

23rd February 2026 Parish Council Information Pack

Appendix 1

Government decision on county council elections

On 22nd January, the Government announced that it had decided that this May's county council elections would not go ahead, so that the council can focus on local government reorganisation and devolution. This accompanies their decision to cancel the Mayoral Elections scheduled for May as well.

The Council agreed to delay the 2025 elections in order to secure the Government's devolution deal, based on the promise that a Mayor would be elected in 2026. That timetable was changed without warning in November 2025, delaying the Mayoral election until May 2028, despite the significant work already done locally to prepare. With hindsight, it is clear that the 2025 county elections could have gone ahead without affecting devolution. Instead, the Government has chosen to prioritise reorganisation over local democracy, leaving councils to absorb reputational damage and residents without proper electoral accountability through no fault of their own.

Norfolk's bus service improvements deliver record growth and faster journeys

Norfolk County Council's ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) has transformed public transport across the county, driving a 26% increase in passenger numbers since 2022 and making Norfolk a leading national example for sustainable travel.

A paper discussed at the council's Infrastructure and Development Committee on 22nd January highlights what has been delivered thanks to the £65.45 million secured for Norfolk from the Department for Transport. That includes;

- New and enhanced bus services on more than 44 routes across Norfolk, including more evening and Sunday services
- Affordable fares: capped single fares in key towns and multi-operator ticketing
- Greener fleet: 75 zero-emission buses in Norwich and 24 more electric buses coming in 2026
- Improved passenger experience: real-time information, safer waiting areas, next-stop announcements and real-time information on more buses.

Not only are we seeing record-setting and increasing numbers of passengers but customer satisfaction has also risen to 87%, bucking national trends and reinforcing Norfolk's approach to improvements in bus travel across the county.

Norfolk gritting vehicles continue to head out over winter season

Norfolk County Council's winter gritting is well underway, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes, and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. The first runs of the recent winter season (late 2025/early 2026) started as temperatures dropped, utilizing the 58-strong fleet with automated salting to cover 2,200 miles of routes, supported by stocked salt barns and public grit bins.

Updates are posted on their social media using #NorfolkWinter, with a dedicated website for info, and recent campaigns even involved naming the gritters. Residents can also check this year's gritting routes using the online map on the council's website

(<https://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/maps/gritting.aspx>)

If you'd want to report any gritting issues please contact the Report a Highways Problem section on the Norfolk County Council website

(<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/63696/Report-a-highways-problem>)

Norfolk County Council Responds to Growing Pressures on SEND Services

Norfolk County Council continues to work tirelessly to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), despite growing demand and sustained pressure on local services. The Council remains committed to improving outcomes for families, investing in local provision and working with schools, health partners and parents to meet increasingly complex needs.

However, the scale of the challenge facing SEND services is being driven by national policy decisions and long-standing underfunding. Successive Governments have expanded statutory duties on councils without providing the funding or system reform needed to deliver them sustainably. As a result, local authorities like Norfolk are left managing rising demand, workforce shortages and significant financial risk, while responsibility for fixing a broken national SEND system is effectively pushed down to the local level.

Norfolk County Council has repeatedly called for meaningful reform and fair, long-term funding to address the root causes of the SEND crisis. Without decisive action from Government, councils will continue to be placed in an impossible position, expected to deliver for families while operating within a system that is not fit for purpose.

Every 1p Rise in National Living Wage Costs Norfolk Council's Adult Social Care £300,000

Norfolk County Council's Adult Social Services face significant and immediate cost pressures from changes to the National Living Wage, with every 1p increase adding around **£300,000** to the council's annual costs. These rising costs reflect the council's responsibility to fund care for some of the county's most vulnerable residents, where staffing makes up the largest proportion of provider expenditure.

While fair pay for care workers is essential and strongly supported, the scale and speed of national wage increases continue to place major financial strain on local authorities. Without matching increases in Government funding, councils are left to absorb these costs within already stretched budgets, reducing flexibility and increasing pressure on services at a time of growing demand.

15% uplift to foster carer pay proposed in transformation programme for council foster carers

Foster carers in Norfolk are set to benefit from a 15% uplift in their pay, as Norfolk County Council looks to invest £1.5m annually in its fostering service in a bid to support more children in care to live with families.

Norfolk's Cabinet met on Monday 26th January to discuss the proposal, which is part of a three-year transformation programme aimed at recognising the contribution of foster carers and the vital role they play in supporting children in care to flourish.

