

**DRAFT MINUTES OF BLO NORTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD AT BLO
NORTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 19th MAY 2026 AT 7 P.M. FOLLOWED BY
PARISH COUNCIL AGM**

1. Apologies from Geoffrey Leigh
2. Minutes of AGM and Village Meeting held on 20th May 2025 were approved
3. Parish Council Chairpersons report (**on website**)

Reports were invited from the following:

4. District Councillor Marion Chapman Allen, Breckland District Council (**on website**)
5. NCC Councillor Stephen Askew (**on website**)
6. Report from Village Hall Committee (**on website**)
The Parish Council noted the great job done on the hall so far. Generous support from Parish Council in the past in particular for new chairs and storage outside.
7. Report from LOHP (**on website**)
LOHP have an appeal running to raise funds to cover the loan for the purchase and restoration of the newly acquired Prince Freddy's Meadows and there is a link to the justgiving page on www.lohp.org.uk
A member of the public noted that there had been an unconfirmed reports of a mink being run over at South Lopham and asked if there were any on the reserves. LOHP are continuously monitoring and they have been seen in the past.
8. Report from the History Group (**on website**)
In addition to the report the annual members get together will this year be held at Blo Norton Hall to commemorate 100th anniversary of Prince Frederick Duleep Singh's death. This will take place on 29th August 2026. Discussions to take place to involve both Village Hall and LOHP in this event.
9. Report from PCC (**on website**)
No spiritual leader for the village or the 10 churches in the Parish but it is being re-advertised. Trying to maintain a monthly service. June will be first month when there won't be a service. Funds in good order.
10. Report from iFarm (**on website**)
Concerned resident noted point 4.3. Existing caravan, historically used as residential accommodation. This has been refuted and noted it was only ever used for shelter and refreshments. Councillor Marion Chapman Allen said if they wanted to use it for residential accommodation they would have to make a planning application.
Also camping is this at The Fen or the Pub. If at the Fen there are no facilities. Another resident noted that this is supposed to be about community but cannot see that anything from iFarm benefits the community. If anyone sees any activity which raises concerns they should contact Marion Chapman Allen.
Also refer to re-wilding and iFarm have said this is in co-operation with LOHP but LOHP are not aware. The land currently looks an eyesore with various temporary buildings but not much going on.

Any other Business

The Fen Trustees submitted a report last year but were not contacted for a report this year. The Clerk apologised and will ensure they are added for next year.

Income from the Fen Trust is used and distributed to villages in need, now to help with cost of living. Get very few applications. Might be worth considering if that could be advertised better and how.

A member of the public asked about Clay hall planning and Councillor Marion Chapman Allen advised that this has been refused.

Discussed ways of communicating – Whats App groups or Community Groups on Facebook. Or Flyers.

Village meeting finished at 19.35

Minutes of Parish Council AGM

11. Patrick Baker Co-opted onto the Parish Council
12. Nomination for Chairman Patrick Baker proposed by Clifford Oliver and seconded Shirley Grainger
13. Nomination for Vice Chairman Clifford Oliver proposed by Shirley Grainger seconded by Patrick Baker
14. Attendance and Apologies
Apologies from Nick Scott
Attending: Julie Crossley, Clerk, David Mills, Julia Curtis, Shirley Grainger, Clifford Oliver, Patrick Baker

Patrick advised that as he is on the PCC and Village hall Committees he would like to see encourage more involvement in the village with the Parish Council. He also gave his thanks to David Mills for his time as Chairman and was pleased to hear he intended to remain as a councillor.

15. Minutes of PC Meeting of 17th March 2026 were approved
16. No Declarations of interest
17. iFarm – as said in the Parish meeting the Chair was concerned about 4.3 in the report. There has not been any support from the Parish Council recently and had no response to any attempts to contact iFarm. Some of the comments are inaccurate and not correct. Laying foundation for planning application potentially

The Parish Council would dispute that any persons were living at iFarm previously it has never been used for residential purposes.

Item 6 all surpluses are invested and assets remain in place. That's all very provided the asset lock stays in place. Those assets to remain in the community

for perpetuity. Want assurances from them that the lock cannot be undone or unlocked.

The Chair will draft something for the PC to agree and once agreed that can be sent to iFarm

Councillor Clifford asked who is involved from Blo Norton community as he and no one else present was aware of any involvement within the village.

Resident said membership is open, it is on their website. Most membership seems to involve around the pub and that is the problem the two should be separate. There is a management committee. No pro activity.

Matters arising

18. Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability return was given and signed by Chair
19. Approval for Gov.uk email domain change, and authority to proceed to Gov.uk email change was given
20. internal auditors report had been read and noted
21. approval of updated policies was given

21 Finance

Approval sought for the following payments

ICO Registration fee	£52.00
Zurich Insurance	£540.99
Sundries (paper)	£4.75
Carol Bailey Internal auditor	£90.00
NALC	£123.54

Receipts

BDC Precept	£2948.00
Balance of Barclays account	£12,735.98
19 Confidential – Clerks contract of employment and salary	

Meeting finished at 20.25

Next meeting 21st July 2026