

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Kirby Cane & Ellingham on Monday, 11th
May 2026 at 7.00pm in Kirby Cane Memorial Hall**

Present:

Parish councillors:

Richard Canham, James Lally, Lesley Lodge, Julie Pickering, Andrew Raymant, Michael Skipper, Robin Stock

Also local police officer, Keiya Cadwell, five residents and the clerk to the parish council, Jane Love

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from parish councillor Kerry Mallard and County Cllr George Boyd.

2. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2025 were agreed to be correct, and were signed as by Cllr Skipper as Chairman of the Parish Council on behalf of the Meeting.

3. **To receive a report from the Parish Council Chairman on the council's activities during the past year:**

Cllr Mike Skipper summarised the role of the parish council and its many varied activities, including the maintenance of the playing field near Ellingham School, and thanked Councillors Lodge and Pickering for their hard work in this regard. During the year new picnic benches were purchased for playing field, along with a sail-type canopy to provide sun protection.

In addition, the bench in memorial to past chairman John Cook was installed in July, at a small ceremony attended by members of John's family.

During the past year illegal disposal of waste at the site on the south side of A143 just into Stockton had finally reached the attention of local authorities, and even gained national press attention, after years of KCE parish council trying to make authorities aware of nefarious activities at the site.

On a more positive note, a new bus shelter was installed using Norfolk County Council funding; and with the support of Ellingham United Charities, the old defibrillator unit was replaced in autumn 2025.

Grants were given to the local churches for churchyard maintenance; and would be giving a grant to Newgate Allotment Society to help with rainwater harvesting on its site.

The project aimed at providing a car park for Ellingham School and the playing field site continued, and hopes were high for a conclusion as there was a need for the car park.

The parish council had adopted a new website address and email addresses for the clerk and councillors in line with regulations and guidance.

Cllr Skipper thanked the councillors for their help and support, and to the clerk for her assistance during the year.

4a. **Report by the Newgate Allotment Society:**

Brian Welton as chairman of the Society gave a summary of the history of the society, which has 27 allotment plots, all of which were occupied, and there were two people on the waiting list should any plots . The previous committee had stood down during the year, and Mr Welton was one of the new officers elected. He explained the ongoing project aimed at making the site more sustainable by doubling the opportunity to harvest rainwater, and also reducing the water bill.

4b. **Report by local beat manager, PC Keiya Cadwell:**

PC Cadwell reported that she was responsible for 33 parishes, which kept her busy. She reported that there were some issues at Turnstone House and 19 calls had been received during the year in relation to the children at the facility – there was nothing else of which she was aware in Kirby Cane. In Ellingham, information had been received about a possible cannabis growing operation, but were unable to identify whether this was ongoing and would be monitored. She was aware of the parking issues outside Ellingham School.

There would be a community meeting at Thurlton Village Hall on Sunday, 19 July and would give advice about crime and an opportunity to meet local police officers. Regarding the waste at the Stockton site, PC Cadwell confirmed that action was being taken and the owner of the site would have to arrange for the site to be cleared within a specific time limit, although she did not know what that was. There was a “caretaker” on the site to ensure that there was no more activity there. Cllr Skipper thanked her for her report, and PC Cadwell left the meeting.

4c. Report from Kirby Cane Charities:

The clerk read a report that had been submitted by charity chairman Bradley Mallard, which gave a summary of the charity’s aims and purposes and list of trustees – one further trustee was required from Kirby Cane Church. The charity’s income for 2025/26 was £1,292, with total costs of £595.

4d. Report by All Saint’s Church, Kirby Cane:

Edward Crisp, a churchwarden, reported that there had been ongoing issues with the 14th century church roof, which had knock-on effects on the overall integrity of the building. The PCC had been given a small grant by the Norfolk Churches Trust to investigate the larger issues, which would result in more efforts to raise funds to resolve them. The church was not classed as “at risk”, but “vulnerable”. There would also be efforts made to have the church open more often. Mr Crisp was thanked for his report, and left the meeting.

