

Minutes of the meeting of the **Brundall Parish Council Recreation and Wellbeing Committee** held on Monday 8th December 2025 at 7.00pm in the St Laurence Centre.

In attendance: Cllr M Savory (Chair), Cllr G Abbott, Cllr P Gabillia, G Buckley (Cremer's Meadow), S Harper (Park Run representative)

Clerk: Mrs. C Dickson,

Members of the public: 1

Housekeeping

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr L Britt, Rev D Hanson (Yare Valley Churches), J Lovatt (Guides), E Mason (Brundall Memorial Hall)

2. Declarations of interest

None received.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

SH queried the details of the Land Management report regarding the allotment hedge trimming. At the time of the meeting parkrun had not been contacted about the alleged trimming by a parkrun representative. Parkrun have permission to cut the hedge with hand tools.

The minutes of the Recreation & Well-being Committee meeting held on 13th October 2025 were APPROVED, with 2 abstentions, as a true and correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

7. c) Updated costs for the Parish Partnership project – Highways confirmed the costs were as quoted. The application has now been submitted.

8. e) Standing item on committee agendas for Social Media posts – completed

8. f) Newsletter link to the BMH - completed

11. Key for bollards on the emergency access road – not yet completed

5. Public Participation

None.

6. Chairman's Report

We have had some productive meetings with Hopkins Homes and Broadland District Council with regard to Brundall Village Park. There is going to be a lot to do a lot quicker than we anticipated but it is a very exciting project and I am pleased the Council reaffirmed their position of wanting to design and deliver the park ourselves.

7. To receive updates from the other Council Committees:

a) Land Management

Applications for funding for a pond at the Countryside Park have been submitted to Broadland and Veolia. The Veolia one has been successful but we won't hear until after Christmas for the Broadland application. Long term maintenance and costs should be taken into account.

Church Fen – the boardwalk remains closed and it will be repaired when conditions allow. The long term plan is replacement. The CPBT have cleared back some of the undergrowth, which has been very helpful.

The Council have approved installing bollards on the verge outside the Sports Hub. The grass has been very churned up by people parking their cars and this will help protect the land.

b) Environment Committee

The proposed pond at the Countryside Park was discussed and supported.

The Biodiversity Working Group gave feedback on the proposed landscaping at the entrance to the Brundall Meadows development. It was very formal for the adjacent site but was accepted due to time constraints and the ability to adjust the planting once the land has been given to the Council.

c) Sports Hub

Brundall Community Leisure are exploring adding temporary car parking on the spare land.

8. Updates from Recreational and Wellbeing Organisations in Brundall

We have trialed report forms this month so that updates can be received and circulated in advance and only items that need to be discussed at the meeting will be on the agenda. This is due to the expected upcoming workload of the design of BVP and needing to streamline other items that need to be addressed by the committee. The reports will be used from now on and will determine what goes on the agenda going forward.

a) Brundall Memorial Hall report

The Memorial Hall would like to thank the Parish council for the grant they received which enabled them to put on the Christmas Fair. The day was a great success with lots of people coming through the door. All the community groups and commercial stall holders had a very successful day and Sharon received hugs and a lot of positive feedback. The hall managed to raise £1,400 for ongoing improvements.

b) Brundall Bolts

No report received.

c) 1st Brundall Guides report

We finish for Christmas tomorrow after a very busy term. The girls have had the chance to go to Africa Alive and Trampolining as well as doing badge work, with many of the girls obtaining awards.

We will be having a presentation evening on 13th January.

The guiders are now going to take a well earned break to gather their energy for the New Year.

d) Yare Valley Churches report

The full report can be found on the website and at the end of the minutes.

Help was requested to get in touch with the Tree Warden. Significant work is needed on some of the trees in the churchyard and his advice and support would be appreciated. The **Clerks** will contact him and pass on the message.

The current coordinator of the Broadland Tree Warden Network is standing down and a replacement has not yet been found. It is not clear if the Tree Warden will be continuing in his role.

Thanks were given to the church for putting on the Spooky Trail. It was well attended and very good for the community.

e) Communications Group

A standing item for Social Media content is now on all agendas and this is feeding in well to the Communications Group.

f) Brundall Newsletter Group

The advertising page nearly full and it is nearly paying for itself. Not bad for only the 5th issue.

We are nearly at the stage where we could add a middle page, perhaps A4 to begin with, to include more advertising and content.

There are a couple of issues with the distribution with some places not receiving the new one as quickly as they could. And there were timing issues with the last deadline with some content received late.

g) Parkrun report

The full report can be found on the website and at the end of the minutes.

