

Response to Questions Raised at Parish Council Meeting on 14 September 2026

1. Lease relating to Council land

Q1: What is the Council's response to the resident's assertion, following legal advice he has received, that the lease may not be valid because it was not registered? The Parish Council has taken its own legal advice on this matter. The Council has been advised that the lease remains legally binding; although the lease was not registered, it is considered an equitable lease and remains enforceable as a contract between the landlord and tenant. The Council therefore does not accept that the absence of registration means that the lease is invalid.

Q2: Will the Council consider the legal information/case law which the resident has offered to provide? The resident is welcome to provide the information referred to. The Council has obtained its own professional legal advice regarding the status and enforceability of the lease and will consider whether any further advice is necessary having regard to any information provided.

2. Hire of community facilities – Buxton Lodge

Q1: Why can you dismiss my first question?

Q2: Why can this not be reverted?

Q3: Why do you not serve the community?

Q4: Why, when you set the rules, create new rules, can you not change these rules?

Q5: Why, wouldn't you have the power to do something good, something meaningful and something for the community?

Q6: Do you always decide not to?

Q7: What is your purpose? Is it to work with the community – I don't think so. At every opportunity you decided not to do today. So why not define your role as being innovative, supportive, constructive and community spirited? Why not decide to do something good?

Response to Q1-Q7:

These questions relate to the resident's previous request to hire Buxton Lodge/picnic area as a wedding reception venue. The position regarding use of the Lodge was initially explained to the resident in correspondence with the Council Office in June and was subsequently raised and addressed again at the August Council meeting and within the published responses to public questions.

As previously explained, Buxton Lodge is not available for general or ad-hoc private hire. Its use is currently restricted for educational purposes only and the proposed wedding reception hire therefore falls outside the arrangements in place for the building.

The Council and Catton Park Trust appreciate that this will be disappointing to the resident concerned. However, the fact that the Council and Trust determine the arrangements for the use of its facilities does not mean that those arrangements should be changed in response to an individual request.

The Council's wider role in serving and supporting the community encompasses a broad range of services, facilities and responsibilities. A decision not to accommodate a particular private hire request should not be taken as a reflection of the Council's overall commitment to the community.

3. Planning applications

Q1: Why did the acting Chairman at the 9 June 2026 Council meeting, in relation to planning application 2026/0991, propose to approve planning application when the relevant documents had not been viewed and why did acting Chairman state "Persimmon get what they want anyway". The Council considered the planning application on the basis of the information available at the time of the meeting. It is acknowledged that not all of the documents referred to within the application were available to view online at that time.

Planning applications are considered by the Council collectively and the proposal made by an individual Councillor forms part of that consideration. Councillors present have the opportunity to discuss the application, raise concerns and determine the Council's response.

The comment attributed to the acting Chairman was an individual remark made during the discussion and does not represent the Council's position. The Council's formal response to the planning application is the resolution recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

4. Publication of supporting papers with Council agendas

Q1: Why are supporting reports and other documents provided to councillors not routinely published alongside Council agendas? The Council publishes its agendas and minutes in accordance with the statutory requirements applying to parish councils. There is no general statutory requirement for all supporting papers provided to Councillors to be published online alongside the agenda.

The Council does, however, prepare a public copy of the meeting pack containing the relevant supporting papers, which is available for members of the public to view at the meeting. Residents are also welcome to contact the Council Office if they would like information relating to a particular agenda item.

The Council considers that this provides a reasonable and proportionate approach to making information available, while recognising the resources available to a parish council.

Q2: Will the Council publish relevant supporting reports, quotations and financial information with future agendas, subject to any information which is confidential or otherwise exempt from publication? The Council already makes relevant supporting information available through the public copy of the meeting pack at Council meetings. Information can also be requested from the Council Office, subject to any information which is confidential or otherwise cannot appropriately be disclosed.

The Council will therefore continue with its current arrangements rather than routinely publishing the complete meeting pack online. Where there would be particular benefit in publishing additional information alongside an agenda, this can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q3: How can residents properly understand and comment upon matters being considered by the Council if the supporting information available to Councillors is not also publicly available, and does the Council consider that its current arrangements provide sufficient information to enable meaningful public scrutiny? The agenda is published in advance and sets out the matters which the Council will be considering. A public copy of the meeting pack, containing the relevant supporting papers, is available for residents to view at the meeting.

