

Draft Minutes of an Emneth Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30th June 2026 at 6.30pm in the Committee Room at Emneth Central Hall

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

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

3.1 Councillor McCourt declared an interest at Item 8.1 Payments List.

3.2 Councillor Tingley declared an interest at Item 12.1.1. Planning Application 26/00899/F.

4 Open Forum for Public Participation (fifteen minutes only)

4.1 A resident was present to make a representation in favour of *refusing* Planning Application 26/00899/F residential development of 5 dwellings at Land South of 3-15 Fendyke Road, Emneth. All of his comments were noted and councillors assured him that these would be considered when the application is discussed later on in the meeting.

4.2 A resident was present to report that the *Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority* were overhauling local bus services in Fenland and the T7 Tiger and 60 Lynx routes will be replaced with a more simplified network. Councillors were not aware of this; Clerk to make further enquiries on behalf of the Parish.

5 To approve the Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 26th May 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 new bus shelter for Scarfield Lane is due to be installed w/c 13th July 2026.

6.2 The clock at St. Edmund's will be serviced on 17th July 2026 by Smiths of Derby.

6.3 The topple test at the cemetery and churchyards is scheduled for 1st July 2026.

6.4 The street furniture licence for new planters at Gaultree Square has been approved by Norfolk County Council.

6.5 The Clerk will be taking annual leave 15-22 July 2026.

7 To discuss Playing Field Matters

7.1 To discuss the two acres of land at the front of the playing field ear-marked for future development

7.1.1 This parcel of land had been submitted to the Borough Council as part of the *call for sites* consultation and Councillor Finnis has been notified that it has passed *Phase 1* of the consultation.

7.1.2 It was resolved to approve expenditure of £750.00 to the Playing Field Committee to cover Anglian Water bills for the quarter and the month's Public Liability Insurance direct debit payment. The Charity is extremely low on funds and is going to require further support from the Parish Council to keep the facility open for the residents of Emneth. The water bills are unexpectedly very high and it is suspected that The Bowls Club is using the water from the old pavilion. It was resolved, if possible, to turn off the water at the old pavilion to ensure this no longer happens. The Playing Field Committee should not be subsidizing the water usage of The Bowls Club.

8 Finance

8.1 It was resolved with all in favour to approve the June 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:

- £1,485.00 cemetery fees

8.3 A quote from Smiths of Derby of £8,997.00 + Vat had been received for replacing one of the hands on the Church clock. It was resolved to pass this quote with the associated grant funding information to the Parochial Church Council for their information.

8.4 It was resolved to approve expenditure of up to £2,000.00 to replace the defibrillator at the Premier Store, Gaultree Square. This community defib was gifted to the Parish in 2014 by the *East of England Ambulance Service* and has been maintained by them ever since. The Trust is part of the NHS and funding for defib consumables is now being phased out. A new battery for the Ipad was provided in June 2026 and the pads are valid until 2027. The Trust recommends that defibrillators are changed every 10 years. Thanks to be recorded to our Community Responder, Nadine Blunt, who has serviced this defib on the Parish's behalf for many years now.

8.5 It was resolved to approve the new mileage rate for the Clerk at 55p/mile.

8.6 The Parish Council's contract with British Telecom for wifi at Central Hall is due to expire January 2027. Clerk to investigate other providers and renewal rates.

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

9 To receive a report from Norfolk County Council

9.1 County Councillor Kiddell regularly circulates updates from Norfolk County Council.

9.2 She provided some helpful information relating to SAM2 camera maintenance.

9.3 She provided an update on usage of recycling centres in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire explaining that currently they do not wish to change the Policy for cross-border usage for financial reasons.

9.4 The £5,000.00 Member Fund has now stopped and is being redirected to Norfolk Fire and Rescue.

9.5 The £11,000.00 Highways Fund available to Members has also now stopped.

10 To discuss Norfolk County Council Highways issues

10.1 An overgrown hedge at The Wroe was reported by a councillor; Clerk to make enquiries.

11 To receive a report from the Borough Council

11.1 A comprehensive report on the most recent round of Community Infrastructure Levy funding was provided outlining local projects that have been awarded funding. Councillor Crofts was encouraging Emneth groups to apply for funding for projects from £10,000.00-£100,000.00 when the fund opens again in January 2027 as there is plenty of funding available for eligible projects.

11.2 A new *Community Grant Fund* of £500,000.00 is also being made available.

12 Planning

12.1 To consider any planning applications since last meeting:

12.1.1 Planning application 26/00899/F residential development of 5 dwellings at Land South of 3-15 Fendyke Road, Emneth. It was resolved to *object* to this application as it is outside the development boundary of the Parish, it is considered to be out of keeping in both design and scale for the locality and it is considered to be an encroachment into open countryside.

12.1.2 Planning application 26/00862/CU use of land for the siting of 6 holiday cabins at Three Lakes Nurseries, Meadowgate Lane, Emneth. It was resolved to *support* the application.

Borough Councillor Crofts and County Councillor Kiddell left the meeting.

12.2 To note any planning decisions and/or appeal notifications since last meeting: no report.

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*.

12.3 The Clerk provided councillors with an update from a recent *Planning Update Session* hosted by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk which included information surrounding the new

National Scheme of Delegation, an update on Parish Infrastructure Investment Plans and an update on the Borough's Local Plan.

13 Parish Matters

- 13.1 It was noted that the Clerk had had several conversations recently with residents from both Racey's Close and St. Edmund's Drive concerning the maintenance of the green spaces at both locations. Grounds maintenance at these green spaces has recently ceased by the developer and they have been sold to a company in London.
- 13.2 It was resolved to request Norfolk County Council Highways to cut back the overgrowth from the footpath on the A1101 at the Church Road junction near to Meadowgate Lane.
- 13.3 It was resolved to add the short section of path that the Parish Council owns that leads from The Wroe to the Elmside footpath to the Tawny Owl Services annual grounds maintenance contract; this will need cutting at least once (maybe twice) per year.
- 13.4 No reports from Working Groups this month.
- 13.5 The SAM2 camera is now fully operational and in good working order. It was resolved to apply for funding for a further four cameras in January 2027 when the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund opens again; one to be sited at every main entrance to the village.

14 Cemetery Issues

- 14.1 The cemetery has recently been littered picked by our Village Litter Picker.

15 Agricultural Holdings Issues

- 15.1 The tree report (following the recent tree survey) has now been received. Only minor works were recommended at Hungate Road.

16 To discuss Central Hall issues: no report.

17 To note any communications from the Police since last meeting

- 17.1 The Community Engagement Officer for Emneth is Maddison Cage.
- 17.2 Residents are encouraged to report anti-social behaviour issues to the Police by dialling 101 or emailing.

18 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.

19 Items for the next meeting agenda

- To discuss the two acres of land at the playing field ear-marked for development
- Renewal of electricity contract for street lighting
- To consider the Quarter 1 Progress Against Budget figures

20 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 6.30pm at Emneth Central Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chairman's signature