

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 7:15 pm at Fincham Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors in attendance:
Cllr O'Brien - **Chair**, Cllr Stringer, Cllr Saxelby.
Also present: Rob Shaw- PSLCC (Clerk/ RFO)
2 members of the public were present.

Business to be transacted in accordance with Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, 10(2) (b)

26. F0022 Welcome from the Chair and Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972 s 85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllr Underhill, Cllr Lunan, Cllr Claydon, Cllr Blackmur, BC Moriarty and BC Devulapalli

26. F023 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation. (Localism Act 2011 s21 s33)

None Declared.

26. F024 To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th March 2025. (in accordance with standing orders 12a)

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 26th March 2025 be signed as a true copy.

Proposed by Cllr O'Brien - Seconded by Cllr Saxelby - Approved by all.

The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

26. F 025

To Receive Reports from

1. Chairman of the Parish Council – See attached Annex 1
2. Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk – BC Devulapalli sent her report by email.
Borough Council Moriarty arrived after this meeting was held.
3. Norfolk County Council – No representative attended the meeting.

26. F 026

Open Forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public.

The member of the public wished to speak in the following meeting.

26.F 027 – Close of Meeting : 19.25 (7.25pm)

Signed _____

Dated _____

Annex 1

Fincham Parish Council - Chairman's report March 2026

This report gives an opportunity to thank all of our Parish Councillors, past and present for their dedicated public service, which is provided solely on a voluntary basis.

After serving the council for a number of years, Cllr Ponder resigned from the council during the year. We are grateful for the support that she has provided to the council. There is still a councillor vacancy to bring the council up to full compliment.

Since the last Parish Assembly on the 26th March 2025, the Parish Council have held 6 meetings in which a range of issues have been discussed on behalf of Fincham residents.

In July, we were able to successfully appoint a new Parish Clerk – Mr Rob Shaw who comes with experience gained from work in other local Parish councils. We are indebted to Cllr. Lunan for providing administrative support during the interval in which we did not have a clerk.

Since his appointment, our clerk has been responsible for providing a new parish council website, new Parish council contact phone number and various updated documents and policies. The first edition of the improved format for the Parish Council Newsletter that was circulated in August was well received.

As part of the Borough Council's planning application process the Parish Council are consulted on planning applications in Fincham, there were a small number of applications during the year:

- Self build - new dwelling house to the rear of The Bungalow, Downham Road
- Self build - Traditional Georgian/ barn style family house to the East of Home Farm Barn Downham Road
- Self build - Conversion/change of use from disused methodist chapel and school to two self-contained dwellings Old Methodist Chapel Downham Road
- Use of a static caravan in driveway as an annex ancillary to the main house – 1 Swan Lane.
- Installation of external insulation and lime render finish to existing dwelling with replacement porch, flat roof, windows and doors. Hill Cottage, the Hill.

Despite making a successful application to the Parish Partnership scheme for additional funding to extend the TROD, we were unable to make any additional applications for funding. The second phase of the TROD has now been completed, although we had not made a request to the County Council for these works. The completed TROD now provides a safe route for pedestrians with pushchairs to access the Nature Reserve via Black Drove.

Signed _____

Dated _____

Other activities of the council include:

- Continued management of the Nature Reserve, Rose garden and grass verges.
- Continued management of the garden allotment site with help from the probationary service community payback team. The new hedging that was planted in early 2025 on part of the allotment boundary continues to grow. As part of the Parish Council's support of Biodiversity, a new wildlife pond was dug in the corner of the allotment carpark where there was an abundance of wildflowers.
- Replacement of the rubbish bin in the layby.
- Repainting of village gateways, cast iron Fincham signs and Mile post. Fincham Parish Council - Chairman's report March 2026
- Councillors have been responsible in putting up the Speed Activating Messaging Sign (SAM2) which is shared with Crimplesham on alternative months to encourage drivers to keep to the speed limit in Marham Hill, Downham Road and the High Street.
- Conducted a survey on the need for improved bus services between Swaffham, Crimplesham and Downham Market – as a major throughfare, the A1122 is very poorly served.
- Circulation of Newsletters to all houses in Fincham.

We are still looking for volunteers to reinstate the Community Speed watch team which has previously been able to report speeding vehicles to the police.

Finally, in addition to attending Parish Council meetings, your Parish Councillors volunteer to undertake the many duties associated with maintaining and running the village in the interests of the people of Fincham, for which I sincerely thank them all. The powers and budget available to the Parish Council are very limited and it is often very hard to manage residents' expectations.

Signed _____

Dated _____