Residents are welcome to attend Council meetings and raise matters during public speaking. Anyone wishing to see further information relating to a particular agenda item before the meeting is also welcome to contact the Council Office and request it.

The Council considers that these arrangements provide residents with access to relevant information and the opportunity to comment upon matters being considered by the Council, without routinely publishing the complete Councillor meeting pack online.

5. Laundrette machine at The Woodman Public House

Q1: Will the Parish Council write to the relevant authority/organisation to express its concern regarding the situation and request that the unit causing the issue is removed? Yes. The Parish Council agreed to write to Broadland District Council to express concerns regarding the laundrette unit.

6.Environmental Information Regulations – Internal Review

Q1: Was my request for an internal review under Regulation 11 of the Environmental Information Regulations shared with all Councillors? The request for an internal review was received by the Council and is being dealt with through the appropriate statutory process. There is no requirement for an internal review request to be circulated to all Councillors.

Q2: When the internal review has been completed will the response explain the evidence considered and the reasons for the conclusions reached rather than simply providing yes or no answers? Yes. The outcome of the internal review will address the matters raised in the review request and provide the reasons for the reviewer's conclusions.

Q3: When the internal review has been completed, will the response be available for other residents to read? The response will be provided to the requester once the internal review has been completed. The requester may share the response with others if they wish.

6. Catton Park Trust

Q1: Why is Catton Park Trust being dissolved? The Council is currently considering the future governance arrangements for Catton Park Trust. No further comment can be provided at this stage and any formal changes will be dealt with through the appropriate processes.

7. Bowls Club –Keyholding

Q1: Why did the Council decline the Bowls Club's previous request to hold keys to enable members to access the facilities and prepare for league matches before other Council staff are available? This question was addressed in responses to public questions from August Council meeting. The Council's position remains unchanged: hirers of Recreation Ground facilities are not provided with keys to secured areas. This is a site safety and security measure that is applied to all hirers.

Q2: Will the Council reconsider the decision not to allow the Bowls Club to hold keys? No. The Council's position remains unchanged. Hirers of Recreation Ground facilities are not provided with keys to secured areas. This is a site safety and security measure that applies to all hirers.

Q3: Did the Council vote against allowing the Bowls Club to hold keys and, if so, why was the request refused? No. This was not a matter determined by a vote of the Council. The request was considered in accordance with the Council's existing site management arrangements. Hirers of Recreation Ground facilities are not provided with keys to secured areas for site safety and security reasons.

8. Recreation Ground - Phase 2

Q1: When will Phase 2 start as I am concerned we will lose access to the Recreation Ground again? There are currently no plans or timescale for Phase 2 works.

9. Planter to west of Old Catton Junior School

Q1: Who is responsible for the maintenance of the area on the western side of Old Catton Junior School? The planter is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. It is the Council's understanding that maintenance of the planter is the responsibility of the neighbouring property owners.

Q2: If the area falls within the Parish Council's responsibility, can action be taken to address its current condition? The planter does not fall within the Parish Council's responsibility. However, as it is situated within the pedestrian route, its condition has been raised with Norfolk County Council Highways.

Q3: Given the increased number of people using this route for the school run, what action can be taken to address concerns that its condition is both unsightly and a potential health hazard? The Parish Council does not have responsibility for maintaining the planter. Concerns regarding its condition and location within the pedestrian route have been referred to Norfolk County Council Highways for consideration.

Q4: When will the resident receive a response to the enquiry submitted through the Council website approximately two weeks ago? [The enquiry has been received and will be responded to separately.](#)

10. Contribution towards defibrillator at Old Catton Medical Practice

Q1: What is the update on the defibrillator for the surgery, are you going to contribute to this? [Old Catton Medical Practice has been contacted to establish the level of funding being requested from the Parish Council. At the time of writing no response has been received. The Parish Council will consider the request further once this information has been provided.](#)

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