ready event at Stalham Library, obtaining advice and guidance on putting together a plan. It was agreed Sue Allen summarise all information and bring to next meeting. Clerk to add to next agenda.

13. **To agree 2027 meeting dates**
Meeting dates for 2027 were agreed by all, Clerk to publish on website and inform the Village Hall Committee.

14. **Items for inclusion on the next agenda**
- Norfolk Coast Protected Landscapes – Gina Dunn to invite to next meeting, Clerk to add to agenda
- Parking concerns at the junction of School Road and The Street following concerns raised regarding farming traffic and buses unable to manoeuvre into School Road. The land is owned by NCC and in the past the Parish Council have issued a letter to address this concern.

15. **Date of next meeting: January 12th 2027 7.30pm at Lessingham Village Hall**

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm.

CHAIRMAN