

Draft Minutes of an Emneth Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 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 Cullen, Councillor Fry (Chairman), Councillor Sennett and Councillor Howard. Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public. **Apologies:** Borough Councillor Crofts, County Councillor Kiddell

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 No declarations of pecuniary interests were given and no dispensations were requested prior to the start of the meeting.

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

5 To approve the Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 30th June 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 To discuss Playing Field Matters

6.1 To receive an update from the Chairman of the Playing Field Committee

6.1.1 The Playing Field Committee had met on 14th July 2026 in the new pavilion and discussed:

- the current financial position of the Charity
- areas of concern at the playing field
- and the Chairman's vision for the future

6.1.2 Finances are extremely low with only one football team currently using the facility.

6.1.3 The Chairman would like a new set of nets when feasible.

6.1.4 Concern was raised regarding the high water usage from the old pavilion which is effectively a redundant building; it was suggested that the Bowls Club might be using the water from here. It was agreed for the Clerk to make some enquiries on behalf of the Playing Field Committee and request a contribution for their usage if this is the case.

6.1.5 A Member of the Committee had proposed that a request be made to the Parish Council for a payment of £5,000.00 from the Claude Coates fund to provide the Charity with adequate funds to run the facility for the next year. It was resolved to approve this payment.

6.1.6 A suggestion was made to apply for a *change of use* for the old pavilion to a retail unit; Clerk to make initial enquiries with *Fields In Trust* surrounding the covenant on this land and whether this would be permissible or not.

6.1.7 A suggestion was made to apply for funding in January 2027 to replace the hedge surrounding the Bowls Club with security fencing.

6.1.8 The Playing Field Committee will meet again in September 2026.

6.2 It was resolved to approve expenditure of £1,500.00 + Vat to carry out grounds maintenance works at the playing field.

6.3 It was resolved to add the spraying of the playing field car park (twice per year) to the Parish's Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2027.

7 Finance

7.1 The *Quarter 1 Progress Against Budget* figures were considered and approved.

7.2 It was resolved with all in favour to approve the July 2026 Payments List as presented. Councillors Purchase and Fry to authorize on the Unity Trust website after the meeting.

7.3 Income received since last meeting to be recorded at:

- £1,325.00 cemetery fees
- £194.92 credit interest (Claude Coates fund)

7.4 Councillors Finnis and Sennett viewed the bank statements for internal audit purposes.

8 To receive a report from Norfolk County Council

8.1 County Councillor Kiddell was not present but had previously reported that she is continuing to press for cross-border usage of recycling centres for Cambridgeshire & Norfolk residents.

9 To discuss Norfolk County Council Highways issues

9.1 Council resolved to support a resident's request to apply to Norfolk County Council for a pedestrian crossing at the A1101 Elm High Road, Peel Centre.

10 To receive a report from the Borough Council

10.1 A new councillor-led *Community Grant Fund* of £500,000.00 is now available to apply to for funding.

11 Planning

11.1 To consider any planning applications since last meeting:

11.1.1 Planning application 26/01124/O proposed 4 dwellings at 66 Elmside, Emneth; it was resolved to *object* to this application based on it being an encroachment into the countryside, the road being far too narrow and no footpaths the length of Elmside.

11.1.2 Planning application 26/01090/FM proposed residential development of 24 dwellings at land between 85 & 97 Ladys Drove, Emneth; it was resolved to *support* this application.

11.2 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 Parish Matters

12.1 The electricity contract with sse for street lights is due for renewal 30th September 2026. For the purpose of the Minutes it can be noted that devices like street lights, traffic signals, bus stops, CCTV and telecom cabinets have previously had their electricity use estimated (an unmetered supply). Market-wide half-hourly settlement (MHHS) is now being used meaning that electricity will be recorded in 48 half-hourly blocks per day replacing estimates. The Clerk reported that she is struggling to find a supplier to quote for our supply moving forward, previous suppliers seem uninterested in providing a quote (she is not sure why). Assistance via *Utility Aid* in retrieving quotes has been sought and prices are appearing to be considerably higher than two years ago when the previous contract was negotiated.

12.2 It was resolved to support endorsing the *Flag of the Fens*.

12.3 No reports were provided from Working Groups this month.

12.4 Giant hogweed treatment at the towpath will take place this month on Wednesday 29th July 2026; the towpath will be closed for 24 hours.

13 Cemetery Issues

13.1 Memorial testing has now been completed in all three churchyards/cemetery and the results received from Cemetery Development Services. Exclusive Rights owners are encouraged to carry out repairs to their memorials where necessary.

13.2 It was resolved to obtain a quote for cutting the hedge at the left boundary in the churchyard on the opposite side of the road to the Church.

14 Agricultural Holdings Issues

14.1 See 18.1 of these Minutes.

15 To discuss Central Hall issues

- 15.1 Monies from grant funding for roof repairs are expected soon.
- 15.2 There is a water leak in the ladies toilet area.

16 To note any communications from the Police since last meeting

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

17 To note general correspondence received since last meeting

- 17.1 Following a request from a resident of Elmfield Drive to purchase and install a dog waste bin somewhere close to this vicinity, it was resolved in the first instance for the Clerk to investigate suitable locations and request the necessary permissions.

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

- 18.1 It was resolved to refund a tenant expenses incurred with damage to his vehicle at agricultural holdings land at Grays Lane.

19 Items for the next meeting agenda

- To discuss the two acres of land at the playing field ear-marked for development
- To discuss applying for *change of use* at the old pavilion to a retail unit
- To consider the cost of renewing the wifi provision at Central Hall
- To consider a quote for replacing the hedge at the Bowls Club with security fencing
- Verges/overgrowth at the top of Church Road

20 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th August 2026 at 6.30pm at Emneth Central Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

Chairman's signature