

INGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Colin Studholme, Hall Farm Barns, Aylsham Road, Saxthorpe, NR11 7DD
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Minutes of the Meeting of Ingworth Parish Council held on Thursday 27th August 2026 at 7:00pm, in the Reading Room, Ingworth

Present: Mr Ian Sims, Mrs Belinda Northey, Mrs Tracey Yardley, Dr John Scott, Mr Miles Clayden, Mr Paul Stobart. One member of the public for 30 minutes.

In attendance: Colin Studholme (Clerk).

26/19. Apologies for absence – Mr Steven Anderson. Mr Anderson had submitted his resignation. The Clerk was to inform North Norfolk District Council.

26/20. Declarations of Interest – Mr Sims, Mrs Northey, Mrs Yardley, Mr Clayden, Dr Scott: Friends of Ingworth Church.

26/21. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 – The minutes of the meeting on 26th May 2026 were approved and signed.

26/22 Matters Arising – None.

26/23 Open Forum for Public Participation – None.

26/24 To receive reports from District and County Councillors – None.

26/25 Updates on Standing Items

- (a) Reading Room/Defibrillator – Mrs Northey had checked the defibrillator and everything was up to date. She will continue to carry out the checks every three months.
- (b) Playground – Renata Garfoot at NNDC had informed the Council that the valuation of the land had been carried out and that she was seeking approval to sell the land which she expected to be made in September.
The annual safety inspection was due and Clerk was to arrange this.
It was anticipated that one more grass cut would take place before the end of the summer.
- (c) Village Green – Mrs Northey had removed the bark which had come away from the log seat and tidied up the area around it.
Dr Scott volunteered to clean the copper village sign and was to investigate whether it was possible to remove it from the post to make cleaning it easier.
- (d) Highways Issues/SAM – Mr Stobart agreed to take on the role of moving the SAM and downloading data. Mr Anderson would be able to meet to explain what needs to be done. Dr Scott has the spare battery. It was agreed that once downloaded the data would be routinely sent to the police and Norfolk County Council Highways dept.
It was agreed that the outcome of the site visit with the Highways Engineer was unacceptable as the circumstances in the village (long straight run into the village from Cromer; blind bends at each end of the village and no pavements) made Ingworth a special case for traffic calming measures. Following discussion about the

national 20 is Plenty campaign, it was agreed that a formal letter should be sent to NNC requesting that a 20mph speed limit be established in the village. The Clerk was to draft the letter. Mrs Northey suggested a petition of villagers and agreed to collect signatures while delivering the Keeping in Touch newsletter.

- (e) Windfarm Projects – Nothing to report.
- (f) Friends of Ingworth Church – The organ in the church had been vandalised and the diocese was looking into having it repaired. The police were informed but are not following up the matter. The church is left unlocked and is well used but there is no CCTV. The thatching had been delayed due to fire risk but was due to start in September.
- (g) Website – the website was to be updated following this meeting
- (h) National Trust Liaison – Mr Clayden had attended the stakeholder meeting held on 10th August. The notes of the meeting are appended to these minutes.

26/26 Correspondence – None.

26/27 Policies – The following policy reviews were approved: Financial Risk Management Policy, Asset Register Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy and Co-option Policy. Mr Sims had reservations about the Equal Opportunities Policy considering that it was inappropriate for a small parish like Ingworth. Mrs Yardley said that as an employer such a policy was needed. The Clerk explained that it was based on a format produced by NALC and was in line with current legislation which the Council was required to have in place and would cover all eventualities even if they currently did not apply to Ingworth.

26/28 Finance Report

(a) Update on Internal Audit Report – the Clerk had corrected the Asset Register. The discrepancy identified by the auditor was due to a summing error in last's years register; the removal of VAT from an historical item which had VAT included and a new asset– a battery for the SAM. A note had been included in the audit file for current financial year. The Clerk had also added a few invoices to the VAT claim list where supporting evidence was available.

(b) Cashbook and Bank Reconciliation as at 30th June 2026 – these were agreed by members and signed by the Chairman.

(c) Schedule of payments for authorisation/ratification – The following were approved/ratified, and payment authorised:

AUGUST 2026		
FOR AUTHORISATION		
Colin Studholme	Salary August 2026 @ £16.08 per hour, 2 hrs pw	£ 139.36
	Minus tax	-£ 27.80
	Net Pay	£ 111.56
Colin Studholme	Plus Working from Home Allowance – August 2026	£ 12.92
Colin Studholme	Total	£ 124.48
HMRC	Clerk's tax fourth quarter to 5 th April 2026 475PS001920992612	£ 83.60
HMRC	Clerk's tax first quarter to 5 th July 2026 475PS001920992703	£ 83.60
FOR RATIFICATION		
31 st July 2026 - Unity Trust Bank (DD)	Bank charges	£ 7.00
23 rd July 2026 – Valda Energy (DD)	Reading Room Electricity	£ 14.58

