Cley Parish Council

Chairman – Cllr. Victoria Holliday Vice-Chairman Cllr. Richard Allen

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER, 2026 AT 6.00 PM IN CLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present:-

Chairman – Cllr. V. Holliday, Cllr. R. Deane and Cllr. C. Peters.

Julie Chance – Clerk.

Three members of the public also attended the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. R. Allen and Cllr. J. Holman.

1.1 Resignation:- The Chairman reported that Roy Williamson has resigned from Cley Parish Council. The Clerk has informed North Norfolk District Council. Cley Parish Council has two vacancies open for co-option.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. R. Deane in connection with any Harbour matters.

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. C. Peters in connection with any Community Café matters.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER AND THE ALLOTMENT TENANTS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER, 2026

The Minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 8th October 2026, having been circulated, were taken as read, **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

Clerk: Julie Chance
Pine Lodge, Gimingham Road, Trimingham, Norfolk, NR11 8HP.
Tel:- 07305048062
clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

4. DEFIBRILLATOR

4.1 The Clerk reported that she has ordered the new defibrillator. Cllr. Deane reported that the Harbour Committee have agreed to install the post and defibrillator. The Harbour Committee have also agreed to cover the electricity for the defibrillator. Cllr. Peters has kindly agreed to inspect the new defibrillator once it has been installed. It was **AGREED** that the signage would be placed at the end of Quay Lane.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

5.1 **County Councillor's Reports:-** Attached.
It was **AGREED** that the Chairman will invite a representative from the Fire Brigade to a meeting to discuss fire prevention.

5.2 **District Councillor's Reports:-** Attached.
Digital Switchover:- If any residents know of anyone who needs help and need a battery, BT will provide them free for the over 70s.

6. ORGANISATION REPORTS

6.1 **Allotment Report:-** The Clerk circulated the Crime Prevention Survey received from the Police. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would liaise with the new Allotment Committee to ascertain what action they would like the Parish Council to take.
Allotment Plan:- It was **AGREED** that the allotment plan would be made available digitally but not displayed at the site.
Allotment Maintenance Schedule:- The Clerk circulated the Allotment Maintenance Schedule which was **AGREED.** The schedule will be displayed on the Website.
Fencing:- The Clerk reported two options. Gap filling fencing and stock fencing. The stock fencing would have to be installed over four years and there may be a DEFRA grant available. It was **AGREED** to put money into the budget for the year 2027/28. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will apply for any funding available. This matter will be discussed again in the new financial year.
Bonfire:- A tenant has requested permission to have a bonfire. The Clerk will ask Cllr. Holman if she can be present as per the Allotment Tenancy.

6.2 **Harbour Report:-** Cllr. Deane reported that the Carols on the Quay will take place on Sunday 6th December at 4 pm. The Harbour Committee are progressing all other matters.

6.3 **Village Hall Report:-** None received.

6.4 **Neighbourhood Plan Report:-** The Chairman is liaise with North Norfolk District Council to try and secure the £5,000 grant and have requested them to scan the completed questionnaires.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public reported that there is a hole in the sea wall. The Chairman reported that she has contacted the Environment Agency who are responsible for the wall. The Environment Agency state that it is not a priority to repair the hole as it will not stop protection from flooding. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would liaise with North Norfolk District Council to ask them to liaise with the Environment Agency and try and get repairs carried out. It was **AGREED** that the Chairman will ask the Environment Agency if the Parish Council can be present at their next inspection of the sea wall.

The Trustee of the allotment site said he would be happy with the gap filling fencing rather than stock fencing. He enquired when the ditch was going to be cleared. The Chairman reported that Norfolk County Council will inform the Parish Council of ownership of the ditch in the near future.

A member of the public requested that residents parking for The Fairstead be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

8. PLANNING

8.1 LA/26/2033 – Rocket House, High Street, Cley:- No objections.

8.2 Various papers concerning planning regulations update. Circulated. Noted.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Payments, Receipts and Bank Reconciliation for the month of October 2026:- Circulated. **AGREED.**

9.2 The following payments were **AGREED:-**

	£
Clerk's Salary – October 2026 – Including Bank Pay and Increase	655.79
HMRC – Tax & NI	164.00
Clerk – Café Expenses	17.45
Clerk – OS Map Expenses	262.81
Cley Toilet Cleaner	150.00
Sani Bin – Anglian Chemicals	8.00
Anglian Chemicals – Consumables	63.22
Kevin Richardson – Grass Maintenance	180.00
North Norfolk District Council – Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaires.	158.70
Countrystyle – Glass Collection	30.00
Judith Holman – Bingo Expenses	20.47
Scribe	446.40
Cley Village Hall Hire – Café	124.00
Chris Lubbock – Ramp Quay	132.00
Café – New Body – Earmarked Reserves	3,500.00
Café – New Body – Surplus for Current Year	1,770.99

9.3 NNDC – Community Fund:- The Clerk reported that the grant application has been successful and £500 has been secured towards the cost of the new village map. This matter will be placd on the next agenda for an update from Andy. The Members would like to thank Andy for all his hard work on the village map to date.