The proposals include:

- A 15% uplift in fees for mainstream and kinship carers
- Additional uplifts for mainstream carers looking after children aged 10 and older
- Greater rewards for long service
- An expanded therapeutic support team
- Enhanced practical support

The proposals follow extensive engagement with carers as part of efforts to improve support and recruit more carers.

There is a national shortage of foster carers, including in Norfolk where there are several children currently living in residential care who could thrive with a fostering family. Research shows that living in a family environment is less traumatic and results in a much better outcome for a child in care. It also reduces costs for the local authority. A residential care placement in Norfolk costs nearly £300,000 per year, compared with £45,000 per year for a foster home. An average of 5 children per week come into care in Norfolk.

Council to consider additional investment of £35m in Independent Living Programme

Norfolk County Council is considering investing a further £35 million towards its Independent Living Housing Programme.

Since its launch in November 2018, the programme has contributed capital funding towards 603 high-quality, modern apartments designed for people aged 55 and over who want to stay independent in their local communities in later life.

Rising construction costs and new regulatory requirements have impacted delivery within the original £29 million capital budget. To enable delivery of the remaining 532 homes by the programme, Cabinet is being asked to approve the additional funding. These homes will help save the council money every year by avoiding the need for people to move into residential care.

Identified demand for Independent Living housing in Norfolk reflects the ageing population, increasing prevalence of disability, and the growing number of residents wanting more independence in later life and seeking alternatives to traditional residential care.

Cabinet considers future of care homes

A company that runs good and outstanding care facilities is interested in buying Norfolk County Council's care company and 20 homes.

If Norfolk County Council agrees a deal with Stow Healthcare, residents of the homes would continue to live there, and existing Norse Care staff would move to the new owner.

The council launched a review of its care estate last year, as its contract with Norse Care Ltd was due to end in March 2026.

Since the contract started in 2011, people's care needs have become more complex and most of the 20 care homes now require modernisation. Three of the homes have closed already but are being included in the proposed sale.

Body worn cameras aid safety in Norfolk

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has rolled out 160 new Axon body-worn cameras across stations in Norfolk to help improve safety and decision-making at incidents. Cameras have been issued to all fire appliances and operational officers, as well as to protection and prevention teams, fire investigation officers, the training school, and Trading Standards officers.

The Axon devices provide live streaming, location data and two-way communication, allowing footage to be shared in real time with control room staff during emergency incidents. This supports quicker, better-informed decisions, improves firefighter safety by identifying risks earlier, and helps coordinate responses with partner agencies.

The cameras were introduced in December and have already recorded nearly 100 hours of footage across more than 500 video clips.

Appendix 2

Local Plan for the Broads

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Notice of Submission of the Local Plan for the Broads to the Secretary of State – Statement of fact (Regulation 22)

16 February 2026

On 16 February 2026, the Broads Authority, submitted the Local Plan for the Broads the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for independent examination in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

The Local Plan sets out the Authority's vision and framework for future development of the area to 2042. It sets out the amount of development which needs to be planned for and identifies where that development should go and be delivered. The Local Plan also sets out planning policies against which planning proposals will be assessed against. Once adopted, the Local Plan for the Broads will replace the 2019 Local Plan for the Broads.

The following documents and information have been submitted:

1. The Regulation 19 Pre-submission Local Plan for the Broads (November 2025)
2. Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Local Plan for the Broads (November 2025)
3. Habitats Regulation Assessment (May 2025)
4. Submission policies maps which show changes to the existing adopted policies maps
5. Local Plan for the Broads Statement of Consultation
6. Local Plan for the Broads Duty to Cooperate Statement
7. Supporting documents and the Core Document Library relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan for the Broads
8. Copies of representations made in accordance with Regulation 20.

The Local Plan for the Broads will now be subject to an independent examination to be conducted by the Planning Inspectorate. Once confirmed, details relating to the examination process will be advertised, made available online and sent to all respondents.

Programme Officer

To assist the Planning Inspector throughout the examination, Kylie Moos has been appointed as independent Programme Officer.

If you have any questions about the Examination process, please contact Kylie Moos at programme.officer@broads-authority.gov.uk or call Broads Authority reception on 01603 610734. Postal address: Kylie Moos, Programme Officer, c/o Broads Authority, Yare House, Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY.

