

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Tunstead and Sco-Ruston Parish Council held at the Horse & Groom, Tunstead on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7:30pm.

Present: Chris Oakes, Chairman
Robert Cole
Rob Hetherington
Neil Coston
Tim Place
Julie North
Liz Powell (*from 7:37*)
Jimmy Miller, Clerk (*remotely*)

Also present: None.

1 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Foulds and Nigel Dixon. The apologies were approved.

2 Declarations of interest for items and applications for dispensations

None.

3 To seek judicial review of North Norfolk District Council's Local Plan's adoption due to flaws in its decision making process.

Cllr Oakes said that TPC are not against building within the Parish but that TPC is against the process by which NNDC has designated Tunstead as a "growth village" and the fact that NNDC wants to allow development outside the development area. He said that there is no full-time village hall; in fact the village hall can't even be used as a polling station. He said that the process by which NNDC had reached its decision is the issue.

Cllr Hetherington said that the Neighbourhood Plan, which is currently being developed for the Parish, recognises that housing is needed but in locations, numbers and design that are appropriate for Tunstead and its residents especially as Tunstead has been designated as "countryside" for many years including during the whole of the current NNDC Local Plan.

Cllr Place said that the village needs to grow.

Cllr Hetherington said that the Local Plan aimed for an indicative 42 houses over the period of the Plan; however, this figure does not include infill housing within the settlement area.

Discussion also took place regarding the possible impact on the school, which was thought to be limited. It was also noted that the services which Tunstead does have do not offer anywhere near a full service. It was noted that one of these, the church, is outside the settlement area and, as such, should not be included because in other parishes where a service has been outside the settlement area, they have been designated as red or amber and, therefore, not included as a service provided.

Comparisons were also drawn between Rackheath, where development has been allowed outside the main village, and the potential for this at Tunstead.

Cllr Oakes proposed that if the Local Plan goes through with Tunstead designated as a growth village, then Tunstead PC will initiate a judicial review of the decision; Seconded by Cllr North; majority decision in favour of the motion with six in favour and one against.

Meeting closed at 8:14pm.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: 20th January 2026