9.4 Community Café, Bingo and Friday Club:- The Clerk reported that the new body for the Community Café is now up and running and the agreed monies will be paid to them following this meeting. The Bingo and Friday Club will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

9.5 Community Support Fund: No update received.

9.6 Annual Insurance:- It was **AGREED** to accept Zurich Municipal's quote in the sum of £682.54. It was **AGREED** that Cley Parish Council will sign up for a three year period with Zurich Municipal.

9.7 Quote – New Posts Allotments:- It was **AGREED** that this matter will be discussed once the completed maintenance inspection forms have been returned to the Clerk. The Clerk requests that all the forms are returned in time for the December meeting.

9.8 Budget 2027/28:- The draft budget was discussed, amended and **AGREED.** The annual Precept will increase to £24,000. This equates to an increase of £2.45 per household per annum. The total Precept equates to £52.17 per household per annum. The increase is at 4.94%.

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 Pedestrian Crossing at NWT Cley and Salthouse Marshes:- Cllr. Peters is meeting with the Highway Engineer in the near future. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

10.2 Blocked Drains:- The Chairman reported that the drains at Limekiln Cottage are programmed for a camera survey under the road in the near future. The road will need to be closed for this process.

10.3 Fairstead Signs and Speed Limit:- The Chairman reported that Norfolk County Council installed the 'no entry' sign. It was **AGREED** to place Audit of Village Signs on the next agenda for discussion.

10.4 SAM 2 Signs:- It was **AGREED** to accept the quote of £60 per month. This will cover the moving of the signs monthly, recharging the batteries and downloading the data. The Clerk will action and ask the gentleman to liaise with Cllr. Deane on locations.

10.5 Village Gates:- It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Peters will jet wash the village gates in the new year. The Members thanked Cllr. Peters for his kind offer.

10.6 Parking – Green:- The Clerk reported that a member of the public has expressed concern about the parking around the green. It was **AGREED** that as this matter has been covered in the Neighbourhood Plan consultation, the Parish Council will wait for the results from the completed questionnaires. Cllr. Peters will liaise with the public house to discuss possible solutions and this matter will be on the next agenda for an update.

10.7 Parking Cones:- It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Deane will remove the cones and dispose of any broken ones. The Members thanked Cllr. Deane for his kind offer.

10.8 Verge – Opposite Bus Stop – Green:- The Chairman reported that she is meeting with the Highway Engineer to discuss work on this area and the installation of timber posts. This matter will be on the next agenda for an update.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 Police –SNAP:- Drop-in Sessions. Circulated. Noted.

11.2 1953 Floods – 75th Remembrance 2028:- The Chairman reported that Norfolk County Council will be arranging some commemorations and has asked that Cley Parish Council be involved. This matter will be put back on the agenda once further information is to hand.

11.3 NNDC – Parish Elections 2027:- Circulated. Noted.

11.4 BAHS – October 27th Talk:- Circulated. Noted.

11.5 Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation 2027/28:- circulated. Noted.

12. CLEY COMMUNITY TOILET

12.1 The Clerk reported that the new machine has been handed over to Cllr. Allen and it is hoped that this will be installed shortly. All other arrangements are in hand. It was **AGREED** to have a charge of £3 each for the staff cards. The Clerk reported that she had received an email concerning a leak in the toilet. Cllr. Holman visited the toilet and confirmed that there was no leak.

13. EV CHARGERS

13.1 Cllr. Deane gave an update on the questionnaires. Results to date attached. It was **AGREED** that a working group would be formed consisting of Cllr. Deane, Cllr. Holliday and Cllr. Peters. The working group will meet with the Village Hall Committee to discuss the next steps. Cllr. Deane will liaise with the Village Hall Committee to arrange a meeting.

