

NORTH RUNCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Meeting Place

Tuesday 8th September 2026 - 7.45pm

Present: Cllr P Yallop, Cllr K Williams, Cllr J Braybrook, Cllr R Morrish, Cllr M Mills, Cllr J Fuller
Borough Councillor Simon Nash; County Cllr Mike Westman (part-time)

3 members of the public, In attendance: The Clerk – Rachel Curtis

1. **To accept any apologies** – Cllr Houchen, Cllr Palmer, Cllr K Fuller
2. **Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in Items on the Agenda** – None

3. **County and Borough Councillors Matters**

Cllr Nash reported on the following - Membership of West Norfolk Independent Group is increasing (now 3), which means they are able to get more things done.

LGR – Central Gov on hold while looking at legal issues, it is unknown as to what is going to happen next but he had grown to think that the devolution plans were a good idea.

Cllr Nash voted against £850,000 for planning proposals for the new swimming pool project in Kings Lynn, project was discussed in a private session. Grant funding would fund 10%. He had suggested alternative sites for the pool. Cllr Williams asked if Cllr Nash knew anything about the potential for the QEH not to have a maternity unit, A&E and ICU.

Has a contractor been appointed for the relief road? Yes (Costain), and he has had heard there is a new developer proposed to take over the Hopkins site. Cllr Nash to seek confirmation.

County Cllr Westman reported that LGR is off. He stated that Central Government have withdrawn plans for LGR in Norfolk in the face of judicial review, the same applies to Suffolk, Essex and Hampshire.

Reform UK minority administration had opposed LGR due to the fact that NCC are £950 million in debt and it would cost £96 million to bring in LGR with only £2.6 million coming in from Central Government.

Reimbursement is being claimed for the money spent on preparation to date which totals £2.5 million. Cllr Westman stated that Norfolk has been withdrawn, but for 14 other UK counties it has been paused.

Cllr Westman attended the meeting at 8.05pm and left at 8.20pm.

4. **Public Participation**

4.1 The flower exhibition is being held 12th/13th Sept. Theme for the exhibition is Your Garden and Beyond. Refreshments will be held in the VMP Saturday and Sunday. The architect for the lottery project will be present to show rolling information about the bid for the Church. There is a bus service running from King Staithe to the church in North Runcton on Sunday in conjunction Kings Lynn Heritage Day, vintage bus and vehicles will be on the Green.

The lottery fund assessment team have visited today (8th Sept), now awaiting their feedback.

4.2 Two workmen vehicles were broken into recently and tools taken when parked in the driveway of a property on New Road. There has been sightings of a suspicious male in the village. Also a male approached a young girl in the village. Reminder to everyone to be vigilant.

4.3 Complaints regarding vehicles parked on the corner of New Road and Rectory Lane. ACTION: Clerk to follow up with resident.

5. **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2026**

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. **Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 14th July 2026 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting.**

6.1 New bus shelter on the A10 – the shelter which was offered to the Parish Council free of charge is too large. Clerk has emailed Highways officer to enquire about replacing the shelter near the Esso Garage.

6.2 Following the Clerks correspondence with Highways, there looks to be signs of work to be done on the Cedar Grove footpath. Clerk to continue to monitor.

7. To report on VMP Management Matters

7.1 Cllr Braybrook has installed an internal latch to the top of the back door as requested by Buttercups.

7.2 The yard wall was repaired and the shed gutter has been refurbished. More work was needed to make good brickwork and install a new door lintel – which increased cost. Cllr Braybrook asked for a breakdown of the invoice guttering, work. This was explained by Cllr Morrish.

7.3 The resin work is complete in the yard, both the PC and Buttercups are pleased with the outcome. There was an initial issue with the outfall from sink in the toilet – now resolved. A bespoke grate top was discussed because of a possible trip hazard with finished levels around a gulley.

7.4 Vents have been fitted to the cupboard doors in the front hall.

7.5 It was noted that the guttering is leaking above letterbox at the front of the VMP. Cllr Braybrook volunteered to seal.

8. To consider biodiversity and action planning within the Parish

NRPC think it is worth documenting the exceptional drought year that Norfolk and North Runcton have experienced this year. This follows 2025, which was also one of the driest years on record.

Between March and late August there was only one week at the beginning of June with significant rainfall. Rainfall after the 17th August has helped to alleviate the immediate problems for farmers and gardeners – but it seems likely that 2026 will be one of the driest years ever recorded.

NORTH RUNCTON RAINFALL (MM) OVER THE LAST DECADE						
YEAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	FULL YEAR
2026	1.0	18.0	54.0	2.5	71.0	?
2025	20.0	32.5	23.5	71.0	26.0	546.5
2024	47.5	75.0	26.5	79.0	18.0	733.5
2023	65.0	50.0	29.5	86.0	61.0	824.5
2022	15.5	45.0	66.0	12.0	58.0	567.0
2021	10.0	117.5	51.0	51.5	24.0	742.0
2020	24.0	0.0	101.0	80.0	93.5	795.5
2019	16.0	53.0	119.0	53.0	42.5	765.0
2018	81.0	56.0	37.0	47.0	60.0	654.0
2017	20.0	66.5	101.5	87.0	42.0	713.0
AVERAGE	30.0	51.8	60.9	56.9	49.6	705.0

Figures courtesy of Mr Ken Matthews

Consider quotes and designs for Church Walk railings

Councillors considered options for the style of gate and railings for Church Walk. Councillors agreed that Simon Nash proceed with the work and accepted the price of £3,000. This includes materials plus VAT, and installation. He will look at the possibility of using reclaimed materials and this may bring the cost down. Specifications were discussed, it was agreed to minimise noise disturbance the gate would be free to open and not self close, the opening would be inwards, towards the church. Dimensions as per the gate width, ensure it is wheelchair accessible.

