

## **Minutes of the Cley Parish Council Meeting**

**Held at 6.30pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in**

**Cley Village Hall, the Fairstead**

**Attending:** Cllr Holliday (Chair), Cllr Allen (Vice Chair), Cllr Deane, Cllr Holman, Cllr Williamson and Parish Clerk Gemma Harrison (remotely online).

7 members of the public were present.

### **1. Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence.**

1.1 Cllr Holliday welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies have been received from Cllr High and County Cllr Eric Vardy.

### **2. To receive declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations by councillors in any of the agenda items listed.**

2.1 Cllr Deane stated that he is a member of the Harbour Committee.

### **3. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to be approved.**

3.1 The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and were PROPOSED by Cllr Williamson and Cllr Holman and AGREED by all.

### **4. Matters Arising on the Minutes (for information only and not included on the agenda).**

- It was noted that Cllr Tim Baker has resigned as a Parish Cllr due to ill health. Cllrs extended their thanks to Tim for his wonderful service to Cley over the years and noted he will be greatly missed.

### **5. Receive and Discuss Reports.**

- County Cllr Reports – Cllr Eric Vardy gave his report which can be seen at Appendix A and was read aloud by Cllr Holliday.

- North Norfolk District Council – See report at Appendix B. Cllr Allen to clarify information contained in the latest EA Catchwater Drain newsletter and report back to Cllr Holliday,
- Allotments - hedges will soon be cut. Another allotment plot has been let.
- Harbour Report – Simon Read gave the report and noted how generous donors have been to the Advent Windows.
- Village Hall Report – Several projects are ongoing; the play area refurbishment scheme is in the planning phase; the basketball hoop is in train. The committee have asked whether the Parish Council are aware of any suitable grant funding opportunities for disabled access to the Club Room. Clerk and Cllr Holliday to see what funding is available. It was noted the CADS shed has had its roof replaced.

VH/GH

- **Public Participation**

*An opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and request to speak on agenda items*

- A member of the public asked a question about co-option and what skills CPC were looking for. The Clerk replied that all applications are welcome, members of the public are encouraged to submit a brief resume stating what the applicant would like to achieve and what skills they could bring. Ideally Cllrs would like to see all areas and interests of the village represented on the Parish Council.
- Two members of the public requested to speak on the Newgate Green item later on the agenda, one member of the public on the planning item and one on the correspondence item.

## **6. Planning**

6.1 The planning report (circulated prior to the meeting) for comments on PF/25/1193 Riverside House was read aloud by Cllr Holliday. A member of the public stated that there had

been several objections to the proposal from residents, it was AGREED to reference this in the CPC planning response. The draft response (with amendment) was PROPOSED by Cllr Deane and SECONDED by Cllr Allen and AGREED by all. Clerk to respond to NNDC. GH

6.2 There have not been any applications received since the agenda has been published.

6.3 The recent NPPF Consultation was discussed, it was AGREED to defer the item to February's meeting to allow Cllrs to read the proposed changes and provide their feedback. ALL

## **7. Allotments ACV**

7.1 The recent application to nominate the Cley Allotments as an Asset of Community Value has been successful, pending the statutory 8-week appeal window.

## **8. Finance**

8.1 The finance was read aloud by Cllr Holliday, the payments (£2173.72), receipts (£483.75) and bank reconciliation (Appendix C) were PROPOSED by Cllr Williamson and SECONDED by Cllr Deane and AGREED by all.

8.2 The cost of the interpretation board for the Heritage Walk (to be situated on Newgate Green) was shared. The quote was £ 850.60, which is £100 under budget. It was noted the money for the board came from the Arts and Culture Grant Fund awarded by NNDC. The quote was AGREED by all. Clerk to order with the supplier. GH

## **9. Correspondence**

9.1 The Hangs – Correspondence has been received regarding the new fencing on the footpaths at The Hangs. The order plan was referenced and seemed to indicate the fencing had been erected in the correct location. Clerk will seek clarification from the NCC Rights of Way Officer; members of the public have previously walked a different route between points C-D on the order plan. It was noted that the footpath shown between points K-E has been fenced off. Clerk to add the item onto next month's agenda. GH

9.2 Toad Patrol – the Clerk confirmed that training will take place for both existing and new volunteers on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 10.30am at Cley Village Hall.

9.3 Harbour Committee – the Committee are keen to create a Working Party to discuss future projects on The Quay. The Committee are generously willing to use their funds to enhance the space on the Quay and it was suggested a group should be formed to discuss potential projects. An official Working Party requires a terms of reference to be drafted and adopted, it was AGREED the Clerk will liaise with the Committee prior to the next meeting to discuss what would be involved. Clerk to add the item onto the February Agenda.

