

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd September, 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Richard Gozney (Chair)
Anne-Marie Coe (Vice Chair)
Louise Goodenough
Peter O'Hare
Ben Phelps
Matthew Reynolds
The Clerk
Michael Dalby (County Councillor)
Three parishioners

1. Apologies for Absence

Sarah Butikofer (District Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 8th July, 2025 – approved by all members. (Proposed by Anne-Marie Coe and seconded by Peter O'Hare).

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

a) Despite assurances previously given, there has been no progress with the many cars parked in an area of the Cornfield. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

5. Finance

Income

None

Expenditure

18/7/25	Anglian Water (Playing Field – 2/4/25 to 1/7/25) – direct debit	£43.42
20/8/25	K. Webb (Clerk's quarterly computer allowance) – standing order	£20.00
16/7/25	Drax (street light electricity – 1/6/25 to 30/6/25) – direct debit	£100.94
22/8/25	Drax (street light electricity – 1/7/25 to 30/7/25) – direct debit	£109.63
2/9/25	K & M Lighting Services (street lighting maintenance – August)	£25.43
2/9/25	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for July)	£462.48
2/9/25	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£109.00
2/9/25	K. Webb (Clerk's pay for August)	£462.28
2/9/25	HMRC (tax on Clerk's pay)	£109.20
2/9/25	SW Horticulture (8th mow)	£110.00
2/9/25	SW Horticulture (9 th mow)	£110.00
2/9/25	Local Paper (Local Lynx) – donation	£70.00
2/9/25	SCS Accounting (quarterly payroll ending 30/6/25)	£36.00
2/9/25	Playsafety Ltd (annual inspection of Recreation Ground)	£105.60
2/9/25	K & M Lighting Services (street light maintenance – September)	£25.43

Acceptance of expenditure approved by all members. (Proposed by Louise Goodenough and seconded by Peter O'Hare)

Balances of Bank accounts:- Current - £3,654.56 credit, Business Saver- £6,080.75 credit (as at 31st August, 2025)

It was agreed, at future meetings, to provide Bank balances prevailing as at 12 and 24 months before the meeting to enable comparisons to be carried out.

The Clerk advised that national pay negotiations had been finalised with a general pay increase of 3.2% agreed. This will move the monthly pay from £545.48 to £562.94, with back pay covering the period from 1/4/25 to 31/8/25 (i.e. five months) of £87.30 (£17.46 x 5).

6. Computer and windows upgrade

The Clerk confirmed that he had suffered serious computer problems over the past few weeks involving three complete failures. On each occasion, a local specialist, Andrew Simnor (simnor.co.uk) had been able to resolve the issues. The situation is unsustainable. The Clerk's computer is about ten years old and operates with Windows 10 which will not be supported with effect from October, 2025. A request has been made for a move to a new viable hardware solution (which includes Windows 11) with a specification that allows for future proofing and scope, together with office and partial migration. The total cost will be approximately £1,000 and a request has been made for this to be apportioned as follows:- North Elmham Parish Council - £600 (already approved), Langham Parish Council - £300 and Clerk - £100.

Ben Phelps proposed that £300 should be made available to assist with the purchase and this was seconded by Matt Reynolds. All members in favour. The Clerk expressed his appreciation for the assistance given in this matter.

7. Defibrillator Training

An offer had been received from Kirsty Hawkins of Orbital Safety Training for free community defibrillator awareness training. This is valued and will be duly acknowledged, together with a request to maintain the Parish Council details in the records of the service provider. Training on defibrillator use and cardiac resuscitation has only recently been received. It has been decided not to make use of the CHT WebNos defibrillator governance system and the contract has been cancelled.

8. Vegetation overflowing onto the pavement opposite the church, in Hollow Lane and over the footpath in St. Mary's

The issues at Hollow Lane and Langham Hall have been registered with the County. The Chairman is to follow up at the beginning of October. The problem in St. Mary's has been resolved.

9. Langham Village Recreation Ground update

Louise Goodenough reported that work is progressing on an application for a grant. Some trimming of trees is to be done and a few trees will need to be replaced. There is a regular problem of plentiful supplies of bird excrement being deposited on the play equipment.

10. Local Plan – consultation response

The final consultation is still going on. This important matter has been fully discussed over the last two meetings and has been given lengthy consideration. The unanimous view is that the Parish Council has nothing further to say and, as such, no submission will be made.

11. Mandate change/online banking

Confirmation had been received from Barclays Bank on 9th August that the arrangements for the new Bank mandate had been successfully finalised and that they would apply within 3-5 working days. The online banking facility is in the process of being provided with Anne-Marie Coe and Louise Goodenough already on the system as authorised users. Barclays Bank has asked that the Chairman and Peter O'Hare make contact to complete formalities. The appropriate telephone numbers and Bank staff contact names have been provided to enable this to happen.

12. Planning applications and determinations.

Applications

- a) Installation of replacement windows and doors together with alterations to the existing fenestration and garage conversion – Byre Cottage, North Street, Langham – PF/25/1436 – no comments.
- b) Addition of a small sun tunnel to light landing and staircase – Hare Cottage, Hollow Lane, Langham – LA/25/1768 – no comments.
- c) Installation of front dormer, erection of rear link extension and internal alterations – Windrush, 7 St. Andrews Drift, Langham – PF/25/1837 – no comments.
- d) Re-roofing works to Rectory – The Rectory, 2 Holt Road, Langham – LA/25/1149 – no comments.

Determinations

None

Matthew Reynolds mentioned that the planning page on the website is not being updated and it was agreed that, in future, details of planning applications would be recorded together with any relevant comments.

With regard to the possible reinstatement of the plan for a trod, Michael Dalby confirmed that he has funds available which could be directed towards the project. He will chase Highways Department as they have not come back with any ideas.

The new chicken sheds on Langham Airfield were discussed. There is some doubt as to whether the new sheds are no bigger than the old turkey sheds which they replace and it is to be requested that the District Council revisits the site with a view to seeking evidence that the cumulative size of the sheds is no greater, including evidence that the footprint is no bigger. It is known that 18 new sheds have replaced 24 old ones but they appear to be much wider and higher than the old sheds.

13. The paintballing venture at Fox Hill

The paintball organisers, Berserker Tactical, have produced photographs on social media which suggest that a digger was used to create minor earthworks. The District Council planners are to be asked to consider whether activity of this type is consistent with the 28 Day Rule. There is a badger sett in Fox Hill Plantation which could be damaged by the activities of a digger or equipment of a similar type. If that happened, it is believed that it would be a matter for the police. The owner of the site is to be contacted regarding the situation with badgers. It is understood that the intention is to hold an event every two weeks.

14. Correspondence

- 1) Notification of a reduction in Barclays Bank savings rate from 1.20% to 1.10% with effect from 11/11/25.
- 2) Police Neighbourhood Meeting for the Wells area to be held on 2/9/25.
- 3) Request from S. Butikofer (NNDC) to place posters regarding accessibility to cash in Norfolk on notice boards.

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

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

16. Public Participation

- a) Various comments were made regarding the options for Unitary authorities.
- b) Concerns were expressed regarding speeding through the village and particularly in North Street.
- c) The SAM2 cameras are not being used and the Speedwatch scheme is not currently in operation.

17. Any other matters (for information)

None

18. Agenda items for next meeting

- a) Trod – possible Parish Partnership application.
- b) Cars parked on the Cornfield.

19. Date of next meeting : Tuesday, 11th November 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.36 p.m.

.....
Date

.....
Chairman