LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st September, 2026 in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Contents

1. Apologies for Absence 2
2. Declarations of Interest 2
3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th July, 2026 2
4. Updated information and matters arising from the previous meeting: 2
5. Finance 2
6. Langham Village Recreation Ground 2
7. Website and new e-mail addresses for members – update. 3
8. North Norfolk District Council's further new Local Plan. 3
9. The future of the Blue Bell Public House 3
16. Planning applications and determinations 4
17. Correspondence 4
18. Reports from District and County Councillors 4
19. Public Participation 5
20. Any other matters (for information) 5
21. Agenda items for next meeting 5
22. Date of next meeting 5

DRAFT

Present:
Richard Gozney (Chair)
Anne-Marie Coe (Vice Chair)
Ben Jones
Ben Phelps
Matt Reynolds
The Clerk
Dr. Victoria Holliday (County Councillor)
Mrs. Sarah Butikofer (District Councillor)
Three parishioners

1. Apologies for Absence

Louise Goodenough and Peter O'Hare

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th July, 2026

Approved by all members.

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

a) With regards to the possibility of solar lights on the walls of the Harper Hotel, Mrs. Butikofer is to investigate whether planning permission is required. In principle, members are in favour of this proposal. A position has been discussed – to the left of the entrance and on the single storey building – and agreement in principle has been given subject to there being no objections from the County and/or District Council.

5. Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

16/7/26	Drax (street light electricity – 1/6/26 to 30/6/26) – direct debit	£97.24
19/8/26	Drax (street light electricity – 1/7/26 to 31/7/26) – direct debit	£103.69
17/7/26	Anglian Water (playing field – 2/4/26 to 1/7/26) – direct debit	£66.31
1/9/26	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – August)	£25.43
1/9/26	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – September)	£25.43
1/9/26	SW Horticulture (5th mow)	£120.00
1/9/26	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for July)	£476.30
1/9/26	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£112.60
1/9/26	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for August)	£476.30
1/9/26	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£112.60
1/9/26	SCS Accounting Solutions Ltd (quarterly payroll)	£36.00
1/9/26	Local Paper (Local Lynx) – annual donation.	£70.00
20/8/26	K. Webb (quarterly computer allowance) – standing order	£20.00

Acceptance of expenditure approved by all members.

Balances of Bank accounts: - Current - £3,218.89 credit, Business Saver- £6,151.70 credit (as at 31st August, 2026)

The Clerk advised that the national 2026/27 pay scales had finally been agreed with a 3.3% increase to be applied to all pay points. The new rates will be started retrospectively from 1st April, 2026.

6. Langham Village Recreation Ground

DRAFT

There were two observations regarding the new fence. There are gaps at each end with approximately 20 metres needed to make it complete. It was queried whether the expectation was for it to be longer and was the contractor asked to cover the entire length. There is also an apparent lack of tension in the wire in certain areas. These matters will be investigated.

7. Website and new e-mail addresses for members – update.

Matt Reynolds reported that all members now had new addresses except Louise Goodenough and Ben Jones. Completion for all should be finalised in the near future.

8. North Norfolk District Council's further new Local Plan.

The North Norfolk Local Plan 2024-2040 was signed off in December, 2025. A new one is needed within two and a half years. By this time, North Norfolk District Council will not exist. No action is required from the Parish Council at this stage.

9. The future of the Blue Bell Public House

Eastlaw, on behalf of North Norfolk District Council, have advised that, whilst the property is empty and unoccupied, the formal surrender of the lease has not yet occurred. As a result, legally the owner of the pub cannot notify the Council of their intention to dispose of this asset. This is because under Section 96 of the Localism Act 2011, the disposal must be with vacant possession. Eastlaw is to be asked that, if an attempt was made to sell the property, would NNDC block it. The assumption is that the moratorium of six months will not commence until such time as an open sale is possible. This point will also be clarified with Eastlaw.

