

Parish Councillors present: Councillor Howard, Councillor Wiles, Councillor McCourt, Councillor Purchase, Councillor Sennett, Councillor Tingley, Councillor Finnis, Councillor Ingram, Councillor Kok, Councillor Cullen and Councillor Fry (Chairman). Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Dawson and four members of the public. **Apologies:** Councillor Curtis

Minutes (draft)

1 Welcome

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2 To receive apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies were received as above and the reasons for such approved.

3 Members' Declarations of Interests in items on the agenda and any dispensations required considered:

no report.

4 Open Forum for Public Participation (fifteen minutes only): no report.

5 To approve the Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 31st March 2026

5.1 It was resolved, with all in favour, to approve the Minutes of the last meeting and these were signed and initialled as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman.

6 Clerk to provide an update on any matters not included on this month's agenda

6.1 The *Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan* was submitted online to the Borough Council on 5th April 2026.

6.2 The SAM2 camera has now been serviced and returned to the Parish Council ready for siting initially at either Hungate Road or Hollycroft Road (as requested by residents).

6.3 Following a request from a resident at a previous meeting the Clerk had been in touch with the Police to request the presence of officers with speed guns at Hungate Road. A response had been received confirming that a request for this would be made as well as a request for a speed data recorder to be put in place temporarily by the Safety Camera Team. These devices are used to determine whether the level of speeding meets the threshold to establish new sites for their team to visit.

6.4 Concerns with a tree at the junction of Hawthorn Road and the Wrore have been passed on to Councillor Dawson who kindly agreed to investigate further on behalf of the Parish Council.

6.5 Giant hogweed along the towpath continues to be treated monthly. For the purpose of the Minutes it can be recorded that a property at Outwell Road which is also showing signs of giant hogweed growth has also been treated this year and will continue to be monitored by the landlords.

6.6 The Clerk is still awaiting further detailed instructions from Norfolk County Council to progress with the Parish taking over the verge cutting within the 30mph zones in the village.

7 To discuss Playing Field Matters

7.1 General update from the Chairman of the Playing Field Committee

7.1.1 Alex Lane provided details of the year's income and expenditure. Income continues to be a challenge with limited teams using the facility and although expenditure is comparable to previous years still remains a challenge for the Charity. The Parish Council continues to subsidize the Charity for the benefit of the parishioners of Emneth and will continue to do so to ensure the provision of this much needed facility for the Parish.

7.1.4 The new grass cutting contractors continue to cut every other week rather than weekly; this may not be sustainable long-term as several complaints have already filtered through; the situation will be monitored.

8 Finance

8.1 It was resolved with all in favour to approve the April 2026 Payments List as presented.

Councillors Purchase and Fry to authorize on the Unity Trust website after the meeting.

8.2 Income received since last meeting to be recorded at:

- £24,000.00 - 50% of annual precept
- £7,685.57 - annual vat refund from HMRC

- £80.00 - burial fees

8.3 The Chair signed the annual Community Infrastructure Levy report for the Borough Council.

8.4 It was resolved for Councillor McCourt to make a wooden planter for Gaultree Square.

8.5 Councillors Tingley and McCourt viewed the bank statements for internal audit purposes.

One member of the public left the meeting.

9 Planning

9.1 Planning application 26/00549/F proposed single-storey rear extension at 56 Hungate Road, Emneth: it had been resolved prior to the meeting to *support* this application.

9.2 Planning application 26/00150/F retrospective application for the siting of an inpost locker at Morrisons, Peel Centre, Elm High Road, Emneth; application permitted by the Borough Council.

9.3 Planning application 26/00361/LDP single storey rear extension at 148 Church Road, Emneth; application permitted by the Borough Council.

Not all decisions on planning applications for the Parish are resolved upon at a monthly meeting; some are considered during the course of the month and resolved upon online. Details of all planning applications considered by Emneth Parish Council can be viewed on the Borough Council's planning portal by visiting and referencing the relevant *planning application number* or a *key word* into the *Search* bar.

10 Parish Matters

10.1 It was resolved to approve expenditure of £310.00 + Vat for a one year maintenance contract for the church clock at St. Edmund's, Emneth.

11 Cemetery Issues

11.1 It was resolved to approve expenditure of £1,237.00 + Vat for a topple test to be carried out in both of the closed churchyards and at the cemetery.

12 Agricultural Holdings Issues

12.1 It was resolved to approve expenditure of £795.00 (no Vat) for a tree survey to be carried out at all three parcels of Parish Council-owned land i.e. Hungate Road, Grays Lane and Ladys Drove.

13 To discuss Central Hall issues

13.1 The Committee have applied for funding for a new roof.

13.2 The Committee continues to arrange fund raising events such as bingo and quiz nights which are well supported.

14 If required to consider excluding the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the items being discussed: no report.

15 Items for the next meeting agenda which will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM)

- To approve the end of year financial accounts
- To consider and complete the *Annual Governance and Accountability Return* for the external auditor
- To discuss the two acres of land at the playing field ear-marked for development
- To discuss any progress with the revised tenancy for agricultural holdings land at Hungate Road (Clerk)
- To further discuss the Christmas lights / tree project for 2026 (Councillor Finnis / Sennett)

16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 6.30pm at Emneth Central Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM).

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Chairman's signature