

BOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 24th MARCH 2026 at 7pm IN THE ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BOUGHTON**Present:**

Parish Councillors: Cllrs Neil Matthew (Chair), Sue Pogmore, Tam Payne and Phil Boyle.

Apologies – Cllr Sarah Miller

Parish Clerk – Jo Lloyd

In attendance: B Cllr Sue Lintern

Absences – C Cllr Martin Storey

Public - 3

16/26 **Opening and Apologies for absence:** Cllr Matthew opened the meeting, welcomed those present and reminded everyone that the meeting days have changed. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Miller.

17/26 **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest (DPI) for items on the agenda.** None.

18/26 **Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 6th Jan 2026:** Having been previously circulated, the minutes were proposed as an accurate reflection of the meeting by Cllr Boyle, seconded by Cllr Pogmore and approved. The Minutes were signed by the Chair.

19/26 **To hear from the public:**

A member of public queried what had happened to some land near the Green which used to be available for parking, Cllrs do not know but do not believe it has been available since the mid 1980s. They also queried why no answer was given to a question asked in the Sept. 2025 meeting re. wreath laying.

Two residents talked regarding item 26/26a (Pond and Green maintenance) with concerns about the proposed work. Their comments are addressed at that item. The Chair explained that there will be a public meeting on the proposed pond work, giving a costed plan with quotes and an opportunity for all residents to ask questions give their views.

Re. item 22/26a (grass verge at Boughton Surgery), a resident said he had put a wooden stake in the ground. The Chair summarised the Parish Council's communications with the surgery and Highways which are noted under that item. The resident also queried the mower service with Lawnboy listed in payments (item 21/26b) and suggested that another resident might be able to help with this in future to save costs. The Chair took contact details.

A resident said that that work is starting to reinstate the rose garden in the churchyard and any help would be welcome.

A resident asked what shape and material had been chosen for the replacement bench on the Green.

20/26 **Reports from visiting officers:**

Cllr Lintern reported that the "minded to" decision on LGR is due tomorrow, this will indicate whether there will be 1, 2 or 3 unitary authorities. The decision will then have to go through parliamentary process. There will be shadow unitary authorities from 2027 which will take over in full from 2028.

Changes to the planning process are going through parliament. Planning Committee will

reduce from 15 to between 8-11 Cllrs. Ward Cllrs will not be able to call in applications to Committee, this will be decided by the Assistant Director of Planning and Chair of the Planning Committee. Most applications will be decided by planning officers. Cllr Lintern said this means the views of Parish Councils will be even more important as statutory consultees, as the only way the Planning Department will know the views of the Parish. She stressed that comments must be within deadlines and support / objections based on material considerations.

The new library in King's Lynn opened last Monday. BCKLWN budget has been finalised with an increase of 2.99%. Following a Fair Funding Review by the Government after the budget was approved, there is an additional "adjusted support grant" for rural areas giving a £500,000 surplus. This will be used as a fund for local projects, criteria still to be decided (max £75,000 per project). The NCC elections will be held on 7th May.

21/26 **Financial Matters:**

- a. Reconciliation of accounts: Cllr Matthew conducted a check of bank statements and cashbook summaries and countersigned the RFO's reconciliation check.
- b. Payments approval: The payments list was proposed by Cllr Pogmore, seconded by Cllr Boyle and agreed.

Payments Jan / Feb

Date	Name	Ref	Voucher		£ Total
02-Jan-26	DefibShop	AED pads balance 1000223398	55	BACS	76.80
10-Jan-26	Tamar Telcommunications	Virtual phone inv 4321240	56	DD	7.20
16-Jan-26	HMRC	PAYE Month 10 - MI	57	BACS	43.20
16-Jan-26	Mike Inder	Salary & HW Allowance month 10	58	BACS	75.42
28-Jan-26	Jo Lloyd	Salary month 10	59	BACS	159.78
28-Jan-26	HMRC	PAYE month 10 - JL	60	BACS	39.80
10-Feb-26	Tamar Telcommunications	Virtual phone inv 4351797	61	DD	7.20

- c. Expenditures for the new bench (£339 inc VAT, Norfolk Designer Gardens) and lawn mower service (£227.87 inc VAT, Lawnboy) were agreed.
- d. It was noted there will be an increase of 4% in the cost of the virtual phone line from Tamar Telecommunications.
- e. Receipt of £315 from Boughton Fen Committee for the external audit 23/24 was received with thanks.

22/26 **Correspondence:**

- a. An email was received from a parishioner re. parking outside Boughton Surgery, and problems this causes with damage to the verge. The clerk wrote to the Surgery to ask them to consider re-instating bollards; they replied to say it is Highways' responsibility. NCC Highways have agreed to look at putting new bollards on the verge.
- b. An email was noted from Boughton Cricket Club, saying the club has been dissolved.
- c. The clerk has been in communication with a resident regarding a tree overhanging the play area. Cllrs discussed the location of the tree in relation to the boundary. The clerk will clarify with the resident that Council believe the tree to be on their land.
- d. An email was received from BCKLWN re. a Call for Sites: Cllr Lintern explained that as part of the Local Plan the BC are looking for extra sites to meet housing targets. It was noted

that the Local Plan does not show a need for additional housing in Boughton so it is unlikely to be affected by this.

