



SEA PALLING & WAXHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

27th April 2026 at 6pm
Sea Palling Village Hall

Present: From the Parish Council - V Bird (Chair), C Preston (Vice Chair), G Casson, A Draper and P Rowe. B Furr (Parish Clerk). County Cllr Price, District Cllr Blathwayt and four members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr S Burrell and Cllr S Deary

1. Welcome and Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. The minutes of 15th April 2025 were APPROVED and SIGNED by the chair.

2. Annual Report of the Parish Council.

Summary for 2025 / 2026

I'd just like to start by mentioning a couple of people - firstly the passing of Mary Vacca earlier this year – as most of you know Mary represented Sea Palling & Waxham on the Parish Council for many years and, as was said at her funeral, she was a formidable character and a force to be reckoned with – RIP Mary and thank you for everything you did for our village.

Secondly, our colleague Richard Price, Richard has been involved with our Parish for nearly 20 years in many guises - latterly as our County Councillor and sadly this is his last meeting with us. I'd like to thank Richard for all his hard work, guidance and support over the years - we will miss him.

On to the main report - a very positive year for our Parish Council with lots achieved and more in the pipeline so apologies in advance, this is a long one!

An old favourite first - Clink Lane flooding issues – we would like to thank the Community Trust for cutting back and clearing the dykes and successfully finding the elusive pipe which enabled Anglian Water to flush it through. NNDC have also done some clearing of the ditches. Our County Councillor is awaiting a response from Anglian Water to get them back and flush out a second pipe which was located. The work that has been done plus a lack of rainfall has meant that this area has so far not suffered from the flooding issues we have seen in the past. We will continue to chase this up.

Coastguard Cottages & Dune Lodge alleged footpath encroachment – the investigation has almost concluded and interested parties will be contacted and notified of any steps which may need to be taken.

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The new village gateway sign was installed on Waxham Road and gives a nice welcome to the village. We have submitted an application to the Parish Partnership fund for a similar set up on Stalham Road so both main entrances to our parish will be covered. Many thanks to our County Councillor Richard Price for his contribution of £1000 towards this – this means the Parish will only have to contribute £200 from our own funds.

The traffic island landscaping is an ongoing project – the newly planted daffs looked lovely earlier in the Spring – these bulbs were kindly donated by a parishioner. Any volunteers for future weeding duties will be gratefully welcomed!

Our PC Facebook page which was set up early last year now has over 230 members and we will continue to share info and items of interest through this medium as well as on the Nextdoor forum.

We installed a new, larger PC noticeboard outside the shop so that information can also be shared here for anyone not on social media – our website is also regularly refreshed with info. The suggestion box next to the noticeboard has not had too much use but it is there if anyone wants to make use of it.

In August we published our first bi-annual newsletter and this was distributed to every household as a supplement with the Church newsletters – the second one was published in January this year – this is yet another way in which we are keeping the PC more visible to our community.

A community event sponsored by the PC was held in May to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day – this was with the support of many of our local businesses and was a great success helped by glorious weather that day – our thanks go to Ria at the Lifeboat Tavern who was the organisational anchor for this event and we will be taking advantage of her skills this year – more to follow on this.

In late summer we installed a small bike rack down by the beach ramp – this was specifically requested by a resident and we were happy to support that request.

There were no significant issues regarding Poplar Farm in 2025 – myself and our clerk Becky had a tour of the site and were very impressed with everything the owners have achieved and are continuing to improve on. The site owners did request a separate meeting between themselves, the Environment Agency and Police which the PC hosted, mainly to talk about reducing trespass and illegal raves – talks are ongoing around this.

A new, smaller, bus shelter for Stalham Road has been installed – this has perch seating and will have motion sensor solar lighting and will improve visibility for the farmer and fishermen when exiting Hall Farm. This is 80% grant funded so a cost of just over £2k to the PC. A glass cleaning schedule has been set up for both our bus shelters.

Mobile phone signal – it was good to see that NNDC's Overview & Scrutiny Committee have recently held a meeting with network operator Vodafone. We also have support from our local MP who contacted a mobile and digital infrastructure provider - Cornerstone - on our behalf. Cornerstone have told us that they are at the early stages of identifying possible sites for a radio base station in the SP area. We have passed on the details of a couple of possible sites and will continue to press on this issue. We will work with all parties to move this forwards for our community.