JULY 2026		
Colin Studholme	Salary July 2026 @ £16.08 per hour, 2 hrs pw	£ 139.36
	Minus tax	-£ 27.80
	Net Pay	£ 111.56
Colin Studholme	Plus Working from Home Allowance – July 2026	£ 12.92
Colin Studholme	Total	£ 124.48
Robert Slaughter	Grass Cutting (2251)	£ 72.00
NALC	Annual Membership	£ 96.74
NALC	Website Hosting Fees	£ 86.88
FOR RATIFICATION		
30th June 2026 - Unity Trust Bank (DD)	Bank charges	£ 7.00
23rd June 2026 – Valda Energy (DD)	Reading Room Electricity	£ 13.95
JUNE 2026		
FOR AUTHORISATION		
Colin Studholme	Salary June 2026 @ £16.08 per hour, 2 hrs pw	£ 139.36
	Minus tax	-£ 28.00
	Net Pay	£ 111.36
Colin Studholme	Plus Working from Home Allowance – April 2026	£ 12.92
Colin Studholme	Total	£ 124.28
Robert Slaughter	Grass Cutting (2237)	£ 72.00
FOR RATIFICATION		
31 st May 2026 - Unity Trust Bank (DD)	Bank charges	£ 7.00
26 th June 2026 – Valda Energy (DD)	Reading Room Electricity	£ 14.18

(d) VAT/HMRC – the VAT incurred for the year to 31st March 2026 (£261.98) had been reclaimed and had been received. The Clerk had tried on a number of occasions to contact HMRC to try to sort a number of outstanding problems. Most recently the Clerk had been on hold for 57 minutes before being cut off.

26/29 Planning Matters – None.

26/30 Items for next meeting – None

26/31 Replacement Clerk – Mr Sims, Mrs Yardley and Mr Stobart were to be on the Interview Panel. The Panel were to review the applications and produce a shortlist which the Clerk would invite for interview. The Chairman thanked Colin Studholme for the work he had done for the Council during his time as Clerk.

26/32 Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting was agreed as THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER at 7.00pm in the Reading Room

26/33 Close of Meeting – the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Signed: (Chairman). Date:

Colin Studholme, Clerk to the Council, 5th September 2026

Blickling Estate Community Meeting – Meeting Notes

1. Updates from previous meeting

Car parking and mobile phone coverage

- Work is continuing with the National Trust central team regarding the new car parking machines, including consideration of alternative solutions for the external/countryside car parks.
- The General Manager has also raised concerns about poor mobile phone coverage with the local MP. The MP confirmed that this is an issue across the constituency and will pursue the commitment from mobile providers to achieve 99% 5G coverage across the UK by spring 2028, while also exploring possible interim solutions.

Moor Gate Road closure

- The road closure near Moor Gate remains in place following the collapse of a culvert beneath the road.
- A replacement design has been developed and reviewed by a structural engineer and is currently progressing through Norfolk County Council's Bridges and Highways approval process.
- A contractor has been identified, but the works cannot begin until the necessary permissions and approvals are received.
- The works will require the watercourse to be temporarily diverted, with pumps and generators needed to maintain downstream water flow. Security will also be required due to previous theft of equipment during similar works.
- As a result, a firm completion date cannot yet be provided.
- Updates will continue to be shared through the existing communication channels. Community representatives were asked to pass information on through their local networks and to contact Angela if they have not received previous updates.

2. Community engagement discussion

Laura introduced a discussion around the National Trust's new strategy and its commitment to better understanding and responding to the needs of the communities surrounding its properties.

The session was intended as the **start of an ongoing conversation**, rather than an exercise where immediate solutions were expected. Community representatives were encouraged to continue discussing the questions with parish councils, community groups and residents and bring further thoughts to future meetings.

The three key questions were:

1. **What are the most important challenges or opportunities facing your community?**

2. **Where could the National Trust, as a local neighbour, potentially help to respond to those needs?**
3. **Who else should the National Trust be speaking to or working with within the local community?**

Key issues and opportunities raised

Traffic, parking and road safety

- Parking pressure in local villages, including vehicles parking on roads and verges when Blickling's car parks are busy.
- Concerns about traffic generated by new developments and the potential impact on local infrastructure.
- Significant concerns about speeding and road safety, particularly on narrow roads, around blind bends and near village entrances.
- One community has undertaken speed monitoring and now has data demonstrating the extent of the issue.
- There was a request for support from the National Trust when engaging with relevant authorities.

Planning and development

- Concerns were raised about the cumulative impact of large-scale developments, including an anaerobic digester proposal and associated heavy vehicle movements.
- Community representatives would value better access to relevant National Trust planning expertise and contacts, particularly when responding to complex planning matters.
- It was agreed that the specific planning concerns raised could be followed up separately, while the wider issue of understanding community pressures would remain part of the ongoing engagement work.

Community spaces

- A need for accessible community meeting spaces was identified, including spaces for coffee mornings, music and other community activities.
- The potential use of Blickling facilities was discussed, although availability and practical considerations would need to be explored.

Transport and connectivity

- An idea was raised for an electric, potentially demand-responsive community bus to help residents access shops, markets, social activities and local events.

