

North Creake Annual Parish Meeting

14th May 2026

Minutes

Attendees – Cllrs A.Bunkle, J.Brettingham Smith, J.Rocklin, A.Culshaw, S.Baker and J.Robinson, Clerk L.Fletcher, Clay Shooting Club Secretary L.Wainwright and 2 members of the public attended the meeting

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair. Cllr Bunkle was elected as Chair and Cllr Brettingham Smith was elected as Vice Chair
2. The Chair welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting, apologies were received from Cllr S.Sandell
3. Declarations of Interests – None Declared
4. The minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting were agreed and signed
5. Parish Council Chairs Annual report

In the past 12 months the Parish Council has met 11 times for regular meetings and once for an extraordinary meeting.

The past 12 months have seen:

Land at Shammer – We continue to look after the parish land at Shammer. The approach is to do just enough but not too much and to allow this area to develop as naturally as possible. We are pleasantly surprised at the abundance of diversity to be found at the parish land at Shammer. Many of the trees on this 1 ½ acre plot are thriving. We are investigating the best way to eradicate the hemlock which has developed at the northern end of the site and it will be a challenge to prevent it from spreading further.

Christmas Lights on the village green – this was the 14th year that we have had a Xmas tree plus associated lights in the trees on the village green and round the corner on West Street. Thanks must go to the dwindling team of volunteers who helped with the lights set up and take down and those who helped on the night, also including Fr Clive.

Open spaces

Willow tree on village green – sadly this tree had to be cut back this year, although just enough remains to allow it to have a chance to regrow at least on one side. Our thanks go to the local woodsman who carried out this work without charge to the parish.

Bench on village green – we have replaced both of the wooden benches on the village green with identical all-weather picnic style benches.

Parish litter pick – this was held again this year just before the verges began to grow, and certain roads in the parish yielded a surprising amount of litter which the Borough Council kindly came and collected for us. Thank you to all the volunteers who came along to help.

Biodiversity – the parish council is attempting to create a wildflower strip and has selected a site at the village hall (in conjunction with the hall's committee). This has been set and we await the results but do not expect

anything to show until 2027. If this is successful this strip of flowers will be expanded to other suitable sites in the parish.

Speeding in the village – this is still an issue in all locations where we have speed data and we aim to deploy the SAM2 speed signs to gather more data at various points in the village to share with the police to inform their management of speeding offence visits. Admittedly, getting data from the signs is more problematic than was anticipated, although one of them allows remote download of its data via Bluetooth.

Water & drainage management – the last autumn and winter brought fewer problems with the ingress of groundwater into the main drains than in previous years. Tankers have still been parked outside the pumping station on Wells Road but not to such a great extent as in previous years.

I have been proud to have served as Chairman of North Creake Parish Council for the past year and in fact the past 19 years. It is a good and caring council with a diverse selection of characters and it serves the village well with commitment, care and common sense which welcomes parish engagement in its various activities.

6. Reports from Community representatives and other organisations

- a. County Councillor – The new County Councillor was elected on 7th May and no contact details were available for him prior to the meeting so it was not possible to invite him to the meeting
- b. Borough Councillor Cllr C.Morley sent his apologies prior to the meeting and supplied the following report

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK – MY PERSPECTIVE

We have been nominated for 2 Local Council Awards; 1 as most improved Council and 2 our housing scheme. We await the adjudication but notwithstanding the result, we are in a cohort of top local Councils which is not only where we want to be but, also, we will continuously improve from here. Any suggestions as what we can do even better are welcome but, until we become a Unitary, our powers are limited.

FINANCE – To balance our budget we had to increase our Council Tax by £5 per household and our discretionary fees by 7%. This resulted in a Band D charge of £152.87 but only 7p in the £ against the total Council Tax you pay at this Band when the County and Police demands are added to total £2,318.64. We still have to give 40% of our Council Tax receipts to support Internal Drainage Boards. We can't wait for both the Government to come up with a more equitable way of funding IDBs and for us to manage the existing County Services more efficiently. We have already delivered efficiencies of 15% since taking over and have built in a further 10% for 26/27. With a pay bill in excess of £25m you can easily calculate the efficiency impact. It has given us a General Reserve of £10m and ensured we pulled ourselves away from the black hole we inherited. We can now start to significantly invest in our communities and I look towards my colleagues to come forward with plans and projects to do just that. We are not waiting for a "rainy day", further significant improvements start now. Those visiting King's Lynn should already notice the work currently under way on major construction projects, this is only the start for the whole

District.

In Bircham with Rudhams we will have 2 new Reform colleagues and we look to them, for the short while they will be with us, for considerable support.