Inspection of documents

In accordance with Regulation 35(b), the entire suite of documents is available to view on the Broads Authority website at: <https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/local-plan-for-the-broads/local-plan-for-the-broads-review>

Hard copies of documents 1, 2, 3, 4 (as listed previously) are available to view at the following places – please check venue websites for opening times.

- Libraries: Acle, Beccles, Brundall, Bungay, Cromer, Great Yarmouth, Loddon, Lowestoft, Oulton Broad, Norwich Millennium, Stalham and Wroxham.
- Council Offices: Broadland and South Norfolk, North Norfolk, and Norfolk County.
- Yare House in Norwich.

If you wish to contact us, please phone the Planning Policy Officer on 01603 610734 or email planningpolicy@broads-authority.gov.uk.

Appendix 3

Minutes of Properties & Assets Meeting

Minutes 12th February 2026

1. Present:

Cllrs. Sargeant, Hamilton, Barron, A. Vanderpal and Symonds.

Gill Crossland Clerk and Vicki Hemp Assistant Clerk

1. Apologies: Cllrs. Watson and S. Vanderpal
2. 22nd January 2026 Minutes were agreed and signed by Chair, Cllr. Sargeant
3. It was agreed that Phase 2 plans received from Gareth were not as expected from our last meeting. A discussion from the group setting our requirements was noted by Cllr. Sargeant who will draw up a plan to send over to Go Architect.
4. Gareth complete a scaled plan and bring to next meeting for approval. Upon approval Clerk to obtain an estimated cost of work. A proposal would then be put forward to full Council to ascertain if they would be happy to progress further should grants be unsuccessful. Applicable grants would be sought, and Grant completion would start moving forward as soon as we have figures to work with. Woodland's school would need to be notified of work being carried out for them to inform parents parking would be restricted and to avoid LCP carpark where possible.
 - 1 It was agreed that LCP carpark will form Phase 3 which again will require granting and should be dealt with nearer completion of phase 2. Green Lane resident permits along the left-hand side as you enter the carpark could help prevent ASB to neighbouring houses and relieve congestion on Green Lane which could potentially help towards grant applications.
 - 2 Whilst building work is being undertaken it was agreed that Parish Council meetings would take place at Bradwell Bowls Club whilst The Old School facilities would be used for Working Group meetings, Caretaker needs and to accommodate office staff when not working from home. Clerk to arrange.
 - 3 A complaint had been received from a resident on Church Lane regarding people sitting on the wall of his property whilst queuing for buses. While it is recognised that the positioning and allocation of bus stops is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council, and as such not the responsibility of BPC, consideration was given to a whether grants could be sort for a bus shelter, seating and litter bin. It was concluded that street furniture was not appropriate as would impact on low mobility users and obstruct views from driveways. However, it was felt that as a gesture of good will BPC could offer 'please do not sit on wall' signage for the complainant to fix to the wall.

4 A previous Parish Council decision to install a memorial bench in front of The Old School had been rejected following advice from Borough Council that the bench purchased was not suitable or robust for a public area. A complaint has been received from the family and would be put to full Council.

5 Occasionally the Office receive request for families wishing to place a remembrance plaque around the village. It was agreed that Bradwell Community Gardens should be considered for memorial plaques. Policies & Procedures working group will propose a policy to include costs for purchase, installation and maintenance for adoption to full Council in April 2026.

6 No other business was discussed.

7 Date of next meeting was agreed 26th March 2026 at 10.30 venue to be confirmed.

8 **Proposal for Full Council meeting 23rd February 2026**

9 **To overturn PC original decision to receive and place memorial bench in front of The Old School as Borough Council advised unfit for purpose. All memorial requests to be considered for Bradwell Community Gardens when a Policy has been adopted by Full Council.**

Appendix 4

Bradwell Parish Council Allotment Working Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 20th January 10.00am

Leo Coles Pavilion

1. Attendance and Apologies

Cllr. S Vanderpal, Cllr. K Barron, Cllr. S Watson, Cllr. J Symonds and Vicki Hemp (Assistant Clerk).

Cllr. Hamilton and Cllr. C Smith were unable to attend and sent their apologies.

2. Plots 1A, B, C, D Beccles Road- update and next steps

Update re plot

The plots have now been cleared by Matty at Garden Glow with help from Kent and Donna. The plots are now in a good condition to relet.

