

RYBURGH

Parish Council

MINUTES

11th February 2026

RYBURGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Present:- Cllr. Chris Weston, Cllr. Chris Buxton, Cllr. Glenn McCarthy, Cllr Henry Palmer, Cllr. Rebecca Kelly, Cllr. Emily Gould, Cllr. Terry Mack.

Phil Chapman (Clerk)

3 members of the public.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

One member of the public raised the subject discussed in the past regarding some general use notice boards at each end of the village. Councillors replied that it was in hand, and materials had been donated.

2. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

2.1. Norfolk County Councillor (NCC). S.Aquerone sent apologies and asked that his November 2025 report be recirculated.

2.2. North Norfolk District Council (NNDC). M.Hankins, attended and delivered a report: a written version of which is attached below. In addition, Cllr Hankins raised the subject of the NNDC budget which was being worked stating it was a balanced budget which he was proud of. As a follow on question he was asked about historic auditing of the NNDC accounts (the most recent published on NNDC website early Feb 2026) and ongoing long term problems. Cllr Hankins stated that the accounts were approved and never even qualified. A councillor stated that the NNDC accounts were not approved by the external auditor and were in fact disclaimed (a step beyond qualified).
<https://modgov.north-norfolk.gov.uk/documents/s22394/25.NNDC.446UK%20Audit%20results%20report%20ARR%20GPS%20LG%2024-25.pdf>

At 19.24 the meeting started.

3. APOLOGIES.

None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

5. MINUTES.

The meeting of 21st January, 2026, were considered and **accepted** as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting and signed by the chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1. The council had written to NCC to raise concerns about the postponement of elections.

6.2. Trod Path Project – Bridge Farm Road Path Safety Improvements. The Council noted that the Clerk had previously approached six contractors, and three quotations were

received at that time. Those quotations were broadly comparable, giving the Council reassurance that the prevailing market rate for the works was consistent and competitive. For the current works, one contractor cannot now be contacted, and one has declined, and further enquiries have not produced additional quotations within the required timescale. The Council is therefore satisfied that it is not reasonably practicable to obtain three current quotations and agreed to proceed on the basis of the best available quotation(s). The Council **resolved** to delegate authority to the Clerk/RFO to enter into such contracts and place such orders as are necessary to deliver the Bridge Road bridge works project (including the contractor, traffic management/temporary signals, and Norfolk County Council permit/approval fees, etc), provided that total expenditure remains within the approved project budget of £6,500 (plus VAT where applicable) and that the Clerk reports back to the next Council meeting on contracts placed and costs committed.

GOVERNANCE

7. PRECEPT

The clerk was able to confirm that the precept request had been submitted to NNDC, and a reply had been received to say it was successfully received. The request was for £20,955, representing £84.64/year for a band D. The budget and precept paperwork are available on the website.

8. VACANCIES

The council declares a casual vacancy in the office of councillor following cessation under s.85(1) LGA 1972 and **resolved** for the Clerk to notify NNDC and publish the notice of vacancy.

PROJECT UPDATES.

9. YOUTH CLUB

A further introductory evening will be held on **13th February**, with an update to follow at the next meeting.

10. GRASS CUTTING.

Formal written quotes have been received for regular grass cutting, and a one off tidy up of a specific area. It was **resolved** to accept the quote for £50/month over 12 months to maintain all areas. Scope of works to be agreed and recorded. It was **resolved** to defer a decision on the one off tidy up pending further investigation.

11. FUEL ALLOTMENT.

Although the Council had reached out to all trustees, no trustees attended (one of the trustees sent his apologies in advance). The councillors discussed and considered the new paperwork obtained from the archive some of which is also available on a village website: all documents available had been shared with trustees, and councillors in advance of the meeting. Although these documents were both helpful and interesting they did not resolve key concerns of the councillors, and more investigation is necessary. The trustees have approached the council for support in “*modernising*” the charity. The council felt that it

could not make an informed decision without considerable further information explaining what modernisation looks like. It was **resolved** to invite the four trustees to attend the March meeting to help the council get a better understanding of the proposals.

OTHER BUSINESS

12. PLANNING.

- 12.1. No new applications received.
- 12.2. No updates.