To consider work and a quote for the war memorial

Further to the discussions last month Ken, Cllr Morrish and Cllr Palmer have looked at the war memorial and further discussions have agreed that the work will be scheduled in for Spring 2027. Funding still to be finalised, it was suggested that Cllr Barclay may be able to assist with his members fund, ACTION: Cllr Morrish to contact him. PC is holding £1,906 for the future war memorial upkeep from previous fundraising.

To Update the Action Plan for September 2026

WORK	ACTION
Repair the Church Gate	Action agreed, monitor until work complete.
Re-gravel path at Old Hall Walk	Complete – thanks to Cllr Braybrook.
Repaint Telephone Kiosk	Complete – thanks to Cllr Braybrook.
Repair bollard on corner of the Green	Complete – thanks to Cllr Braybrook.
Grit Bin Lid or whole bin needs replacing	Both the Clerk and Cllr Braybrook have looked at these. Although there is some damage to the plastic casing and lids, it is thought there is no ingress of water at present. Although will need replacing at a future time, continue to monitor and plan to replace when the stocks are lower in the bins.
Sealant needed on the bus shelter roof on the A10	The whole condition of the shelter is under review. Clerk has made initial contact with the Highways engineer to explore replacing the shelter with new.
Split in the VMP external wall	Repair work complete.
Upkeep of the church path	Cllr Palmer to explore the possibility of clearing this with conservation volunteers on a date close to the annual churchyard clear up so that debris can be taken away all together
Maintenance of Pond	Cllr J Fuller reported that a permit has still not been agreed with Transco Gas to carry out the work required. Clerk to try and find out some more information.
Replacement Christmas Tree for the Green	Cllr Braybrook has reserved a tree for collection later in the year. And will ensure correct planting and aftercare is carried out.
Restoration of the War Memorial	Cllr Morrish progressing this project further with the assistance of the Church Warden.

9. North Runcton an Hardwick Conservation Volunteers

No update for this month.

10. To carry out the annual review of policies and procedures

- Social Media Policy – Cllr Braybrook is currently running a Parish Council test facebook page. This will be monitored and further discussion on the policy at the October meeting.

- Planning Policy – Clerk to combine elements of the existing PC policy with new guidance and Councillors to agree at October meeting.

11. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

None to discuss.

12. Planning

a) Applications to consider

26/01397/F – Proposed two storey extension and single storey car port at Stour house, 26 West Winch Road PE33 0ND. No Comment.

b) Decisions from the Borough Council

- none

Cllrs agreed that they would agree a comment on 26/01215/FM Proposed redevelopment works of the existing poultry unit and change the species from turkey to broiler chicken production including decommissioning of 7 No. existing poultry houses and the erection of 6 No. additional poultry houses

Cllrs reviewed the areas of site allocations included in the Local Plan Scoping Consultation. Comments to be agreed via email. Cllr Morrish will prepare draft comments.

13. To hear any other planning issues relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan/Stakeholders Group

Cllr Morrish has begun to review. There have been more changes to national and local planning legislation. He is liaising with officers in regard to required inclusions in an updated NP.

Cllrs Braybrook, Williams, Yallop, Palmer recently visited the site of the gas diversion works leading from New Road. Feedback so far, the works will be complete by the end of November, there is a four week deadline window otherwise penalties will be imposed. It was noted that the gas feed to Palm Paper had to be closely monitored. The PC is awaiting photos to present to PC and a presentation will be given at the October meeting.

14. Correspondence

None which has not been raised in other agenda items

15. Finance

a) To hear an update on Cashbook balances

	Opening Bal 01/08/26 £	- Expenditure £	+ Income £	Closing Bal 31/08/26 £
NRPC Account	17,441.07	6,272.37	0.00	11,168.70
VMP Account	1,353.41	1,176.65	2,873.65	3,050.41
Redwood Savings	31,222.81	0.00	0.00	31,222.81
				45,441.92

The following payments made in August and approved in September;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Invoice amount
VMP			£
05/09/26	R Curtis	Clerks Salary & Exp – 06/8 – 05/09	205.66
01/09/26	Mr Brights	Cleaning 04/08 – 01/09	214.20
05/08/26	R Curtis	Clerks Salary & Exp – 06/7 – 05/08	205.66
02/08/26	S Ward	VMP Wall Repair	1,976.60
			2,602.12

NRPC

05/09/26	R Curtis	Clerks Salary – 06/08 – 05/09	754.09
01/09/26	J Braybrook	Sundry Items	27.47
01/09/26	Resin Master	Resin surface in VMP Yard	5,532.00
05/08/26	R Curtis	06/07-05/08 - Salary and Expenses	804.47
01/08/26	J Braybrook	Expenses	137.58
01/08/26	D Wye	Grass Cutting	60.00
			7,315.61

16. Public Participation

Dates for the Diary

11th Sept Your Choir at Church

11th October 2026 – Hog Roast at the Caravan Club

17. Items for future agenda

Planning Policy and Social Media Policy

18. Dates of next meetings – 13th October, 10th November

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed 13th October 2026