No issues to be discussed but a request was made for people to promote parkrun and make others aware that they can use the event for wellbeing and exercise. It is not an elite event and suits all ages and abilities.

h) Friends of Cremer's Meadow report

Cremer's Friends asked to committee to be aware that as part of the discussions about the development of Brundall Park, it will be important to consider and monitor the impact on Cremer's Meadow. Currently there is some concern about possible drainage impact on the Lackford Run and subsequently on Cremer's (although the developers have assured us that this will be fine). Along with the plan to make part of the northern area of Cremer's more accessible, this should be in conjunction with a similar aspiration on the adjacent area in the new park.

Recent accumulation of water in an adjacent ditch was caused by a blockage in a culvert. The water is being drained via a hose from the flooded ditch but the blockage cannot be investigated until there is drier weather. The Friends are worried about the impact the Brundall Meadows estate will have on surface water flooding, however the required attenuation ponds may alleviate this.

A recent discussion with Broadland brought up a suggestion of pedestrian activated warning lights when anyone uses the new crossing point. This could be something to consider at a later date.

The Friends feel they need advice from the Environment Agency regarding water management. The **Clerks** will see if this is possible. It may be possible to get some funding from the Norfolk Flood Alliance.

i) Brundall Scouts

Brundall Scouts were welcomed to the meeting. They appreciate being asked to join the committee and are looking forward to being more involved.

CN gave an update on what the Scouts are currently doing, including the upgrade to the Scout Hut. It is a valuable asset to the village. The improvements to the hut will need to be phased as and when funding allows because applications have proved that the project is either too big or too small for some funding pots. The toilets will be phase 1 with funding secured from Broadland. The roof will need to be done within 18 months to discharge the planning conditions, costing in the region of £20,000.

There is a waiting list to join the Scouts for all ages but trustees are needed and additional volunteers.

The committee made a recommendation to full Council that Chris Norburn be co-opted on to Recreation and Wellbeing as a committee member.

9. Updates on Recreational Facilities, including any maintenance issues or works planned

Parkrun laid sand on the paths at the Countryside Park to mitigate some muddy patches.

The outside of the allotment hedge at the Countryside Park was flailed to keep it trim but due to the wetter weather and soil conditions the tractor tyres left ruts in the paths and parkrun had to cancel their event that week.

We are waiting for a date for the bollards to be installed on the verge outside the Sports Hub.

10. To consider a community event to thank all volunteers

This was supported by the committee. Various suggestions were put discussed including holding it in the summer or at one of the pubs to provide a buffet. The **Deputy Clerk (RM)** was asked to put forward some ideas.

11. To receive an update on new signage around the village

The Deputy Clerk (RM) has been in touch with the Community Planning Projects officer at Broadland who has fed back with some ideas and information on what is possible. New signage may need planning permission and there are no signs of heritage value in the village so replacing old ones should not be a problem.

The committee discussed replacing signs at the church and by the marina. These are maps of the village with local shops and business adverts at the side. The maps are now out of date and do not show the whole village, eg the Countryside Park.

The committee were happy for replacement signs to be funded wholly by the Council and therefore would not need any adverts. This would enable a more comprehensive map to be provided, maybe to include short descriptions of some areas, what one can find in key areas, for example the Sports Hub, Cremer's Meadow, Brundall Memorial Hall. The **Deputy Clerk (RM)** will take this forward.

12. Brundall Village Park

Cllrs Savory, Buckley and Wilkins, and the Clerk have had a few meetings with Hopkins Homes and Broadland District Council, and separate meetings with Broadland. The reserved matters are now all in.

The levels for the Village Green area are yet to be confirmed. They are expected by the end of next week.

At the last BDC meeting the S106 agreement was discussed. It is very prescribed on the dates for the handover of the money and land, and delivery of the park. If any of the money for any of the stages or areas is not spent by the next scheduled date then Hopkins can reduce the money to be given for that next stage by the under-spend amount.

The money for the design of the Country Park area is expected in April 2026. The average build rate is 50 houses per year therefore it is expected that the Country Park land and implementation money will be handed over 1 year later, with 9 months to deliver the park.

The money for the design of the Village Green is triggered when 10 open market dwellings are occupied, this is expected in June. The land and implementation money is expected just over a year after that, with around 7 months to deliver the Village Green.

Broadland suggested we contact Hopkins to ask if they could leave any of the hardstanding they currently have for their compound near the site entrance. This is possibly where a car park could be sited and any saving on groundworks would be welcomed. The **Clerks** will progress this.

A boardwalk or path near to the river has been suggested in the past. A few years ago a recycled plastic boardwalk along the whole length of the river would have cost £350,000 so it is unlikely a boardwalk along the whole stretch would be possible in one go.

The idea would be to keep the Country Park area as natural as possible.

Any appointed design consultant needs relevant expertise to understand working with the land.