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We are trying to get some disabled parking bays marked out in the two private car parks in Clink Lane. Our thanks go to Graham Deary & family for being pro-active and agreeing to mark out two bays in the second car park. We have now also made contact with the manager of the first car park who has agreed to take a look at the feasibility for us.

This brings me on to the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) for Beach Road – we were campaigning for no parking all year round on Beach Road to improve emergency access to the beach – following a successful petition with the vast majority of parishioners in favour, this is now with Highways and is undergoing the consultation process – however we are unlikely to hear any more about this until the summer due to the pre election period of sensitivity - ‘Purdah’ - which restricts local authority activity.

We have held two free defibrillator training sessions and on the back of these have installed a defibrillator at the village hall, this was fully grant funded and we now have three defibs in the village. Thanks to the village hall committee for letting us hold these training sessions at no charge to the PC.

A media event was held together with Friends of Horsey Seals to raise awareness of the dangers of flying rings to our seal population – and I embarrassed myself on national TV when interviewed by BBC Look East – am hoping it’s not up on You Tube.

Community events – we will be sponsoring a Summer Solstice event on Sunday, 21 June (similar to the VE Day event) and a Christmas Carol event on Sunday, 6 December – again with our local businesses and again with the help of Ria – exact details are being thrashed out!

Devolution - it was announced last month that the government has decided to move forward with 3 unitary authorities for Norfolk - more details will unfold in the coming months.

Now finally on to our main items:

Sea Palling Boatyard – this was a major undertaking by the PC this past year – we submitted a retrospective planning application on behalf of the boatyard and after a long and anxious wait for our fishermen, the application was finally approved in January. We have now submitted the final site survey to NNDC which was a condition of the approval we are very proud of this one for our whole community!

Beach wheelchairs – we have two grant funded beach wheelchairs which many of you will have seen outside Sandy Hills Café. We’re absolutely delighted to be able to offer these fantastic wheelchairs for hire free of charge, helping more people with mobility challenges enjoy our beautiful Blue Flag beach. We’d like to thank Charlie and all at Sandy Hills café for their help with the storage. Final booking details and T&Cs are being sorted and hiring will begin very shortly - we are sure this will be a very successful venture and another one to be proud of for our community!

Lastly our Youth Council – we have 8 of our local young people involved in this exciting new initiative which is in its infancy at the moment. They will represent the views and opinions of their generation whilst influencing and inspiring change. They will work alongside Sea Palling & Waxham Parish Council in making our parish a better place. Again, this is yet another forward thinking project we can all take pride in! I hope this report goes to show everyone that the PC is not just about parking

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issues and dog mess - we do listen and we do make a difference whenever and wherever we can, thank you. Val Bird – Chair, Sea Palling & Waxham Parish Council - April 2026

3. Reports from other organisations

Please see the end of these minutes.

4. Open Forum

None.

5. Close

The meeting closed at 18:15pm.

Sea Palling & Waxham Village Hall

2026 Annual Parish Meeting Chairman's Report

Yet another year has passed and the Village Hall has been a busy place once more, but this time with just seven Committee members. As always my first wish is to publicly thank them all for the hard work and many hours they have given of their time for the benefit of the whole village, despite two of those members living and running a business in a neighbouring village.

As is normal at this time I list the events that have taken place at the hall. The Family Fun Dog Show which was greatly sponsored by local businesses, New Year Celebration, Race Night, Musical concerts together with monthly Prize Bingo and Quiz Nights. In addition our Zumba, Yoga, Carpet Bowls, Line Dancing and Table Tennis sessions and monthly Craft Fairs are thriving, remaining popular with people both from the village and beyond. In May, when the village held the commemoration for VE Day 80th anniversary the hall held an afternoon tea and a street party wartime singalong which was free to all who attended.

In terms of maintenance and building improvements the hall has installed solar power, financed both by our own fundraising efforts as well as a generous donation from the Parish Council for which we are very grateful. By installing this system and by fitting storage batteries we are in fact exporting unused power back to the grid for which very soon we will receive payment, thereby reducing our financial burden even more. In addition yet again we will reduce our carbon footprint even further.