14. POLICY REVIEW

14.1 Safeguarding Policy: Circulated. No amendments.

14.2 Standing Orders:- Circulated. No amendments.

14.3 Training & Development Policy:- Circulated. No amendments.

15. HOW TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

15.1 It was **AGREED** that this item will be placed on the January 2027 agenda for discussion.

16. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Residents Parking – The Fairstead.
Clerk's Appraisal.
Internal Auditor.
Bike Racks.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 10th December, 2026 at 6.00 pm in Cley Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45 pm.

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Chairman **Date**

Norfolk County Council Update Oct 31st 26

Final chance to help vulnerable residents with Digital Switchover.

The upgrade of the UK's telephone network to replace old analogue copper landlines with digital technology will be completed in January 2027.

This means that from early next year, all phone calls will go through the internet and anyone who relies on a traditional landline will not be able to use it. Please also note that after the switchover is complete, digital phones won't work during a power cut unless they have battery backup.

Telecoms providers are required to supply this free of charge to vulnerable customers (older, with health issues, without a mobile phone or with poor mobile phone signal), so it's important that those affected, or those who support them, contact the relevant provider so arrangements can be made to protect their customers' services. People using alarms such as Telecare can get free support with the switchover from copper to digital landlines. Providers will send out engineers to help users and check the functionality of their alarm systems.

If you know anyone who could be affected by this, please remind them about the upcoming changes. If they have problems obtaining a battery, please let me know. Read NCC's digital switchover webpages for more detailed information.

Helping with heating oil costs – the Norfolk Heating oil crisis fund

Help may be available for Norfolk residents struggling to afford heating oil and keep their homes warm. Heating oil support and application details are on the council website here. Support is funded through the UK Government's Crisis and Resilience funding.

Funding to help organisations help those at risk of falling into crisis

The next phase of Norfolk's Crisis and Resilience Fund will fund 26 voluntary and community organisations across the county to provide advice, support and practical help for residents facing hardship.

The £4 million funding is part of the County Council's wider Crisis and Resilience Fund. Replacing the Household Support Fund in 2026, it combines immediate support for residents facing hardship with longer-term action to help people avoid future crises. The Crisis and Resilience fund is funded by the UK Government.

Details and grant recipients are in the council's press release here.

For help with food and energy costs, including heating oil, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving.

Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation 2027-28

Residents can help shape Norfolk County Council's 2027–28 budget by commenting on council tax and spending proposals.

Views are sought on a proposed council tax increase and 86 budget proposals totalling £32.273m in efficiencies and cost reductions, contributing significantly towards a balanced budget. Overall spending is set to increase next year - but with significant pressures being felt due to increased demand for council services, particularly in adult social care and children's services, and costs of inflation and reduced funding from central Government, the authority is facing a £35.927m budget gap.

The consultation closes on 7 December 2026. For more information and to respond, visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget. Findings will go to county councillors before final budget decisions in February 2027.

Norfolk renews commitment to billion-pound devolution deal

Norfolk County Council has renewed formal consent for a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA), bringing the devolution deal closer. It would oversee transport, skills, housing and economic growth, with devolved powers, funding and access to a long-term investment fund exceeding £1.1 billion. Potential benefits for residents and businesses include coordinated cross-county transport investment, training linked to local job opportunities and joined-up housing and infrastructure. The MSA could attract further investment, support local businesses and strengthen both counties' voice with Government.

Renewed consent was needed after changes to the Government's mayoral election timetable and national devolution framework. Proposals remain subject to statutory approvals and confirmation of final funding amounts. Suffolk County Council must also decide whether to renew its consent, with its decision expected in November. The first mayoral election is currently scheduled for May 2028.

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service rated good by inspectors

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service has received inspection results from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). The report praised the service for making 'significant progress' since its last inspection, with all previously identified areas for improvement having been addressed.

The improved rating of good reflects their continued focus on making improvements to ensure the safety of Norfolk and its people. The service has focused on increasing protection and prevention work in communities, made significant investment in new technology and equipment and planned well for current and future risks.

The report highlights significant improvements in seven areas, while also recognising increased levels of demand and limited resources, as Norfolk has a low proportion of spend per head of population compared to other parts of the country.

The full report can be found on the HMICFRS website and the county council news release is available here.

National Updates

Budget speech

The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented the Budget 2026 to Parliament on Wednesday 28 October 2026.

The accompanying Budget 2026 Fact Sheet: Delivering for Every Region sets out measures intended to give councils and strategic authorities greater control over funding and local growth. It aims to empower places through devolution, back local city and town strengths to drive reindustrialisation, and unlock cities' and growth corridors' potential to spread opportunity to surrounding areas.

