

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd March, 2026 in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Richard Gozney (Chair)
Anne-Marie Coe (Vice Chair)
Louise Goodenough
Ben Jones
Peter O'Hare
Ben Phelps
Matthew Reynolds
The Clerk
Sarah Butikofer (District Councillor)
Three parishioners

1. Apologies for Absence

Michael Dalby (County Councillor) has advised that he will not be standing for re-election in May. All members wished to express sincere and warm thanks to Michael for all his work and help given to the Parish Council over the past five years.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th January, 2026 – approved by all members.

4. Updated information and matters arising from the previous meeting:

- a) Mrs. Butikofer, North Norfolk District Council, reported that a planning application had not yet been submitted regarding the new chicken sheds on Langham Airfield. Her colleague, Kevin Peacock, is to visit the company with a view to ensuring that an application is made. Light pollution also remains a major concern.
- b) Two new batteries are required for the SAM2 camera at a cost of £100 each. This expenditure is to be given consideration. The speed of vehicles is currently displayed but the words "slow down" are not. A quotation for the cost to rectify this matter is also to be considered.
- c) The damaged sign on Holt Road reported to Norfolk County Council has resulted in a response. We are advised by NCC that "this problem does not meet our criteria for repair at this time" and "we will continue to monitor the problem as part of our routine". In addition, there is a damaged 30 mph reminder sign inside the village on the Binham Road. Both signs will be the subject of another report.

5. Finance

Income

5/2/26	Transfer of funds from LVRG re picnic table	£695.00
17/2/26	HMRC (reclaim of VAT from 1/12/24 to 31/12/25)	£336.27

Expenditure

19/1/26	Drax (street light electricity – 1/12/25 to 31/12/25) – direct debit	£176.35
17/2/26	Drax (street light electricity – 1/1/26 to 31/1/26) – direct debit	£177.93
19/1/26	Anglian Water (Playing Field – 2/10/25 to 1/1/26) – direct debit	£58.15
20/2/26	K. Webb (Clerk's quarterly computer allowance) – standing order	£20.00
3/3/26	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – Feb)	£25.43 **
3/3/26	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – Mar)	£25.43
3/3/26	No Butts Bin Co. Ltd (picnic table)	£834.00
3/3/26	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for January)	£476.30
3/3/26	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£112.60
3/3/26	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for February)	£476.50
3/3/26	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£112.60
3/3/26	K. Webb (Clerk's expenses from 1/4/25 to 31/3/25)	£77.67
3/3/26	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – Jan)	£25.43

Acceptance of expenditure approved by all members.

** (This payment needs to be £25.33 – overpayment of £0.10 from January meeting)

Balances of Bank accounts:- Current - £5,131.57 credit, Business Saver- £6,118.73 credit (as at 27th February, 2026)

6. Langham Village Recreation Ground update

Louise Goodenough reported that the grant application submitted to Hornsea 3 to assist with financing the play equipment project had been rejected. Three quotations have been obtained for replacing the fence and the cheapest tender for £2,485 from Beechwood Landscapes is the option preferred by all. This is agreed subject to sight of a copy of the lease obliging the Parish Council to undertake the work. One neighbour is to be approached for a financial contribution.

7. Assertion 10 options

Parish Online had provided full details of available options and these had been summarised by Matt Reynolds. It was agreed to proceed with a new gov.uk website and email package, with new email addresses to be provided for the Clerk and members. The new addresses will be visible on the website. This will effectively increase the annual costs for the website from £128 to £375 but it is considered essential to ensure that all legal requirements are met. (Proposed by Anne-Marie Coe and seconded by Louise Goodenough. All in favour). Thanks were expressed by all to Matt Reynolds for his work to date and for taking the lead in this important project.

8. Berserker Airsoft operations at Fox Hill Plantation.

It is understood that the site has been used on eight occasions to date this calendar year. There are no permanent fixtures but a notice has been erected near to the entrance. Mr. Alan Smith had a number of environmental concerns and mentioned imported shingle, machinery, large white sheeting against which he is registering a complaint, and disturbance to wildlife, especially badgers. Thanks were expressed to Mr. Smith for his efforts in monitoring the operations of this enterprise.