Although public attendance has been encouraging to all functions that we have programmed there is still a loathness for people to come forward to join the Committee. Having said that many people who do attend functions stay behind afterwards to help clear up and for that we are always very grateful. I said in my report to the Parish Council last year that we would have to look at the whole question of events, particularly Quiz Supper Nights. Quiz Supper Nights throughout the year are by far our best source of income. This year though, sadly, there have been occasions where there has been no availability of committee members to provide the food necessary for the evening so we have held just a "Quiz Night" where we suggest quizzers "bring their own nibbles", and we already know there will be similar occasions in the coming year. Fortunately we don't think we have not lost any support to date by doing this but I honestly feel that if it happens more than once or twice we will begin to lose that support.

On a more positive note we are looking forward to yet another busy year but I have to conclude my report by once again issuing our plea for help.

Clive Preston

Chairman and Trustee

Sea Palling & Waxham Community Trust

Trustees Report for the year ending 2025

The trustees met for 4 meetings this year.

The full name of the Charity is Sea Palling with Waxham Community trust also known as SPWCT formerly known as the Sea Palling Poor's Allotment.

Principal Activities.

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The principal object of the Trust is for the relief of those residents in the parish of Sea Palling with Waxham who find themselves in need through hardship or distress. In exceptional cases the trustees have the discretion to assist those who do not qualify as residents. All hardship help is strictly confidential.

Although the income received by the Trust may initially be used for the relief of hardship (governed by the Scheme of the Charity Commissioner dated 1st June 1984), from 2002 the Trust is able to widen its use for Community projects such as managing the Playing Field, Diamond Wood and allotments- all on trust land and other community projects within the parish.

Main Activities

Banking arrangement are with Barclays for Current accounts with on-line transactions

Diamond Wood – a quiet area, remains popular with dog walkers. New trees have been planted. Pathways are regular maintained.

The Allotments are well organised and there is a small waiting list to take on a plot or half plot. There are also three larger agricultural plots.

The Playing Field: the Rospa safety inspection was carried out in December 2025 with good results. Safety checks are carried out regularly by 2 trustees throughout the year. Groundwork is carried out every 2 weeks. Continued work to deal with rabbit and mole infestation is regularly undertaken. The surface around the Multiplay has been replaced with wet pour which has improved the regular maintenance of the Playing Field. Work is in hand to remove the mound due to the rabbit problem. It is hoped to install new equipment in its place.

The main income continues to be the revenue from the car park

The trustees consider the Trust is in a financially stable position and all yearly outgoings on Trust land have been met.

Norfolk County Council – Annual Parish Report 2025-26

Our Promises	What Was Delivered	Impact
Libraries & Culture	Built new libraries, invested £3m+ , and transformed Norwich Castle into a world-class attraction	Stronger cultural offer and a major boost for tourism
Better Care	Invested £40m+ in care homes and supported living	More residents able to live independently for longer
Backing Our Children	GOOD-rated services , £2.5m+ for care leavers, £5m for jobs, and 600+ opportunities created	Better life chances and stronger futures for young people
Better Roads	Major infrastructure projects completed and £10m extra invested in maintenance	One of the best-performing highways services in the country
Improved Buses	£50m+ invested , more electric buses, and 26% growth in passenger numbers	Cleaner travel and better public transport access

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Protecting the Environment	850,000+ trees planted and emissions cut by 50%	Protecting Norfolk's countryside and tackling climate change
Growing the Economy	Investment in high streets, improved connectivity, and hundreds of new homes built	Stronger local economy and thriving communities

Norfolk County Council, under a Conservative administration, has a strong record of delivering on its promises and investing in the county's future. From new libraries and major road schemes to over £40 million in care and significant improvements in children's services, we have focused on the priorities that matter most to residents. We have strengthened local transport, supported businesses and high streets, expanded opportunities for young people, and taken meaningful action to protect Norfolk's environment. This is a council that combines experience with action backing communities, improving services, and driving sustainable growth, while continuing to stand up for Norfolk and secure the investment it deserves.

Norfolk County Council delivers a balanced and responsible budget for 2026–27

Norfolk County Council approved a balanced £613.8m budget for 2026–27, demonstrating strong financial leadership and prudent management in what remains one of the toughest funding climates in decades.

The administration has once again delivered stability and certainty for residents, setting a balanced financial position while identifying £42.3 million in savings and efficiencies and committing £76.3 million in targeted investment to protect vital services and strengthen Norfolk's economy.

Despite significant national financial pressures and ongoing constraints in central government funding, we have ensured the county remains on a firm financial footing, without resorting to emergency measures. This stands in stark contrast to a growing number of upper-tier authorities across the country that have issued Section 114 notices or are facing effective bankruptcy.

The budget enables the council to continue:

- Protecting frontline services
- Investing heavily in adults and children's services
- Delivering new libraries and modern learning hubs in key towns
- Supporting for heritage, culture, and tourism
- Driving transformative reforms to improve efficiency and outcomes
- Backing economic growth and infrastructure
- Maintaining long-term financial sustainability

In line with national funding assumptions a 4.998% increase in council tax was implemented due to the government's continued reliance on placing the burden on local taxpayers to safeguard core services. This decision reflects the financial realities facing councils nationwide, while ensuring essential services remain protected for Norfolk residents.

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This budget reinforces Norfolk's Conservative administration's commitment to careful stewardship of taxpayers' money, strong local services, and a resilient future for the county.

Norfolk County Council invests in community led highway improvements across the county

Norfolk County Council has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local communities with the approval of 99 new highway improvement schemes for 2026-27, delivered in partnership with town and parish councils across Norfolk.

Papers highlight how the Parish Partnership Programme, now entering its fifteenth year, gave local communities a voice in shaping the highways enhancements that matter most to them, whether that's improving pedestrian safety, slowing vehicle speeds, or making it easier to walk, cycle or access local services.

This year's programme represented a total investment of £769,034, made possible through the longstanding 50/50 funding model. Town and parish councils will collectively contribute £384,517, matched by £384,517 from Norfolk County Council, enabling more than twice as many small-scale schemes to be delivered than could be funded by the council alone.

In total local councils submitted 99 bids for 2026/27 and all were approved as viable schemes after being carefully assessed against value for money, community outcomes, safety benefits and compliance.

Norfolk's bus service improvements deliver record growth and faster journeys

Norfolk County Council's ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) has transformed public transport across the county, driving a 26% increase in passenger numbers since 2022 and making Norfolk a leading national example for sustainable travel.

A paper discussed at the council's Infrastructure and Development Committee on 22nd January highlighted what has been delivered thanks to the £65.45 million secured for Norfolk from the Department for Transport. That includes;

- New and enhanced bus services on more than 44 routes across Norfolk, including more evening and Sunday services
- Affordable fares: capped single fares in key towns and multi-operator ticketing
- Greener fleet: 75 zero-emission buses in Norwich and 24 more electric buses coming in 2026
- Improved passenger experience: real-time information, safer waiting areas, next-stop announcements and real-time information on more buses.

Not only are we seeing record-setting and increasing numbers of passengers, but customer satisfaction has also risen to 87%, bucking national trends and reinforcing Norfolk's approach to improvements in bus travel across the county.

Norfolk gritting vehicles headed out over the winter season

Norfolk County Council's winter gritting got underway during the recent winter, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes, and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. The first runs of the recent winter season (late 2025/early 2026) started as temperatures dropped, utilizing the 58-strong fleet with automated salting to cover 2,200 miles of routes, supported by stocked salt barns and public grit bins.

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Norfolk County Council took first place in the Eastern region in annual Highways and Transport Satisfaction Survey

Norfolk County Council has once again demonstrated strong performance in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey, taking the top spot in the Eastern region for overall satisfaction and second out of 29 county councils across England.

The annual survey, which gathers public views on highways and transport services, saw Norfolk achieve an overall satisfaction score of 48%, well above the national average of 40%.

This marks the 15th consecutive year Norfolk has participated in the survey, and the 7th year in a row that we have come either first or second overall.