4e. Report by chairman of Kirby Cane Memorial Hall:

James Lally told the meeting that it had been a dramatic year for the hall, with problems with the main kitchen ceiling, and with the help of the parish council and local charities the ceiling was quickly replaced. New members had joined the committee, and the caretaker was thanked for her wonderful efforts in keeping the hall in pristine condition. A piano had been gifted to the hall following the death of a local resident. It was hoped that there would be a new activity at the hall in the coming year, and coffee mornings continued on the last Thursday of each month, and all were welcome. Long-term resident and committee member Diana Wadley was sadly leaving the village, and her presence and contribution would be sadly missed.

4c. Report from Ellingham United Charities:

The clerk read a report that had been submitted by charity chairman Stephanie Day, who thanked the charity clerk and trustees for their commitment and support during the year. Overall the charity’s investments were performing well and shown an upward trend since 2020. Mrs Day expressed the charity’s frustration at the ongoing issues regarding the lease for the car park site, which resulted from the different legal opinions that had been received. She also thanked Rod Gooch, who had recently stood down as a trustee, for his dedication and service to the charity over many years, and welcome Helen Raymant, who was joining in his place.

8. Matters raised by residents:

A resident commented that the new bus shelter was the wrong way round. The chairman commented that there seemed to be a lot of cars parked in the centre of the village. A resident commented that on the other hand, it was very heartening that the village still had a shop/post office, which inevitably attracted extra traffic to the village.

9. Any other business:

There was none.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.43pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....

Report from PC Chairman, Annual Parish Meeting 11th May 2026

As some of you will know by now, the Annual Parish Meeting is, unsurprisingly, the meeting of the Parish – this means that it is not actually a parish council event at all, but it is usual for parish councils to organise Annual Parish Meetings, and we are pleased to welcome you here this evening

Turning to business this past year, the parish council is responsible for a lot of what goes on behind the scenes in the village, such as providing the playing field and allotment facilities, maintaining the footway lights throughout the community, monitoring potholes and other highways issues, and commenting on planning applications, amongst other things.

The parish council is very proud to maintain the playing field and playground near to Ellingham Primary School, which is very well-used throughout the year. I would like to thank Lesley and Julie in particular for their hard work to keep this in top-notch condition, with the help of Carl and his team at IMON Site. The Kirby Cane Charity provided funding for picnic benches purchased during the past financial year, and we also added a sail-type awning to give protection from the sun.

Another addition to our community facilities was the commemorative bench honouring past chairman John Cook, which you will all be able to see sitting proudly outside the Memorial Hall. Members of John's family came to see it inaugurated by Sarah in July last year.

As well as its other activities, the parish council also tries to act as "eyes and ears" for the district and county councils. For several years we had been warning them about the activity at the site just over the parish border in Stockton, which was the subject of county and even national attention a couple of months ago. With the help of our local police officer, we have finally managed to get some action taken, and we await further information on progress clearing the site in due course.

On a more positive note, late last year the parish council was able to take advantage of a county council grant to install the new bus shelter on Mill Road. With the support of the Ellingham United Charities we were also able to replace

the defibrillator on the front of the memorial hall when the old unit failed last autumn.

The parish council is also happy to support local organisations, such as the local churches with help towards churchyard maintenance; and the allotment society, which is installing part of its rainwater harvesting system with a parish council grant this year, and we are pleased to have representatives of the allotment society here tonight to tell you more about that project.

If anyone is wondering, we are still working on the car park project adjacent to the school and the playing field. Although it always seems we are close to achieving our goal of a lease on the car park site, sadly that still seems to be eluding us! Nevertheless, we are pressing on with the project as there still seems to be demonstrable need for it.

On a purely practical note, in line with recommendations and best practice, during this past year we have moved to a new website and “gov.uk” email addresses for the clerk and all councillors. The aim of this change is to be more professional and secure in all our activities, so please note that the clerk’s email address and our website address have changed for future reference.

We will shortly be hearing reports from some of the local groups, and there will be a chance towards the end of the meeting for residents to raise any issues of interest or concern. In fact this is possible at every parish council meeting, or via our website or email to the clerk, Jane. Parish council meetings are usually held on the third Monday of every other month and the next meeting will be on Monday, 13th July.

I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow councillors for their help and support during the past 12 months, and we look forward to continuing to work together for the benefit of the community.

Now I would like to hand over to [possibly Chris Brown, if he is present, or if not the Allotment representative] to give a report on their activities during the year.

