

North Runcton Parish Council

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

Tuesday 10th March 2026 - 7.45pm

Present: Cllr K Fuller - Chair, Cllr R Morrish, Cllr P Yallop, Cllr M Mills, Cllr J Fuller, Cllr K Williams, Cllr S Palmer, Cllr B Houchen arrived at 8.10pm
Borough Cllr Simon Nash

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

1. **To accept any apologies** – Cllr J Braybrook
2. **Declaration of Interest / Dispensation in Items on the Agenda** – None

3. **County and Borough Councillors Matters**

Cllr Nash reported on the following:

New direction from Central Government is setting a requirement to build 8,000 in West Norfolk at a rate of 1,000 per year, this is an increase from 540 per year. The Borough Council has set their budget for 26/27 with £4.4 million of unallocated income. Borough Councillors are inviting residents to give their feedback for the facilities and services at the Queen Elizabeth hospital.

Simon still has some community grant monies to allocate, requests to be submitted by 5pm on 26th March 2026.

4. **Public Participation**

A resident attended and raised the following:

- The road sweeper has not been in the village since summer last year – ACTION: Clerk to contact the Borough Council to request a visit.

- Noted that the fingerpost sign on the Rectory Lane junction has been replaced.

- Contractor parking outside Woodside on New Road is becoming an issue again ACTION: Clerk to contact resident.

- Overgrown brambles still an issue on the cycle path on the A10, Clerk has previously reported and been told it is to be looked at. It is understood that one of the local cyclist groups has also reported that the path is not clear and unsafe to use.

- More gravel is needed to dress the surface of Hall Walk, especially the first 3 metres at the New Road end. ACTION: The PC will arrange for this work to be done.

8.10pm – Cllr Barry Houchen joined the meeting at this point.

5. **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th February 2026**
The Council approved the minutes and the Chairman duly signed.
6. **Clerks Report on any matters arising from the minutes of 10th February 2026 and subsequently any matters arising that have been actioned not on the agenda for this month's meeting.**
None to raise.
7. **To Adopt Policies relevant to Assertion 10**
Cllr K Fuller proposed acceptance of the Accessibility Policy and Data Audit. The Clerk explained that the final part of Assertion 10 compliance is to register with the ICO.
8. **To consider biodiversity and action planning within the Parish**
 - Representatives of Hopes Charity are to meet with the Scouts to look at the land around the Hut to ascertain the areas of ownership.
 - Cllr J Fuller is still trying to obtain a licence from Transco to carry out work on and around the pond on the Common.
 - Cllr Morrish asked if there would be a cessation of selective herbicide spraying on the commons this year,

as he had previously noted that the Parish Council are now legally required to support, conserve, and enhance biodiversity. Therefore as commons rights holders, NRPC should not condone a practice that actively reduces biodiversity. Cllr J Fuller, who is also the commons grazier, said he again intended to spray as in previous years 'to protect the livestock'.

9. To report on VMP Management Matters

- The Clerk requested approval to purchase a key safe as a hirer was unable to gain entry to the Hall recently as 3 of the keyholders in the village were unavailable to let her in. Councillors agreed, the Clerk will only place a key in there when a hirer is booked to use the Hall.
- The Clerk has agreed a maintenance/service contract with AMR to attend to the units twice a year. This will be cost saving as there is one additional call out every year to clean the unit in addition to the annual visit.
- 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

The litter pick held on 28th February was successful. However, it was noted that the day after this took place there was a large amount of fly tipping found.

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

- The next quiz will be held on 20th March.
- It was agreed that the Clerk will produce a list of outstanding 'to do's' in the village for the next meeting and this will be reviewed at the Annual Parish Residents Meeting.
- Clerk will chase Duane to see when he will complete the work to the wooden bollard on the edge of the Green.

12. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highways issues

Potholes are still an ongoing issue, new ones should be reported to the Clerk who will report to NCC Highways.

13. Planning

- a) Applications to consider
 - none
- b) Decisions from the Borough Council
 - none

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

- At a recent meeting it was noted that Borough Council officers implied they felt that the stakeholders group was nearing the end of its usefulness, as planning consent has been achieved for 1100 houses and the road and funding and land acquisition was well advanced. However, Parish Cllrs feel that now is when the stakeholders group will become increasingly important as a way of liaising with Design Teams and Contractors. It was noted that Hopkins Homes have allegedly 'pulled out' of the project, apparently leaving another developer to be found to build the houses.
- There was some discussion regarding the NCC requirement to provide replacement common land within the housing development in relation to land needed for the road along the A47. The land swap is between the small pieces of former common along the A47 and an area at the edge of Sheeps Course Wood. However, there is still some clarification needed on who will own this land in the short and long term.

15. Correspondence

- a) 22nd Feb 2026 – Illington Lane Resident – Concern about contractors using Illington Lane for access and the subsequent damage to the area from their vehicle use. For information as resident has been in touch with a NCC officer regarding this.
- b) Feb/March 2026 – Various NCC Officers – West Winch Growth Area updates.
- c) 9th March 2026 - A request for permission to fish in the pond on the common. Cllr J Fuller (grazier/reeve had no objection). It was felt that consent could be offered, but that a letter needed to be sent outlining some 'ground rules' and to clarify that any such activities would be undertaken entirely at the persons own risk.

16. Finance

a) To hear an update on Cashbook balances

	Opening Bal 01/02/26 £	- Expenditure £	+ Income £	Closing Bal 28/02/26 £
NRPC Account	16,575.79	889.71	0.00	15,686.08
VMP Account	1,120.30	831.89	3,764.85	4,053.26
Redwood Savings	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
				49,739.34

The following payments will be considered for approval for February;

Date	Supplier	Description of Service	Invoice amount
VMP			£
05/03/26	R Curtis	Clerks Salary – 06/02 – 05/03	202.28
05/03/26	R Curtis	Clerks Expenses	53.49
04/03/26	AMR	Unit Service	352.88
09/03/26	Mr Brights	Cleaning 12/02 - 11/03	214.20
			822.85
NRPC			
05/03/26	R Curtis	Clerks Salary – 06/02 – 05/03	767.69
05/03/26	R Curtis	Clerks Expenses	17.69
13/02/26	Heritage Tree	Work to Beech Tree on the Green	360.00
			1,145.38

17. Public Participation - None

18. Items for future agenda

Review outstanding 'to do's' raised at PC meetings and from the annual risk assessments

19. Dates of next meetings – 14th April, 12th May, 19th May Annual Residents Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed 14th April 2026