

RINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Ringland Parish Council held at **Ringland Village Hall** on **Monday 20th July 2026 at 7.00pm**

These minutes will be considered draft until they are agreed at the next full council meeting.

PRESENT: Cllr Cooper (Chair), Cllr Baker, Cllr George, Cllr Stone, Cllr Addington, Cllr Illing, Cllr Thomas (County Council) and 7 members of the public. Clerk – Kay Montandon

1. To Consider Applications for the Councillor Vacancy and to Consider Co-opting a Member to fill the Vacancy

Samantha Frisby's application (previously circulated to councillors) was considered by the Council and Cllr Addington proposed Sam to be co-opted on to the council, seconded by Cllr George and agreed by all. Cllr Frisby signed the acceptance of office and took her seat with the Council.

2. To Elect the Vice-Chairman of Ringland Parish Council

The Vice-Chair election was deferred to the next meeting.

3. Apologies

None received.

4. Declaration of Interest

To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest for items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensation. Cllr Frisby has a family connection to the electrician appointed to carry out work at the village hall and will not participate in the decisions regarding this work.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

6. To Note Matters Arising from the Minutes not Elsewhere on the Agenda

None.

7. To Appoint Councillors with Responsibility for the Following

Internal Control (finance) – Cllr Illing

Village Hall – Cllr George

Commons, River Green and Grass Cutting: Cllrs Addington, Cooper, Illing and Frisby will work together on these areas.

Graziers Working Group – Cllr Addington

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

- i. County Councillor – Cllr Thomas requested that residents take photos of unsafe parking on the road near the pub so that he can show this to highways as evidence of the need for lining. Cllr Thomas will also take up the issue of the position of the large weight limit signs in the village and ask they be moved to the roads coming into the village instead of directly in

the village. A meeting with highways is scheduled for August. A request for issues to be brought up will be circulated via the Clerk to return to Cllr Thomas in time for the meeting. There will be camera enforcement of the bridge weight limit. The replacement of the bridge in time is also being considered and Cllr Thomas offered to involve the parish council in those discussions with highways. At the CC meeting on 21 July a motion is being put forward to reinstate the local member highways fund. Cllr Thomas is a member of the Children and Families Committee which includes schools. Regarding Local Government Re-organisation, Ringland has been included in the Norwich unitary council proposal despite lobbying from the Parish.

- ii. District Councillor – none.
- iii. Police Matters – it was noted there had been two crimes in the Ringland area: a burglary and a public order offence.
- iv. Members of the Public raised the issue of lack of white lines in the village again. The County Councillor agreed to take this up with Highways at his upcoming meeting with the engineers department. The issue of overweight vehicles still using Ringland Bridge was also mentioned. The need for speed restrictions in the village was raised and Cllr Thomas suggested use of the data from the SAM2 or setting up of a speedwatch scheme would help to identify any speeding issues and provide evidence for any enforcement or restrictions. Residents interested in forming a speedwatch team can email the Clerk. Ideas about reducing speeding by installing wildlife signs or village gateways were considered. Cllr Illing will investigate.

9. 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

10. Highways Matters

- a. To receive updates with regard to SAM2 equipment. The sign has been used but it is difficult to find areas in the village where people are doing more than 30 mph. Cllr Illing will investigate the downloading of data from the SAM2.
- b. To receive any update on the NWL and A47 dualling projects. A report was read from a resident attendee at the recent open day:
“**A47:** The project is progressing pretty much as scheduled with the final and permanent closure of the Easton roundabout confirmed to go ahead on the weekend of the 3rd August. Unfortunately, the opening of the new Norwich Road junction which effectively replaces the Easton roundabout has been delayed following the unexpected discovery of underground powerlines. These should be dealt with shortly and it is hoped that the new junction will open within 2 to 3 weeks. In the interim period Ringland will only be able to access the A47 via either Costessey or Weston Longville/Weston Green. When the Norwich Road junction is due to be opened the closure of Honingham Lane will come into effect to prevent traffic running through the centre of Ringland when travelling between Taverham and the A47. Traffic will be directed to travel through the Ringland Hills (as presently) and then cross over to Taverham Road via Weston road which runs between Lower Easton and the Merryhills Country Park and then down Taverham road to the new junction. This route is probably less restrictive than the current route through Lower Easton and will not increase the traffic flow through Ringland itself. Residents of Ringland will be able to use this route to access the A47. The closure of Honingham lane will

initially be achieved through a simple portable barrier, which will obviously be quickly moved out of the way by irritated motorists. I have pointed out to the A47 team that this is insufficient and that every time it is moved aside, we will probably be pestering them constantly to do something more effective such as the originally proposed earth mound across the road. The council may consider instructing the clerk to send a formal notice that a more permanent closure technique is required.

