

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SCOULTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10th JULY 2025 AT 7:35 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Nigel Webster (NW) Colin Spinks (CS), Nadia Mobbs (NM), Mark Brown (MB) and Kevin Stevens (KS)

In attendance: Laurie Shepherd (Clerk), and 4 members of the public

OPEN FORUM

Nothing raised

1. Apologies

Cllr. A Shingfield

2. To declare interests in items appearing on the agenda

- None

3. To consider the process for the co-option of councillors for the vacancies arising

- There was a discussion over a candidate for co-option. Cllr. N Mobbs proposed the candidate be co-opted onto the Council. Seconded by Cllr. N Webster and agreed unanimously. Cllr. Penny Bells signed her declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

4. Reports from County and District Councillors

- DC H Crane read out her report. DC P Bate circulated his report prior to the meeting. Both reports will be on the website. Vice-Chair C Spinks asked for an update on devolution. DC H Crane said that Breckland are in disagreement with NCC when it comes to being single unitary or three part unitary devolution. If it goes into a single unitary, council tax will go up drastically for the Breckland area. Three unitaries would be the best option for Breckland as this would mean joining with Kings Lynn and West Norfolk and there is a pre-existing relationship with these County Councils. There are still ways for public to get involved to express their opinions.

5. To accept and sign the minutes of the AGM Parish Council meeting held on May 8th 2025

- The minutes of the meeting held on May 8th 2025 had been circulated and were proposed as accepted by Cllr. K Stevens. Seconded by Cllr. N Webster and signed as accurate by Vice-Chairman C Spinks.

6. Matters arising.

- None

7. Correspondence:

- The NCC Parish Partnership invitation to bid has opened. Deadline to submit is December 2025.
- Bus Shelter – There was a discussion over putting in a bus shelter opposite the wooden one on the B1108. Clerk to action requesting the surrounding hedge be cut back for health and safety reasons and to investigate match funding options and financial feasibility for a small shelter to be installed.

8. Planning:

- None

9. Update on the dog waste bin

- The dog waste bin has been installed – The clerk has notified Environmental Waste to begin collecting it.

10. Update on the bench installation

- No progress as of yet as the hedge/trees needs to be cleared first. Cllr. N Mobbs informed the council that the owners had put in a request to cut the trees around the area, but NCC won't give

permission for these trees to be cut. Scoulton Parish Council have concerns about these trees encroaching on electric wires. Clerk to contact the BTInternet/Telephone/Internet company to request these trees be cut back.

11. To discuss and decide if Scoulton Parish Council wish to change banks due to Lloyd's introduction of an unavoidable monthly service charge of £4.25

- After a discussion, Cllr. K Stevens proposed to stay with Lloyds. Cllr. M Brown seconded and passed unanimously.

12. Footpaths

- The clerk updated the Parish Council that the landowner is not open to maintaining the proposed footpath and is concerned about the location. Cllr. N Mobbs proposed to state that the Parish Council has pursued this project as far as they can. Seconded by Cllr. N Webster. Agreed unanimously. Clerk to notify the landowner and express thanks for their involvement up to this point.

13. Any Village and Highways Issues

- Cllr. M Brown informed the PC that the sleepers around the village sign are falling down and need replacing or removing. There is concern over the health of the post if the sleepers are taken away. The sign will be inspected and this topic will be put on the next agenda.
- There was a discussion over flora and fauna getting overgrown in the village. Cllr. C Spinks will undertake addressing this come autumn.
- Cllr. K Stevens raised a list of highways issues in the village. Correspondence has been sent to the clerk to be actioned. A complete survey from the junction of Mere Road right the way through to Woodrising Village needs to be completed. Clerk to contact Scoulton's NCC Councillor to ask for advice on how to obtain a road survey.
- Fly tipping – There has been fly tipping on private land. It's been moved to behind the bins at the Village Hall. Councillors to remove and dispose of properly.

14. Finance:

a) To note the following receipts

- None

b) To approve payments now due:

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|---------------------------------------|---|--------|
| • SGS Expenses | £ | 43.11 |
| • Village Hall Hire Fee | £ | 20.00 |
| • Bank Service Charge (May/June) | £ | 8.50 |
| • Grass Cutting x 2 (A Webster) | £ | 180.00 |
| • Bus Shelter Cleaning (A Webster) | £ | 40.00 |
| • Wayland Partnership (Scoulton News) | £ | 27.50 |
| • HMRC Taxes | £ | 48.82 |
| • Clerk's expenses | £ | 25.90 |

Payments were proposed as accepted by Cllr. M Brown. Seconded by Cllr. N Mobbs and approved unanimously and signed as approved by Vice-Chair C Spinks.

15. Any other business for the next agenda

- Crematorium Sign
- Update on Highways issues
- Bus Shelter
- Website/Communications
- To discuss going paper free
- Staff Appraisal

16. Dates of future meetings: 4th September, and 6th November at 7:40 PM.

Meeting closed at 20:34