9. Application for a credit card with Barclays Bank – update.

After much time and a number of discussions with Barclays Bank officials, it has been verbally confirmed that the application has been granted.

10. Free support for self-funding older adults – CHS Healthcare helping to find care solutions tailored to individual needs.

A communication has been received from this company and we understand that they do not provide care directly. Instead, they support individuals and families by offering information, connecting them with appropriate care providers and guiding them through the entire process.

11. The dumping of rubbish in the parish.

Mr. Patrick Allen had previously made known to the Parish Council, North Norfolk District Council and Environmental Health, a bag of litter that he had found dumped on the Langham/Blakeney Road on 2nd February. He investigated the contents and found evidence identifying the “owner” of the rubbish. The “report littering” online form was submitted but the response from the Environmental Protection Officer was unsatisfactory with an apparent unwillingness to get involved. Mrs. Butikofer is aware of the situation and will investigate further. She said that if people see littering, they should report it using the online facility and not remove it themselves. Removal would negate the item from being submissible as evidence for the purpose of any potential prosecution due to likely cross contamination. Anyone witnessing fly tipping, if safe to do so, can take photos and forward to NNDC to help secure convictions.

12. Everyone has the Right to Play campaign – launch event to be held at Thursford Garden Pavilion on 6th March.

Louise Goodenough reported that two members of the LVRG committee will be attending this event.

13. Parish Partnership Scheme options including solar street lights, a trod and traffic calming measures.

Peter O'Hare said that there were areas of darkness in the village and residents felt potentially threatened in certain places. The prospect of additional, low cost, solar powered lighting which could be mounted on poles or walls had been investigated. A particular model costing £140 had been located. It was felt that possibly four or five sited at strategic positions would be needed. The direct replacement of existing street lights would cost in the region of £1K per light. A period of consideration is to be given by members to this matter with a further discussion to be held at the next meeting. It was also mentioned that no suggestions have been produced by Norfolk County Council in respect of a trod.

14. The Save Benjamin Court Campaign requesting support.

The post-hospital reablement service at Benjamin Court was closed in July, 2023. The campaign was launched with the aim of reopening the facility. There are plans to lobby a meeting at Norfolk County Council on 25th March. Unfortunately, no members are available to attend on that day.

15. Planning applications and determinations.

Applications

- a) Installation of a conservatory at the front of the property – 18 The Cornfield, Langham – PF/26/0123. (No comments).

Determinations

- a) Replacement garden building – Tom Bank, Field Dalling Road, Langham – PF/25/2607 – approved.
- b) Discharge of Condition – The Rectory, 2 Holt Road, Langham – CD/26/0115 -conditions (ventilation measures and ecological mitigation) discharged.

16. Correspondence

- 1) Barclays Bank notice advising reduction in the credit interest rate for business accounts from 1.10% to 1.05% with effect from 24/3/26.

17. Reports from County Councillor, District Councillor and Member of Parliament

Reports submitted by Mr. Dalby and Mrs. Butikofer will be available on the website for residents to read.

Mrs. Butikofer confirmed that her report for March will be forwarded in the near future. She said that the local elections for County Councillors are back on and will be held on 7th May. In addition, the District Council's budget, which balances, has been approved.

18. Public Participation

- a) Mr. Patrick Allen reiterated the strong feeling about litter and fly tipping. Evidence had been provided to NNDC in respect of a recent incident (please refer to item 11).
- b) Mr. Alan Smith was disappointed that the Parish council was not making a decision at the meeting on action to be taken regarding the SAM2 camera. He wished his lack of confidence in the Parish Council on this issue to be noted. The Chairman confirmed that a decision on whether to purchase one or two batteries would be made at the next meeting.
- c) Mr. Edward Allen said that the water cover in the road at the top of Hollow Lane is in a dangerous condition. The cast iron cover has sunk. Mrs. Butikofer has agreed to send appropriate Anglian Water contact details and these will be forwarded to Anne-Marie Coe who has agreed to deal with this matter.

19. Any other matters (for information)

None

20. Agenda items for next meeting

None

21. Date of next meeting : Tuesday, 19th May 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.39 p.m.

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Date

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Chairman

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