In the longer term, once the A47 project is complete, the control of the road closure will move to NCC, who intend to apply for a TRO seeking a permanent closure of the road and conversion to a bridleway or similar.

NWL: The NWL project is continuing to run investigations into alternative schemes to improve the flow of traffic across the Wensum valley and relieve the congestion on the existing routes. Whilst no conclusions have been reached at this stage it is clear that any road-based solution will have to be a single carriageway, not involve a new crossing over the river Wensum and avoids the various wildlife “hotspots” known in the area. This makes it unlikely that any new route proposed will be particularly close to Ringland, but I will continue to be involved in any discussions and will report on any progress as it happens. I think it is clear however that there will not be any major construction in the next few years at the very least.

Ringland Bridge: I had a brief discussion with NCC about the state of the bridge to try and find out what their thoughts and plans might be. They accept that the bridge is in a poor state of repair but do not currently have any clear vision of what they plan to do about it. They accept that it is possible the bridge may have to be closed in the future and agree that they need to start thinking about what happens in that case as Ringland would then be badly isolated from access to Taverham and beyond. They also agree that any replacement bridge would have to comply with current regulations and would be a much larger, straighter and higher structure than the current bridge, with all the cost, aesthetic and environmental issues that implies. I think Ringland PC should consider requesting a formal meeting with NCC highways to discuss the true state of the bridge and start the process of NCC seriously considering what they are going to do in the near and distant future. I also asked about the sudden and unexpected appearance near the Church of the two large warning signs relating to the bridge and expressed concerns that they were not in keeping with the street scene in that area. They suggested that the council contact Richard Pearson of NCC Highways to see if a better solution might be found.”

The Council agreed to send a letter to the A47 team to ask for a permanent barrier on Honingham Lane as approved at the planning stage. It was also agreed that the parish council should be involved in any discussions with highways about the future of Ringland Bridge. Cllr Thomas will approach highways about the weight limit signs.

- c. To discuss the damage to the verges by the Hornsea traffic and the meeting with Hornsea and consider further actions. The Chair reported that Hornsea has been emailed again and no response has been received despite the involvement of the District and County Councillors.

11. Council Representatives

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

- a. Village Hall: To receive any updates: Cllr George highlighted the success of the Summer Fete which raised £225 and involved many residents both helping to run the event and also attending. A quote to remove and dispose of the existing gas cooker was agreed at

£95. The quote for £897.80 including VAT to carry out electrical works in the kitchen and supply and fit a new electric oven was agreed by the Council. (Cllr Frisby abstained from voting). The Council agreed to research potential options for lighting in the car park using sensors and timers. The Council also agreed to install an electric fly killer. The Council agreed to seek quotes to have the hedge in the car park cut back either by the owner of the hedge if it is beyond the hall boundary or by the Parish Council.

- b. The River Green: To receive any updates. The Council thanked Cllr Addington for reinstating the sign on the River Green which had fallen over and agreed to reimburse the £7.50 for the postcrete. The Council discussed the issue of cars parking on River Green itself and agreed to purchase a combination padlock to secure the gate.
- c. Grazier's Committee. To receive any updates. A single grazier has put livestock on the commons.
- d. Management of Common Land. To receive updates on the ownership of land. Cllr Addington gave an overview of the research to date which showed that the piece of land at the edge of Low Common had not been included in the registration in 2013 but had been included in the commons registration in 1969. Further research will be carried out to establish the likely ownership and to rectify the boundary mistake if appropriate. The fencing improvements are being carried out this week. Padlocks are needed for vehicle gates on Ringland Hills and Church Common. Cllr Addington to identify suitable locks. The RPA claim has been received. Only one quote for restoration of the ponds has been received, for £1170 plus VAT, and the Council agreed to accept this one, proposed by Cllr Addington, seconded by Cllr Stone and agreed by all. The Council's Financial Regulations allows for a single quote to be received in the case of specialised services, which applies to this project. The cost is covered by the Broadland District Council Grant which has been received. Work will commence in early Autumn.
- e. Grass cutting. To receive any updates. The Council is happy with the quality of grass cutting on the whole, and pleased with the significant reduction in cost. Cllr George is concerned that the village green is being cut on too high a setting resulting in an untidy finish. The Clerk will contact the grass cutting company to ask them to improve the village green cuts. The Churchyard wild areas are bounded by rope and the contractors need to be careful in this area. The cutting of River Green was praised.

