

# North Creake Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of North Creake held at the Village Hall, North Creake on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Present: Coucillors A.Bunkle (Chair), J.Bretingham Smith (Vice-Chair), A.Culshaw, S.Sandell, J.Robinson, J.Rocklin and L Fletcher (Clerk/RFO).

Borough Cllr C.Morely was also in attendance.

One Member of public attended the meeting

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence: None received prior to meeting
3. There were no declarations of interest in Agenda items
4. The Minutes of the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.
5. Parishioners Questions and Statements: There was one member of the public present at the meeting, the following points were raised:
  - a. Planning – There was a public discussion concerning changes to planning process, the Govt is intending to ‘take politics out of the system and speed up the process’
  - b. Litter ‘pockets’ appearing on roadside – Borough Cllr C.Morley will take this forward
6. County and Borough Councillor reports
  - a. County Councillor A Jamieson had supplied a year end report prior to the meeting which was circulated
  - b. Borough Councillor C.Morely gave a verbal report
    - KLWNBC is up for 2 awards for Most Improved and Housing Intervention
    - Budget has £600k Surplus
    - Council tax – The Govt intend this to be collected over 12 months rather than the current 10 and to be more lenient with arrears, likely to come into effect for 2027/28
    - Benefit bill for KLWNBC is approx £25 million, often have to estimate and reclaiming from Govt is challenging
    - CIL scheme has changed, down to 20%, therefore KLWNBC have increased their grant program to £500k
    - The new library in Kings Lynn is now open
    - Local plan call for sites has been extended. New local plan has to be completed in 30 months, 1000 homes target however large part of the area is flood plain
    - Hunstanton promenade is constantly being monitored for further collapse, contingency funding having to be budgeted for
    - Finances in generally good shape
7. Clerks report / matters arising not already covered under other agenda items)
  - a. Bank reconciliation issue resolved
  - b. End of year work is progressing ready for internal auditor
  - c. Change of address, this will be ongoing is there are a large number or organisations to be informed but changing to the village hall address will negate the need for changes in the future due to Clerk changes as the address for the Parish Council will remain the same.

- d. Jacks Lane Wind Farm Community Application – After some initial issues with the application system due to a new system being used by the grant awarding body, the application for funding for a new speed sign with solar charging has been submitted.
  - e. Useful contacts for website – The Clerk reported that a list has been collated, a new page on the website set up and the list uploaded, the Clerk asked that councillors have a look and advise of any further organisations that should be on it.
  - f. Household bonfires – Cllr Sandell reported there have been no further issues
  - g. Layby update – The Clerk reported that this has been chased up, the work is scheduled but no date received from the contractors to NCC
  - h. Defibrillator has been checked. The Clerk advised that the pads will need replacing before March 2027
8. Training – No new courses listed
9. Open Spaces
- a. SAM2/Speeding Offences – Last data downloaded was corrupted with only 1 hour of data available. Cllr Culshaw has gone over the historical data which shows that 50% of vehicles were recorded travelling at over 35mph. The NSS speeding website records show that 8 speeding offences were recorded in North Creake during February
  - b. Play area visual inspections – No issues, Mole control is continuing on the playing field although suspended over the Easter School holidays, the Clerk reported that he has spoken to the contractor and advised him there are also moles on the village green which he will trap. It was noted that the grass cutting contractors have advised all Parish Councils that they work for that surcharges may apply where moles are not kept under control due to the impact on their machinery.
  - c. Bus shelter seating – the Clerk advised that the only ‘perch’ seats available were integral to bus shelters and suggested the Fusion bench from Glasdons as an alternative at £406.85 +VAT (fixing kit additional £24.93 + VAT) it was agreed to purchase this in the light wood option
  - d. Relocation of Millenium Oak bench – Cllr Bunkle has received agreement from Althorp estate for this to be resited around the Jubilee Oak on the Village green. Clerk to post on village facebook page regarding this and the replacement of the memorial bench by the village pond
  - e. TTSR Fuel surcharge – The Clerk advised that TTSR have informed him that due to increased fuel costs they are applying a fuel surcharge for the next 12 months
  - f. Use of weedkiller by contractors – The Clerk has been in touch with TTSR and has been advised that the contractors only use this in places where their strimmers would cause damage were they to trim to the edge of obstacles
  - g. Damage to bus shelter – there is a crack at the bottom of the NW pillar of the bus shelter & concrete has come away, there is no movement in the pillar. Clerk to seek advice from KLWNBC and council will continue to monitor.
10. Biodiversity
- Treatment of hemlock at Shammer Woods – Advice has been sought from Althorp Estate by Cllr Bunkle regarding the treatment of the hemlock, they have provided a suggested treatment plan which has worked at one of their other sites. Council agreed to purchase the treatments via Cllr Robinson who will carry out the treatment and store the chemicals in line with regulations.
11. Footway Lighting – No issues reported
12. Finance
- a. Late payments – None
  - b. Accounts for payment
    - Litter pickers for Village litter pick - £24.98
    - Dog Bin collection charge - £1093.25

Wages - £274.41

- c. Finance received in March - £162.82 interest
  - d. February and March Bank reconciliations agreed and signed
13. Correspondence  
Email received regarding the replacement of the bench by the village pond (see also item 9d)
14. Highways matters
- a. Pot hole on West Street has been reported by the Clerk
  - b. Moving on speed sign along Roadhills to increase 30mph zone – The Clerk advised that NCC have said that this would cost circa £15k and would take at least 2 years as speed limits are backed by a full legal order. Clerk to request from NCC Highways whether a pedestrian warning sign can be installed by NCC as the the Walks footpath comes out onto a 60mph limit along Roadhills.
15. Planning – there were no applications to consider or decisions made by KLWNBC

Meeting closed at 19:34hrs

Date of next meeting Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, to immediately follow the Annual Parish Meeting