10. Langham Airfield Chicken Farm issues

A significant change in activity has been apparent in the last 6/8 weeks with intensive movements for a period which then recommence after 2/3 weeks. Enforcement action is being taken by the District Council with papers served requiring an application to be submitted for retrospective planning. The Parish Council will be consulted. The increased running commenced in July and it is estimated that there have been some 800 HGV movements in six weeks. It is understood that the owners of the farm, Hook 2 Sisters, are involved in a similar situation with Breckland Council at their premises in Great Hockham, near Thetford. The important matter of light pollution will also need to be considered.

11. Speeding in the village and other traffic related matters

News is awaited from Nicole Ollett, Traffic Justice Service Manager of Norfolk Police. The survey showed an average speed of 26.3 mph in the 30mph zone and 23.0 mph at the 20mph site. The 85th percentile in the former is 31 mph which is regarded as a good level of compliance. The same cannot be said of the 20mph area with an 85th percentile of 30mph and a high proportion of vehicles exceeding the limit. Further action has been promised.

12. Parish Council representation at the Police Neighbourhood Drop-In Sessions

Ben Jones volunteered to attend these sessions.

13. Temporary assistance for the Clerk in the event of incapacitation

It was agreed to carry this matter forward for discussion at the next meeting.

14. Martyn's Law (the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act)

This law received Royal Assent on 3rd April, 2025 and is named in memory of one of the 22 victims of the 2017 Manchester Arena terrorist attack. Events and premises expecting fewer than 200 people are legally out of scope of this legislation although voluntary safety preparations remain encouraged.

15. Details of the Parish Partnership scheme for 2027/2028.

Confirmation has been received that the scheme is to continue for a further year with all bids for 2027/28 to be submitted by 1st December, 2026.

16. Planning applications and determinations

Applications

None

Determinations

Erection of single storey rear extension following the removal of conservatory – 34 The Cornfield, Langham – PF/26/1128 – approved.

17. Correspondence

1) Invitation from Anglian Water to attend a webinar on 3rd September, 2026. (The Chairman and Ben Jones will do so).
2) Questions from a number of holiday makers and second home owners regarding arrangements, particularly parking, at the Street Fayre.
3) Letter from East Anglian Air Ambulance detailing the services they provide and requesting a donation.
4) Letter of introduction from the new Deputy Leader of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Robin Hunter-Clarke.
5) Two letters from parishioners expressing concern over trees and shrubs near to their properties. (The Chairman is currently liaising with NNDC to establish who is responsible for a large, dangerous tree in Swans Close).

18. Reports from District and County Councillors

Dr. Holliday reported on various items as follows: -

a) The damaged sign at the Blakeney "T" junction has been programmed to be repaired.
b) Hempton Recycling Centre will take the bigger white goods.
c) The Parish Partnership scheme is to continue. The trod project from last year was stopped by the District Council. The cost was £11.2K (£5.6K for both NCC and the Parish Council) with Michael Dalby, County Councillor, contributing £4K from his member's fund. This effectively would have resulted in the Parish Council's payment being £1.6K. Unfortunately, the member's fund has now been abolished and all members agreed that proceeding with a scheme without this support would not be financially possible at the current time.
d) The dangerous kerbstone near the Blakeney junction has been discussed but Highways are not in favour of dealing with what is considered a dangerous issue at the current time. They will not pull up the curb unless the Parish Council pays the cost of the work which they estimate will be in the region of £5K.
e) At the moment there are on-line surveys regarding bus connectivity, bus stops and broadband connectivity.

f) District Councils previously paid £6m in respect of a consultancy contract for Local Government Reorganisation. This has been cancelled.

Mrs. Butikofer reported on what are considered to be concerning changes in respect of planning procedures. The ability of members to call in potentially controversial applications is to be severely restricted.
Reports have been received that Langham Hall is regarded as a possible wedding venue. It is now a private residence and no planning application has been received at this time.

19. Public Participation

Please refer to items 11 and 18 above.

20. Any other matters (for information)

None

21. Agenda items for next meeting

Chicken Sheds

22. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 17th November 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.46 p.m.

…… ……

Date Chairman

DRAFT