Kirby Cane Memorial Hall Chairman's report 2025-2026

The past year has been quite dramatic, the kitchen ceiling was found to be unsafe and likely to fall down at any time. The committee took action very promptly and the ceiling was replaced by craftsmen from the village. We have been very lucky for the financial help that we received from the Parish Council and the local Charities. Without that help, we would have been forced to close the kitchen but it was beautifully repaired without delay.

The committee been very efficient, our meetings have been friendly and constructive. We now have three new members which have been a source of inspiration. One of them is now our treasurer and we are most grateful for his input and careful management of our accounts. Our two young ladies have been attentive at our meetings and contributed with good, sensible suggestions. We are constantly looking for new activities to serve the villages, all suggestions are most welcome. Our caretaker does a wonderful job of keeping the hall clean and tidy, she also manages the bookings.

We have been bequeathed a Piano by the daughter of a long term resident of Ellingham. This instrument is a Kawai made in 2007, it is in excellent condition and stands in the rear hall. Hopefully, this will be an asset that will bring much pleasure. There is a new activity planned to start later this year when a certain lady moves into her new home which is, at the moment, being renovated. More about that in next years report.

We have held coffee mornings on the last Thursday of each month. They have been reasonably well attended and offer the chance for villagers to meet and make new friends. Attendance could be better, please come to one of these and enjoy yourself with a cup of coffee or tea and a piece of delicious cake.

Alas, our wonderful secretary Diana, is moving away from the village to be closer to members of her family. Her calm manner, wisdom and cheerful disposition will be greatly missed as well as her excellent work as secretary. We wish her every happiness in her new home. Thank you Diana for everything.

James Lally

Ellingham United Charities report for Annual Parish Meeting on 11th May 2026

I would like to begin by thanking the trustees and the clerk for their continued commitment and support over the past year; this is greatly appreciated.

Although the value of the investments has decreased compared with the position at the end of last year, they have recovered from a significant drop experienced in April. Overall, the investments are performing well and have shown an upward trend since 2020. All rental income has been received in full.

Ongoing issues relating to the car park lease continue to cause frustration for both EUC and the Parish Council. The inconsistencies between solicitors, and their differing interpretations of the legal requirements of the lease, are particularly disappointing.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Rod Gooch, who has resigned from his position due to ill health, for his dedication and service to EUC.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome Helen Rayment, who will be joining us

Stephanie Day, chair

Kirby Cane Charity report for meeting 11th May 2026

KCC (1079345) has three main functions:

The relief of parishioners in Kirby Cane who are in need, hardship or distress

To promote the education of Kirby Cane people under the age of 25 and in financial need

To further the religious and other charitable work of the Church in Kirby Cane.

The trustees are Brad Mallard (Chairman), Sharon Raven, Olivia Giller, and Joy Gunton. We are missing a church appointed / recommended trustee, any assistance in identification would be welcomed.

Details of this Charity can be found at kirbycanecharities.org.uk and on the Charity Commission's web site.

The four parcels of land held by the charity are let to local people and organisations and the charity has £19,801 in investments and accounts.

The income for 2025/26 was £1,292 with total costs of £595.

£600 was distributed to people and organisations within Kirby Cane.

If you need help, or know of a suitable, deserving person or cause, please contact the secretary or use the form on the web site to contact us. Any application for aid will, of course, be treated as confidential.

Barry Stone – County Councillor for the Clavering Division

Annual Report – April 2026

Norfolk County Council – Annual Parish Report 2025-26



Our Promises	What Was Delivered	Impact
Libraries & Culture	Built new libraries, invested £3m+ , and transformed Norwich Castle into a world-class attraction	Stronger cultural offer and a major boost for tourism
Better Care	Invested £40m+ in care homes and supported living	More residents able to live independently for longer
Backing Our Children	GOOD-rated services, £2.5m+ for care leavers, £5m for jobs, and 600+ opportunities created	Better life chances and stronger futures for young people
Better Roads	Major infrastructure projects completed and £10m extra invested in maintenance	One of the best-performing highways services in the country
Improved Buses	£50m+ invested , more electric buses, and 26% growth in passenger numbers	Cleaner travel and better public transport access
Protecting the Environment	850,000+ trees planted and emissions cut by 50%	Protecting Norfolk's countryside and tackling climate change
Growing the Economy	Investment in high streets, improved connectivity, and hundreds of new homes built	Stronger local economy and thriving communities

Norfolk County Council, under a Conservative administration, has a strong record of delivering on its promises and investing in the county's future. From new libraries and major road schemes to over £40 million in care and significant improvements in children's services, we have focused on the priorities that matter most to residents. We have strengthened local transport, supported businesses and high streets, expanded opportunities for young people, and taken meaningful action to protect Norfolk's environment. This is a council that combines experience with action backing communities, improving services, and driving sustainable growth, while continuing to stand up for Norfolk and secure the investment it deserves.

