

WALSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Present:

Cllrs. Brian Landale (Chairman), Lee Acton, Julia Marozzi, Tom Lane, Elizabeth Meath Baker, Vanessa Paige, Clare Williams, James Woodhouse (Vice-Chairman)

and: District Councillor Tom FitzPatrick,

You are summoned to a Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 7.15 for 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall

Members of the public may raise matters of concern before the meeting

MINUTES

Welcome

1. **Apologies** from Nigel Morter, Keith Tuck, and County Councillor Michael Dalby were accepted.
2. **Declarations of interest** by the Councillors in any of the agenda items listed below. None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting** on 8 January were approved and sign.
4. **Matters arising** not otherwise on the agenda. None
5. **To consider co-opting to fill the vacancy**
 - a. The Vice-Chair would ask a prospective candidate to write something to introduce himself and indicate what he would bring to the role.
6. **Report from County Councillor** circulated via email.
7. **Report from District Councillor**
 - a. The **Public Toilets** had been reprieved for a year. He would continue to put pressure on NNDC to find funding for them. (The Chairman thanked him.)
 - b. **Devolution**: Norfolk and Suffolk will have a directly elected Mayor for the combined counties – elections in May 2026 (with the postponed County Council elections).
 - c. **Local Government Reform**: the district and county councils in Norfolk will be replaced by unitary authority/ies. There are tight timescales leading up to the decision by the Minister in September 2025. There is a tight timescale. Currently, district and county councils are working on proposals:
 - i. one unitary authority (the whole of Norfolk);
 - ii. two unitary authorities (the county split East and West in various ways);
 - iii. three unitary authorities (East, West and greater Norwich).The Government has said that a unitary authority should have a minimum of 500,000 population. Norfolk has a population of 935,000 so this will influence the final decision which will be made in September 2025. A shadow authority will be elected in 2027 and the existing district and county councils will cease the following year.
8. **Police Matters** nothing to report.
9. **Highways**
 - a. **Potholes and other highway faults** should be reported via the website:
<https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/default.aspx>
 - i. Road sign (restricted access) fallen down at junction of Old Wells Rd / Egmere Rd
 - ii. Potholes on Sunk Road and at Westgate Ford
10. **SAM2**
 - a. Any new sites on Egmere Road will have to be within the 30 mph zone.
 - b. Awaiting repairs
11. **Grounds Maintenance**
 - a. **Playing Field**: Nurture 8% increase to £1226.02 per annum was approved.
 - b. **Verges and greens, Great Walsingham**. It was noted that FT Grounds Maintenance were no longer able to do the work. Vanessa has provided a similar quote for £420 per month.

WALSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

This was approved. She reported that the verges by the ford are problematic, but she would do her best.

- c. **Moles** on verges and greens: Henry Sturman had been asked to attend (and also on the Recreation Ground).

12. Finances

- a. **Statement and Accounts** were signed
- b. **The following payments were approved:**

Countrystyle Recycling Ltd	emptying bottle bank	101639	£24.00	17/01/2025
J Otte	expenses	101640	£69.52	
Norfolk Copiers	service charge	101641	£59.27	

- c. It was noted that employer's contribution to pension fund has decreased from 23% to 22.5%. The amendment to **Standing Order instruction** to take effect on 25 April 2025 was approved and signed.
- d. Two signatories are required to phone Barclays to give the necessary instructions to set up **online banking** facilities. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk would make arrangements to set this up.

13. Report from Village Hall Working Group.

- a. At the meeting on the 19 February, it was decided to instruct the architects to re-work the design for rebuilding the Village Hall on the footprint of the old hall. This would be more economic to build and run. It was also agreed to get advice regarding the best type of heating to suit the size and use of the building. It was explained that this appeared to be the way forward as the feedback indicated that the hall would be used in a similar way as previously: meetings for Parish Council (and other organisations), private bookings, fund raising events, workshops, and secure storage for the Village Archive.
- b. The Vice-Chair reported that he had received information about a generous offer from a local charity which would make a rebuild possible without the large grant from the Lottery Fund. It was hoped that a re-application to the Lottery Fund for a smaller grant would have more success than previously.
- c. A meeting would be arranged when the plans were available.

14. Playground Equipment

- a. Awaiting quote for maintenance / repairs from Fenland Leisure Products.

15. Public Toilets

- a. The District Council has decided to maintain responsibility for the Public Toilets at least until March 2026.

16. Street Lighting nothing to report

17. Planning

- a. **Applications received since the last meeting**
 - i. **RV/25/0093:** Erection of dwelling (Estate House under NPPF Paragraph 79e) restoration of barns; associated landscape and ecology proposals and change of use of land from agriculture to residential curtilage) without complying with condition 2 of planning permission PF/20/0365 to allow for construction of tennis court and fencing to serve dwelling at **Creake House Walsingham Road Egmere**. Link circulated. No objection.
- b. **Decisions made by NNDC**
 - i. **DP/24/2466:** Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed demolition of four timber framed redundant poultry buildings at **Brick Kiln Farm, Edgar Road**. Prior Approval Given.
 - ii. **LA/24/2551:** Construction of lightweight fire resistant partition in ground floor at **Mill House 5 Scarborough Road**. APPROVED.

WALSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

18. Correspondence: circulated as usual.

- a. Devolution & Local Government Reform. The Government has launched a consultation for a mayoral authority and additional funding for Norfolk & Suffolk. [You can respond to the consultation](#) via the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution-consultation/> . The consultation runs until 13 April 2025. Full consultation available online: <https://www.gov.uk/regional-and-local-government/devolution> 'Policy Papers & Devolution'

19. Items for report or future agenda

- a. It was reported that some people were concerned about the parking on The Hill, Great Walsingham on Sundays. It was pointed out that there was nowhere else to park for people attending church or staying at the cottages.

20. Next meeting and Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 7:15 for 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

Parish Council Meeting closed at 8 pm

Joanna Otte, Clerk to Walsingham Parish Council, e-mail: walsinghampc@googlemail.com Tel. 01328 822366
Little Manor, Thursford Road, Little Snoring, Fakenham, NR21 0JN *Agenda prepared by 04/03/2025*

Annual Meeting of Walsingham Recreation Trust

Following the Parish Council meeting Wednesday 12 March 2025

1) Trustees and officers

- a) It was **confirmed** that the
 - i) Parish Council is the **Management Committee** for the time being (as well as the Custodian Trustee) until local organisations are able / willing to nominate representatives as described in the WRT Scheme.
 - ii) Chairman of the Parish Council is the **Chairman** of the Walsingham Recreation Trust.
 - iii) The Parish Clerk is the **Treasurer and Secretary**.

2) Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 Dec 2024 were approved and signed.

3) A request from the Bowls Club to extend the green northwards to allow play in both directions was considered. The extension would mean moving the boundary fence into line with the north wall of the Cleaves Houses, onto the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that this was acceptable as long as it did not affect the football pitch. It was hoped that the Club would maintain the bank outside their boundary.

4) Village Hall new build – see village hall working group report to the Parish Council.

- a) It was noted that the Trustees had a responsibility to spend the insurance money well. It was suggested that perhaps the money could be better used elsewhere.

5) Any other business

- a) It was reported that Keith would not be able to organise Rock on the Rec. His request to hand over to other volunteers was not taken up.

Meeting closed at 8:15 pm