

# Meeting Minutes

## Annual meeting of Horningtoft Parish

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 7pm, St Edmunds Church, Horningtoft

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Parish Councillors present: Andrew Hill, Simon Hibbard, Tracey Hawke, Graham Drew and Pauline Chapman

Also present: Donna Secker and 4 members of the public

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**1. Welcome**

Andrew Hill opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone.

**2. To receive apologies for absence**

No apologies received

**3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The councils accepted the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting and Andrew Hill signed the minutes.

**4. To receive a report from Andrew Hill, Chair of Horningtoft Parish Council on the council's past year.**

Andrew Hill read the Chair's report. Please see attached, also available on the website.

**5. To receive a report from Norfolk County Councillor**

No report received due to the elections and a new County Cllr voted in.

**6. To receive reports from village organisations**

Reports were received from St Edmunds Parochial Church Council, Horningtoft Community Fund, Good Friday village walk and other events and Horningtoft Heritage Society.

Please see attached

**7. To receive comments and questions from the electors of the parish**

A parishioner raised concerns over the plans to add a kitchen and toilet to the Church. As the Church is well used anyway, then why improve something that already serves the purpose? It was explained that water is being carried from a nearby house to be able to offer hot drinks for the coffee mornings and toilets are essential. It was questioned if anyone

agrees within the village? A questionnaire was given out and no one objected to any further improvements for the future. The plans are displayed currently within the Church for review.

## **Horningtoft Community Fund** **Registration number 212733**

### **Charity Trustees Report for Financial Year end March 2026**

#### **Finances**

Gross Income	£ 330
Gross Expenditure	£ nil
Balance carried forward	£ 593

These figures will be submitted to the Charity Commission when requested. The figures for the financial yearend 2025 were submitted on 3 June 2025.

#### **Investments**

Statement of holding held on 31 March 2026  
Number of units            577.99

#### **Activities**

No applications were made to us this year,

The Trustees would like to remind everyone one that funds are available to anyone who has lived in the village for more than one year. Funds may for example cover heating and electricity, costs of working from home, education expenses such as textbooks, specialised teaching aids, child minding or nursery care, internet and broadband costs. All requests for funds will be treated in strict confidence by the Trustees.

#### **Trustees**

The Trustees are Pauline Chapman, Heather Gooch and Dawn Fairbrother

*Report given to Horningtoft Parish Meeting on 13 May 2026*

### **Horningtoft Village Walk**

The annual walk took place on 3rd April 2026. The group met at Thumb Lane and 16 people and one dog started the walk. We headed north along Oxwick Road towards Horningtoft Footpath no 1 which led to the sight of Wood House, which is now demolished. We then continued on Colkirk Footpath no 12 to the junction with Colkirk Footpath no 11, near Hazelbush Farm, where we stopped to eat our Hot Cross Buns. The group then continued on Colkirk Footpath no 11 across two fields, one of which had just been sprayed with slurry, which meant a detour around the

[www.horningtoftparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.horningtoftparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Email [clerk@horningtoftparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@horningtoftparishcouncil.gov.uk)

headlands. We joined Whissonsett footpath no 1 which brought us to the north end of Oxwick Road, which we continued along back to Thumb Lane. A total distance of about 4 miles.

Photographs of the group can be seen on the Horningtoft Website [Horningtoft.org](http://Horningtoft.org)

## **St Edmund's Parochial Church Council**

The church held several events:

May 2025 -coffee morning

July 2025 – BBQ

Sept 2025-Quiz

Dec 2025-Soup & Sweet, Xmas Coffee Morning & Carol Service

Jan/Feb 2026- Film night held at a parishioner's home

March 2026-Soup & Sweet

Bonus Ball – has been a great help towards the Church funds.

Repairs have been carried out on the West wing window and other window repairs. New electric heaters have been fitted. Currently, the Church is displaying some drawings from an architect showing the potential plans to add a kitchen and toilet.

Thank you to everybody who helps to fundraise and attend the coffee mornings, as all the proceeds will go towards the new renovations.

## **Chairman's Report: Horningtoft Annual Parish Meeting May 13<sup>th</sup> 2026**

### **Planning.**

- In July 2025: an application for planning for Oakdene on the Whissonsett Road was received for a side extension to create additional accommodation on the ground floor and loft space. Permission was granted at the September meeting.
- In November: Orchard House, Oxwick Road. Demolition of existing single-storey rear extension and detached outbuilding. Erection of a side extension and two-storey rear extension plus garage building to the front and detached outbuilding to the rear. The Council had no objections.

