

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th January, 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Patrick Allen (Chair)
Anne-Marie Coe
Louise Goodenough
Sir Richard Gozney
Peter O'Hare
Ben Phelps
The Clerk
Michael Dalby (County Councillor)
Two parishioners

1. Apologies for Absence

Matthew Reynolds and Sarah Butikofer (District Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 19th November, 2024 – approved by all members. Proposed by Richard Gozney and seconded by Louise Goodenough.

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

- a) Peter O'Hare is looking after the positioning of the SAM2 in the village. The battery and charger have been fixed and the equipment is working. Ben Phelps is to contact Alan Smith regarding the procedure for collecting data and information.
- b) It was agreed by all not to proceed with the suggestion to have a commemorative book covering the years 2000 to 2025.

5. Finance

Income

2/12/24 Bank interest (2/9/24 to 1/12/24) £22.50

Expenditure

7/1/25	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – December)	£25.43
7/1/25	K & M Lighting Services (street light maintenance – January)	£25.43
7/1/25	Grove Farm Partnership (Playing Field rent)	£10.00
7/1/25	Community Action Norfolk (annual membership fee)	£20.00
1/12/24	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for November)	£429.66
1/12/24	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£101.00
7/1/25	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for December)	£429.86
7/1/25	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£100.80

Acceptance of expenditure approved by all members.

Balances of Bank accounts:- Current - £3,514.81 credit, Business Saver- £6,039.26 credit (as at 6th January, 2025)

The Clerk reported that Drax, the supplier of electricity for the street lights, had advised some time ago that the current contract was due to end on 31/12/24. Numerous attempts had been made to contact them with messages left, but all had been ignored. They had recently advised that Langham Parish Council was no longer wanted as a customer. A complaint has been lodged and they have responded by saying that a new contract will be offered. Developments are currently awaited.

6. Langham Village Recreation Ground update

Louise Goodenough reported that a sum of about £400 had been raised at the latest bingo session. A Valentine's dance has been arranged. The quotation from S.W. Horticulture is regarded as the preferred option for the grounds maintenance contract this year.

7. Pavements

A meeting with officers from both the County and District Councils to assess the way ahead regarding the proposed Parish Partnership scheme for a path on the "blind corner" on Field Dalling Road has been arranged for 15th January at 10.30 a.m.

8. Consultation on Local Plan

Anne-Marie Coe reported that a village meeting was held on 4th December, 2024 which was attended by about thirty villagers. Whilst some residents are positive about further development and welcome the opportunity for new people to contribute to village life as previous developments have successfully done, the majority would prefer to keep the status of “Countryside” and not become a “Small Growth Village”. There is uncertainty on the number of additional houses that may be approved as a “Small Growth Village”.

The prospect of producing a Neighbourhood Plan has been suggested but it is acknowledged that such projects can often take a significant time to produce whilst being very expensive. It was generally felt that no action should be taken on this potential document until the way ahead was more certain. A Village Design Statement was produced, and adopted by NNDC, in 2005. Though not as comprehensive and definitive on Planning issues, as a Neighbourhood Plan, it does represent the views of the village on design.

9. Finalising the Budget and Parish Precept 2025/2026

The tax base has increased from 207.10 (2024/2025) to 214.50. All items included in the Budget were discussed and Richard Gozney said that the Parish Room would not apply for a grant on this occasion although assistance may be needed in future years. It was agreed to implement a new Band D contribution of £55.07 per annum, an increase of 3%, representing an additional household contribution of 3p per week. This gives rise to a Parish Precept of £11,813 with predicted income of £12,663 and expenditure of £14,595. The Budget, including the rise in the Band D contribution, was proposed by Richard Gozney and seconded by Anne-Marie Coe. All in favour.

10. Reorganisation to the Friends of Langham

The membership of the 200 Club has been dwindling for a while. The committee has decided to stop running the Club and members will not be asked to renew their subscriptions for 2025. A number of people in the village are keen for the FOL to keep going and the situation is currently under review.