Proposals include moving towards full local business rates retention by the decade's end; extra funding for affordable and council housing, regeneration and local projects; and fewer Government grants and reporting requirements. Planned fiscal devolution includes a greater local business rates share and powers for Strategic Authorities to introduce an Overnight Visitor Levy. As devolution arrangements develop, these measures could give places more say over funding for economic growth, housing and regeneration.

Personal Independence Payment review

The Timms Review co-chair update confirms the national Personal Independence Payment (PIP) review has finished gathering evidence.

PIP helps with extra disability and long-term health condition costs. Respondents valued PIP but raised concerns about the claims process and barriers.

The final report, expected this autumn, will recommend how PIP could better support for extra costs and everyday life.

Carer's Allowance: Government findings from their call for evidence

The Government has published its findings on the future for the Carer's Allowance drawing on 3,805 individual responses, over 90% from carers, and 55 organisational submissions.

Concerns included unpaid carers' financial security, complex rules, overpayments and the difficulty of combining care with work or education.

Carers with fluctuating earnings, including those doing shift, seasonal or zero-hours work, reported particular difficulties, with some limiting hours or turning down

additional work because of concerns about losing entitlement or later having to repay money. Respondents wanted a system that is simpler, clearer and more predictable, and which better reflects the reality that caring responsibilities and earnings can change. There was also strong emphasis on recognising the contribution unpaid carers make to families and communities

The Government proposes to publish its response in the new year.

Councillor update Oct 23rd

Norfolk County Council Updates

Children's services – national adoption week 19-25 October

For National Adoption Week, the council is encouraging residents to consider adoption through a campaign featuring local adopters reflecting on when they first felt like a parent. The campaign challenges the misconception that adopters must be couple: twelve single parents have been approved as adopters in Norfolk over the past five years.

Nineteen Norfolk children are currently waiting for adoptive families. See the council's adoption webpages or call Norfolk Adoption on 01603 638343 for an informal discussion.

Norfolk Crucial Crew upcoming events for young people

Led by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, Norfolk Crucial Crew returns next week to give Year 6 and home-educated children practical, age-appropriate skills for emergencies and everyday risks. Last year, more than 6,000 children took part through 165 schools and 130 home-educated children at seven venues. The 23-year-old programme involves 11 partner organisations and is expanding to include SEND pupils. Sessions cover home fire safety, first aid, CPR, water and online safety, and age-appropriate learning about consent, with partners including St John Ambulance, East Anglian Air Ambulance, the RNLI, Norfolk Police and Brave Futures.

Home-educated families can join the mailing list via FireCrucialCrew@norfolk.gov.uk.

National Updates

Government funding boost to urgent care to ease winter pressures on NHS

The Government has announced almost £140 million for 14 urgent care schemes across England, including urgent treatment centres, same-day emergency care, ambulance fleets and emergency department upgrades. A further 25 new or expanded sites announced in April will open for winter.

Three Norfolk hospitals will receive £18.76 million:

James Paget University Hospital, Gorleston – £10 million: a new urgent treatment centre will provide dedicated care for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions, reducing pressure on the main A&E department.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn – £3.9 million: improvements to the existing urgent treatment centre will support the separate assessment and treatment of minor illnesses and injuries, protecting A&E capacity for more serious cases.

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital – £4.86 million: refurbishment of the emergency department will provide additional permanent capacity for emergency assessment and treatment.

Bus byelaws to tackle nuisance behaviour

New Government guidance has been published to support local authorities using new bus byelaws against loud music, littering, vaping and threatening behaviour, with fixed penalties of up to £100. The guidance is in 2 sections: -

- non-statutory guidance for local transport authorities (LTAs) in England on making byelaws
- statutory guidance for LTAs, bus operators and their partners, including the police on enforcing the byelaws

Changes to EV charging

The Government has announced that planning permission will no longer be needed for cross-pavement home EV chargers, which it says could save up to £300 on installation and enable charging from 2p per mile. Alongside this, two consultations have been launched, as linked below, with proposals to make home charging easier and ensure new buildings are equipped with chargers.

- Tenants and leaseholders could get a clearer, quicker, and more consistent route to installing a charge point. The government is also considering mandatory requirements for landlords and freeholders to make it harder to refuse renters' applications. expanding electric vehicle charging access for tenants and leaseholders
- Building regulations could also be updated to ensure that charge points are installed in new and refurbished covered car parks. amending the building regulations: electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Both consultations are open until 16 December 2026.

Easier way to share online basic DBS check results

Applicants can now nominate an employer or other third party when applying, and DBS will send that organisation a secure link to view the online basic DBS check result.

