



# Long Stratton Town Council

Pavilion, Manor Road Playing Fields, Manor Road, Long Stratton, NR15 2XR

Chairman: Mr Kelly Lunness. Clerk: Mrs B Buck

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## MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026 @ 7pm IN THE COMMUNITY PAVILION ROOM

**In attendance: Councillors Lunness, Pochin, Baker, Mundford, Morimont, Thompson Lawrence, Willis, Lansdell and Harris**

**Town Clerk, Becky Buck, Administrative Assistant, Molly Hallett.**

**County Councillor Alison Thomas**

**11 Members of Public**

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Councillors Dickerson and Smith gave apologies for absence, and these were accepted by the Council.

**2. To receive applications for Councillor co-option.**

One member of the public had sent an application form to the Town Council for consideration. Mike Skelton was unanimously voted onto the Council and signed the Declaration of Office in front of the Clerk.

**3. To receive disclosures of interest and dispensations.**

There were no disclosures of interest or dispensation received.

**4. To allow district and county councillors to speak - max 10 minutes**

County Councillor Thomas reported the following. Local elections will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Councillor Thomas will not be standing in the elections.

Central government are still leaning towards on a 3-unitary authority for Norfolk. The population of each will be around 300,000 people which will have a severe impact on the tax base for each.

This will be incredibly confusing for residents of what is currently South Norfolk, as parts of South Norfolk will be split into all 3 authorities (Greater Norwich, East Norfolk, West Norfolk).

There has been no update on mayoral elections, this is assumed to still be going ahead in 2028.

The Chairman thanked Alison Thomas for her hard work and dedication over the 19 years, and the Town Clerk presented her with flowers. All members of the Council and members of the public gave her a round of applause.

**5. To allow members of the public to speak**

Bike Active Norfolk advised that the Rickshaw service is going live on the 1<sup>st</sup> May with an official opening on the 8<sup>th</sup> May. MP Ben Goldsborough will be cutting the ribbon and Look East will be in attendance. Bike Active Norfolk wanted to thank the Town Council and Alison Thomas for their continued support.

A member of the public has chased the request to put a bench on footpath 12.

A member of the public asked about a dog walking park as it is highly sought after in Long Stratton. He asked that it needed to be in a central area and whether it could be on the playing fields. There would be benefits to everyone. The Chairman advised that the Council supports a dog walking park and that it is on the action plan but the right location is needed. The Clerk advised that you need quite a big space for large dogs and that the top of the playing field isn't suitable as it is currently used by the football club for their youth matches.

A member of the public asked about the rubbish that Octavius has left behind at the South compound. The clerk advised that she would chase.

A member of the public asked about the fencing being the right way on the northern roundabout. The Clerk advised that Councillor Thomas advised that the fencing was that way round for health & safety reasons.

**6. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on [9<sup>th</sup> March 2026](#)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were approved with 1 amendment and 1 comment, the amendment of Future agenda items remove 'Colville' and replace with 'Corbus'. Councillor Harris asked the clerk to fact check 24% of children from the public speaking session.

**7. Finance and Governance**

**a. To note the preliminary [year-end figures](#).**

The clerk reported that income for 2025-26 was at 107% and expenditure was 100.5% therefore the Council were on budget at year end.

**8. To receive the minutes of the [youth council meeting](#).**

The minutes of the meeting were discussed with Councillor Willis summarising the meeting.

**a. To discuss and decide on any actions that have arisen from the youth council meeting.**

The actions were to purchase a flag and banner which was completed and to ear mark money for a future residential and the Clerk advised this had been completed.

**9. To discuss and decide on adoption of [open spaces](#) for the 1875 homes. [Masterplan](#)**

Following a lengthy discussion; the Council debated the pro's and con's of management companies vs the Council adopting the POS as depicted in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that the Council would ask for first refusal as per the Neighbourhood Plan but would give careful consideration to management companies that come forward.

*'The meeting was opened to allow a member of public to speak'*

A member of public asked if the Town Council would consider becoming a management company.

*'The chairman closed the meeting'*

It was commented that the member of the public's idea was worth investigating. The Town Clerk said she would look into it and would report back at the next meeting.

**10. To discuss and decide on attending Block East Pye Solar meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026. [Agenda Docs](#)**

It was agreed that representatives from Long Stratton Town Council would attend.

**11. To discuss and decide on the actions that arose from the [working group meeting](#).**

The Council reviewed the actions that had been discussed at the meeting, no further decisions were made.

**12. Christmas community event**

**a. To discuss and decide on the [road closure](#) for the event**

The Council approved the road closure for the event and agreed to cover the cost.



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**b. To discuss and decide on additional [motifs](#) sponsored by local businesses.**

The Council agreed to the cost of 3 additional motifs in terms of electrical fittings and fixtures.

**c. To discuss and decide on additional support from the Town Council as done in previous years.**

The Council agreed to the additional support that we provide to the Christmas event.

*'The meeting was opened to allow a member of public to speak'*

A member of public asked if the Town Council would consider paying the cost of hiring a stage.

Another member of the public advised that they may have a stage that can be used for the event.

*'The chairman closed the meeting'*

The Clerk asked both members of the public to keep in touch and if required will put hire of a stage onto the next agenda.

**13. Items to note**

**a. Closure of the A140 between Hempnall roundabout south to the new bypass roundabout between 8pm-6am Monday to Friday for resurfacing from May 18<sup>th</sup> 2026. [Doc 1](#) [Doc 2](#)**

The Clerk advised that this would go on social media.

**14. Future agenda items**

The Clerk asked for volunteers for the summer event, Councillor Mundford said she was happy to run the tombola, Councillor Willis advised he was happy to run the plate smash. The clerk advised that it is not intended that they would be on the stall all day so volunteers can still enjoy the event.

**15. To close the meeting to press and public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the disclosure of confidential information (land, contracts, staffing matters)**

Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting.

**16. Staffing matters**

**a. Recruitment**

The clerk advised that now 1<sup>st</sup> April has passed it is the intention to start recruiting for the roles approved in January.

**b. Other staffing matters.**

The council noted that pay increments had been awarded for all staff. The Clerk made the Council aware that she had been advised that a member of staff intends to leave before the end of the calendar year. She advised the Council that they should consider recruiting in September to allow a strong handover.

***As there was no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:12.***