Norfolk County Council delivers a balanced and responsible budget for 2026–27

Norfolk County Council approved a balanced £613.8m budget for 2026–27, demonstrating strong financial leadership and prudent management in what remains one of the toughest funding climates in decades.

The administration has once again delivered stability and certainty for residents, setting a balanced financial position while identifying £42.3 million in savings and efficiencies and committing £76.3 million in targeted investment to protect vital services and strengthen Norfolk's economy.

Despite significant national financial pressures and ongoing constraints in central government funding, we have ensured the county remains on a firm financial footing, without resorting to emergency measures. This stands in stark contrast to a growing number of upper-tier authorities across the country that have issued Section 114 notices or are facing effective bankruptcy.

The budget enables the council to continue:

- Protecting frontline services
- Investing heavily in adults and children's services
- Delivering new libraries and modern learning hubs in key towns
- Supporting for heritage, culture, and tourism
- Driving transformative reforms to improve efficiency and outcomes
- Backing economic growth and infrastructure
- Maintaining long-term financial sustainability

In line with national funding assumptions a 4.998% increase in council tax was implemented due to the government's continued reliance on placing the burden on local taxpayers to safeguard core services. This decision reflects the financial realities facing councils nationwide, while ensuring essential services remain protected for Norfolk residents.

This budget reinforces Norfolk's Conservative administration's commitment to careful stewardship of taxpayers' money, strong local services, and a resilient future for the county.

Norfolk County Council invests in community led highway improvements across the county

Norfolk County Council has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local communities with the approval of 99 new highway improvement schemes for 2026-27, delivered in partnership with town and parish councils across Norfolk.

Papers highlight how the Parish Partnership Programme, now entering its fifteenth year, gave local communities a voice in shaping the highways enhancements that matter most to them, whether that's improving pedestrian safety, slowing vehicle speeds, or making it easier to walk, cycle or access local services.

This year's programme represented a total investment of £769,034, made possible through the longstanding 50/50 funding model. Town and parish councils will collectively contribute £384,517, matched by £384,517 from Norfolk County Council, enabling more than twice as many small-scale schemes to be delivered than could be funded by the council alone.

In total local councils submitted 99 bids for 2026/27 and all were approved as viable schemes after being carefully assessed against value for money, community outcomes, safety benefits and compliance.

Norfolk's bus service improvements deliver record growth and faster journeys

Norfolk County Council's ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) has transformed public transport across the county, driving a 26% increase in passenger numbers since 2022 and making Norfolk a leading national example for sustainable travel.

A paper discussed at the council's Infrastructure and Development Committee on 22nd January highlighted what has been delivered thanks to the £65.45 million secured for Norfolk from the Department for Transport. That includes;

- New and enhanced bus services on more than 44 routes across Norfolk, including more evening and Sunday services
- Affordable fares: capped single fares in key towns and multi-operator ticketing
- Greener fleet: 75 zero-emission buses in Norwich and 24 more electric buses coming in 2026
- Improved passenger experience: real-time information, safer waiting areas, next-stop announcements and real-time information on more buses.

Not only are we seeing record-setting and increasing numbers of passengers, but customer satisfaction has also risen to 87%, bucking national trends and reinforcing Norfolk's approach to improvements in bus travel across the county.

Norfolk gritting vehicles headed out over the winter season

Norfolk County Council's winter gritting got underway during the recent winter, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes, and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. The first runs of the recent winter season (late 2025/early 2026) started as temperatures dropped, utilizing the 58-strong fleet with automated salting to cover 2,200 miles of routes, supported by stocked salt barns and public grit bins.

Norfolk County Council took first place in the Eastern region in annual Highways and Transport Satisfaction Survey

Norfolk County Council has once again demonstrated strong performance in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey, taking the top spot in the Eastern region for overall satisfaction and second out of 29 county councils across England.