FINANCE

13. FINANCE.

- 13.1. The bank reconciliation was received and having been checked by the chair and Cllr Kelly was duly signed.
- 13.2. As per circulated list of all payments, in the finance pack.
- 13.3. Pre-approved
 - 13.3.1. Npower bills as noted on the statement of payments. The vice chair had made contact with Npower and updated the council on his research. It was resolved for the vice chair to obtain contract quotes and report back at the next meeting.
 - 13.3.2. The Clerks wage figures had not been received back from payroll.
- 13.4. None

14. CORRESPONDENCE.

The council had received an email to state that fuel allotment paperwork was also available via a village website, and that an experienced historian in the village was happy to assist in researching these topics.

15. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDAS.

Trod Path, Fuel Allotment, N Power, CSW, Councillor and Clerk Training, ParishOnline.

Meeting Closed at 20.41

North Norfolk District Council (NNDC). M.Hankins.

LGR The delay in holding County Council and Mayoral , and District Council elections has given rise to concern , the elections for Mayoral and Unitary Authority [once the government decides on the preferred option] will now be aligned , in the meantime the council is proceeding to work as normal.

North Norfolk Local Plan

The plan has been finalised and the implications for local planning have been published on the website , I appreciate as always, the devil is in the detail; please contact me or the planning team for any questions you may have.

Ryburgh neighbourhood plan.

Chris Brown of the planning team has circulated a letter suggesting the PC revisit the NP in the light of changes that have been made to the North Norfolk Local Plan in terms of housing allocations and associated planning approval conditions.

Anglian Water Meeting Update.

The council had a very productive meeting with Senior Management from AW focussing on sewage discharges and planned water capacity to meet the challenges presented by the increased housing projections in the NNLP.

Water Discharges

AW reported that until the end of October discharges occurred on 194 occasions with an average 6.4 spills per storm overflow for an average of 21 hours significantly lower than the previous year , AW reported they were aiming to reduce discharges by 17% over the next 5 years.

All storm overflows were on a storm overflow reduction plan , published on the Government website where people can view the AW plan to reduce spill numbers over the next 10 to 15 years.

Capacity , AW agreed to provide further details on how they will endeavour to meet the challenges of water capacity for new homes that are planned in the plan and for the North Walsham and Fakenham areas in particular.

Mobile Connectivity

On 28th February, the council carried out a review session with a representative from Mobile UK [Virgin /O2, Vodaphone /Three and EE and BT Business.

The purpose of the review was to ensure that the representatives were aware of the problems faced by residents with varying levels of connectivity across the district.

The representatives were introduced to the mobile coverage plan prepared by the council , highlighting some of the challenges they faced with coverage. Several possible solutions

were explored ,and the mobile representative agreed to work with MNOs on plans to improve coverage.

A further meeting is scheduled with Vodaphone and Three on the 4th of March .

It is evident that that the MBNOs are willing to engage as partners on an improvement programme, these meetings have opened a useful conduit for planning a way forward.

Kind Regards,
Cllr Mike Hankins.

DRAFT

Report from your County Councillor, Cllr Steffan Aquarone



November 2025

Banking hubs

I have long campaigned for banking hubs for our towns and villages and I was pleased to open North Norfolk's first permanent bank hub last week. The hub will give the people of Melton Constable division access to banking services near where they live and work, with more banking hubs planned for North Walsham and for Cromer in the very near future. Essential services like these are crucial to the success of our independent businesses and I'll keep campaigning for them to keep our local economy growing.

Digital ID

Many people from my county council division have written to me about their concerns around digital ID and I will keep making their voices heard. I have made it clear to the government that many of them are anxious about being forced to use digital ID and that making it mandatory will cause exclusion in our rural communities. While there are some benefits to digital ID, the choice to use it – or not – should always be ours.

Low-flying military aircraft

For the past eight years I have received concerns from residents in Melton Constable division about the noise that is being created by RAF and American fighter jets performing manoeuvres over populated residential areas.

Having raised the issue with the Ministry of Defence previously, I have again made contact to remind them that there is no reason why some of the most disruptive training maneuvers cannot take place off shore over the North Sea where it will have less of an impact on our communities. This is an accommodation that has been made from time to time, but often the issue returns after a few months. The MoD has promised to look at the possibility of revising training schedules to minimise disruption and I look forward to updating you on the progress of these changes.

Hope and progress!

I want to remind you how powerful it is when we work together to solve the issues that impact us the most. Whether that's funding improvements to road safety or public transport infrastructure, or tackling service providers to deliver faster, more reliable broadband so that our residents and small businesses can thrive – every voice matters. As always, if there's anything I can support you with, please get in touch.

I welcome your thoughts on these matters. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me in my ongoing capacity as your County Councillor.

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