## **10. Electric Vehicle Charging**

10.1 NCC have been in touch and are waiting for either the Parish Council or the Village Hall Committee to agree a way forward. It was AGREED that representatives from both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee should hold a separate meeting to discuss and agree a way forward. It was noted that there was an opportunity (depending on the price per kilo watt hour) that a profit could be made. Clerk to arrange for a meeting between the two parties to take place. GH

## **11. Curloo Donations – Electronic Payments**

11.1 Cllrs would like to explore further with the Village Hall Committee the possibility of introducing electronic payments. Clerk to arrange a meeting with representatives from both parties. GH

## **12. Neighbourhood Plan**

12.1 To draft policies were circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that there are currently six draft policies, these were read aloud by Cllr Holliday. Cllr Deane has drafted an updated dark skies policy which will be shared with the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and then brought to the Parish Council for adoption.

12.2 A member of the public stated that they would like to see policies on the natural environment, the built environment, the economy and society. These areas will be discussed further with the working group.

12.3 To note the first meeting of the NP Working Group on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6pm in the Club Room.

## **13. Newgate Green**

13.1 A member of the public stated they found exiting the new car spaces difficult and noted water had pooled on the new surface. Highways felt that for larger cars the trackway was not wide enough and as such were reluctant to change the design of the parking bays. It was accepted that the works were a compromise and were created taking local concerns into account.

13.2 A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for getting the work done and noted the early problems with a car getting stuck on the green. They suggested a bund to stop people repeating this mistake. Cllrs advised that 3 *Church Parking signs* would be erected in front of the bays which would hopefully resolve this issue.

13.3 Cllrs AGREED to monitor the situation. The Clerk was asked to make a note to review applying for a possible grant (for further works) from the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme, when launched later in the year. GH

#### **14. Items to be included on the Next Agenda**

14.1 The NPPF Consultation, the Hangs, Loo donations, EV charging, the Quay Working party, Cley Neighbourhood Plan

14.2 Cllr Deane reported on the SAM2 data which has been gathered from different locations throughout the village. Cllr Holliday extended her thanks to Cllr Deane for all his work. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed on Old Woman's Lane southbound at the houses was 31.9 mph. There have been no speeding problems highlighted outside Barn Drift. Monitoring has taken place outside of the Three Swallows, both Cley (85<sup>th</sup> centile 28 mph) and Holt bound (29.7 mph). It was AGREED more data was needed for Old Woman's Lane, this will be monitored going forward along Holt Road. It was noted that there are approximately 128 vehicles a day using Old Woman's Lane, 76 vehicles a day outside Barn Drift and an average of 1500 vehicles a day on the Coast Road. PC Graham Gower-Smith has been carrying out speed checks at the bottom of Old Womans Lane.

**15. Time and Date of Next Meeting; Parish Council Meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm 2026 in Cley Village Hall.**

**The Meeting ended at 19.49**

#### **Appendix A - NCC Report**

##### **Norfolk County Councils Deep Disappointment at Government Decision to Halt Mayoral Election and Slash Devolution Funding**

Norfolk County Council has 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 means that Norfolk would now receive only around one-third of the investment previously promised under the devolution programme.

The Council warns that this move represents a significant setback for Norfolk's communities, economy, and long-term growth plans, undermining years of preparatory work and delaying projects vital to local residents.

##### **Funding Cut - a Major Blow for Norfolk**

The reduction in Government support, down to a fraction of the original multi-year commitment, threatens progress in key areas including:

- transport and infrastructure improvements

- skills and employment programmes
- housing development
- local growth and regeneration projects

This decision is a major blow to the county, noting that the previous investment package had been carefully negotiated to deliver benefits across both rural and urban communities.

The Council also raised concerns about the lack of consultation prior to the announcement and the disruption caused to ongoing work with partners, businesses and local authorities across the region.

### **Norfolk County Council Taking Action**

Despite the disappointment, the Council is taking immediate steps to secure the best possible outcome for Norfolk. Actions underway include:

- Seeking urgent clarification from ministers on why the promised investment has been significantly reduced
- Pressing for guarantees that long-term funding will be reinstated and protected
- Reviewing all implications for Norfolk's infrastructure, transport and economic strategies
- Engaging with district, parish and community partners to assess local impacts
- Preparing a formal response outlining how the decision risks holding Norfolk back compared with other regions

Meetings are being held during December with government Ministers to see if there is any room for negotiation on the above.

### **Have your say on the future of local government in Norfolk**

Residents across Norfolk can now take part in a landmark Government consultation that will help shape the future of local government in the county.

The Government is seeking views on proposals for one, two or three brand new unitary councils in Norfolk.

Under these proposals, existing county and district councils would be replaced by new unitary authorities, meaning residents would have a single council responsible for all services in their area.

Norfolk County Council's submission proposes one unitary council for Norfolk: a single organisation responsible for all local government services, designed to improve outcomes for residents, reduce duplication and deliver long-term financial sustainability.

The consultation runs from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026. All proposals and an online response form are available on the consultation website

- <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/norfolksuffolk/consultation/>

Support is also available at any of Norfolk's 47 libraries, where residents can access free computers, Wi-Fi and staff assistance to complete the consultation online.

### **Benefits of one unitary council for Norfolk 1. Major Financial Savings**

- Creates **large recurring savings** (around **£36–40 million per year**) by removing duplicated roles, buildings, systems and management across eight councils.
- Delivers a faster **payback on reorganisation costs** — savings expected to outweigh set-up costs within about **one year**.
- Frees up money to be redirected from administration into **frontline services**, helping protect priority areas like social care, highways, and children's services.

