SOUTH LOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 September 2026 at Lophams' Village Hall, Church Road, North Lopham, IP22 2LW.

Present:

Councillors:	Cllr Rob Webb (RW) Chair, Cllr Jim Pursehouse (JP) Vice Chair Cllr Barry Harber (BH) Cllr Kate Patel (KP)
Clerk:	Alison Pena (AP)

Members of the Public (MoPs): 2

1. **Apologies for absence** – apologies were received from Cllr Anne Shipperlee. No apologies received from Cllr Puttock.

2. **To receive** declarations of interest on items on the agenda and **consider** any requests for dispensations - none.

3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 14 July 2026** - proposed by BH, seconded by JP, all in agreement and signed off by the Chair.

4. **Matters Arising:**

   (a) PC Vacancy - no applicants had come forward to date.

   (b) New SAM2 unit - this was on order.

ACTION: Clerk to check delivery date with supplier.

   (c) Litter Picking Equipment - Clerk had purchased and passed to JP for use.

5. **Public Forum** - the new tenant of The White Horse public house updated the parish council on improvements made and future plans. They hope to build a community focussed pub and would support local events and ideas from residents and the parish council.

6. **Reports from the District and County Councillors** - none.

7. **Reports:**

   (a) Planning Matters - BH had circulated his report. Appeal decision awaited for PL/2026/0431/FMIN - 3 Hall Cottage, Church Road.

   (b) Footpaths, hedges, and ditches - nothing to report.

(c) Highways - AS had circulated her report. A site meeting with the NCC Highways Engineer, AS, RW and a resident to review verge and property damage on Redgrave Road planned for end of September.

(d) SAM2 - nothing to report.

(e) SNAP meeting update - speeding and anti-social behaviour remained priorities.

(f) Facebook Page - nothing to report.

(g) Blo' Norton Road site - the Clerk noted that signage for the site may be an option. It was agreed to consider ideas at the November meeting for future improvements, e.g. benches, bird boxes etc.

ACTION: All to consider ideas.

(h) Works – no report received.

(i) Community Matters - a date for the autumn litter pick was agreed as Sunday 25 October 2026 from 11-12pm.

(j) Sip n Social Café - AS had circulated her report and a grant application would be submitted in due course.

8. Planning: none.

9. Financial Report to 31 August 2026 was noted.

10. Payments:

(a) Lophams Village Hall - £25.00 for hire of hall for September 2026 PC meeting.

(b) Remuneration August 2026 - £248.90 net (already paid)

(c) HMRC August 2026 - £9.20 (already paid)

(d) Remuneration September 2026 - £286.30 net including back pay to 1 April 2026 following publication of new Local Government pay scales.

(e) HMRC September 2026 - £18.80

(f) Clerk - £50 for reimbursement of auditor fee.

(g) Clerk - £69.99 for reimbursement of cost of 8x litter pickers and 5x hoops.

(h) PPC - £250 for churchyard maintenance.

All payments were proposed by BH, seconded by KP and all in agreement to be paid.

ACTION: Clerk to action.

11. Correspondence

(a) Breckland Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation - noted deadline date is 23 September 2026, but no sites included for the parish.

(b) National Scheme of Delegation, Planning Reform - noted.

(c) Breckland Town and Parish Forums - noted these meetings will cover planning reform; closest venue Little Ellingham Village Hall, 30 September 2026, details to follow from BDC.

(d) East Harling and Kenninghall Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) - KP would attend on behalf of SLPC.

(e) NCC Parish Partnership Scheme 2027-28 - noted closing date for applications 1 December 2026.

(f) Local Government National Salary Award - new rates had been negotiated and to be backdated to 1 April 2026.

(g) Historic treatment of stillborn and neonatal babies - BDC information noted in case of approaches.

(h) White Horse Public House - see Public Forum.

(i) Peter Sare Paintings - A relative of the deceased artist wanted to donate these to South Lopham.

12. Suggestions for items to be included on the agenda for the next Meeting:

(a) Pay Review - it was agreed to increase pay level to SCP Level 15 from 1 October 2026.

(b) Draft Budget 2027-28

(c) Policy Review Timetable

13. Date of next meeting: The next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 10 November 2026** at Lophams' Village Hall at 7pm.

14. Future Dates - dates for 2027 were circulated.

Signed: **Chair**

Dated: