

North Creake Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of North Creake held at St Marys Church, North Creake on Thursday 9th July 2026

Present: Coucillors A.Bunkle (Chair), J.Bretingham Smith (Vice-Chair), A.Culshaw, S.Baker, S.Sandell and L Fletcher (Clerk/RFO). Cllr J Robinson joind the meeting after item 8.
There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence: Apologies received and accepted form Cllrs J.Rocklin and J.Robinson
3. There were no declarations of interest in Agenda items declared by Councillors.
4. The Minutes of the meetings held on 11^h June 2026 were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.
5. Parishioners Questions and Statements – No members of the public were present
6. County and Borough Councillor reports
 - a. No report received from the County Councillor Cllr P.Lawrence
 - b. The Borough Councillor Cllr C.Morely supplied the following report:
 - 1.A new Community Project Fund of £500k was agreed for this year's budget and it just about ready to see the light of day. Parish Councils and community groups etc can apply but the application has to be submitted by the Borough Councillor. More details any time soon.
 - 2.Our small grants funds, for local groups and causes to apply, has just opened. Please promote via your Council Letter or Village magazine, f/b etc. Small revenue grants up to £2.5k – total pot £15k, Capital grants up to £10k to cover 50% funding – total £50K, plus a new scheme ringfenced for rural and coastal communities – total £50k. Application details on Borough web site or that of. Norfolk Community Foundation.
 - 3.Council had an interesting debate, following a Motion from Reform Councillor Moore, seeking to replace our Declaration, in 2021, of a climate emergency, with a practical environmental programmes for protecting residents against flooding, cost of living and such like. I think many people understand the basis of such an argument as, for example, the UK carbon footprint is only a small percentage of the global equation. However, it is a hearts and minds matter and although the banner headline is to reduce the Council's carbon emissions to zero by 2035, our planned actions for 2026 -2028 (if people would only read them before offering opinions) are very pragmatic. Although £1.2m was allocated to our net zero Declaration, we have spent only half since 2021 with nearly all of our programmes being funded by central Government. Furthermore, the cost of living is squarely out of our control, with the Government capping our Council Tax and dictating the amount of Business Rates we are allocating. Our fees and charges revenues now represent nearly 70% of our funding and we cannot ignore that 44% of our Council Tax returns are levied by Internal Drainage Boards. We are

still lobbying the Government to change this iniquitous charge on our residents which is one reason why we are incentivised to be ever more efficient to help those in need within our Borough. As regards other flood protection – this in the hands of the DEFRA but we do earmark reserves to deal with emergency matters from Wolverton Creek to around Hunstanton. As for recent work on Hunstanton promenade. It was an interesting debate and the Motion was roundly lost. Members of the public also took part.

4. There is a Norfolk Groundwater Challenge Meeting on 13 July (14.00 – 15.00) led by Anglia Water. The Creakes are on the Agenda. IF you haven't received an invite, by Teams or similar, I assume, my contact is Rhiannon McKenzie, Flood Partnership Coordinator.

5. The Local Plan consultation is underway. The role of Borough Councillors is still unclear, at least to me. Through our Local Government Special Interest Group (Drainage and Flood Resilience Group) we are trying to ensure that future development planning takes due account of flooding issues.

6. The Council has produced an Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2028 mainly reinforcing projects already underway or to be started. This will help with securing grants and maintain our direction during the throes of Local Government Reorganisation. There is much bluster about this programme but at present, no sign that the Government is changing its plans; although the objections from Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils may delay legislation but not the implementation. Underneath this surface protestation, our officer teams are working on understanding each administration's data systems and the best routes for integration assuming the starting gun will fire but with less time to implement.