Key highlights from this year's results include:

- Top Regional Performer: Norfolk ranked 1st in the Eastern Region for overall satisfaction.
- Some of the best above average score were in our bus services thanks to improvements that have been made as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan. The 'local bus services' overall category we were 10% above the group average with sub indicators as follows:
 - Public Transport Information (11% above group average)
 - Frequency of bus services (9% above group average)
 - Ease of access to school / work (6% above group average)
- Condition of highways (8% above group average)

Norfolk County Council's Deep Disappointment at Government Decision to Halt Mayoral Election and Slash Devolution Funding

Norfolk County Council expressed serious concern following the Labour Government's announcement that the planned 2026 mayoral election for the Norfolk & Suffolk Combined County Authority will be deferred until 2028. The sudden decision meant that Norfolk would now receive only around one-third of the investment previously promised under the devolution programme.

Norfolk County Councils astonishment at the Government's decision to create 3 Unitaries for Norfolk under Local Government Reorganisation

Norfolk County Council made a robust bid for a Single Unitary council for Norfolk under the proposals for LGR. This bid was based on sound financial information with the primary purpose of protecting front line services, whilst ensuring value for money. NCC already deliver 85% of local services in Norfolk, a single unitary was the easiest to implement, would ultimately save money for taxpayers and was the most obvious choice for the county. It was also backed by key stakeholders like the NHS and the Police. None of the other proposals, which would split services and cost more to implement and run, stacked up. It is therefore disappointing that despite the 3 unitary proposal not meeting the government's own criteria, that this is the option chosen. This may be more a political decision than a practical one and seems irrational. The council will consider the details of the decision and may choose to challenge this.

Norwich Castle Keep reopens following £27m redevelopment

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Norwich Castle Keep reopened to visitors following a comprehensive five-year redevelopment project that introduced new accessibility features alongside new galleries and interpretive displays.

Funded by £12 million from Norfolk County Council and over £13 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, all five floors of the newly named People's Palace were opened to the public for the first time ever.

The Grade I listed castle, originally commissioned by William the Conqueror 900 years ago and completed by his son Henry I in 1121, retained its historic significance while embracing modern improvements.

A new light-filled atrium adjacent to the Keep was unveiled in the first phase of the redevelopment in July 2024. Visitors also benefited from a new café, gift shop, and additional toilet facilities to enhance the visitor experience.

Importantly, a lift was installed to provide full wheelchair accessibility throughout the Keep, allowing access from the basement all the way up to the battlements, where visitors could enjoy panoramic views across Norwich.

Nationally recognised 'AI programme to be rolled out across Norfolk to prevent falls

A new, nationally recognised proactive intervention scheme is rolled out across the whole of Norfolk. The initiative was delivered in collaboration with local partners including Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSE), city, district and borough Councils and NHS organisations, aims to reduce falls in vulnerable and older adults.

Following a successful pilot with 1250 residents, the programme, which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify residents at risk of escalating needs, enhances the safety and wellbeing of those at risk of falls. The latest Artificial Intelligence technology, natural language processing is used to 'read' case notes and automatically extract meaningful insight about our residents. This technology enables the council to identify and prioritise individuals in Norfolk most at risk of falling, allows for proactive intervention before they fall.

AI is a rapidly developing technology with the potential to improve the delivery of services. The council is using AI to benefit the people of Norfolk in a safe, ethical and transparent way.

Falls are a major concern, particularly among older or vulnerable adults, and can lead to severe injuries and a decline in quality of life. Through this programme, the council will be able to predict people who are at higher risk and offer timely and targeted interventions to support them.

For more information about preventing falls visit [Preventing and dealing with falls](#).

Norfolk County Council Approved £500k Community Fund to Boost Local Projects

Norfolk County Council approved the launch of a new £500k Norfolk Community Fund for 2025/26, aimed at supporting grassroots projects that strengthen communities and improve local wellbeing.

The fund will empower local voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) groups to apply for grants between £200 and £2,500 to deliver small-scale initiatives that bring people together, promote inclusion, and enhance quality of life. Each of the county's 84 councillors will be allocated £5,000 to distribute within their divisions, ensuring funding reaches every corner of Norfolk