- e. A letter was noted from a resident re. pond vegetation and wood on Boughton Fen.

23/26 **Planning Consultations:**

- a. To consider planning applications:
 - i. 26/00295/F | Householder: Proposed side extension with rear orangery, replacing the existing conservatory and outbuilding | Highview Lodge, Oxborough Road PE33 9AH: Supported between meetings using delegated authority in line with the Council policy for planning, due to consultation deadline. Cllr Miller had declared a pecuniary interest in this application and abstained from commenting.
- b. Any late planning: none.
- c. Decisions:
 - i. 25/01922/LDP | Lawful Development Certificate: The current pavilion/land is listed as F2, Sports/Cricket, to move between the F2 categories to community use no other changes or alterations: Decision was noted - Would be lawful.

24/26 **Highways Matters:**

- a. Traffic and speed monitoring: no report.

25/26 **Cllr and Clerk's report on ongoing matters:**

- a. It was noted that the old laptop has been professionally wiped and returned to Cllr Matthew.
- b. Parish Infrastructure Investment Plans (PIIPs): Cllr Lintern explained that the aim of these is to identify any infrastructure a Parish would like, e.g. footpaths. A form is available on the BCKLWN website. The PIIPs feed into the Local Plan and will give the Planning Department a guide as to how CIL or S106 funds could be spent.
- c. Ash trees on Boughton Fen: Cllr Pogmore reported that a number of trees with ash dieback disease have been removed for safety reasons, some were very rotten. The work is complete and the area tidied. It is hoped that the remaining ash trees are ok, but the permit remains for 2 years should any more become dangerous.

26/26 **Pond & Green Maintenance.**

- a. Vegetation Control:
 - i. Cllr Payne gave a report on the options for reducing silt in the pond:
 - Option 1 - do nothing: As the water level is low this is likely to mean the pond will dry up again as it did last year.
 - Option 2 - dredge and remove silt to farmland: This is illegal so the Parish Council cannot do it.
 - Option 3 - dredge and store the silt before removing it to landfill: There is unlikely to be enough space on the Green to store the silt while it dries (approx. 600 cubic metres.) It would cost between £12-25,000 to transport once dried. It would be unsightly while drying and could cause issues with smell for a short while.
 - Option 4 – build a permanent bund inside the pond perimeter and transfer silt behind the bund, to be replanted once dried: This would be expensive but the Parish Council would seek funding. The bund would be on N and E sides, potentially 100m long but could be shorter to reduce cost. The proposal is to use a silt pusher to move the silt toward the side of the pond where an excavator would move it behind the bund. The pond would become smaller (approx. 17% depending on length of bund) but also deeper, both of which might reduce evaporation in the future. The bund would have a

hard edge so silt could be used to cover this.

Cllr Payne proposed Option 4 would be the better option. Professional advice and quotes have been received which will be considered alongside funding opportunities. Cllr Lintern suggested that planning permission might be needed. The best time to do the work could be after October, when nesting season is finished. The appearance of the Green may be affected initially but should be restored in around 6 months.

Queries from residents present were addressed:

The Council are considering this work now because of the great concern of residents last summer when the pond dried.

This is likely to become more of an issue with climate change and also the increase in vegetation around the pond.

The Parish Council must do this work legally, transparently, and following advice from the Environment Agency.

Previously the Council have carried out algae and silt control, but now there is a need to look at other measures.

The Council did not do any work in the summer of 2025 because the work required a long-term plan.

The Council wished to record thanks to Cllr Payne for the work he has done so far.

- ii Funding options for the above work include CIL from BCKLWN and FCC Community Action Fund, details of both with funding criteria and closing dates were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was resolved to authorise the clerk to apply for CIL or FCC funding on behalf of the Council. Alternative sources of funding might be volunteer donations, biodiversity funds or the new BCKLWN fund.
 - iii Cllrs agreed to hold a public meeting on 13th April to present information on the options to residents, to seek their opinions and answer any questions. Public engagement could also include a display in the Church and leaflets to residents.
- b. A decision was made between meetings on a replacement for the bench on the Green. The Council chose the KL Oval bench in teak, from Norfolk Designer Gardens, costing £339 inc VAT.

27/26 **To receive new reports from Cllrs and propose agenda items for the next meeting:** none.

28/26 The date for the next meeting was agreed as 26th May, which will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting. Meeting closed at 8.32pm

Chair

Date

Prepared by

Jo Lloyd

Clerk to Boughton Parish Council