

**Minutes of the Neatishead Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2026 at
7.30pm in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead**

Present:

Cllr Robert Ferrier-Hanger (Chair)
Cllr Michael Godfrey
Cllr Daniel Moulton
Cllr Ben Mullard
Cllr Jane Rutter

Cllr Richard Price (Norfolk County Council, South Smallburgh Division)

Parish Clerk Laura Bateman

Also present: 2 members of the public

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

1. Apologies

Cllr Gerard Mancini-Boyle (North Norfolk District Council, Hoveton & Tunstead Ward)
PC Matt Pritty (Norfolk Constabulary)

2. Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensation

Cllr Ferrier-Hanger declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Poor's Trust.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2025 were AGREED as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Rutter, seconded by Cllr Moulton, all in favour.

4. Public Speaking

a) County Councillor:

Cllr Price informed the meeting that Norfolk County Council (NCC) had been asked to postpone the local elections by the Government due to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) planning, however NCC still want them to go ahead in May this year. Complications with the LGR process could happen should there be a change of political party to a party who are not in support of the restructure.

A new CEO, Sarah Crowley, has been appointed for the Broads Authority and will take up post in August 2026.

He confirmed that he should still be able to fund the remaining 50% of the permissive footpath project with his personal budget once the Parish Partnership Scheme funding has been agreed.

b) District Councillor:

No report was received.

c) Police:

There were no significant issues to report.

d) Public:

An architect who is submitting a planning application for Plot 5, The Old Boat Yard, provided a presentation detailing the proposal. The development falls outside of the Neatishead parish boundaries, but the Council was still interested to hear information regarding the project as it will be visible to some of the Neatishead residents.

5. Planning

a) New Applications:

No applications received.

b) Planning Decisions Noted:

No decisions received.

6. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

a) The Clerk provided an update on investigations into the ownership of the Sandpit and is making progress in gathering the necessary evidence for the Parish Council to register the land. A visit to the Records Office had established that the Sandpit was most likely to have been allocated to the Surveyors of the Highway under the Inclosure Awards 1808. The Clerk now requires written confirmation from NNDC that it does not hold responsibility in trust for the land. Once written confirmation is received the land registry application can be made. The Clerk will contact NNDC.

ACTION Parish Clerk

b) The Clerk confirmed the Parish Partnership Scheme funding application for the continuation of the permissive path had been submitted. The New Victory Hall Management Committee (VHMC) had indicated it may be willing to make a contribution to the project. As Cllr Price should be able to cover the remaining 50%, the Council requested the Clerk write to VHMC and suggest that rather than contribution to the permissive footpath itself, that any available funds are put towards improving the footpath that runs alongside the hall's car park so that the whole area is improved. The Clerk will also enquire as to whether the money from NCC is paid before any work is carried out or re-imbursed on completion of the project.

ACTION Parish Clerk

7. Maintenance and Risk Assessments

a) Cllr Ferrier-Hanger will contact a plumber to have a look at the tap. It was felt the hoses would last another year and look at being replaced next year.

ACTION Cllr Ferrier-Hanger

b) The zip wire had been re-tensioned but the concrete still in situ required removing.

c) There was a broken post at the car park at the recreation ground. It was agreed Cllr Godfrey will buy a replacement post and be re-imbursed for the cost. He should then be able arrange for the post to be fitted at no cost. **ACTION Cllr Godfrey**

d) There were no issues to report regarding the recreation field.

e) There were no issues to report at the allotments however another pitch had become vacant.

f) The school green currently had highway equipment on it; the replacement bench was discussed later on the agenda.

g) There were some bags of rubbish that needed removing from the Parish Council car park at the New Victory Hall.

8. Other Matters

a) The quotation for the replacement bench was considered and it was agreed that measurements of the plinth will be taken to get a bench to fit that size. Cllr Rutter will take the measurements and the Clerk will get prices for a more accurate sized bench.

ACTION Cllr Rutter and Parish Clerk

b) It was agreed that Councillors will try and speak with members of the community directly to try and generate some interest in the parish councillor vacancies. The school will also be contacted to see if there was any way of the Parish Council advertising the councillor vacancies through the school to reach the parents.

c) Cllr Rutter reported the recent data from SAM2 and it was agreed there were no significant recordings for concern. Discussions with Barton Turf and Irstead Parish Council were taking place regarding how often each parish had the device, it had been suggested that Neatishead would have it more in term time and Barton Turf and Irstead more during school holidays. Whilst the Council agreed there was some advantages to this, it agreed having the device for at least some of the holidays would still be important. Cllr Rutter stated if the device was moved per calendar month this would make reporting the data much simpler.

d) The Play Inspection Company's repeat order for the play area annual inspection 2026 was accepted. Proposed Cllr Ferrier-Hanger, seconded Cllr Moulton, all in favour.

9. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

a) Cllr Price's latest Parish Report.

b) Direct debit for allotment water is being reduced from £71 to £61.

c) North Norfolk District Local Plan was formally adopted by NNDC on 17th December.

d) The second consultation on the Broads Authority Local Plan for the Broads, is open until 16th January 2026 for public comments.

e) The date of the next Stalham Neighbourhood meeting 5th March 2026 at 7.00pm (via Teams) and Norfolk Police's public survey is open for feedback.

10. Finance

- a) The bank account balances were accepted.
- b) The scheduled payments were approved. Proposed by Cllr Ferrier-Hanger, seconded by Cllr Mullard, all in favour.
- c) The 2025-2026 Q3 budget report was accepted.
- d) The 2025-2026 Q3 bank reconciliation was accepted
- e) The budget for 2026-2027 was agreed and the precept set at £13,948.00

11. Any Other Business

None

12. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 19th February 2026 at 7.30pm at New Victory Hall, Neatishead.

Meeting closed: 9.04pm

CHAIR Signed..... Dated.....