

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May, 2026 in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Richard Gozney (Chair)
Anne-Marie Coe (Vice Chair)
Ben Jones
Peter O'Hare
Ben Phelps
The Clerk
Three parishioners

1) Apologies for absence

Louise Goodenough, Matt Reynolds and Sarah Butikofer (District Council)

2) The following reports were presented

a) The Langham Dome

A report, given by Patrick Allen, is reproduced below.

The 2025 was a record in terms of visitor numbers (4,852) and income received (£64,641). However, I temper that with the observation that our total expenditure was £68,135.

We attended several events around the County, protected from the elements by our two new branded Gazebos, with our logo and familiar yellow & black coloured. The purchase of these were aided by a 50% grant from the RC Snelling Charitable Trust.

In September we held our 80th anniversary Day of both Victory Europe and Victory Japan. The weather was perfect and the day a huge success.

The ownership of the Dome is, currently, held by another charity, North Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust, who were gifted the building by Bernard Matthews in 2010 and then worked with us in our applications for grant funding from the Heritage Lottery, Historic England and others that enabled us to create the museum. Sadly the NNHBT have decided to dissolve the Charity and are in the process of distributing their assets. It is the intention that the Dome will be gifted to FoLD. This is great news and will finally close the circle and enable us to control our own destiny. Of course it does come with further, future liabilities, should the building show deterioration.

Earlier in the year, we were approached by the owners of the Control Tower, offering to lease it, along with the surrounding buildings, to us. Sadly, following discussions, we have been unable to reach an agreement on a viable length of lease. We believe we would need at least 40 years in order to acquire the sizeable grant funding that would be required to renovate the building, and the most the company were prepared to offer was a 20 year lease, with a break clause. We remain hopeful that they may have a re-think but, for the time being, its dead in the water.

During the winter we have held four fascinating talks in these Parish Rooms, with its excellent Audio/Video system. They were well supported and provided much discussion. We hope to do more talks this winter.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank our Manager, Scott Eltringham, who organises the volunteers and buys the ever increasing range of stock items for the shop. Also a huge thanks to all those Volunteers, who give their time for free, and who make the visitors experience so special. Their knowledge and commitment is regularly commented on in our Trip Adviser reviews.

Patrick Allen

Chair Friends of Langham Dome

b) Langham Village Recreation Ground Fundraising Group

The boundary fence is not repairable and is to be replaced. The Parish Council has a legal obligation to cover the cost and, as such, the Precept was increased by £2K to enable this to happen. A contribution is to be made by a neighbour.

c) Langham Village Hall

Richard Gozney, Chair of the Langham Village Hall Management Committee, reported that a number of successful events had been held which included four good quiz nights, four talks on the Langham Dome and an excellent cheese and wine evening. The financial situation is poor. Rental income of about £1,000 p.a. covers no more than a third or half of routine outgoings such as water, electricity, insurance and Community Charge; they amount to nearly £3,000. Spending on maintenance and any capital items is extra. A number of important items have been purchased including a cooker, a new front door, a notice board and a screen.

d) Langham Parochial Church Council (LPCC)

A report, given by Edward Allen, is reproduced below.

The role of the PCC is to run the Church and keep the building in good stead for the next generations. Being some 800 years old, this is a monumental task. What ones religious beliefs are or not, many people want to be christened, worship, married and finally have a funeral in the church and be buried in the churchyard and we all have a duty to make its fit for purpose.

We are very privileged to have a resident Priest in Charge, the only one out of all 9 parish's that he has to look after. There are 2 Sunday services every month and some additional services on important religious dates. Normal attendance is about 7-12 people but boosted at Easter and Christmas with some 80 attendees. The church holds some 150 seated but at a recent funeral some 200 with many standing in the aisles and outside.

We do not have a resident organist but the organ is in reasonable working order, but it needs a major service, the "siphon" is leaking. The clock is now repaired and chiming well on time, but suddenly it seems to have a glitch. The Tower turret door and frame has been replaced and the frame had rotted away.

I would thank the following people for all they do to help ,
The Priest in Charge. Ian Whittle
Julia Thompson The PCC Secretary.
Alan Duff from Stiffkey is the treasurer.
Mrs A Sherriff, ,
Alan Smith and Colin Sherriff for tending the clock,
Paul Freeth for Flag duties and Tower Flood lights
The flower ladies
Peter Wright and Alan Smith for strimming the Churchyard. and all those who come and help on the Churchyard clear up Saturdays (next one 13th June, all welcome, coffee and a chance to chat!)

My concern is that our Priest in Charge should have been reinstated to the rank of Rector. When The Bishop of Norwich downgraded Rector Whittle he stated that when Mr Whittle has had his license (driving) returned he would reinstate Mr Whittle to the post of Rector. It is 9 months since the driving licence was returned but no sign of reinstatement.

Edward Allen
Churchwarden

3) District Councillor

A report was submitted by Sarah Butikofer. This can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

4) Other comments

Peter O'Hare stated that the annual Precept for the Parish Council for 2025/2026 had been £13.4K whilst the equivalent share of North Norfolk District Council revenue from the village, dependent on the number of properties and their tax bands, had been in the region of £21K. The proportion of NNDC's revenue from Langham which was equivalent to District wide parish precepts' proportion of NNDC's total revenue was £21K.

The meeting closed at 7.18 p.m.