### **2. Simpler, Clearer Services (One Front Door)**

- Residents deal with **one council** instead of navigating county vs district responsibilities.
- Makes it easier for people to access services, report issues and get consistent responses.
- Removes the "postcode lottery" by ensuring **one standard of service** and more consistent Council Tax across Norfolk.

### **3. More Joined-Up Service Delivery**

- Integrates related services (e.g. **housing + social care, waste + environmental health**) currently split between separate councils.
- Avoids fragmentation of critical services such as adult social care, children's services, and transport.
- Improves coordination with partners like the NHS and police, who already operate county-wide.

### **4. Stronger Strategic Leadership & Stability**

- A single, county-wide authority provides a clearer voice when negotiating for investment and devolved powers.
- Gives Norfolk greater capacity to plan long-term, respond to pressures, and remain financially resilient.

### **Norfolk County Council Encourages Parish and Town Councils to Bid for Local Improvements Through Parish Partnership Scheme**

Norfolk County Council is inviting parish and town councils across the county to apply for funding through its **Parish Partnership Scheme**, which supports community-led improvements to highways and local infrastructure.

The scheme, now a well-established part of Norfolk's approach to supporting local communities, offers **50% match-funding** for a wide range of small-scale projects that make local areas safer, more accessible and better connected. A total fund of **£848,702** is available for the 2025/26 round.

The Parish Partnership Scheme enables local councils to deliver projects that might otherwise be unaffordable, including:

- New or improved **bus shelters** and bus-stop facilities
  - **Village gateways**, signage and speed-awareness measures
  - **Trod footpaths** and other low-cost pedestrian routes
  - **School-zone safety** improvements, including advisory 20mph signs
  - Enhancements to **public rights of way**, crossings, and local walking routes
    - **Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points** in suitable community locations
- By combining local contributions with County Council funding, parishes can make meaningful improvements that directly reflect their community's priorities. Councils can also use other sources such as CIL or developer contributions to meet their matchfunding share.

The scheme welcomes bids from parishes of all sizes, including first-time applicants and smaller rural councils. Norfolk County Council works closely with local Highway Engineers and the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) to support parishes through the bidding and delivery process.

Parish and town councils interested in applying are encouraged to begin discussions locally and contact their Highways Engineer for early advice on feasibility and costs.

## **Appendix B – NNDC Report**

From NNDC

### 'Housing and benefits

NNDC have developed a 'better off calculator' ([www.north-Norfolk.gov.uk/apply](http://www.north-Norfolk.gov.uk/apply)) for residents to help with financial planning and resilience. This can help with unclaimed benefits.

If you have any money worries, the Financial Inclusion team at NNDC are really helpful. Call 01263516221 or get in touch with me.

Cabinet are discussing whether to accept a Local Authority Housing Fund grant which will enable the purchase of 4-6 additional units of temporary accommodation.

### Planning

The New Local Plan has been adopted which will help ensure our communities benefit from a plan led system.

There is a consultation on yet another iteration of the National Planning and Policy Framework, from December 2025, open till March 11th. You can find it here <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>. I haven't looked at it in detail, but you might be interested to have a look and comment. It's quite readable. This framework, along with the NNDC New Local Plan, informs decisions on planning applications.

Anglian Water are now commenting on more planning applications to ensure there is sufficient capacity to deliver potable water or treat waste water. This is to protect the environment.

#### Environment

Anglian Water say all seven bathing waters in North Norfolk are rated as excellent. Investment to reduce sewage overflow spills into the Stiffkey and Glaven will be in the next AW business cycle, 2030-35.

#### Energy saving

There is a helpful online checker to create a plan to make your home more energy efficient. Check out [https:// Norfolk.homewise.energy/App/Welcome](https://Norfolk.homewise.energy/App/Welcome)  
Norfolk Warm Homes has details of how to make your home more energy efficient with government grants <https://norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk>

Several Mobile Network Operators will be attending NNDC in January and February to hopefully explain their plans to improve coverage in North Norfolk.

I'll be meeting with the ambulance trust in February 2026 to discuss emergency response times in our area.

## **Appendix C – Bank Reconciliation**

### **Cley Parish Council**

4 January 2026 (2025-2026)

Prepared by:

Approved by: Date:

Date:

*Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)*

*Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)*

#### **Bank Reconciliation at 31/12/2025**

Cash in Hand 01/04/2025 18,169.76

#### **ADD**

Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/12/2025 35,135.48

53,305.24

#### **SUBTRACT**

Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/12/2025 20,500.58

**A Cash in Hand 31/12/2025 32,804.66**

(per Cash Book)

Cash in hand per Bank Statements

Petty Cash 31/12/2025 0.00

Community Account 1 31/12/2025 13,026.94

Business Premium Account 31/12/2025 6,311.83

Community Account 2 31/12/2025 13,370.84

**32,709.61**

#### **B**

Less unrepresented payments

Plus unrepresented receipts

**Adjusted Bank Balance 32,804.66**

95.05

32,709.61

**A = B Checks out OK**