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Norfolk County Council Updates

Norfolk's Local SEND Reform Plan approved by Government

The Government has approved Norfolk's Local SEND Reform Plan, a three-year programme to provide earlier help, strengthen inclusion in mainstream education and expand specialist support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Commitments include extending support to early years and further education settings, increasing mental health support, reducing waits for neurodiversity assessments and doubling Specialist Resource Bases in mainstream schools by 2028. Approval also means around 90% of Norfolk's historic Dedicated Schools Grant SEND deficit, approximately £185 million, will be repaid, providing a stronger financial foundation for improvement.

Norfolk County Council will work with families, education settings, health services and voluntary organisations to deliver the plan and provide the right support at the right time, as close to home as possible. Further details and the full plan are available on the County Council's webpages.

Proposed sale of care homes withdrawn

Norfolk County Council has withdrawn a proposed sale of Norse Care and its 20 care homes to Stow Healthcare.

Further information is available in the county council's news release here.

Norfolk County Council Trading Standards – egg recall, salmonella risk

Norfolk County Council Trading Standards is alerting residents and businesses to a recall of shell eggs supplied by Yasensvit Ltd in Ukraine after Salmonella was detected. The affected eggs are stamped 3UA1012066 and must not be sold or eaten.

The eggs were supplied mainly to catering businesses, although some may have been sold by smaller retailers. They may also have been repacked in the UK, so residents and businesses should check the code stamped directly on each egg rather than relying on the outer packaging.

Advice to residents: Do not eat eggs stamped 3UA1012066. Dispose of them safely at home. Eggs sold by major UK supermarkets are British-produced and are not affected by this alert.

Celebrating kinship carers

Norfolk County Council marked Kinship Care Week by celebrating relatives and family friends who care for children when their parents are unable to do so. The activities aimed to raise awareness, reduce isolation and encourage more carers to access local support networks and services. Linked to the National Year of Reading, the County Council's Virtual School worked with local libraries and independent bookshop Bookbugs and Dragon Tales to bring kinship families together through books and stories.

The Virtual School supports children in and leaving care, children in kinship care and those with a social worker. It works with carers, schools and professionals to provide advice, advocacy and guidance, helping children overcome barriers to learning and carers navigate the education system. The County Council's Kinship Local Offer also provides information and support for kinship carers across Norfolk.

National Updates

National campaign to recruit more foster carers

The Government has launched a new national recruitment campaign encouraging more adults to consider fostering and emphasising that people from many different backgrounds can foster. The campaign will focus on adults in their 30s and 40s who have the values and capacity to foster but may not previously have considered it. This supports the Government's ambition to create 10,000 new foster care places by the end of this Parliament. The Department for Education is providing £88 million to reform fostering, including £12.4 million for a fostering innovation fund. This will test more flexible approaches, such as short-term respite and weekend fostering, to make fostering possible for a wider range of people.

The campaign responds to a 12% fall in approved foster carers since 2019, alongside an increase in the number of children needing care. Foster carers are also urgently needed in Norfolk. More information about fostering in Norfolk can be found on the Norfolk County Council webpages.

Environment Agency highlights wetlands boosting wildlife in Norfolk

The Environment Agency has published an update on wetlands created at the 20-acre Keswick Marsh site in Norfolk, which are helping birds, amphibians and plants thrive along a threatened chalk stream. The land was provided pro bono by Lady Dannatt, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk. Funding came from the Norfolk Water Strategy Programme - hosted by Water Resources East in partnership with Norfolk County Council, Anglian Water and The Nature Conservancy—alongside Anglian Water's Get River Positive programme and the Environment Agency.

The River Yare is one of only 210 chalk streams worldwide, including 58 in East Anglia. The Environment Agency, Norfolk Rivers Trust and Water Resources East have reshaped more than seven hectares of riverbank and floodplain, reconnecting the river with the surrounding land. New ponds, shallow pools and reshaped ditches allow water to spread naturally in winter and remain longer in dry periods, restoring the natural water cycle, reducing downstream flood risk and creating varied wetland habitats.

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Norfolk County Council Updates

Household Hazardous Waste Days 2026

Free Household Hazardous Waste Days will take place across Norfolk in autumn 2026, allowing residents to safely dispose of materials not accepted through kerbside collections or standard recycling centre services.

Key points:

- Free for Norfolk residents, accepting hazardous household waste including paint, aerosols, antifreeze, fertilisers and drain cleaners.
- Only hazardous household waste will be accepted.
- Booking is required and opens eight days before each event.
- Events run from 8am to 4pm; early booking is advised as they are popular.

