The Minutes of Easton Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 4 November 2025 at 7:00 pm
at Village Hall, Easton

Present:	Cllr M Caton (Chair)	Cllr J Hudson (Vice)	Cllr R Chapman
	Cllr S Hipperson	Cllr A Main	Cllr P McCarter
	Cllr D Lewis	Cllr M Bowman	Cllr M Jobling

Also in Attendance: Sue Marsh (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
   Apologies received from District & County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury
   Cllr Des Fulcher was absent with no apology sent

2. **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations**
   No declarations of Interest

3. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2025,**
   It was resolved to accept these minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting, and they were duly signed by the Chair.

4. **To receive reports from the District & County Councillor**

NCC Annual Budget
The Council's Annual Budget was launched on October 27th and people are being urged to have their say. The Council is working to set a balanced budget for next year but is expecting increased demand for services, particularly Adult Services and Children's Services. The consultation offers local people and communities the opportunity to share any ideas they may have to save public money. Budget planning for 2026/27 is based on an assumption of an increase and asks people which they think is most appropriate, 3%, 5% or more than 5%. The consultation can be found on www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget and it closes on December 15th. The final decision on the budget will be made in February.

Avian Influenza
From October 30th Norfolk became one of the high-risk areas for Avian Influenza and a Prevention Zone, which means all bird keepers are required by law to take biosecurity precautions.
If you keep 50 birds or more of any species, they must be housed to help keep them safe. You do not have to house them if you keep fewer than 50 birds and their eggs or poultry products are for your own use only.
To report any breaches of bird flu rules email trading.standards@norfolk.gov.uk

Highways Contract
Norfolk County Council has appointed Kier as its new long-term contractor responsible for the maintenance and construction of the county's highway network of over 6,000 miles of roads as well as its pedestrian and cycle paths.

Healthy Ageing
Norfolk County Council's Public Health Department has launched a new campaign to encourage residents aged 50 and over to prioritise their health. A new website called 'It's

never too late' has been launched to highlight resources and opportunities, to help residents make positive changes to their health and wellbeing. Information can be found on www.norfolk,gov,uk/healthyageing

Adoption
Although there has been a 12% drop in families considering adoption nationally, Norfolk has seen a rise in households approved for adoption. In 2024/25 43 households were approved but there is still a need for more. If anyone is considering adoption, they can call 01603 638343 for a chat and to obtain information.

Norfolk Youth Parliament
Norfolk County council is inviting young people aged 11 – 18 years to apply for a seat on Norfolk Youth Parliament to represent the views of young people in Norfolk. Youth Parliament members are elected every two years and any 11 – 18-year-old can stand or vote in the election. Applications are open until November 7th, for more information contact Rebekah.wakefield@norfolk.gov.uk

5 Planning Applications and Determinations:

a. To consider a response to any current planning applications:

2025/3033 Details reserved by condition 4 of 2021/1612 – Pedestrian link and hard landscaping
No comment

b. **To note any planning decisions or appeals by South Norfolk Council**

2022/1171 Approval of Conditions

All noted

6. Finance

a. Approval of Payments

The following payments were approved:

Clerk	Salary (Oct)	£917.38
HMRC	PAYE (Oct)	£229.40
Shred Station	Shredding	£ 61.20

b. The Chair checked and duly signed the bank reconciliations for October 2025

7. Governance

The following policy documents:

- Data Audit – all in agreement
- Health & Safety Policy – all in agreement
- Lone Worker Policy – all in agreement
- Safeguarding Policy Policy – all in agreement

8. Community Centre Project

a. To receive an update on setting up a charity to run the premises

The Trustees of the New Village Hall Committee will be holding a public meeting on 26th November at 7:00pm in the village hall – all are welcome

9. To receive questions or comments from members of the public

A parishioner confirmed that the allotment management committee had an initial meeting on the 3rd of November. It was suggested that a further meeting to be arranged with the Parish Council and Persimmon – clerk to organize.

Signage for Winter Wonderland was mentioned as traffic being directed through Easton due to the amount of roadworks taking place in the local area

Comments were made regarding the mixture of speed signs, the issue is with National Highways

10. Asset Maintenance

a. To receive an update on the new allotments

Persimmon have found some Iron Age artifacts on the site of the new allotments therefore they will be required to do an archaeological dig. This means the move to the new allotments will now not be until the end of August 2026

It was confirmed that the water would be turned off this week

b. To receive a report on the play areas and consider any action required

There was no evidence of dogs being taken into the playgrounds. The clerk will obtain some signs to go up at the entrance/exit of each park stating that dogs are not allowed in the play areas

All equipment is in good condition

11. To discuss the Norwich Half Marathon – Sunday 23 November 2025

Leaflets have been put through parishioner's doors by the organisers detailing the route and road closures.
The clerk will contact the organisers regarding opening the roads as soon as possible after the runners have passed through Easton.
It was noted that the event will disrupt church services in the area

12. To discuss the police speed watch

It was agreed that Cllr P McCarter would contact the local police with regard to speed watch

13.To consider items for the next agenda

- Parish online Mapping

- Draft Budget
- Ground Maintenance
- Parking on Dereham Road

14. Date and Place of the next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 2 December 2025 at 7:00pm

15. Exclusion of Press & Public

Meeting shall be closed to the press and public due to the nature of the business to be discussed including confidential legal information and matters of sensitivity. (Public Bodies Admission Act 1960) - for consideration and resolution

As Cllr Des Fulcher, who raised complaints against the clerk did not attend the meeting, it was unanimously agreed that both the complaints were unfounded and therefore both were dismissed

The councillors who were in attendance voted unanimously to say that they have full confidence in the clerk

With no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.