The annual survey, which gathers public views on highways and transport services, saw Norfolk achieve an overall satisfaction score of 48%, well above the national average of 40%.

This marks the 15th consecutive year Norfolk has participated in the survey, and the 7th year in a row that we have come either first or second overall.

Key highlights from this year's results include:

- Top Regional Performer: Norfolk ranked 1st in the Eastern Region for overall satisfaction.
- Some of the best above average score were in our bus services thanks to improvements that have been made as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan. The 'local bus services' overall category were 10% above the group average with sub indicators as follows:

- Public Transport Information (11% above group average)
- Frequency of bus services (9% above group average)
- Ease of access to school / work (6% above group average)
- Condition of highways (8% above group average)

Norfolk County Council's Deep Disappointment at Government Decision to Halt Mayoral Election and Slash Devolution Funding

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

Norfolk County Councils astonishment at the Government's decision to create 3 Unitaries for Norfolk under Local Government Reorganisation

Norfolk County Council made a robust bid for a Single Unitary council for Norfolk under the proposals for LGR. This bid was based on sound financial information with the primary purpose of protecting front line services, whilst ensuring value for money. NCC already deliver 85% of local services in Norfolk, a single unitary was the easiest to implement, would ultimately save money for taxpayers and was the most obvious choice for the county. It was also backed by key stakeholders like the NHS and the Police. None of the other proposals, which would split services and cost more to implement and run, stacked up. It is therefore disappointing that despite the 3 unitary proposal not meeting the government's own criteria, that this is the option chosen. This may be more a political decision than a practical one and seems irrational. The council will consider the details of the decision and may choose to challenge this.

Norwich Castle Keep reopens following £27m redevelopment

Norwich Castle Keep reopened to visitors following a comprehensive five-year redevelopment project that introduced new accessibility features alongside new galleries and interpretive displays.

Funded by £12 million from Norfolk County Council and over £13 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, all five floors of the newly named People's Palace were opened to the public for the first time ever.

The Grade I listed castle, originally commissioned by William the Conqueror 900 years ago and completed by his son Henry I in 1121, retained its historic significance while embracing modern improvements.

A new light-filled atrium adjacent to the Keep was unveiled in the first phase of the redevelopment in July 2024. Visitors also benefited from a new café, gift shop, and additional toilet facilities to enhance the visitor experience.

Importantly, a lift was installed to provide full wheelchair accessibility throughout the Keep, allowing access from the basement all the way up to the battlements, where visitors could enjoy panoramic views across Norwich.

Nationally recognised 'AI programme to be rolled out across Norfolk to prevent falls

A new, nationally recognised proactive intervention scheme is rolled out across the whole of Norfolk. The initiative was delivered in collaboration with local partners including Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSE), city, district and borough Councils and NHS organisations, aims to reduce falls in vulnerable and older adults.

Following a successful pilot with 1250 residents, the programme, which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify residents at risk of escalating needs, enhances the safety and wellbeing of those at risk of falls. The latest Artificial Intelligence technology, natural language processing is used to 'read' case notes and automatically extract meaningful insight about our residents. This technology enables the council to identify and prioritise individuals in Norfolk most at risk of falling, allows for proactive intervention before they fall.

AI is a rapidly developing technology with the potential to improve the delivery of services. The council is using AI to benefit the people of Norfolk in a safe, ethical and transparent way.

Falls are a major concern, particularly among older or vulnerable adults, and can lead to severe injuries and a decline in quality of life. Through this programme, the council will be able to predict people who are at higher risk and offer timely and targeted interventions to support them.

For more information about preventing falls visit [Preventing and dealing with falls](#).

Norfolk County Council Approved £500k Community Fund to Boost Local Projects

Norfolk County Council approved the launch of a new £500k Norfolk Community Fund for 2025/26, aimed at supporting grassroots projects that strengthen communities and improve local wellbeing.

The fund will empower local voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) groups to apply for grants between £200 and £2,500 to deliver small-scale initiatives that bring people together, promote inclusion, and enhance quality of life. Each of the county's 84 councillors will be allocated £5,000 to distribute within their divisions, ensuring funding reaches every corner of Norfolk

As always, I am here to help in any way I can and will always respond to email and telephone requests for assistance.

Email: barry.stone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Mobile: 07434 905963

Kind regards

Barry