Autumn dates and locations

- Norwich South Recycling Centre – Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October
- King's Lynn Recycling Centre – Friday 23 and Saturday 24 October
- Thetford Recycling Centre – Friday 30 and Saturday 31 October
- Caister Recycling Centre – Friday 6 and Saturday 7 November
- Dereham Recycling Centre – Friday 13 and Saturday 14 November
- Hempton Recycling Centre – Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November
- Norwich North Recycling Centre – Friday 27 and Saturday 28 November

Free winter safety testing events

Residents can have electric blankets, heated pads and throws, and small portable heaters tested free of charge at a series of events in Norfolk libraries this November.

The events are being run by Norfolk County Council Trading Standards and Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service to help residents use these products safely over the winter.

Residents can bring items to any of the sessions below for professional testing and advice on home fire and product safety. They are also encouraged to bring items on behalf of relatives, friends or neighbours who cannot attend.

Monday 2 November 2026

- 10am-12 noon: King's Lynn Library
- 2-4pm: Watton Library

Tuesday 3 November 2026

- 10.30am-12.30pm: Sheringham Library

- 2-4pm: Caister Library

Wednesday 4 November 2026

- 10am-12 noon: Sprowston Library
- 2-4pm: Harleston Library

Details of the events and safety advice related to electric blankets is available on the county council web pages here.

Helping residents into work and transforming lives

Employment support programmes in Norfolk are helping residents with disabilities, long-term health conditions and other barriers to move into, return to or remain in work.

The Working Well programme launched in October 2023, has received almost 3,000 referrals and supported more than 2,200 people, with 45% achieving employment outcomes compared with a national average of 38%. A specialist Local Supported Employment programme helped 48 people into work.

By joining up health and employment support, these programmes help residents improve their wellbeing, independence and quality of life. They also support local employers, reduce economic inactivity and contribute to a stronger Norfolk economy.

Residents can find out how to access support via Connect to Work at www.norfolk.gov.uk/workingwell or email connecttowork@norfolk.gov.uk.

East of England Investment Fund launched

A £140m East of England Investment Fund that will provide much-needed equity and loan finance to dozens of our most promising businesses was recently unveiled by the British Business Bank at Norwich Research Park.

The fund aims to drive sustainable economic growth by supporting innovation and creating local opportunities for new and growing businesses throughout the region. It offers two commercial finance options: loans ranging from £25,000 to £2m and equity investments of up to £5m.

If councillors know of businesses who may be interested in the fund, please refer them to the New Anglia Growth Hub, where the team can discuss the criteria or provide information on alternative business support services. New Anglia Growth Hub contact form

National Updates

Free careers support now available through Jobcentres

People across England can now access free careers advice alongside employment support through Jobcentres, making it easier to get help to find work, change careers, progress in work or build new skills.

The full range of support previously offered by the National Careers Service will be available through DWP, creating a more joined-up service for people at every stage of their career. Around 500 qualified careers advisers have joined DWP and will provide expert careers information, advice and guidance alongside existing employment and skills support already available through Jobcentres.

Support will be available to everyone, regardless of whether they claim benefits, and can be accessed online, over the phone, or through face-to-face appointments at Jobcentres, giving people a single place to access the advice and support they need to take their next step.

Careers support can be accessed online via the Get Careers Information and Advice webpage, as well as through the freephone service on 0800 072 0288.

Face-to-face appointments will be available in Jobcentres later this month.

Local Government Association analysis of spending on children in care

New LGA analysis has found that the council spending on children in care is rising by £1 billion a year, primarily due to the increasing costs of service provision.

Councils spent £9.5 billion on support for looked after children in 2025/26, compared to £6.6 billion in 2022/23, according to latest government data – an annual average increase of roughly £1 billion over the three years from 2022/23.

The LGA says the figures are largely a result of high care costs which are being driven by the increasing complexity of children's needs, the lack of appropriate homes for these children and the challenges of commissioning placements.

Ahead of the Autumn Budget, the LGA, which represents councils, is calling on the Government to deliver long-term adequate funding for children's social care that addresses increasing demand and cost pressures.

Crime and Policing Act 2026 – new factsheets

The Crime and Policing Act 2026 introduced a major package of reforms aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour, retail crime, knife crime, violence against women and girls, child exploitation and terrorism. It strengthens police powers, creates new criminal offences, increases online safety protections, introduces new Respect Orders for persistent anti-social behaviour, and includes measures that will affect local authorities, particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour, community safety and fly-tipping enforcement.

