Draft Minutes of Ingoldisthorpe Parish Council Meeting held in the Church Hall on Wednesday 4 February 2026 at 7pm

Present: Parish Cllrs Wilson (Chairman), Heffer, Kelly, Newland, Outibridge, Redwood and Wallace.
County Cllr Dark, Borough Cllrs Bubb and Collingham and the Clerk.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**.

   Parish Cllrs Beynon and Johnson.

2. **APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING** – the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2026 having been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record & signed.

3. **RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED** – Cllr Wilson advised of an interest in the planning item. Cllr Kelly advised of an interest in the Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club (ISSC).

4. **ALLOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – there were no members of the public present.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES** – there were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

6. **AGENDA**

   a) **Update from the County Council & the Borough Council** – *County Council Budget* Cllr Dark updated the meeting on the County Council's budget setting, which was due to be approved later in February 2026. It was likely that the Council would be increasing its budget by 4.99%, this was partly as a result of changes to the way in which central government had amended the criteria for the way grants were allocated, and that there was no longer any additional weighting given to large rural county councils who had different challenges in delivering services compared to urban authorities. The net result being that 1% of the proposed increase was to cover the loss of the grant previously awarded by central government. Cllr Dark advised that the budget was being prepared based on maintaining current service provision. It was also likely that the police and crime commission would also be increasing their precept, as Norfolk had received one of the lowest settlement figures in the country.

   Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Cllr Dark informed the meeting of the current situation with the proposed devolution and establishment of a single Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. The previous government administration had commenced the process on the basis of a deal awarding the county an additional £30M of funding each year over the next 30years if it pursued devolution as one of the priority authorities. Although the current government administration had retained this deal, they had also introduced the requirement for Local Government Reorganisation, the biggest impact on the structure of local government since 1972.

   Cllr Dark advised that Council's in Norfolk had pursued the tight timescales set by the government in trying to meet the requirements regarding the proposed changes, so they would still be considered in the priority list and be eligible to retain the funding deal. On that basis the County Council planned elections in 2025 had been deferred with a view to holding elections for the Mayor and new shadow authority in May 2026. In December 2025, the Government had indicated that County elections be deferred for a further year, it was confirmed that such a change could only be authorised at ministerial level. The clear message sent to Government from the County Council was not to defer the elections for a further year and continue with the May 2026 elections. The Government was currently considering responses on the risks and opportunities of delaying elections but had not yet determined whether to lay an instrument before Parliament confirming a further delay. This uncertainty and impact on democratic process had resulted in four of the 84 County Councillors resigning requiring by-elections at some point, at a cost of £25K/by-election. If all County Councillors resigned the cost on the public purse would be more than £1-£1.5M.

   There followed a debate about the principal of introducing a further delay in the democratic process of holding County Council elections, versus the pragmatic position that a further delay would not be in the best public interest, potentially jeopordising the County Council's position as a priority authority in the devolution process and thereby foregoing the opportunity of the long-term financial deal set out by the Government. There was a view that a further delay in elections was the 'thin end

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of the wedge' in terms of democracy, and that there was a cost to the democratic process. Cllr Collingham advised that at a recent Full Council meeting, Borough Councillors had voted that the elections in May 2026 should proceed. There was an opposing view put forward that incurring costs for an election in May 2026, when there could be a further election for a Mayor and shadow authority in 2027 was not effective use of public money. It was confirmed that the Government would be required to decide whether or not to defer elections in May 2026 by mid-February 2026.

Hillview – Cllr Collingham advised of work being undertaken to try and progress the issues at the Hillview development. This included the need for Anglia Water to assess the suitability of the drainage scheme, which was a pre-requisite for any future consideration of adoption of the highway. Cllr Collingham advised that the sale of the last house was progressing and that if sold this would lift the current charge on properties. It was hoped that if these matters were resolved a meeting of all residents of Hillview could be arranged to consider future local management arrangements.

Brickley Lane West – Given information on the parking issue related to an individual it was proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded by Cllr Newland, and unanimously **RESOLVED**: to exclude the public and press and move into private session. Cllr Dark outlined the further actions being taken by the County Council to resolve the parking issue, which provided assurance that the County were continuing to pursue the matter. The meeting returned to open session.

Sandringham Events – Cllr Bubb advised of a recent meeting with the Sandringham Estate on the Heritage Live event and proposed five-day Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) show. Whilst Heritage Live had learnt from their previous experience, particularly the impact on local traffic, there were concerns about the RHS. There was a discussion on the merits of holding large public events on the Estate, and there was a recognition that local people should not be inconvenienced, however, it was also put forward that such events did much to enhance the local economy, hospitality being one of north-west Norfolk's most important economic sectors.

Towns Fund – Cllr Bubb advised of a proposed scheme to alter the road layout along Railway Road in King's Lynn to accommodate a two-way cycle track and whether this was a funding priority.

b) Highway Matters — it was confirmed that the additional yellow chevron outside the school would be marked out, but that the thermoplastic paint could not be laid in cold and wet weather. Cllr Wilson advised of extensive damage to grass verges in Brickley Lane as a result of cars parking in the area to drop and collect children from the school. Cllr Dark agreed to follow up with the Highway Officers and ascertain when the additional chevron would be painted in order to help improve the flow of traffic to and from the school.