Biodiversity considerations are important on this project therefore it was proposed to co-opt a member of the Council's Biodiversity Working Group to assist with this project. This was APPROVED.

An additional meeting to brainstorm ideas for Brundall Village Park and how it might be possible to proceed with tender documents or a broad scope Request for Information from a few relevant companies was arranged for Monday 5th January 2026 at 7pm in the St Laurence Centre.

The **Clerks** will check the Financial Regulations regarding tendering, and whether the companies suggested by Broadland would be interested in submitting ideas from a Request for Information.

13. To receive an update on current Committee projects

Safer Journey to School

As advised at the last meeting the footpath will be 2m wide and tarmacked. There will be no room to widen it. The Council requested bollard lighting but this was rejected by Norfolk County Council. At the last meeting with Hopkins they offered 5 streetlights to be placed at the end of the private drives that meet the footpath. This is better than what was previously offered and was accepted by the working group. It will be publicised when confirmed.

14. To consider revised Terms of Reference

Revised Terms of Reference were considered to include details of the budget and expenditure conditions. Reference to the Grants and Donations policies was removed and the amended Terms of Reference were recommended for consideration by the Advisory & Scrutiny Committee.

15. Items for Social Media Posting

- Parkrun 3rd January
- A newsletter page on Brundall Village Park
- A Brundall Village Park page on the website

16. Items for the next agenda

- Volunteering event
- Village signs
- Request for Information

17. Dates for the next meetings:

9th February 2026

Meeting Closed: 20.57

Signed:

Dated:

8. d) Yare Valley Churches

Date: 29.11.2025

Highlights for sharing:

- The church joined the 'Spooky Trail' again this year with an added attraction called 'Light in the darkness'. We provided refreshments from the Pod on the Rectory drive and in addition there was a 'light trail' which took participants through the dark churchyard and into the church. Inside the church was a light display. We estimated that over 200 people participated in the event.
- Remembrance Weekend – over the last few months the church has encouraged people to join in a project making poppies for a display on Remembrance Sunday. This was well received by groups and individuals in the village, and an impressive display was made and displayed, which was enjoyed by people visiting on Saturday and attending the service on Sunday. We were pleased to have uniformed groups, the local MP and District and Parish Councillors with us for the service on Sunday. On Remembrance Day we held a service in the cemetery and were pleased this year to have a bugler. On Remembrance Saturday, as well as the poppy display there was a sale of wildlife photos and the proceeds from the sale was divided between the Church and The British Legion.

- The new Youth Group is going well, and we have between 9 and 15 young people attending each week.

8. g) parkrun

Highlights for sharing:

Fast approaching the end of the year with just 5 parkruns left of 2025. It is a busy end to the year:

6th December we have our regular Christmas collection for Yare Valley Pantry.

13th December we are hosting Christmas drinks for any runner or walker who wants to join us at the White Heron. This is the 4th year of our Community drinks.

20th December we celebrate our 450th parkrun and host our Christmas parkrun.

Currently we are slightly down on 2024 numbers but are aware that Thorpe have also set up their own parkrun, which has been very successful.

Brundall feedback is still good and we are seeing more participation in walking at our events, which is great to see.

We have a stall at the Memorial Hall Christmas event, which we hope might help numbers and promote the event.

1st Brundall and Blofield Scouts held a fundraising event at our Halloween event and raised £230 towards further Scouting adventures.

Weather conditions are a concern and we have just laid a small amount of sand (1 ton paid for by the Council) for areas that are very slippery.

8. h) Cremer's Meadow

Highlights for sharing:

A skip was hired for mid November to move unwanted items from the barn. It was also hoped that potential hazardous waste could be taken to a recycling centre during an amnesty. Due to the huge amounts of water entering the site by the southern entrance, this has been delayed until the spring/summer.

The Information Hut has had significant work undertaken and it is hoped that it will be ready for re-opening early next year.

The quay is showing its age and some work needs to be undertaken to maintain it. The Friends are investigating how best to achieve this and it may require funding. They are currently making sure it is safe in the meantime.

The blocked culvert remains a problem and this has overflowed in recent rains. The Friends have carried out emergency diversion work which has helped to protect the barn and may provide a template for a future, more permanent solution.

The annual maintenance plan will be reviewed and written for 2026 in January. The 5 year plan is making it's slow way towards completion for 2026.

It has been agreed to submit a Parish Partnership bid for a new pathway to be created to enable a safer crossing from the northern gate over the Blofield Rd. Currently the entrance is situated directly opposite the entrance to the Hopkins Homes development and this poses dangers to pedestrians as traffic increases.

As ever, Cremer's Friends have been amazing with all the work they undertake. They will be holding their Christmas lunch on 19th December to celebrate a busy year.