Access to expertise and funding

- Community representatives highlighted the value of having a clear point of contact within the National Trust who could help direct community groups towards appropriate expertise, contacts and advice.
- Potential support with fundraising and identifying suitable funding sources was also discussed.
- The idea of a "hub for help" was suggested, providing communities with access to relevant contacts and expertise when developing local projects.

Churches and community heritage

- The potential for underused church buildings to have a renewed community or heritage purpose was discussed.
- There was interest in exploring how historic buildings could be brought back into wider community use while respecting their heritage.
- Support with local heritage projects and advice was also identified as potentially valuable.

Local environment and maintenance

- Community representatives raised the possibility of greater support with the maintenance of local green spaces and churchyards.
- Blickling confirmed that it already undertakes some volunteer-led work in local areas and may be able to support appropriate community projects where volunteer capacity allows.

Local economy and tourism

- There was an opportunity to strengthen links between Blickling and surrounding villages so that visitors to the estate are encouraged to explore and support the wider local economy.
- A more joined-up approach between Blickling, local businesses and communities was suggested.

3. Blickling Estate updates

Countryside and environment

- Work continues to manage Himalayan balsam along the River Bure. Community and volunteer groups are encouraged to get involved in pulling activities where possible.

- Blickling's lake is currently at exceptionally low water levels due to the prolonged hot and dry conditions. Water quality and oxygen levels are being monitored, with contingency plans in place should oxygenation become necessary.
- The estate has continued to invest in more sustainable gardening practices, including no-dig and drought-resistant approaches, water storage and the use of compost to improve soil moisture retention.
- Community and council groups are welcome to arrange visits to learn more about these approaches.

Walled Garden produce

- Produce from the Walled Garden is available for the local community through the estate's produce donation station, with a suggested donation.
- Produce is grown using regenerative methods and is harvested by volunteers.
- Community groups interested in learning more about the Walled Garden's growing methods can arrange a visit.

Volunteering

- Blickling currently has around **590 volunteers** and has returned to, or exceeded, pre-COVID volunteering levels.
- The estate is increasingly offering flexible "engagement" volunteering opportunities for people who cannot commit to regular weekly or monthly volunteering.
- There are opportunities for both individuals and groups, including larger group projects such as Himalayan balsam removal and environmental work.
- The estate is particularly interested in reaching local people who may benefit from volunteering as a way of connecting with others and tackling rural loneliness.
- Blickling may also be able to provide volunteer support for suitable community projects, subject to capacity.

Programming and events

- A ten-year programming plan is being developed.
- **2027 will focus on books and reading**, with opportunities for local reading groups and book clubs to become involved.
- Summer programming has attracted strong visitor numbers, including around 6,500 visitors to one recent evening event.
- The estate is developing its autumn and winter programme, with a move away from the traditional large-scale winter lights event towards a stronger daytime offer.

- This change is intended to spread visitor numbers more evenly, reduce traffic and parking pressures, and support sustainable growth.

Dogs and car parking

- Blickling continues to work on improvements to car parking infrastructure and is looking at ways to direct visitors towards the main car park when capacity allows.
- The overflow field is now being used more flexibly to help manage peak parking demand.
- From September, Blickling will trial allowing dogs into parts of the gardens. Clear dog-free areas will remain, including the Walled Garden, and areas will be managed to ensure families and visitors who prefer a dog-free environment can still enjoy the site.

Community access

- Blickling is exploring the use of **Access Passes** to help people who may otherwise face barriers to visiting the estate, including those experiencing financial disadvantage.
- Community representatives were encouraged to contact Angela if they know of groups who may benefit.

4. Updates from community representatives

- A local heritage trail has recently launched successfully.
- Work is continuing on local visitor economy and destination projects, including working with local businesses to promote the area.
- Support may be available to community groups looking for potential grant funding.
- Updates were also provided on local church restoration works, with further work due to begin in September.
- There was interest in reinstating a joint public-facing event involving the church and Blickling.

5. Fire safety

The current hot and dry conditions present a significant fire risk across the estate and wider countryside.

Local residents and visitors were asked to remain particularly careful, including avoiding activities such as barbecues where inappropriate and reporting anything that appears to present a potential fire risk.

6. Actions / next steps

- **Community representatives:** Continue discussing the three community engagement questions with parish councils, residents and local groups and bring further responses to the next meeting.
- **National Trust:** Continue exploring how the estate can respond to the needs identified through the community engagement exercise.
- **National Trust:** Follow up the specific planning concerns raised regarding large-scale development and establish whether further coordination with the community would be helpful.
- **Community representatives:** Share information about Walled Garden produce, volunteering opportunities and relevant community initiatives through local networks.
- **Blickling:** Continue providing updates regarding the Moor Gate Road closure and associated works.
- **Community representatives:** Let Angela know if they have not received previous estate updates.
- **National Trust:** Review meeting dates to avoid peak summer holiday periods where possible.
- **All:** Continue the dialogue between Blickling and local communities between meetings.

Next meeting

The next meeting date will be confirmed following a review of the calendar. Details will be circulated with the minutes.