

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th July, 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Sir Richard Gozney (Chair)
Anne-Marie Coe (Vice Chair)
Peter O'Hare
Ben Phelps
Matthew Reynolds
The Clerk
Two parishioners

1. Apologies for Absence

Louise Goodenough and Michael Dalby (County Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th May, 2025 – approved by all members. It was confirmed that the vacant position on the Parish Council may now be filled by using the co-option process.

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

a) A new contract for one year has been agreed with Drax for the continued provision of electricity for the street lights.

5. Finance

Income

12/6/25	Norfolk County Council (delegated grass cutting)	£352.41
17/6/25	Norfolk County Council (return of trod project deposit)	£1,600.00
2/6/25	Barclays Bank (interest from 3/3/25 to 1/6/25)	£20.13

Expenditure

19/5/25	Information Comm's Office (annual Data Protection fee) – direct debit	£47.00
20/5/25	K. Webb (Clerk's quarterly computer allowance) – standing order	£20.00
19/5/25	Drax (street light electricity – 1/4/25 to 30/4/25) – direct debit	£129.19

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27/5/25	Drax (street light electricity – 1/11/24 to 31/3/25) – direct debit	£650.18
8/7/25	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – June)	£25.43
8/7/25	K & M Lighting Services (street light maintenance – July)	£25.43
8/7/25	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for May)	£462.48
8/7/25	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£109.00
8/7/25	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for June)	£462.28
8/7/25	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£109.20
8/7/25	SW Horticulture (5th mow and 2 nd dethatching)	£360.00
8/7/25	SW Horticulture (6th mow)	£110.00
8/7/25	SW Horticulture (1 st strim and 1 st spray of car park & patio)	£120.00
8/7/25	SW Horticulture (manhole cover, sand and cement)	£209.75
8/7/25	SW Horticulture (7 th mow)	£110.00
8/7/25	North Norfolk District Council (dog waste bins)	£296.40
17/6/25	Drax (street light electricity – 1/5/25 to 31/5/25) – direct debit	£113.54
20/5/25	SW Horticulture (4 th mow) – paid 20/5/25.	£110.00

Acceptance of expenditure approved by all members.

Balances of Bank accounts:- Current - £6,313.66 credit, Business Saver- £6,080.75 credit (as at 3rd July, 2025)

6. Langham Village Recreation Ground update

All matters, including the grounds maintenance contract, appear to be proceeding in line with expectations and it will be checked with Louise Goodenough that this is the case. Quite bizarrely, invoices and statements continue to be received from time to time from Nurture who last worked for the Parish Council some two years ago. Since that time there appear to be have been some changes in ownership/company name and it would seem that difficulties are being experienced with the internal transference of data.

7. Neighbourhood Plan/Design Statement

Langham is currently a rural village but is likely to be one of the eleven new Small Growth Villages. A decision is not expected before mid/late Autumn. The 2005 Design Statement has been circulated to all members. It was agreed that discussions should be held when Langham's status was settled.

8. Devolution and Local Government Reform

The Chairman, Peter O'Hare and the Clerk attended a briefing in Fakenham on 17th June from North Norfolk District Council's leader, Tim Adams, and the Chief Executive, Steve Blatch.

On Devolution, parishes were not asked to consult and send reactions. The election of the first Mayor of the Combined County Authority of Norfolk and Suffolk is planned for 7th May, 2026.

On Local Government Reform, there are three views. Norfolk County Council prefers a single unitary authority across Norfolk, South Norfolk District Council prefers two and the preference for the five other District Councils (including NNDC) is for three unitary authorities. Langham would be in East Norfolk, along with the rest of the present NNDC. We were asked to consult and react, if possible, on three sets of concerns about how three unitary authorities would work – the delivery of social services, people’s “sense of place” and the reform of public services more widely than social services. Members felt that the only area where a Langham opinion could be given would be on Sense of Place, where it is believed that most people would like to hold onto the North Norfolk local government label. However, it was made clear that North Norfolk as a Local Government entity would disappear under any of the options. As such, a response other than an acknowledgement of this, would not be made.

9. Website update

Matthew Reynolds has made excellent progress with gaining access to and updating the website. Links with the County and District Councils are to be established and there are a few items to be added, including the AGAR information for the year 2024/2025 which the Clerk will provide.

10. Mandate change/online banking

Information has been sent to Barclays Bank requesting additions to the mandate and for the process to provide online banking to be commenced.

11. Planning applications and determinations.

Applications

None

Determinations

None

12. Correspondence

- 1) Parish Partnership Scheme for 2026/2027. (It was agreed to consider whether the trod project could be recommenced. The matter will be an item on the agenda for the September meeting).
- 2) Notification of a reduction in Barclays Bank savings rate from 1.25% to 1.20% with effect from 12/8/25.
- 3) Second phase of funding for the Bus Shelter Grant scheme and cycle parking stands.
- 4) Confirmation of annual insurance renewal and new public liability and employer’s liability certificates received.
- 5) Details of the route 46 bus service between Langham and Holt and the importance of using it.
- 6) CPRE Norfolk inviting the Parish Council to join the Anti Mega Solar Alliance.
- 7) Westcotec providing details of the new SAM3 (Speed Awareness Monitor)

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

Mr. Dalby and Mrs. Butikofer had both submitted reports and these will be placed on the website for residents to read.

14. Public Participation

a) An assurance was given by a parishioner at the meeting held on 4th March, 2025, (item 11 refers), that the high number of cars parked outside his property in the Cornfield would decrease. Unfortunately, no progress appears to have been made so further discussions will be held.

b) The Blakeney sign at the T junction has been demolished. Highways Department is dealing – the sign has been taken away but not yet replaced.

c) The unnecessary and hazardous kerbstone on the south side of the Holt Road into Langham and the overgrown footpath in St. Mary's were both mentioned.

15. Any other matters (for information)

None

16. Agenda items for next meeting

Parish Partnership application.

17. Date of next meeting : Tuesday, 2nd September 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.28 p.m.

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Date

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Chairman