Costs Incurred

The Council have paid £700 for clearance and 4 skips £898.80 plus a bulky collection £150. Total £1748.80. This does not include Rentokil £1136.00.

Reclaiming Costs from tenant

A discussion was held regarding reclaiming the costs from the tenant. It was felt that a letter should be issued to the tenant requesting the total incurred with payment terms offered if required. {Redacted}

Steps to take without incurring further costs

{Redacted}. Cllr. S Vanderpal will draft a letter for the Parish Council to agree to for the Parish Clerk to send out next week.

It was felt that a tighter control of plots would prevent similar situations to those encountered with Plot 1 on Beccles Road from occurring going forward.

In addition, Cllr Vanderpal and Cllr Barron suggested a proposal is put forward to the Allotment Advisory Committee and subsequently to allotment holders that they all pay a one-off deposit (for example £150). In addition, it was suggested that annual rents are increased so they are more in line with what allotment holders pay in other local parishes. These measures would ensure that the council would be able to cover the costs of any plot clearances should tenants leave them in an unsuitable state as per Plot 1 on Beccles Road.

3. Cley Road Fire

Update

An update was given regarding the fire. Most tenants had repaired any damage to their plots apart from the tenant who had lost his shed and possessions.

Insurance claim from tenant

The tenant with most damage had submitted a list of items lost in the fire to the Parish Council. It was felt this list was excessive and it was agreed that the tenant should claim on his insurance. It was also pointed out that the agreement states the Council are not responsible for any loss due to theft, fire etc.

Obtain Fire Incident report – cost £90

It was agreed that the Parish Council do not need this report and that the tenant would need to obtain this to prove that the fire started on an un-tenanted plot.

Police suggestions

The Police have suggested using CCTV, Anti-climb paint, improve lighting and put up posters that the Police have supplied. Cllr. S Vanderpal is to purchase solar lights and will fit at Cley Road. Vicki to print off posters and laminate for Helen to display.

Fence repair

Vicki to contact French builders to obtain a quote for the fence repair to be approved by full council.

Steps to take

Actions as detailed in points above.

4. Beccles Road plot division

Split of Plot 1A, B, C, D (currently 3 x 10 rod and 1 x 5 rod)

Proposal to change to 3 x 10 rod plots

It was agreed that the plots could be reduced to three with plot 1D used as additional car parking, but this area would have to be kept neat and tidy.

5. Complaint from another tenant re camera on plot

This issue was raised as a complaint had been made by another tenant. The Committee felt this was for the Allotment Advisors to deal with. There is not anything in the terms and conditions regarding cameras.

6. Cley Road driveway

Vicki advised that a quote has been obtained for a concrete driveway, but it was felt that another was required for just putting aggregate down. This will be requested.

7. Allotment Holders AGM

An Allotment Holders AGM needs to be held. Dates need to be proposed. It was felt that Beccles Road and Cley Road should split for this as some issues are site relative. The committee agreed to this. Full council needs to be advised of this decision.

8. Closure of meeting

Meeting closed at 11.10 a.m.

Next meeting date to be advised.

Appendix 5

**Allotment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 17th February 2026 6.30pm Leo Coles Pavilion**

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. S Watson, H Martin, K Kemp and Cllr. J Symonds

2) In Attendance and welcome to new Advisory members for Beccles Road

In Attendance were Cllr. S Vanderpal, Cllr. K Barron, Cllr. H Hamilton, Cllr. C Smith, P Alden, J Burns, A Chusonis, S Grigg and Vicki Hemp (Assistant Clerk).

The fire procedure was explained, and a warm welcome was extended to Alan and Sam as new members of the committee.

3) Matters to be raised under AOB

Nothing was to be raised.

4) Minutes from last meeting

The minutes were read and agreed. These were signed by Cllr. S Vanderpal.

5) Matters Arising

No matters arising.

6) Possible increase in rents (ALL associated costs have risen)

A discussion was held regarding a rent increase. Cllr. Vanderpal advised that an increase will be happening from renewal in September 2027. The increase will be agreed by the Parish Council and advised to tenants in September 2026.

It was explained that the reason for this is rising costs- water, staff time, clearance costs.

It was agreed that both sites would try to see where cost cutting could be made. A suggestion of working parties made up of allotmenters could be set up to deal with untidy plots, walkways, car park areas etc.