As yet, not all of the Act is in force, as the secondary legislation has not yet been laid.

The Government has recently provided more information about the Act through a series of factsheets which explain what each proposed measure does, why it was introduced and what impact it will have.

The factsheets are available on the government website here.

Cllr Update Oct 3rd

Norfolk County Council Updates

Budget proposals for 2027-2028

Norfolk County Council has published initial 2027-28 budget proposals to address a projected £35.9m gap and growing service demand. Consultation will take place on relevant proposals, with final decisions due in February 2027

The council has identified £32.3m of savings and efficiencies, but further action is needed to close the remaining gap as demand for services continues to grow.

Key proposals include:

- Earlier intervention and neighbourhood support to reduce demand for adult social care
- More support for children to remain within or return to family networks, alongside expanded family help services
- Higher income from infrastructure fees and charges

They also include details of a proposal to close Docking recycling centre, as recently highlighted in the local press and set out in a county council news item here. Cabinet will consider the proposals on 5 October, and is asked to agree to begin public consultations on relevant elements before final decisions are made.

The plans will be reviewed when government funding is confirmed and the County Council will make final budget and council tax decisions in February 2027. Full details are available in the Cabinet papers 2027-28 budget proposals.

Improving roads and tackling potholes

Norfolk County Council is trialling Roadmender, an innovative repair system designed to improve local roads, reduce disruption and provide better value for taxpayers.

The technology supports preventative maintenance by repairing cracks and early deterioration before potholes develop.

Rather than digging out and replacing sections of road, repair material is applied directly to damaged areas, enabling quicker repairs with less waste.

The trial will help assess whether the approach can deliver longer-lasting, more sustainable re pairs across Norfolk's highway network.

National Updates

Proposed new National Care Service

The Prime Minister has announced a new settlement for older people: a state pension that rises every year, no personal care charges and a high-quality National Care Service to give peace of mind in later life.

It is proposed the new National Care Service will be introduced in phases as the savings increase from adjusting the Triple Lock, and as workforce and provider capacity are built up. It will be fully funded.

Baroness Casey's independent Commission, informed by public deliberation, will recommend how the proposals should be implemented. Its report is due in summer 2027.

It is noted that the proposed service will not cover bed and board, for which existing means-tested council contributions will remain. Councils will continue to exclude the value of a home from financial assessments where a partner or dependent relative lives there, and deferred payment agreements will remain available to help eligible people avoid having to sell their home during their lifetime to meet care costs.

Improving public health – new tax on vaping

The Government has introduced a new Vaping Products Duty on all vaping liquids supplied in the UK. The measure is intended to support public health objectives by helping to discourage youth vaping and reduce nicotine dependence, while maintaining a financial incentive for adult smokers to choose vaping over smoking, which remains more harmful.

Planning and Environment

Natural England's new Operational Statement focuses specialist planning advice on environmentally sensitive cases, with councils expected to determine more routine applications. For Norfolk, this may mean:

- Greater reliance on strategic approaches to nutrient neutrality, habitat protection and nature recovery.
- More influence for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy on growth decisions.
- Less detailed Natural England advice on routine planning applications.

Environment and coastal communities

You may wish to note and share a national exercise seeking local evidence to help protect England's marine environment and coastal wildlife.

The Marine Management Organisation's "Your Coast – Explore, Enjoy, Protect" campaign includes a national call for evidence on how recreational activities affect protected marine habitats and wildlife.

With major protected areas including The Wash and the North Norfolk Coast, Norfolk communities, the Government's call for evidence may therefore be of particular interest to local communities, marine users, conservation organisations and businesses that rely on a healthy coastal environment.

Homelessness prevention

The Government has confirmed that it will bring forward amendments to the Social Housing Bill. Additional measures are intended to help retain more social homes, strengthen homelessness prevention and ensure social housing is allocated to those who need it most.

A new Duty to Collaborate will require public services to work more closely together to identify people at risk of homelessness and consider what action they can take within their existing responsibilities to help prevent homelessness.

Culture and communities

Culture is increasingly being recognised as a driver of community wellbeing, local pride and economic growth, with councils expected to play a stronger leadership role in shaping cultural opportunities for residents.

The Local Government Association and partners have recently published a National Cultural Framework which argues that councils should play a greater strategic role in shaping cultural investment and services in their areas. The framework highlights culture's contribution to economic growth, health and wellbeing, community pride and stronger local identities.