### **Highways**

- County Cllr Kiddle-Morris and a Highways engineer met in May 2025 to consider placing village gates on the B1146. The Clerk also requested a survey of the Brisley Road with a view to installing a SAM2 pole. The Clerk had obtained quotes for the Council for a permanent flashing "30" sign, which would cost approximately £4500, including a solar panel to charge the sign.
- Throughout the year the Council discussed the issue of speeding on the B1146, the Cllrs are still witnessing vehicles driving at dangerous and unsafe speeds. The Council will continue to push for the speed limit to be reduced.
- It was also reported that some road signs are missing but the Brisley Road sign had been replaced. County Cllr Kiddle-Morris is still pushing to get the village sign moved on the B1146, as well as chasing highways regarding installing some village gates. It was reported that a 30mph sign on the Whissonsett road had broken due to the post being rusty. The Clerk reported this.
- By January 2026 County Cllr Kiddle-Morris had facilitated a village gate on the B1146; paid out of his County Council budget. The Council were disappointed that only one gate was installed, but County Cllr Kiddle-Morris stated that this was just the first stage.

## **General**

- The Clerk contacted Breckland Council requesting an update on the current situation at the nearby traveller sites. The Council was informed that Breckland are aware of the traveller sites and action is being taken.
- The possibility of holding quarterly meetings was discussed but it was agreed to continue with bi-monthly meetings.
- The village sign needs attention and after a long discussion, it was agreed that the sign just needs cleaning and a coating of oil to prevent it from deteriorating completely. The Clerk will organise this.
- The Clerk reported to Serco that a dog bin at the Church Lane crossroads is not being emptied regularly. The problem of dog fouling has increased, especially with dog poo being left on grass verges. It is an offence not to clear up after your dog and you can incur a £1000 fine. A note will be put in the magazine to remind the public of their responsibility. The Clerk will report the matter to the dog warden.
- The grips have been cleared out, but again the contractors have caused more damage with the risk of blocking up ditches and eroding verges. The Council informed the County Cllr last year on how badly they left the verges; the clerk will feed this back again as this work is not acceptable.
- Disappointingly, despite constant reminders from our Parish Clerk, the Breckland District Councillor did not attend any of our Parish Council meetings throughout the year.
- In conclusion, I would like to thank all the villagers and friends who have helped during the course of the year and the councillors for their attendance and support at meetings. Likewise thanks to County Councillor Mark Kiddle – Morris for his time, commitment and understanding of village concerns during his time in office. We wish him all the best for the future.

Finally, sincere thanks to our Parish Clerk Donna Secker for all her organisation and work within our community.

However Councillors remain sceptical that such measures will have any effect on speed reduction if no speed limit is put in place.

- At the March 2026 meeting several parishioners raised concerns about speeding on Brisley Road and Whissonsett Road. The speeding is getting worse, with cars not respecting pedestrians on the narrow roads. The Parish Council fully understand the situation and agree that the speeding is getting worse. Unfortunately, the Council has no powers to make any alterations to the road or change the speed limit; however, the Council will speak with the County Councillor Kiddle-Morris and Highways to raise the parishioners' and Council's concerns.
- It was requested that someone from Highways attend a meeting to listen to the parishioners' concerns. The Clerk will organise this.
- Another suggestion was to set up a speed watch group. The Speed watch group is separate from the Parish Council, and a parishioner kindly volunteered to become the co-ordinator. The potholes have increased and a parishioner has kindly offered to inspect the village and note all the potholes. The Council thanked him for doing this.

### **Finance**

- The Council agreed to continue with the same insurance company and renew the policy for £196.00
- The Council discussed the financial budget and agreed the Precept remain at £2400.00. The budgets were also agreed upon for 2026/27.

**Horningtoft Heritage Society Report**  
for Parish Meeting Wednesday May 13th, 2026

During the past year, the Society presented a display in the church on the history of St Edmund's Church.

Preparations are well underway for the exhibition, "1920s Rural Life in Horningtoft," which will take place in the church on 4th and 5th July. Planning for this work was already in progress at the time of last year's parish meeting.

Pauline Chapman has been collating the village's 1921 census returns and mapping where each family lived at the time.

Heather Gooch is producing family trees for each family recorded in 1921, including the servants employed by and living with families in Horningtoft.

This will provide information on approximately 50 families.

We continue to receive enquiries via the church visitors' book and the website, and we respond with as much information as possible.

Heather Gooch,  
Chairperson  
Horningtoft Heritage Society