

Draft Minutes from Nordelph Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 6.30pm at the Village Hall, Birchfield Road, Nordelph

Parish Councillors present: Sarah-Jane Capsey (Chair), Helen Thomas, Jan Patch & Pete Gray. Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Dawson, Borough Councillor Spikings and and three members of the public. Apologies: Borough Councillor Rose

Meeting Minutes (draft)

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2 To consider and approve apologies for absence

Apologies had been received prior to the meeting as listed above and the reasons for such approved.

3 To receive an annual report from the Chairman

The Chairman provided an annual report including:

- The Parish Council is currently carrying three casual vacancies for the position of Parish Councillor.
- This financial year's main project for the village was to have the railings along the riverbank repaired and/or replaced. The project has now been completed.
- Efforts continue to try and replace the bridge at the Bedford river to complete circular walk FP7. Funds from Central Government for the project have been ear-marked but we are awaiting the go-ahead from Norfolk County Council.
- Maintenance of the cemetery, playing field and land at the Staithe continues to be carried out.
- Repairs to the BT kiosk at the top of the High Street are planned for early Spring 2026.
- A topple test on all of the memorials in the cemetery had been carried out in 2025, one of the sets of gates had been repaired and some new hedging planted.
- The bench at the Staithe had been vandalised but has now been repaired thanks to a local resident.
- With local government reorganisation in mind a suggestion had been made to potentially amalgamate Downham West Parish Council with Nordelph Parish Council. This proposal requires further thought/investigation throughout 2026.

4 To receive an annual report from the Borough Council

- Spending plans at the Borough Council had been agreed at a meeting in February 2026.
- Council tax will increase by 2.99% for an average Band D property. The council tax premium on second homes will remain.
- There is a new £500,000.00 *community fund* available to Ward Councillors for projects in their wards.
- The community infrastructure levy fund is still available for community groups and parish councils to apply to for infrastructure projects.
- Further clarification surrounding *local government reorganisation* is expected soon.
- New rules are coming into place surrounding planning reforms and Members will have compulsory training with an exam to take. Numbers of Members on the Planning Committee will decrease from fifteen to between eight and eleven.
- Comprehensive information surrounding dog fouling had been received and disseminated amongst councillors in a bid to try and improve the current problem with irresponsible dog walkers not picking up behind their dogs.

5 To receive a report from the County Council

- Councillor Dawson has been involved with many issues this year. To name a few; pavement parking, mud on the roads, and parking at schools.

- The Norfolk Community Fund has now launched aiding projects surrounding loneliness and isolation and, more topically for Nordelph, this year’s Christmas Lights event.
- Councillor Dawson had provided valuable support to the Parish Council in arranging for the railings along the riverbank to be repaired and/or replaced.

6 To approve any outstanding payments since last meeting

It was resolved with all in favour to approve the payments list as presented at the meeting. Councillors Capsey and Gray to authorize on the Unity Trust website after the meeting.

Payments List March 2026					
Supplier		Vat		Purchase	Invoice No.
Norfolk Parish Training & Support	18.00	0.00	18.00	50% share of AGAR new Assertion 10 Training - Digital & Data Compliance	30443
Kate Bennett - M11	377.00	0.00	377.00	Clerk Monthly Salary Payment	
Ivor Capsey	70.00	0.00	70.00	Repairs to cemetery gate and provision and installation of privet plants	DEC2025-01
SSE	3.64	0.18	3.82	Electricity supply for February 2026	4064775
Kate Bennett	76.69	0.00	76.69	Mileage, poop bags, mobile, broadband, laptop, electricity etc.	
	545.33	0.18	545.51		

7 To consider any planning applications since last meeting

7.1 Planning application 26/00389/F two dwellings and garages at Land between Threeways and The Chequers, Downham Road, Nordelph; it was resolved to *support* this application with the caveat that all highways recommendations are carried out per Norfolk County Council’s request.

8 Open Forum

- A resident present remarked on the recent incident of a resident’s dogs attacking a visitor and her dog whilst walking along the High Street. It was noted that it had been suggested to the visitor that she report the incident to the Police.
- A resident present remarked on a vehicle at the Staithe that is parked and has not moved for months. It was noted that the Police are aware but the vehicle is owned by a local resident.
- A resident remarked on the recent increase in dog poo being left on the playing field. The Parish Council has provided bags that are available in the BT Kiosk or from a box at the field and it is hoped that this might encourage dog walkers to use them and dispose of them correctly either in the dog waste bins provided or in the litter bin at the Staithe.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.00pm and refreshments were then served.

Signed..... Date