12. Policies and Governance

None.

13. Finance

- a. The bank reconciliations and statements as at 30th May 2026 and 31st June 2026 were received and signed by the Chair.
- b. The accounts and budget review as at 30th May 2026 and 31st June 2026 were received and signed by the Chair.
- c. The council is in the process of opening a community account with NatWest to enable dual authorisation of payments.
- d. The following payments were approved:

Kay Montandon	Mileage and ink	BACS	£ 47.49
Tesco mobile	Phone August	DD	£ 9.01
Tesco mobile	Phone September	DD	£ 9.01
Kay Montandon	July Salary and WFH allowance	BACS	£305.55
Kay Montandon	August Salary and WFH allowance	BACS	£305.55

HMRC	PAYE July	DD	£ 69.80
HMRC	PAYE August	DD	£ 69.80
Sky Business	Broadband August	DD	£ 29.94
Sky Business	Broadband September	DD	£ 29.94
Sky Business	Broadband October	DD	£ 29.94
Wave	Water Village Hall August (est)	DD	£ 28.29
EDF	Electricity to Village Hall July	DD	£ 37.33
EDF	Electricity to Village Hall August (est)	DD	£ 40.00
Norse	Grass contract	BACS	£265.82
Countrystyle	Glass recycling (est)	BACS	£ 60.00
Simon	Emergency repairs to sign on River	BACS	£ 7.50
Addington	Green – cement purchase.		
NALC	Annual Subscription	BACS	£118.33
NALC	Annual website fee, domain fee, booking system	BACS	£360.07
DM services	Payroll	BACS	£79.20

e. The council noted the following payments and receipts since the last meeting

Payments

Zurich	Insurance	£970.02
Robin Goreham	Audit	£ 75.00
EDF	Village Hall Electricity	£ 30.39
Little Melton Properties	River Green Barrier	£ 95.16
Bracken Plumbing Services	Emergency Boiler Repair	£279.60
Kay Montandon	May Salary	£305.55
Kay Montandon	June Salary	£305.55
Wave – Anglian Water	Village Hall Water	£ 28.29
Countrystyle	Glass recycling	£ 57.00
Sky	Village Hall Broadband	£ 29.94
Tesco Mobile	Mobile phone	£ 9.01
EDF	Village Hall Electricity	£ 58.67

Receipts

Village Hall	Hire	£ 60.00
Canoe	Permits	£165.00

14. To receive and discuss whether to accept a quote for updated Microsoft and windows and a secure back up service for parish data.

The parish laptop is not running up to date professional operating system or software. Clerk has obtained a quote from an organisation they use at other parishes to keep software up to date and do secure back-ups of data. The Council agreed that the parish data needs to be kept secure and backed up. Cllr Cooper proposed the acceptance of the quote, seconded by Cllr Addington and all agreed. Clerk to ensure there is an electronic copy of all passwords available to the Chair.

15. To consider correspondence received.

Residents have been in touch about Back Lane footpath being over grown and about the bin being left close to a property next to the Swan pub. Cllrs agreed that the footpath is being encroached upon by a fallen fence. The Clerk will report the footpath and fence and write to

the landowner of the fence. Cllrs also agreed that the bin near the Swan car park would be returned to Broadland District Council.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045 is being prepared and documentation can be viewed here for Broadland: Broadland District Council:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/future-development/local-plans/emerging-local-plan/review-of-the-greater-norwich-local-plan/broadland-district-council-notice-of-intention-to-commence-local-plan-preparation>

Fire and Rescue Service Posters on reducing the incidence of wildfires have been received. The Council can display these on their noticeboards. Posters included in the pack. The Clerk will forward the message with the posters attached to all Councillors.

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

Tree works on Ringland Hills - notification from NCC of 4 trees that need felling. Quotes to be considered. Village Hall car park tree works. Quotes to be considered. To consider a new mains-powered clock in the Village Hall. To consider options regarding the common land boundary not registered. To consider commissioning full council training.

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

Monday 21 September 2026 7.00pm.

Monday 16 November 2026 7.00pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.50pm

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