



West Rudham Annual Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

22nd May 2025

Parish Councillors present: James Ringer (Chair), Lucinda Reddyhoff (Vice Chairman), Josephine Tyler, Stephen Mayor, Clive Scott, and Christine Jewell.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Michael Chenery, Borough Councillor Chris Morley and Caroline Boyden (Parish Clerk) Richard Spencer re SAM reporting
No members of the public

1. **Election of Chairman** – Cllr Ringer proposed by Cllr Reddyhoff, seconded by Cllr Tyler and all in favour. Cllr Ringer duly elected.
2. **Election of Vice Chair** – Cllr Reddyhoff proposed by Cllr Ringer, seconded by Cllr Tyler and all in favour. Cllr Reddyhoff duly elected.
3. **Welcome and to receive apologies for absence**
The Chairman welcomed those present.
Apologies - Ian McCallum
4. **Receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider requests for dispensations** - None
5. **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 23rd of January 2025**
The minutes were approved as proposed by the Chairman, without amendment, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record by those present at that meeting.
6. **To hear from the Borough Councillor and County Councillor**
Cllr Morley advised that fees and charges had to increase to bring them up to date and prevent losses. The second home council tax increase to be considered earlier for 25/26 financial year. This additional income has been used to help homelessness and residents struggling with rent payments.
The election for Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk will be held next May. The Local Government Reorganisation continues with 3 proposed – West/East/Norwich and Cllr Chenery advised that further information available on the 25th of September.
Cllr Ringer raised concern that the reorganisation should not happen with the elected mayor only having a shadow cabinet for another year (2027) and how will things get done i.e., highways/planning? Cllr Morley advised that this should not take place but the reduction in Borough/County Councillors will have an effect on parish councils. We need our MP's to fight out corner.
Cllr Chenery advised that the County prefer a single unitary or perhaps 2 but not 3. Suffolk only want 1. More responsibility was raised for parish councils which is not wanted. It would appear that volunteer parish councilors could be given additional

responsibilities which were formally paid positions.

7. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public – None present

8. To receive updates from council members

- 8.a SAM2 & Speed Watch: Cllr Richard Spencer gave a review of the SAM figures up to April 25. Richard volunteered a year ago to download the data. Sadly, the Speedwatch has been wound up due to a lack of volunteers. Results show 3 out of every 10 vehicles are speeding with an average of 20 per month over 60mph. Times of day can be added to show when speeding takes place. It was noted that the police presence has increased. It was suggested that the unit is turned round to face the Fakenham incoming traffic. The new gates should help, and it was proposed that additional gates are located near Grove Farm. Richard was thanked for his work.
- 8.b Newsletter – to include the speeding statistics and the new gates once installed.
- 8.c Clerks Report – The internal audit is all good and the AGAR has been completed for approval. I have chased up on the village gateways and advised that these have been ordered on the 16th of April with a 6-8 week lead time. Then they will be programmed onto the contractors schedule. The 2 vacant allotment plots have been taken. We have received a donation of £105 towards the defibrillator maintenance from Mr. Jewell and friends. Thanks were given. During recent training we are now required to have a safeguarding and IT policy. Templates are available and these will be added.
- 8.d Devolution/Local Government Reorganisation as under item 6.

9. Open Spaces

- 9.a Village Gateways – As covered under clerks report.
- 9.b Open Gardens Event 2025 to take place on the 8th of June with 5 gardens and the Village Hall as the central point with teas provided by Tapping House. Signage has been approved.
- 9.c Litter Pick and Churchyard – 4 volunteers attended this, but it was a good morning, and a lot of work was completed. The brambles have since been cleared by a resident. Cllr Tyler raised that there was still rubbish to be removed. Cllr Ringer thought a strimmerthon should take place in June/July.
- 9.d Request from a resident for a memorial bench on the green near Mill Cottage which they will buy, install and maintain. All in favour.

10. Planning Matters

- 10.a To receive decisions of applications - None
- 10.b To receive and consider new applications - None

11. Financial Matters

- 11.a To approve the bank reconciliation and payment of accounts and bank statements for January/February/March/April 25 – all in favour
- 11.b To approve the May payments (to date) – all in favour
- 11.c To discuss and approve the Year End report – all in favour.

- 11.d Approve the internal auditor report and sign the AGAR Exemption, Form 1 Annual Governance Statement and Form 2 Accounting Statements. Proposed By Cllr Ringer and all in favour.

12. Receive and consider correspondence

12.a Overgrown trees at the front of Rudham Court were raised by Cllr Ringer who had been in touch with the owners. The clerk advised that one owner had responded and was getting a tree surgeon to look after the nesting birds had left.

12.b Cllr Ringer will assess the Oak Tree.

13. Items for inclusion at next meeting and agree date of next meeting – to be sent to the clerk a week before the next meeting. To include the defibrillator training.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 24th July 2025, from 6.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 7.45 pm.

MAY PAYMENTS

C Boyden	Salary	95.05
HMRC	PAYE	90.80
Gallagher	Insurance	558.24
EG Groundscare	2.4.25	333.72
EG Groundscare	22.4.25	333.72
Dan Andrews	Internal Auditor	35.00

Signed by Chairman: Date: