

Minutes of the Meeting of Blickling Parish Council held on Tuesday
20/01/2026 in Blickling Hall at 7.00 p.m

PRESENT

Alan Evans
John Woodeson
Sue Lake – Clerk
Seb Billings – National Trust

Charlie Ennals
Robert Wichall

1. TO RECEIVE & ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All councillors present

2. TO CONSIDER CO-OPTIONS TO FILL CURRENT VACANCIES

There is a resident who has shown interest in joining the Parish Council but was unavailable to attend tonight's meeting.

3. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None made

4. MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th October 2025 had previously been circulated and were **confirmed and signed by the chairman.**

5. INFORMATION ON MATTERS ARISING

The issue with the stream on Silvergate has been resolved.

6. REPORTS POLICE, COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Not present

7. TO ADJOURN THE MEETING TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

None present.

8. FINANCE

To note the balance of the Account

The balance of the account was £2981.09. A further £2139.31 is held in the National Savings Account. The signatories for this account are no longer councillors so the clerk will arrange to change the mandate so the accounts can be amalgamated.

9. TO CONSIDER PLANNING ISSUES

To consider any applications received

None received

10. HIGHWAY ISSUES

a) To receive an update on parking in Silvergate

The new signs are still in place and parking has reduced but tends to be moving further down the lane.

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b) To discuss passing places in Silvergate

The quote from the Highway Engineer was that the cost was approximately £10,000 per passing place. Members felt that even with the Parish Partnership discount this amount was too excessive for the scale of the issue.

c) To discuss any other highway matter

Highways have informed that they anticipate the 30mph limit should be installed in February.

Residents on the main road had advised that driveways were flooding due to blocked drains. The clerk will report this.

11. NATIONAL TRUST

a) To receive an update on parking meters

Seb advised that the new parking meters had been installed and allowed visitors various options to pay and are linked to the Just Parking app. It is anticipated a new parking structure will be in place in March.

b) To receive details of Stakeholders Meeting

The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for 9th February. John Woodeson will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

c) To receive any update

The Trust had had a good reaction to the Christmas Lights. The summer programme will be around the theme 'Journeys'

12. BLICKLING CEMETERY

To receive update on maintenance and funding

John Woodeson had visited the cemetery with Andrew Brooks and they discussed the following proposed actions

- Clear central path and re-gravel
- Replace gate
- Widen gateway for two vehicles
- Two wooden seats
- Add Wild flower garden
- Add blossom Trees
- Install a bin
- Regular grass cutting
- Stump grinding

The cost would be in the region of at least £10,000. Before applying for the grant confirmation and agreement in principle would be needed from the National Trust and the PCC. John is still trying to meet with Cannon Julie Boyd.

The National Trust have preferred suppliers and confirmation of this would also be required prior to grant application. It was also felt that some detailed estimates should be obtained as soon as practical.

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13. COMMUNITY EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

a) To discuss 2026 event

After discussion it was felt an evening event in the gardens was the preferred option. The provisional date is July 23rd. This would be a free event but ticketed so numbers can be monitored. A speaker for the evening would be a welcome addition.

b) Next newsletter

This will be written after the stakeholders meeting

c) Update on defibrillator for Silvergate to include agreement on costs

The cost for the defibrillator and cabinet comes to £1500. There is a possibility of a grant towards this and the clerk will make the application. It was **AGREED** to proceed with this.

d) To note upcoming road closures

Road closures are planned for Silvergate – Abels Heath in the next two weeks. Road closures for the Blickling half marathon will be added to the website.

14. TO NOTE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

Some residents had mentioned about horse riding on the estate in unsuitable areas. Any incidents of this sort should be reported at the time so that Blickling staff can attend to it.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was agreed as Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Minutes Agreed.....