

ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th April 2026 7:30pm at Thorpe Hall, Ashwellthorpe

Present: Cllr J Ives Chair, Cllr C Eastwood, Cllr H Edwards and N Bailey Clerk

In attendance: District Cllr I Spratt and one member of the public

020 **Apologies:** Cllr B Morris

021 **Declarations of Interest:** None

022 **Parish Councillor Vacancy:** No nominations so the vacancy will be added to the next agenda.

023 A representative from St Nicholas Church Fundenhall shared details of an event being held on Sunday 17th May 2026 10:30am which will be attended by the Bishop of Thetford – All welcome. A proposal was being scoped around leasing a piece of land to secure an ongoing community benefit. The Clerk explained that there would be professional costs and that he was going to recommend the council adopt the General Power of Competence at the Annual General Meeting. In simple terms, it gives councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation.

024 **District Councillors report:** District Councillor Spratt introduced an update and answered questions in the absence of Cllr Bob McClenning.

The report is available <https://www.ashwellthorpeandfundenhall-pc.gov.uk/minutes-agendas>

025 **County Councillor Rowett** had sent her apologies.

026 **Resolved to approve** the Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th March 2026. Minute numbering had started. They were duly signed by the Chair.

027 **To consider matters arising from these minutes**

028 **Planning applications** – 2026/0751 Variation of condition 2 - amended drawings, from existing application 2025/0167 (Replacement dwelling and detached garage) date of decision 10/10/2025 The Oaks The Street Fundenhall Norfolk NR16 1DS - Noted

029 **Bracon Ash Solar Farm** Donations to enhance the community were available to parishes within 10km – max. £2,000. **Resolved** to apply for picnic benches.

030 **Finance and governance**

Account balance as at 31st March 2026 £4,806.97. The statements were checked by the Chair. The necessary documents will now be sent to the Internal Auditor.

Payments and forecasted expenditure - Resolved to approve below and pay HMRC by direct debit

Norfolk ALC	Annual Subscription	£239.41	R001
Autella Payroll Services	Payroll Admin 2025/26	£88.00 plus VAT	R002
NPower	Streetlight electricity	£63.39 plus VAT	R003
Omache Gardens	Village Maintenance 12	£357.50	R004
Norfolk ALC	Payroll Admin 2026/27	£96.00 plus VAT	P005
T Higlett	Salary	£271.66	R006
HMRC	NI & Tax	£62.80	R007
J Ives	Postage	£3.95	R008

*R = Received P= Pending

031 Parish Partnership Traffic Calming Grant and Conditions

Norfolk County Council required a signed acceptance and the £12,500 contribution from the Parish Council in order to start the project. This was not currently possible as there was revenue expenditure during the first half of the current financial year, so the council may have to wait until the second half of the precept is received.

032 Thorpe Hall Trustees

CLlr Ives reported that the trustees had applied to the SNC 'In Bloom' fund to enhance the village appearance. The Tennis Court fencing required maintenance.

033 Village Maintenance – The Clerk and Chair were meeting the current contractor on site this week. He had proposed a 6% increase in annual charges. The meeting would give the Council a better understanding of the work involved, equipment required and areas maintained etc. It would assist with a 'briefing contract document.'

034 Community Litter Pick – Volunteers came together to keep the village even tidier. The Clerk will submit the confirmation to SNC for the prize entry.

035 Upcoming road closures B1135 near Hethel Engineering Centre and Silfield Rd Wymondham - Roads through Silfield were already impacted by recent road closures which meant vehicles were unable to access Wymondham via Silfield Road. If in an uncoordinated approach the B1135 was closed at the same time, the problem would be compounded. It was important to attend a potential meeting with developers.

036 To consider items for discussion at next meeting – None

037 Annual Assembly Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 7:15pm Thorpe Hall

038 Annual General Meeting Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 7:30pm Thorpe Hall

The meeting finished at 8:55pm