7. Clerks report and matter arising from previous meetings (not covered elsewhere in agenda)
 - a. The Clerk reported that a letter had been posted to the resident concerned and that the damage to the playing field has been repaired although grass seed may take time to germinate.
 - b. The Clerk informed council of the two potential accounts/funds that council could transfer savings balance to, council agreed to keep the savings with Unity Trust Bank as any extra interest incurred would not be significant and funds are secure with Unity Trust with appropriate financial controls in place for access.
 - c. Bus Shelter – The Clerk updated council on the potential Bus Shelter, due to space constraints the original shelter proposed does not fit, the alternative design from Littlethorpe is the 'Cropston' shelter. Council agreed that this shelter does not meet their requirements and that council should approach the maker of the shelter in Burnham Norton for a quote – Clerk to confirm with Norfolk County Council that this would meet their criteria for funding support and request details of specifications required. Cllr Culshaw to check who the manufacturer is and let Clerk have the details.
 - d. Bus Shelter bench – The Clerk advised that he has the resin needed to set the secure bolts for the bench but has not yet had an opportunity to do so due to the heatwave which would significantly reduce the working time of the resin. Clerk to install once temperatures are lower.
8. Training – No new courses available. The Clerk advised that he has registered for a free training session on upcoming changes to AGAR submission

Cllr Robinson Joined the meeting

9. Creake News – Council agreed for the Clerk to provide a summary update to Creake News after meetings
10. Open Spaces
 - a. SAM2 Cllr Culshaw has purchased a refurbished android phone and is now able to get the data from the speed sign sited on Burnham Road – 4th June to 24th June 30,786 vehicles recorded, 4,617 (15%) were exceeding 37.2mph. That's 230 vehicles per day, on average. The max speed recorded was 75mph on 3rd July
 - b. Speeding offences – The mobile speed camera did not visit North Creake during May/June
 - c. Play area visual inspections – There were no issues found with the visual inspection
 - d. Bonfire on playing field – This has now been resolved – see item 7a
11. Changes to County Councillor discretionary funds – The Council are disappointed that this fund has been closed using delegated authority and without debate at County Hall, it was felt that this fund has helped small parish councils greatly and it's loss removes this targeted support and is a very short sighted decision. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to our County Councillor informing him of the Council's concerns.
12. Conservation Area – The Clerk reported that The Principal Conservation Officer at KLWNBC has replied as follows:

“I can confirm that North Creake Conservation Area was designated in February 1990 and, like the vast majority of other conservation areas in the borough, has not been reviewed since its designation.

I recognise that in a lot of cases, development in our conservation areas has caused change to occur that has altered the character of parts of the area. However, at this moment in time, the Borough Council does not have the resources, or indeed the funds to embark upon a programme of review, as much as we would want to.

If the Parish have the funds available, we would be more than happy to advise on consultants who would undertake the work for you.”

Council agreed for the Clerk to get details of the consultants and to get information of likely costs involved. Cllr Morely is also investigating funding options.
13. Biodiversity – Cllr Robinson advised that he has done a follow up treatment on the hemlock at Shammer Woods, the treatment is having a visible effect.
14. Footway lighting – No issues reported prior to the meeting
15. Finance
 - a. Late payments – None
 - b. Accounts for payment - the following payments were agreed (VAT, where applicable, is not included in these figures):

TTSR £913.19
Npower £75.03
NPTS £48.00
A.Culshaw £61.49 (reimbursement for purchase of Android Phone – see item 10a)
Wages £274.41
 - c. Finances received during June - £154.27 Interest.
 - d. June bank reconciliation – This was approved and signed
 - e. To consider support for the maintenance of the Churchyard – It was agreed to grant £250 to the church to be ringfenced for grass cutting in the new area of the churchyard
16. AGAR – the AGAR was agreed and signed

17. Correspondence

- a. TTSR – Moles on playing field and Village Green – The grass cutting contractors had advised that there excessive mole hills at both sites and that they could potentially damage their equipment leading to a surcharge. The Clerk advised that he has spoken to the pest controller and been informed that he would deal with the moles. Clerk to get quotes for monitoring contract instead of ad-hoc approach currently used
- b. Egmore harvest – Clerk has been informed via email that this is now over
- c. Email from Parishioner (received afternoon of meeting so not on initial agenda) email regarding Vandalism on rear of speed limit sign and also rubbish on Burnham Road. Clerk to email Parishioner signposting them to the appropriate methods of reporting this issues to the appropriate authorities as neither of these issues fall under the Parish Council remit.

18. Highways matters – no issues reported prior to meeting

19. Planning

- a. Applications – 26/01062/CU Change of use, Barn House, West Street - Support
- b. Decisions – 26/00728/F Glazed Conservatory, Pebble Mill Hse, West Street – Permitted

Meeting closed at 19:46hrs

Date of next meeting Thursday 10th September

These minutes are DRAFT version until approved by Council at the next meeting