11. Planning applications and determinations.

Applications

- a) Erection of single storey rear extension following removal of conservatory, alterations to front dormers, raising part of roof to rear and installation of rooflights on the south side – Rowan Cottage, Hollow Lane, Langham – PF/24/2430 – no comments.
- b) Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed demolition of old turkey shed in state of disrepair (middle of the three sheds) – land south of Cocktorpe Road, Langham – DP/24/2526.

Determinations

- a) Two storey side extension to dwelling, replacement windows and doors, re-facing of front elevation with brick and flint, conversion of detached garage to annexe – 8 Binham Road, Langham - PF/24/2001 – approved.
- b) Change of use of part of an agricultural building to commercial storage (class B8) – land on Cockthorpe Road, Langham – PU/24/2198 – prior approval given.
- c) Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed demolition of old turkey shed in state of disrepair (middle of the three sheds) – land south of Cockthorpe Road, Langham – DP/24/2526 – prior approval not required.

12. Correspondence

- 1) Police Priority Setting Meeting at Wells on 15/1/24
- 2) Advice from Barclays of a reduction in credit interest rate from 1.40% to 1.35%.
- 3) Police message advising of an emerging crime series with Cemetery buildings being targeted, with expensive garden equipment being stolen.
- 4) Questionnaire from Catfield Parish Council announcing a survey to assess concerns regarding the service supplied by NNDC's planning department – (no action to be taken).

13. Reports from County Councillor CLLR Michael Dalby

January, 2025 Report

Norfolk Highways maintenance allocation

Norfolk will receive over £56 million for road repairs in 2025, thanks to new government funding announced today.

This funding will be used to fix the roads most in need of repair and improve living standards across the country.

The news comes shortly after Norfolk topped the National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey for the second year in a row, with residents giving high satisfaction scores for road conditions.

Since April, over 5,300 potholes have been fixed in Norfolk, with 99% repaired on time. If you spot a pothole, report it at www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes

New Fire and Rescue Vehicles

Norfolk has received four new tactical response vehicles (TRVs) as part of a multi-million-pound investment to update the fire and rescue fleet. The new Toyota Hilux 4x4s, costing £175,000 each, will help firefighters reach remote locations and handle emergencies in severe weather. They will be based in Reepham, Acle, Downham Market, and North Walsham in early 2025, joining the existing TRVs in Cromer, Sandringham, Wymondham, Diss, Gorleston, and a Land Rover in Thetford.

This investment follows the recent £7 million funding for 22 new fire engines to replace older vehicles that had reached the end of their service life. The new Angloco vehicles have already been rolled out across 18 fire stations, with the final ones now in place for training and duty cover.

Devolution

Following the publication of the governments white paper titled “Devolution and Local Government Reforms”, cabinet members and NCC Officers have been meeting with the government minister for local government, at which point Norfolk has been asked to join the government priority programme to negotiate a new devolution deal for Norfolk.

The deadline for the programme is listed as 10th January, at which Norfolk County Council has called an extraordinary meeting of full council on the 9th January to debate and vote as to whether to join the priority programme.

If full council agrees to join the priority programme, a cabinet meeting will therefore take place straight after full council, at which if cabinet agrees, NCC will submit the application to join the priority programme at which would anticipate hearing the government decision on the application by mid-February.

A consequence of joining the priority programme will see the delay of May 2025 County council elections by one year.

I will keep you up to date on developments on the priority programme and devolution over the coming months.

London Landmarks Half Marathan

In April 2025, I will be taking on the huge challenge of running the London Landmarks Half Marathan for Dementia UK, as most of you will know I work mostly with elderly people, some who suffer from Dementia and its associated forms.

Dementia UK provides nurses (also known as Admiral Nurses), for those affected by dementia, and their family, at which is provided free of charge, give life-changing support and advice to affected people.

If you would like donate please follow the following link:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michaeldalby2024?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM

or search Michael Dalby in the search bar on Just Giving. Thank You.

CLLR Michael Dalby

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14. Public Participation

There has been a problem with the striking of the village clock, just on the hour. The motor will need to be examined.

15. Any other matters (for information)

There has been some fly tipping on the Morston Road.

16. Agenda items for next meeting

i) Progress on Local Plan.

17. Date of next meeting : Tuesday, 4th March 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

DRAFT