

RINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at **Ringland Village Hall** on **Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.00pm**

These minutes are considered draft until approved at the next council meeting.

PRESENT:

Cllr Lindy Cooper (Chair), Cllr Malcolm Turner (Vice-chair), Cllr Simon Addington, Cllr Keith Stone, Cllr Margaret George, Cllr Jill Baker.

Clerk Kay Montandon, Cllr Peter Bulman (District Councillor) and 11 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Greg Peck.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th January 2026 were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Public Participation and Reports (15 mins max 3 mins per speaker)

- i. District Councillor: Cllr Bulman let the meeting know that Cllr Peck would not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming County Council poll and referenced all Cllr Peck's hard work for the parish over the years. Cllr Bulman is standing for the County Council seat. Cllr Bulman referenced the council tax remaining at its previous level and discussed the District Council opposition to the planning permission for a solar farm at Alderford which has been refused.
- ii. The Chair noted Cllr Peck's retirement and thanked him on behalf of the council for his work in the parish.
- iii. There was no police report.
- iv. Members of the Public: Concerns were raised over the continued use of Ringland Bridge by heavy vehicles including Highways lorries. Parking outside the Swan pub on the road was also raised as a safety issue. The flooding at the village green and the erosion of the grass area is causing annoyance to residents living close by. The residents also requested better signage of the weight limit from the Weston Longville direction and enforcement cameras on the bridge. Clerk will contact highways with their concerns.

5. Planning

- a. To consider planning applications: none
- b. To receive a report on plans refused/accepted by Broadland District Council. None
- c. To hear an update and to consider any necessary action with regard to enforcement issues on planning appeals. None

6. Highways Matters

- a. The SAM2 unit is now with Gt Witchingham. The next time Ringland has it will be in August.
- b. To receive any update on the NWL and A47 dualling projects. A representative to the A47 liaison group reported that the diversion routes from the A47 closures will be tolerable especially with

the closure of the Honingham Road. The scheduled closure of the A47 will be moved to the end of the month. There was then some discussion about the impact on the transport and other infrastructure of a further 189 residential homes being added to the Merry Hills site. Cllr Bulman explained that, for a planning application of this sort, the planners do not need to take infrastructure into consideration. Cllr Bulman explained there is nothing happening with the NWL alternative options at all and nothing will happen before LGR.

- c. Hornsea verge damage was discussed, and the council were under the impression that the work had finished. Clerk to follow up with a further request for the verges to be repaired.
- d. The council noted that the Ringland Bridge now had a permanent weight restriction applied.

7. Council Representatives

To hear an update from Councillors and Clerk on the following areas and consider actions required:

- a. Village Hall: The PAT testing has been completed at a cost of £121. There are regular hirers using the hall. Two grants have been applied for to purchase a new cooker and the associated necessary electrical upgrading in the kitchen. It was agreed that a carpenter should be appointed to have a box built around the plug for the broadband router to protect it from impact. The work on the drain cover outside the entrance to the hall can be completed by Little Melton Property Services at a total cost of £115.19 including VAT. The council agreed to this work being completed and thanked Cllr Turner for his efforts in securing the costings and ensuring this work is completed at cost with no labour charge.
- b. The River Green: Quotes were received for the work to the barrier on River Green and one was selected. The chosen contractor is G&G Fencing and the cost will be £480 plus VAT. All were in agreement to have the work carried out. This work is budgeted for in the 25/26 budget. The Environment Agency is carrying out survey work on the River.
- c. Grazier's Committee. Two applications have been received. Some residents have been in touch regarding fencing to prevent sheep escaping which happened last year. Councillors will check the fencing with the graziers. There is a budget for fencing 100m this coming financial year. The graziers agreed to have their contact details on the parish noticeboards so residents can inform them if any sheep do escape.
- d. Management of Common Land. The Broadland Future for Nature Grant will reimburse the Parish for works done on reinstating ponds on Low Common. Residents asked questions about the project. Work has been completed on Ringland Hills and Church common to manage tree growth and gorse to maintain the grassland. Council will be putting a working party together to help clear leaf mulch in these areas which will help encourage grass to grow.
- e. Grass cutting. Alterations to the cutting regime for 2026 have been finalised and three contractors invited to quote. An extraordinary council meeting will be needed to choose which contractor to appoint.

8. Policies and Governance

- a. The Grant Awarding Policy was adopted with minor alterations to remove the reference to size of grants.
- b. The Internal Control Policy was reviewed and adopted as presented.
- c. The FOI Publications Scheme was reviewed and adopted as presented.
- d. The FOI Policy was adopted as presented.
- e. The Cyber Security Training Log was presented and councillors committed to carrying out the training before the end of March. Cllr Cooper and the Clerk have already completed the

training.

