

MORNINGTHORPE AND FRITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Friars Farm Barn, Morningthorpe
at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13 January 2026

Present: Cllrs W Sargent (Chair), P Rodger, C McDonnell, G Floyd

In attendance: G Roderick-Jones (Clerk), County Cllr A Thomas, District Cllr M Hooton

Public Discussion: none

1 Apologies for absence: none

2 Declarations of interest: Cllrs Sargent, Rodger and McDonnell declared an interest in item 9

3 Report from County Councillor: Cllr Thomas informed the council as follows:

- May elections will proceed unless central government instruct otherwise by the 23 February deadline. NCC have not requested a delay, but Norwich City Council have done so, though the future shape of local government is still unknown. The mayoral election has been delayed to 2028. Central government fund redistribution has had a detrimental effect on the funding of shire counties; Norfolk's SEND funding has not been met, so Council Tax funds will be needed to contribute to the deficit;
- There are new initiatives to increase adult care in the community;
- The culvert at the Hall Road bridge has not yet been cleared – Cllr Thomas will follow up with NCC;
- Results of the traffic survey are awaited; this will include advice on permitted and recommended devices and should result in a site visit to assess alternatives. Funding for road improvements includes the Parish Partnership Scheme (submissions by December 2026) and Cllr Thomas's fund (from April 2026).

Report from District Councillor: Cllr Hooton addressed the following matters:

- After 2026 the costs incurred by food waste collection will be passed to SNDC;
- Some projects (eg the new recycling centre at Ketteringham) are on hold because of uncertainties over Local Government Reorganisation and the mayoral election.

4 Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 November 2025 were approved and signed.

5 Finances:

a NOTED: Current bank balances as at 4 January 2026

current account	£4,695.38
savings account	£2,113.45
savings 2	£1,013.58
balance	£7,822.41

b NOTED: £1,278.69 of unallocated CIL monies

c Precept demand for 2026-27: the council decided to increase the annual precept by 4% to account for increased costs for running the parish council's services. This will result in an overall increase in the council's income of £137 (from £3413 to £3550), which means that a household paying Council Tax at Band D will face an addition of £1.74 per household per annum.

Proposed by Cllr McDonnell, seconded by Cllr Rodger and agreed

d AUTHORISED payments: proposed by Cllr Sargent and seconded by Cllr Rodger and agreed

Gareth Roderick-Jones	salary Feb 2025 – Jan 2026	£1,790.88
HMRC	PAYE	£447.72

Gareth Roderick-Jones	admin expenses	£164.98
Carol McDonnell	reimbursement – gift	£19.00

- 6 Planning applications since last meeting:
- a 2025/3525 Fritton Cottage, The Common: fell horse chestnut and leylandii
 - b 2025/3599 Church Farm House, The Street: fell 3 x dead Elms
 - c 2025/3897 Sunnyside, The Common: reduce holly tree
 - d late applications if any (none)
- 7 **Resignation of Cllr Cullum and co-option of new councillor:** Cllr Cullum has tendered her resignation from the parish council, citing personal reasons. The Chair praised Cllr Cullum's contributions to the community over many years of service as a parish councillor. The process for holding an election or co-opting a new councillor has begun and we await confirmation from SNDC of details for an election or co-option. A question was raised as to the deadline for nominations to be withdrawn before the election date – clerk will investigate.
- 8 **Highways/Road Safety:** see Cllr Thomas's comments in item 3 above; also, Cllr Rodger will contact the owner of the overgrown hedge on The Krons. A resident has complained about dog mess left on footpaths in the parish.
- 9 **East Pye Solar proposals:** County Cllr Thomas held a Team meeting of parish councillors and NCC officers. Cllr Floyd thanked Cllr Thomas for hosting the meeting. NCC have been working on defining conditions which can be imposed, and measures which should be in place, in the event that approval is given for the East Pye proposals. Moves to stop the proposed developments are ongoing and a meeting at Hempnall is scheduled.
- 10 **Correspondence:** items already circulated, and referred to above
- 11 **Items for next agenda/AOB (for information only)** as above
- 12 **Next meeting:** Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 6.30pm in Friar's Farm Barn