

Barton Turf and Irstead Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 7pm

Attendance: Glenn Neave – Chair (GN), Martin Mills (MM), Helen McFadyen (HM), Doreen Dean (DD), Neil Sanderson (NS), Andrew Wilton (AW)

Also present: Nicola Ledain – clerk, County Councillor Richard Price

The Chair welcomed a member of the public who wished to raise the profile of the local community taxi. There were regular users of the taxi service however there was not enough drivers and this was an occurrence throughout several parishes. The council agreed to advertise where they could.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Phil Drake, County Councillor Nigel Dixon.

2. Declarations of Councillors' interests

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2025 were agreed and signed subject to 'quite' being changed to 'quiet' at 6a.

4. Review of action list

- a. The drainage had been finished drainage at the Black Shed.
- b. Approved policies would be put on the website
- c. Send videos to Richard Price for the highway engineer to visit.
- d. DD reported that the Community Action Fund application had been processed and the PC were awaiting payment.
- e. The latest update on the Church View planning application would be sought.

5. Reports

a. To receive updates from County / District Councillors

- Cllr Richard Price reported that through the recent cold weather, there had been numerous questions about which roads were being gritted. Norfolk was the only county who had improved the use of buses significantly yet in the cold weather, not all of the bus routes had been gritted. It was hoped that after his communication this would improve in future cold weather.
- Elections had currently been delayed for a further year but a court challenge was being heard in February which Reform had launched. If elections were to go ahead, it would be on 7th May. The pre-election period would start on 7th March which meant that no policy decisions which affected the electorate could be made. A decision regarding Local Government Reorganisation was expected in March when the minister would express their minded to decision.

b. To receive updates from the Police

There was no update.

c. To receive a report from Barton Turf Community Charities

There was no update.

6. To receive updates on ongoing matters:

Signed

27 January 2026

a. Wildlife Working Party

NS reported that nest boxes for bats and birds had been put up around the common. Water levels on the common were as expected. The resident ducks were an ongoing issue with fluctuating numbers. NS had visited the gravel holes and suggested that opening paths up on the site would be a beneficial project. There was a short discussion regarding the potential and it raised issues that would need solutions identifying before anything could be done.

b. Black Shed Update

GN reported that the drainage had been fixed. Internal fixings would now start and a date for a working party would be arranged. The ceiling needed to be replastered, new electrics etc. Once a full survey had been completed, options for the refurbishment would be discussed and a decision made. It was highlighted that more funding could be applied for.

c. New Victory Hall (NVH) Update

DD reported that the financial year had closed and despite the work that had taken place, they had adequate reserves. As expenditure was rising, they were researching investing into solar panels to help electricity costs in the future.

Monday 30th March would be the AGM (including a presentation for solar panels)

The benefits for solar power was clear however the workload was concerning, and the committee were interested to see how the residents helped.

On 30th November, there had been a successful Santa parade and a Xmas fayre on 5th December which raised £1800. The Community Breakfast raised £1314 which was split between British Heart Foundation and Victory Hall. There had been concern over the future of a couple of groups who hired the hall regarding their falling numbers.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Highways Issues

a. Berry Hall Road

Photos / videos had been sent to the clerk who would forward them to the county councillor and the highway engineer. This was in relation to the continuous flooding and the need for highways to visit the village.

b. SAM2 camera positioning

It was reported that the current SAM2 was switched every 2 months between Neatishead and Barton / Irstead. It was proposed that Barton / Irstead would have it in their villages at Easter, summer holidays (June to August) and a point at Christmas. This was to help align it with the school being opened in Neatishead to try and reduce speeding traffic for the safety of the increased pedestrians when the school was open.

9. Village Sign for Irstead

It was noted that there was not a village sign in Irstead. It was agreed that this could be explored once the Black Shed had been completed. HM would explore possibilities of locations, design and costs.

10. Irstead Staithe Grass Cutting

The current contractor is standing down and GN would write a thank you note. Ray Penstone Smith will be contacted for the next year at a cost of £45 per cut. Unanimously agreed.

11. Finance

- a. The bank balances were as follows:
 - i. Community Account: £6738.24
 - ii. Business Premium: £2644.03
- b. The following payments were agreed and would be paid via bacs:
 - i. Clerk salary December and January and working from home allowance: £573.12
 - ii. HMRC: £211.20
 - iii. Glenn Neave – drainage parts: £477.21
 - iv. Jed Stone – Irstead Staithe grass cutting: £240.00
- c. The prepared budget needed revising and therefore this would be discussed at the next meeting. The budget would be circulated before the next meeting.
- d. It was agreed to request a precept of £12,480.
- e. It was agreed that the hours needed for the clerk's role would be revised, and it was agreed that a diary would be kept for the next 3 months.

12. Planning

- **BA/2026/0022/ TPOA**
- **BA/2025/0388/HOUSEH**

The Council **RESOLVED** no objections on the above planning applications.

13. Items for next agenda or for Communities Charity meeting

14. Dates of 2026 meetings will be circulated.

Meeting ended at 9pm.

Action list

- 6a. Gravel Holes needed research – GN / NS
- 8a. Contact highway engineer – NL
- 8b. Neatishead to be contacted re SAM2 – MM
9. Village sign research – HM
- 11c. Circulate revised budget