9. Finance

- a. The bank reconciliations and bank statements as at 30th January 2026 and 28th February 2026 were received and signed by the Chair.
- b. The accounts and budget review as at 30th January 2026 and 28th February 2026 were received and signed by the Chair.
- c. The Council Internal Scrutineer will be appraised of the internal audit process and involved where appropriate.
- d. The following payments were approved:

Kay Montandon	Mileage	£ 28.80
Tesco mobile	Phone March	£ 8.50
Tesco mobile	Phone April	£ 9.00
Kay Montandon	March Salary and WFH allowance	£316.91
Kay Montandon	April Salary and WFH allowance	£316.91
HMRC	PAYE March	£ 47.20
HMRC	PAYE April	£ 47.20
Sky Business	Broadband March	£ 29.94
Sky Business	Broadband April	£ 29.94
Wave	Water Village Hall (estimate)	£ 37.00
EDF	Electricity to Village Hall March (estimate)	£100.00
EDF	Electricity to Village Hall April (estimate)	£90.00
Norfolk Parish	Subscription	£116.40
Training Services		
ICO	Registration	£47.00

- e. The following payments and receipts since the last meeting were noted:

Payments

Tesco mobile	Phone January	£ 8.50
Tesco mobile	Phone February	£ 8.50
Kay Montandon	January Salary and WFH allowance	£ 316.71
Kay Montandon	February Salary and WFH allowance	£ 316.71
HMRC	PAYE	£ 157.40
Mark Andrews	January Grounds Work	£ 210.00
Sky Business	Broadband January	£ 29.94
Sky Business	Broadband February	£ 29.94
EDF	Electricity to Village Hall January	£ 76.94
EDF	Electricity to Village Hall February	£ 117.40
Prevent Fire	Village Hall extinguishers service	£ 69.90
Countrystyle	Recycling bin for glass	£ 38.41
DBF Electrical	Electrical works to Village Hall	£1608.82
JW Horticulture	Tree works Ringland Hills	£ 380.00
Laura Trabucco	Webroot Antivirus auto renewal	£ 29.99

Receipts

NCC	Recycling credits	£ 272.88
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Bookings	Village Hall	£ 120.00
Interest	Bank Account	£ 4.92
Broadland DC	Fund for Nature Grant	£5000.00

10. Staff appraisal

It was resolved that Councillors Cooper and Addington would carry out the Clerk's appraisal at a time to be decided.

11. To consider correspondence received.

email	CPRE	Response to the National Planning Policy Framework revisions	Encouraging Parish Council to respond to the NPPF consultation. <i>The council resolved to confirm agreement with the CPRE response.</i>
email	Broadland DC	Invitation to the next Town and Parish Council Forum Ask Clerk for online link to attend 2pm-3pm 14th April	We are pleased to invite you to the next Town & Parish Council Forum which will take place on Tuesday, 14th April. The forum will be an opportunity to provide updates on key issues, ask questions, and discuss areas of interest; a formal agenda will be circulated in advance of the session. If you are unable to attend, please note that the session will be recorded, and notes will be made available afterward.
email	Galliford Try	Road Closures 20-23 March. Info in pack too.	We'll be upgrading the A47 between Fox Lane junction and Easton Roundabout as part of our next steps as we upgrade the road to dual carriageway. To complete our work safely, the A47 will be fully closed in both directions from Easton Roundabout to Dereham interchange between 8pm Friday 20 March and 6am Monday 23 March 2026. Additionally, Church Lane, Easton (also known locally as Dereham Road) from the junction with the A47 to the junction with Dereham Road, will be fully closed. During the full road closure, we will be switching traffic onto our new local access road between Sandy Lane (Hockering) and Honingham Roundabout, with traffic diverted through our new Wood Lane Junction.
email	Broadland DC	Confirmation of election 7 th	Ringland Village Hall will be the polling station. <i>It was agreed that Cllr George will</i>

		May	<i>open the hall, Cllr Addington will lock up at the end of the day.</i>
email	Resident	Stile. Clerk asked County Councillor for help and NCC are apparently aware and sorting it, but stile still there on 06/03/2026	I am hoping you could help me with a problem. I have lived in Ringland for more than 50 years & always enjoyed the walking paths. I haven't done so many lately due to the various illnesses of my husband. I tried the 3 mile walk close to the common & river only to find that a stile has been erected across the path when nearing Low Farm. I find myself totally unable to negotiate this obstacle either by climbing over or through. Walkers Gates are perfect for us oldies with limited ability for climbing etc. so now I find myself unable to do this walk anymore , which I consider to be the most beautiful of all our paths & with a bonus of not having to walk so far on our increasing dangerous roads. As I mostly walk on my own, it's a real blow. Perhaps you could look into this for me. The stile in question is at What3words unwraps.immune.skillet <i>Clerk will send an email to NCC and copy Cllr Bulman requesting a timetable for the stile to be removed.</i>

12. To consider participating in the Big Broadland Litter Pick

It was resolved to have a litter pick at the Ringland Hills car park and Costessy Lane area.

13. To note items for information or for a future agenda

Broadband being affected by the trees opposite Manor Farm. Clerk will contact Open Reach.

14. To note the date of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and the Annual Parish Council Meeting

APM will be at 7pm on 18th May and the Annual Parish Council Meeting will follow at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be provided for the APM. All residents and community groups are invited to attend.

15. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meetings:

Monday 18 May 2026 7.30pm.

Monday 20 July 2026 7.00pm.

Monday 21 September 2026 7.00pm.

Monday 16 November 2026 7.00pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed..... Date.....