OTHER ASPECTS OF NOTE:

OUR HOUSING PROGRAMME – a programme to build 1,000 houses, primarily for rent, with a significant number being affordable. To date 972 are completed or under construction. 260 market sales, 127 affordable houses being occupied, 27 sold under shared ownership, 92 in occupation by private rental. A programme worthy of significant recognition and not only in my view.

COASTAL – You will recall the extensive work we helped coordinate to remove the oil nurdles from the North Coast beaches, we have recently fixed the extensive sink hole in the promenade and put significant £m's on one side for coastal repairs. In our capital programme we have also set aside many upgrades to welfare and public facilities.

CIL – the process changed and training delivered to Parish representatives.

Sydestone have a Neighbourhood Plan which will evolve. It would benefit all Parishes to prepare a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan to support future CIL application; help is always available.

LOCAL PLAN – the Government, in setting political targets before analysis, are reducing the weight of public opinion. I recommend each Parish send a representative to training sessions, (currently arranged for 15th and 22nd June).

ASSET MANAGEMENT – we want to make best use of our buildings as well as our finances. Contrary to initial reactions, we do undertake a very considered and community approach to changes. We have an ageing or limiting estate but we will invest to deliver better outcomes in many ways, health, wellbeing, enjoyment, sport and the like. This goes hand in glove with a Marmot programme to reduce health inequalities in West Norfolk.

YOUTH EDUCATION – where your tax and fees help deliver our own apprenticeships and showcase opportunities and learning for this important sector for the future prosperity of the area.

WASTE and FLY TIPPING – we have invested in a team to address this, sadly, ever growing problem and have extensive powers to prosecute and fine. We will do this.

This is just a “potpourri” of my view of our actions to support our communities. Each Borough Councillor will have their own perspective of “deliverables 2025/26”. We are all available to help.

Chris Morley

Cabinet Member for Finance

c. Village Hall Chairs Report

This is the 93rd year of operation for this fine Village Hall.

We have welcomed three new Committee members as a result of an appeal.

Christopher Pratt, a retired gentleman with an impressive history of administration and committee work. Stephan Nicholls, a local builder who has volunteered to be the Technical member. Harry Studd, who as Chair of CDG will be the liaison with them,

The Creake's Drama group, the halls biggest user, presented a successful Christmas show in December 2025 and are in the process of rehearsals for another play in May of this year. Their continued use of the hall is very helpful for rental income.

Coffee mornings for the church continue to be well attended.

Rentals for various events are good, but could be improved.

Good control of available funds makes the VH financially secure.

However day to day costs are rising, therefore a careful watch on expenditure has to be maintained.

Many thanks to our Treasurer Adam Bunkle, who researched and negotiated a new source of VH Insurance, resulting in a substantially cheaper premium.

Consideration was being given to a renovation of the Hall roof, this was rejected due to the high cost.

Several new and fundraising ventures are being considered for the rest of the year

The VH website, is still managed by Lucinda Reddyhoff and Andy Culshaw, has been updated and is accessible to all. Thanks to both of them.

I take this opportunity to thank the Committee members for their generous gift of personal time and effort which enables this fine hall to carry on for the benefit of the Village of North Creake.

Phil Lines

Chairman, North Creake Village Hall Committee

May 2026

d. Clay Shooting Club Report

Apologis from the Chairman John Wainwright and the Treasurer John Acton who caannot make this years AGM.

We have 30 members to date and average 14-26 per shoot, which is more than last year.

We have kept the yearly membership cost at £15 since 2023. This covers the Clubs insurance.

We have maintenance issues with the traps, clay arms and breakdowns from spring failures as well as electronics and batteries.

After each meeting we collect missed clays to re-use as the price of clays has gone up again. We also tidy up broken clays as best we can along with all

spent cartridge cases. A member then takes the cartridges away to be recycled.

We are now using standard clays, I have spoken to Adam about the swap over to CCI the clay manufacturer has gone into liquidation. I found a different manufacturer of Bio-Clays but they do not work in 5 out of our 6 traps. Also due to shipping costs they would only deliver a lorry load at a time and the club cannot justify the cost of £35 a box or swap the traps to work with the clays as this would be very costly.

We now use Laporte Std clays at a reasonable price of £20 per box, the Laporte bio clays jam in our traps so cannot be used either.

Std clays and felt/fibre wads are in full use.

I have asked the members not to use bio wads as they look like plastic and take a long time to degrade. As a result of this a couple of members have not returned to the club as they thought it was nonsense.

7. Public opportunity to ask questions.

There were no questions, however a member of the public expressed his thanks to the council for all that they do.

The meeting closed at 6.56pm