

North Runcton Parish Council

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

Tuesday 10th February 2026 - 7.45pm

Present: Cllr R Morrish – chaired the meeting, Cllr P Yallop, Cllr J Braybrook, Cllr M Mills, Cllr J Fuller, Cllr K Williams, Cllr S Palmer
Borough and County Cllr Jim Moriarty

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

1. To accept any apologies – Cllrs Houchen and K Fuller

2. Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in Items on the Agenda – Cllr Palmer – hirer of the VMP.

3. County and Borough Councillors Matters

Cllr Moriarty reported on the following:

Consideration of the outcome of the legal challenge from the Reform Party will determine if the County Council elections will take place. An announcement should be made next week.

The next stakeholders meeting will take place on 23rd February.

A call for sites has gone out, Government targets to meet are 1,000 new dwellings per year.

Cllr Barclay sent a report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

4. Public Participation

The Church Warden reported that the PCC are looking at fundraising activities, but at present are unsure of hosting a summer fete due to the amount of work involved in organising.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January 2026

The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.

6. Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 13th January 2026 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting.

- The gate at the end of the path near the Church was identified in the last risk assessment as needing some refurbishment. Quotes are being sought to carry out this work.

- Cllr Morrish has received 2 quotes to prune dead wood from the beech tree near the bus shelter on the Green. One quote was accepted and agreed to proceed with the work.

7. To hear an update on the Georgian Gem Lottery Heritage Fund Application

The application deadline for main funding has been put back to 26th May. A bat survey is due to be carried out shortly and approval for the work to go ahead needs to be confirmed by the Church Advisory Council.

An answer should be reached by the end of September and if successful construction to take place July – November 2027. The scope of work being on the north roof and tower rendering and guttering, damage caused by water and work to the spire. The overall aim is to ensure the building is removed from the 'At Risk' Register. Separate work on the Gurney vault is hoped to commence in 2027.

There are activities to take place within the interpretation plan including church classroom, village voice, crafts, wellbeing and trails around the churchyard.

Fifty percent of the shortfall in funding gap of £30,000 has been raised.

8. To consider Biodiversity and Action Planning within the Parish

Cllr Morrish reported that members of the PC and Clerk had met with NCC officers and discussed the following:

a) Planning application is in for access at New Road for work to be done by National Grid Transco.

Work is to be done in preparation on a tree outside the gateway by putting in a bird scarer to deter nesting birds.

b) A section of hedge is to be removed outside the property High Orchard.

c) A section of hedge to be removed on Illington Lane.

- d) Trees will be removed in preparation for further archaeological investigation along the line of the new road, west of Sheep's Course Wood.
- e) Cllr Morrish presented a map of the area of land owned currently by Hopes Charity. A section will be bought by NCC for the road. The remainder is required for 'landscape mitigation'. Homes England (who will partly fund the road work) need evidence that NCC has complete control of the required land. Discussions have concluded that NCC must therefore rent the 'mitigation' land from Hopes Charity for 30 years. However, once mitigation works have been agreed and implemented it is proposed that NCC might sublet the land to NRPC to be used as a public access nature area.
- f) May 2025 should see a road building contractor employed and the PC will have an opportunity to have some input into detailed design.
Councillors reiterated concerns about closeness of the road to the common and need for cattle grid; whether a turning area for vehicles was appropriate in current position; and concerns about likely impact to Twisty Twiney due to Chequers Lane closure. Cllr Morrish to note this to the NCC design team. Plans of trees to be removed will be placed on NRPC website.

9. To report on VMP Management Matters

- A plan for pest control was put forward by Buttercups and was discussed, this is needed by the group to meet food hygiene regulations. This contract would be arranged and paid for by the Buttercups. Cllrs agreed to this, but wanted to see the reports from the pest manager. A resident had seen children picking the flowers on the Green after the Buttercups session and asked for parents to be made aware. Clerk to contact Buttercups manager.
- It was acknowledged that the solar production has been low for the last few months.
- The electrician is still waiting for the RCD to come into stock to complete work in the Hall.

10. North Runcton an Hardwick Conservation Volunteers

A litter pick will take place on 28th February.

11. Action Planning – to consider PC goals for 2025/26

- The next quiz will be held on 20th March.
- ACTION: Clerk to email regular supporters of the event.

12. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues – work appears to have ended at the Hardwick roundabout, with the new traffic lights finished. The road surface coming off the A10 is in bad condition and resurfacing was thought to be part of the work to be carried out. ACTION: Clerk to enquire.

13. Planning

a) Applications to consider

26/00029/F | Extension to the property to the side and rear to create open plan living on the ground floor and a master bedroom with ensuite plus an integrated double garage at Palisa Springfield Mill Lane West Winch PE33 0LT. - No comment

b) Applications decisions

25/02012/F | Breton 6 New Road North Runcton, PE33 0RA - Proposed single storey extensions, first floor extension and internal altering – Permitted

14. To hear any other planning issues relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing to report.

15. Correspondence

- a) Borough Council - Call for Sites
- b) Borough Council – Notice of public consultation for Community Governance Review, this relates to gaining views on the unparished areas of King's Lynn.

16. Finance

a) To review the hourly hire charge for the VMP

Councillors reviewed the accounts for the VMP and discussed the hire charge. The last increase was 2024 and after consideration of the hours of hire income against expenditure Cllr Morrish proposed to increase the hourly rate by 50p for all groups, this was seconded by Cllr Williams. Increasing Buttercups fee to £7.50 per hour and other groups and hirers to £9.00 per hour – this was unanimously agreed.

b) To hear an update on Cashbook balances

	Opening Bal	- Expenditure	+ Income	Closing Bal
	01/01/26 £	£	£	31/01/26 £
NRPC Account	17,807.42	1,231.63	0.00	16,575.79
VMP Account	1,641.87	844.57	323.00	1,120.30
Redwood Savings	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
				47,696.09

The following payments will be considered for approval for February;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Invoice amount
VMP			£
05/02/26	R Curtis	Clerks Salary – 06/01 – 05/02	202.28
05/02/26	R Curtis	Clerks Expenses	11.81
09/01/26	Mr Brights	Cleaning 18/12 – 14/01/26	214.20
09/02/26	Mr Brights	Cleaning 15/01/26 - 11/02	214.20
05/02/26	Steward Safety Supplies	Fire Equipment Testing	133.01
			775.50
NRPC			
05/02/26	R Curtis	Clerks Salary – 06/01 – 05/02	767.69
05/02/26	R Curtis	Clerks Expenses	51.22
01/10/25	D Wye	Grass Cutting – Sept 25	67.20
			886.11

17. Public Participation

- Nitrous oxide canisters have been found in the village, reported and collected.
- Cllr Williams said that the Tennis Club are discussing the possibility of installing flood lights to allow play into the evenings for league matches – she will bring further updates to the meetings.

18. Items for future agenda

Set a date for the Annual Residents Meeting

19. Dates of next meetings – 10th March 2026, 14th April 2026

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed 10th March 2026