Action required- Representatives would like to see a schedule of rising costs for current year and past year including water bills, insurance, maintenance and other expenses etc. This would make it easier to explain increase to tenants. Information required from Gill (RFO).

Details of plot fees from other areas; - Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Caister, Belton and Norwich would be obtained for comparison with Bradwell plot fees.

7) Inclusion of Deposit with ALL (New and Existing) Allotment Agreements

Cllr. Vanderpal outlined implementing a holding deposit for the allotments. This was because the Parish Council are incurring significant costs. It was explained that this would then build a pot to cover expenses. Cllr. Barron pointed out that the Bradwell residents precept money must be spent in a fair and justified manner. At present it was felt that a disproportionate amount is being spent on the allotments.

A discussion was held regarding the proposal of this being implemented previously and the treatment that Cllr. Hamilton received. The Parish Council do not want a repeat of this.

The deposit would be implemented and held until the tenant vacated their leased plot.

If the plot was deemed to be clear of rubbish and left in a reasonable state to be tenanted the money would be refunded. A checklist for this was suggested.

Action- Agree an amount for the deposit. Possible checklist devised to be completed and signed off when a tenant leaves.

8) Discussion regarding costs incurred for plots 1A, B, C, D Beccles Road

An update was given of the current position of the above plots.

The plots have now been cleared, and all the rubbish has been removed. At present the total cost is approx. £3750. This does not include all the admin and time it has taken. This constitutes a significant amount, and it is felt that the allotment tenants must contribute to this hence the rent increase.

Details were given regarding reclaiming the costs from the tenant. The Parish Council have followed procedure and have been lenient in their approach to the plots being cleared but it was felt that in the future this cannot be the case. The Parish Council and the Allotment Advisors must be more vigilant and deal with problems in a prompt manner.

A letter requesting reimbursement of costs has been prepared. {Redacted}.

Action-Discussion with Parish Clerk/RFO regarding letter.

9) Each allotment group moving to become an Allotment Association

Cllr. Vanderpal put forward the suggestion that each site become an Allotment Association and take on the fee setting, running and administration of the allotments.

A discussion was held regarding this. It was pointed out that a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary would be needed. Each site could run differently.

Action-More information to be obtained regarding Allotment Associations and further discussion needed.

10) Splitting Cley Road and Beccles Road meetings

It was announced by Cllr. Vanderpal that future meetings for the allotment holders would be held for each site. He explained this was a Council decision so that site issues could be dealt with more effectively.

11) Insurance Claim at Cley Road including fence repair

Cllr. Vanderpal advised that the tenant had forwarded a list of items that had been lost in the fire. The Council have advised the tenant that they must obtain the fire report to prove that the fire started on an untenanted plot. The tenant has also been advised to submit an insurance claim to his insurers and the Council will give details of their Insurers if required.

12) Lights to be installed at Cley Road to help with security

The lights that have been purchased and these were shown to the advisors. Cllr. Vanderpal is to arrange with Cllr. Symonds and Phil to attend the allotments and fit. It was advised that scaffold poles are in the store that could be used but money was needed for cement etc.

Action-£100 to be put on Parish Council Agenda 23/2/26 for cement etc and date arranged to put up lights.

13) Cley Road Entrance Repair

Two quotes have been obtained for the entrance way- one for concrete and one for type 1. A discussion was held and the quote for type 1 was decided upon. This will be put to the Parish Council.

Action- £4320 to be put on Parish Council Agenda 23/2/26 for type 1 quote.

14) Date for Allotment Holders AGM

It was felt that before dates could be set another Allotment Association Meeting needs to take place to agree the Parish Councils decisions on fee increases, deposits, expenses. Another meeting would be held in June with the Holders AGMs in September.

Action- Parish Council to decide on fees, deposits and supply detailed breakdown of expenses. A Council Allotment Meeting needs to be booked for this. Date to be advised. Once all agreed a letter must be sent to Allotment Advisors who will disseminate the information to tenants for any questions to be compiled ready for the AGM.

15) Any Other Business

Vicki advised that for insurance purposes, inspections must be carried out by the Parish Council at least twice a year. It was agreed that these would take place in Spring and then the end of Summer. During all other periods it us to the Allotment Advisors to advise of any infringements that require letters to be sent, or warnings given by the Allotment Advisors. This is so a close eye is kept on plots, so they do not get out of hand.

Action-Dates need to be organised regarding inspections.

Meeting closed at 20.14. Next dates to be advised.