The Clerk advised that confirmation had been received from the County Council that the dead tree on the highway verge opposite the entrance to Davy Field off Lynn Road was to be inspected by the Council's tree team. Cllr Wallace was concerned that any replacement tree needed to be planted during the planting season.

c) Update on the allotments – the Clerk advised that all plots were tenanted and confirmed that there was a waiting list.

d) Update on ISSC – the Clerk advised that a new set of defibrillator pads had been purchased. It was agreed that Cllr Redwood would convene a meeting in March 2026 to undertake the annual inspection of the clubhouse and work by ISSC. Cllr Kelly advised that works were underway to install a disabled toilet and upgrade the kitchen area in the clubhouse, which it was hoped would be completed in the next 4-5 weeks.

e) Update on pursuing first registration of Recreation Ground – the Clerk advised that information had been provided to Ward Gethin Archer to enable preparation of the Statement of Truth to accompany an application to Land Registry. The Clerk thanked Cllr Outibridge for arranging printing of the Ingoldisthorpe Award and Map, which had been certified by the County Archivist and was an important document to accompany the application to Land Registry.

f) Norfolk Fungus Study Group – Request to visit Ingoldisthorpe Common in September 2026 – the Clerk advised that the Norfolk Fungus Study Group had made a request to visit Ingoldisthorpe Common in September 2026. They would provide a report on their findings, and this visit was supported by the Council.

g) Policies, procedures and risks Updated - Risk Management Policy and Schedule 2026/27 and Freedom of Information Policy – the Clerk had previously circulated an updated copy of the Risk

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Management Policy and Schedule 2026/27 and Freedom of Information Policy. It was proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Wallace, and **RESOLVED**: to approve the Risk Management Policy and Schedule 2026/27 and Freedom of Information Policy.

7. PLANNING

Discuss any applications – Cllr Outibridge introduced the item with four planning applications having been received and offered hard copy plans of the proposals for members to view:

i. Carstone, 161 Lynn Road - Planning application 26/00079/F which was a variation of a condition concerned with amending the internal layout of the building;
ii. The Cottage, 43 Lynn Road – Planning application 26/00076/F installation of an orangery and new porch;
iii. Wawona, Manor Close – Planning application 26/0104/F proposed replacement of a flat roof with a low-pitched roof.
iv. Penroy, St Thomas Lane – Planning application 26/0004/TPO – works to reduce windsail to four beech trees.

It was agreed that all works fell within the approved planning policy agreed by the Council and no comments would be submitted by the Parish Council.

The Clerk advised that the Borough Council had commenced work on a new Local Plan and were currently undertaking a consultation on a Call for Sites for new development and green infrastructure. It was agreed that it was for landowners of potential development sites to submit applications to the Planning Department.

8. FINANCE

a) Payments for January 2026 – the Clerk previously circulated an updated bank balance and schedule of payments and receipts for January 2026. The payments presented were approved.

Accounts

Bank Account	Jan-26	Jan-25
Current	1178.66	1367.12
Deposit	9729.93	18839.48
Allotment	1612.87	1201.99
Agnes Bigge	90.00	10.00
TOTAL	**12611.46**	**21418.59**
Difference vs. last yr:		-£8,807.13

*includes £63.07 CIL funding

Ingoldisthorpe Parish Council Transactions January 2026

A/C	Description	Supplier	Period	Payment Type	Gross (£)	VAT (£) portion
Current	Clerk's basic salary	Clerk	Jan	BACS	482.60	0.00
	Clerk Expenses (mileage Costessy training & GWA, Instant Ink, postage)	Clerk	Jan	BACS	70.74	1.08
	Income Tax and NI Clerk	HMRC	Jan	BACS	148.53	0.00
	Street Lighting Maintenance	K&M Maint	Jan	BACS	24.95	4.16
	Street Lighting Electricity	npower	Jan	DD	168.79	8.04
	New set of defibrillator pads	Defib Store	Jan	BACS	72.19	11.20
	Award and map certification	Norfolk Records Office	Jan	BACS	49.98	8.33
				Total	**1017.78**	**32.81**

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Dated: ……

Receipts received January 2026

A/C	Description	Payee	Period	Remit-tance Number	Amount (£)
Allot	Rental Income	Various	2025	N/A	200.00
				Total	**200.00**

b) Ingoldisthorpe WI – Request for donation Agnes Bigge Fund - Soup and Dessert Lunch – 28 February 2026 – the Clerk advised that the Ingoldisthorpe WI had made a request for a donation from the Agnes Bigge Fund towards a Soup and Dessert Lunch to be held on 28 February 2026. It was agreed to give a donation of £80.00 from the Agnes Bigge fund towards the event.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

10. RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – none were received.

Meeting closed at 20:10hrs

Next meeting Parish Council Meeting: <u>Wednesday 4 March 2026</u> at 7.00pm at the Church Hall.

Signed by the Chair: ……

Dated: ……