



WEST RUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes 28th of May 2026 from 6.30pm

Parish Councillors present: James Ringer (Chair).
Ian McCallum, Josephine Tyler, Lucinda Reddyhoff and Christine Jewell – as members of the public

Also in attendance: Borough Councillor Chris Morley(part time) and
Caroline Boyden (Parish Clerk)
No other members of the public

1. **Welcome from the Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. Apologies – County Cllr Costley

3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd of May 2025**

The minutes were approved as proposed by the Chairman, without amendment, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record with all those present at that meeting in favour.

4. **Chairman's Annual Report**

Firstly I must thank Caroline for steering me, and us, through yet another year as our Clerk. She makes this job a whole lot easier and I for one very much appreciate her efficiency for the council. Secondly, thank you all for your efforts as councillors, it's not a job that gains you any kudos or appreciation, but without you all nothing would get done. So thank you. We have maintained the green spaces within the village to a good standard, even if the greens seem to grow away from their mowing programs in the early season. Perhaps an issue that may need addressing.

Dog fouling seems to still be an issue, despite the provision of waste bins. Possibly the most infuriating habit is bagging dog waste and then leaving a plastic bag in the verge or hedgerow.

We are still trying to monitor speeding through the village and despite the erection of the village gateways West of Lynnfields, we still seem to have little impact on the speed of easterly vehicles as they pass the green and Grove Farm.

A grant application has been submitted to upgrade the static Speed Awareness Monitor as vehicles enter the village from Kings Lynn direction, but as of yet we don't know if we are successful.

I would like to thank Vic Coppin and his family for taking on transferring parish information from the clerk to the notice board, a great help to the clerk. Also, many thanks must go to Michael Chennery and Chris Morley for their efforts on the Borough and District Councils. There is much political upheaval on a national scale and it is my belief that central government policies should not unduly influence decisions made at a parish level.

Thank you all

James

5. Borough Councillor Report

Cllr Morley advised that he has set up a new funding pot for parish councils to apply for in the light of the new CIL requirements.

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK – MY PERSPECTIVE

We have been nominated for 2 Local Council Awards; 1 as most improved Council and 2 our housing scheme. We await the adjudication but notwithstanding the result, we are in a cohort of top local Councils which is not only where we want to be but, also, we will continuously improve from here. Any suggestions as what we can do even better are welcome but, until we become a Unitary, our powers are limited.

FINANCE – To balance our budget we had to increase our Council Tax by £5 per household and our discretionary fees by 7%. This resulted in a Band D charge of £152.87 but only 7p in the £ against the total Council Tax you pay at this Band when the County and Police demands are added to total £2,318.64. We still have to give 40% of our Council Tax receipts to support Internal Drainage Boards. We can't wait for both the Government to come up with a more equitable way of funding IDBs and for us to manage the existing County Services more efficiently. We have already delivered efficiencies of 15% since taking over and have built in a further 10% for 26/27. With a pay bill in excess of £25m you can easily calculate the efficiency impact. It has given us a General Reserve of £10m and ensured we pulled ourselves away from the black hole we inherited. We can now start to significantly invest in our communities and I look towards my colleagues to come forward with plans and projects to do just that. We are not waiting for a "rainy day", further significant improvements start now. Those visiting King's Lynn should already notice the work currently under way on major construction projects, this is only the start for the whole District.

OTHER ASPECTS OF NOTE:

OUR HOUSING PROGRAMME – a programme to build 1,000 houses, primarily for rent, with a significant number being affordable. To date 972 are completed or under construction. 260 market sales, 127 affordable houses being occupied, 27 sold under shared ownership, 92 in occupation by private rental. A programme worthy of significant recognition and not only in my view.

COASTAL – You will recall the extensive work we helped coordinate to remove the oil nurdles from the North Coast beaches, we have recently fixed the extensive sink hole in the promenade and put significant £m's on one side for coastal repairs. In our capital programme we have also set aside many upgrades to welfare and public facilities.

CIL – the process changed and training delivered to Parish representatives.

It would benefit all Parishes to prepare a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan to support future CIL application; help is always available.

LOCAL PLAN – the Government, in setting political targets before analysis, are reducing the weight of public opinion. I recommend each Parish sends a representative to training sessions, (currently arranged for 15th and 22nd June).

ASSET MANAGEMENT – we want to make best use of our buildings as well as our finances. Contrary to initial reactions, we do undertake a very considered and community approach to changes. We have an ageing or limiting estate but we will invest to deliver better outcomes in many ways, health, well-being, enjoyment, sport and the like. This goes hand in glove with a Marmot programme to reduce health inequalities in West Norfolk.

YOUTH EDUCATION – where your tax and fees help deliver our own apprenticeships and showcase opportunities and learning for this important sector for the future prosperity of the area.

WASTE and FLY TIPPING – we have invested in a team to address this, sadly, ever growing problem and have extensive powers to prosecute and fine. We will do this.

This is just a “potpourri” of my view of our actions to support our communities. Each Borough Councillor will have their own perspective of “deliverables 2025/26”. We are all available to help.

Chris Morley

Cabinet Member for Finance

6. County Councillor Report

Our new County Councillor is Julie Costley duly elected on the 7th of May 2026

7. Reports from any other Clubs or organisations in the Parish

The Fete will be held on the 6th of June and a BBQ and pop up pub event will be held on the 17th of July.

8. Parishioners Open Forum – nothing to report

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 6.35 pm.

Signed by Chairman: Date: