Minutes of East Tuddenham Parish Council meeting Tuesday 6th October 2026

Councillors present: Kathryn Horton (Chair), Chris Rose, David Cator, Tom Bland and Alexandra Leaney.
Also present: Clerk (Mark Hembury) and seven members of the public.

Kathryn Horton opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

58. **To receive apologies for absence**
An apology was received from Cllr. Lynsay Barrett. Cllr. Rose proposed that the apology was accepted, seconded by Cllr.Bland. All in agreement.

59. **To receive declarations of interest in agenda items and consider any dispensation requests**
None

60. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st September 2026**
The minutes of the meeting held on 1st September were approved. Proposed by Cllr.Bland and seconded by Cllr.Cator. All in agreement.

61. **To report progress on items, from the last meeting, not on the agenda (information only)**
The Clerk reported that the new noticeboard was ready to install – we are just waiting for more wet weather so the ground is softer. Cllr. Horton agreed to arrange for printing of leaflets to distribute to new residents in the village. Cllr. Bland informed the meeting that a new village sign had been installed on the approach to the village.

62. **Open forum for public participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public and the District/County councillors**
Ann Keen, a member of the public, stated that the village Christmas event at the Pump had been arranged for 4th December. The bell-ringers have been booked. A Christmas tree is being donated and will be cut down at the appropriate time.
A question was put to members regarding any update on the area set aside for the development of a nature reserve. Cllr. Horton confirmed that the nature reserve would be welcomed but it is believed the land owner would be farming the land for one more season before the transition took place.

63. **The Council will consider ways in which the local parish church can be supported.**
The Reverend Kirsty Long explained that she had arrived in March and was responsible for seven churches across six parishes. The church in East Tuddenham was struggling with only two regular members of the congregation who also sat on the Parochial Church Council. The church has very little income from the congregation

therefore. The group of parishes have to meet costs of approx. £74,000 to £78,000 and at present are contributing East Tuddenham's share. It is not an option to close the church at present but some action is necessary. A minimum of six services must be held each year. A variety of different services have been tried – the recent Hymns and Pimms was not supported by local residents. The harvest festival service will be held soon. There will be a pet service and hot chocolate amongst other things to try. A bill of £3000 has been received for roof repairs. The building should be used whenever possible for a variety of activities. It would be helpful for the Parish Council to help to advertise services and events.

Cllr. Rose suggested that an approach be made to the East Tuddenham Charity for help with the roof repairs – he would provide details after the meeting.

The Reverend Long was thanked for her attendance and the positive approach she was adopting to the issues affecting the local church.

64. **Financial matters**

64.1 **To note the Bank reconciliation to 30th September 2026**

This was noted.

64.2 **To approve the implementation of the Local Government pay award for 2026 for the Clerk's salary, backdated to 1st April**

This was approved, proposed by Cllr. Leaney and seconded by Cllr.Bland. All in agreement.

64.3 **To approve the renewal of insurance cover with Zurich Insurance.**

This was approved, proposed by Cllr. Leaney and seconded by Cllr.Bland. All in agreement.

64.4 **To approve the payments list.**

This was approved, proposed by Cllr. Leaney and seconded by Cllr.Bland. All in agreement.

65. **To agree a date and other arrangements for the work to prepare a wild flower bed.**

Following a suggestion from a member of the public, Ann Keen, it was agreed that summer bulbs would be planted as these would require little maintenance and would not obstruct the visibility of vehicles passing. Cllr. Horton agreed to investigate the cost and availability of bulbs. Subject to the purchase of bulbs, it was agreed that planting of the bulbs would take place on Sunday 1st November at 10.30 am

66. **To receive a report from the Clerk on the first download of data obtained from the SAM3 speed sign.**

The Clerk provided a histogram illustrating the range of speeds detected for the two month period to the beginning of September. Just over 105,000 vehicles were recorded. Of concern was that 32,490 vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit with the worst offenders recorded at in excess of 60mph – over double the limit.

Cllr. Horton expressed concern at the figures and stated that the data provided was hard proof that speeding remains an issue and will be used to support further measures.

Cllr. Cator was not in favour of intrusive traffic calming measures as this would spoil the rural feel of the village. It was suggested that perhaps the local school could help with children producing posters that could be used to encourage motorists to keep to the speed limit – an item will be brought to the next meeting to discuss this idea.

67. **To consider a bid under the Parish Partnership Scheme.**
The Clerk outlined the contents of the scheme and the deadline of 1st December to submit a bid. Following a discussion, it was agreed that village gateway signs would be a valuable contribution towards the issue of speeding through the village. Cllr. Horton stated that she would approach Jim Freeman from Galliford Try and attempt to secure some funding from their communities fund for the signs. The Clerk would obtain quotes and bring a proposal back to the next meeting.

68. **Councillors will receive a report on the recent drop-in held by Breckland District Council regarding the future development of East Tuddenham.**
Cllr. Cator stated that he had paper forms to complete regarding the proposals if anyone did not wish to complete an on-line submission. It is likely that even if the development goes ahead, there is a ten-year time frame for work to start. An issue is the western link road – without this, traffic management is unlikely to be sufficient.
A discussion then took place between members regarding the advisability of developing a neighbourhood plan for the parish. For reasons of expense and doubts about the effectiveness of a plan, it was agreed that the council would not pursue a neighbourhood plan at present.
Cllr. Cator then stated that the County Council had objections to all the sites put forward by the District Council - he further added that there are potential financial penalties for any Diostrict Council that has not submitted plans for housing.
Cllr. Horton stated that a conversation needs to be had with Tom Dickerson - Highways lead member for Norfolk County Council Highways.

69. **Planning applications**
69.1 **To receive an update on any application decisions made by Breckland District Council since the last meeting**
None received
69.2 **To consider any new planning applications (see below)**
None received

70. **To receive items for the next agenda**
Road safety posters
Paarish Partnership bid

Item 69.2 Planning applications for consideration

Ref.	Location	Description
None		

Payments list for approval –

Payee	Description	Total	Net
Clerk	September salary	£267.55	£267.55
HMRC	Tax	£178.40	£178.40
Clerk	Expenses – padlock	£1.49	£1.24
Zurich	Insurance premium	£521.71	£512.71