The report says that local authorities are well placed to lead place-based cultural development through services such as libraries, heritage, arts, festivals and community spaces. It calls for clearer responsibilities, stronger local accountability and more place-based approaches to funding and investment.

October District Cllrs Report

From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>

To clerk@morston-pc.gov.uk <clerk@morston-pc.gov.uk>, Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Cley Parish Council <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, wivetonpc@gmail.com <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, 'Clerk For Salthouse Parish Council' <clerk@salthouseparishcouncil.gov.uk>, clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Weybourne Parish Council <weybournepc@gmail.com>

Date 2026-10-15 14:19

Dear all
Herewith my October District Cllr report. Do please ask if questions.
Vbw

Poor mobile connectivity
There is just time to respond to the mobile connectivity survey - we're trying to find all the not spots (where you live or travel) so we can report actual live data to the network operators in the hope we'll eventually get improved signal. The survey is on the NNDC website under 'news' or https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2026/august/tell-us-about-poor-mobile-connectivity/

Planning
The new Local Plan is in development. The big changes from last time are the housing requirements have increased significantly and national policies are now more important, meaning our plan will be more targeted and local. There will be two public consultation opportunities in the new Local Plan, the first in April 27, which will cover the vision, objectives, high level distribution of growth, possible sites for development. There are also other big planning changes meaning more applications will be decided by officers and there will be fewer chances for residents to have their opinions heard. So please make the most of any opportunities to comment on the new Local Plan. There is really helpful training for Parishes from NNDC on all these planning changes on Tues 20th October at 6pm (I think you've all had invitations but I'll forward separately).

Increased Penalties for Fly Tipping
NNDC has increased fixed penalty notices to the allowed maximum to deter Environmental waste crime. We have lobbied the Government to take responsibility for the removal of fly tipping on private land as that is such a burden on landowners who are not always wealthy.

Hardship Support
NNDC put £50k aside for energy support earlier this year. Do come forward if you're struggling to afford oil - winter is just around the corner and about half this money has been spent already. Contact Financial Inclusion on 01263516221or email financial.inclusion@north-norfolk.gov.uk. The Financial Inclusion team is really helpful in helping you make sure you have all the benefits you need.

Housing
The additional income from second home council tax is being put towards purchasing more units of temporary accommodation for homeless households and as grants for Housing Associations to build more affordable homes.

Victoria Holliday
District Councillor
Coastal
07557054629



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Cley Parish Council

Electric Vehicle Charging in Cley, survey results

Meeting of 5 November 2026 | Presented by Richard Deane

Background. The Council consulted residents on a proposal for two charging posts, each with two sockets, in the Village Hall car park through NCC Plug In Norfolk, at no capital cost to the parish. The survey ran online and on paper from 10 September to 30 October 2026, and 72 responses were counted.

Headline results

Measure	Result	Detail
Responses counted	**72**	44 online, 28 on paper
Public EV charging very or fairly important to Cley	**79%**	44% say very important
Likely or very likely to use the Village Hall chargers	**30%**	24% occasionally, 46% unlikely
Cannot charge at home (25 people): likely or very likely to use the chargers	**48%**	
Can charge at home: likely or very likely to use the chargers	**20%**	
Visitors or guests given as a reason for use	**63%**	37% said it would be their only charging option
Would contribute to, or help promote, a faster supply	**35%**	37% possibly, 28% no
Would leave the car for an hour or more	**76%**	Of those answering
Wrote a comment	**50%**	Of the 35 usable comments: 46% supportive, 23% suggestions, 31% concerns

Points noted

- Most respondents see public charging as important, but fewer expect to use these chargers themselves. Likely use is highest among people with no driveway (56% of the 18 without one), those who cannot charge at home (48% of the 25) and EV owners (39%, against 24% of non-owners).
- Opinion on a crowdfunded faster supply is divided: 28% would contribute, 7% would help promote it, 37% say it depends on the amount and 28% would not support it.
- Written comments stressed future-proofing and residents who cannot charge at home. Suggestions covered fast charging and the power supply, a possible alternative site, disabled access and bay layout. Concerns covered cost and who pays, visitors crowding out residents, cables across pavements from holiday lets, and whether charging is a priority.
- This was an open survey of 72 self-selected responses, not a representative vote. A household could have responded both online and on paper.

Notes

- The Village Hall has advised the Council that it would not support charging points at the Hall unless they are 22kW chargers on a dedicated three-phase electricity supply. This would require funding over and above that currently available through Norfolk County Council.
- The Parish Council intends to set up a working group to discuss the results.