

# Minutes of Fincham Parish Council

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7:30 pm at Fincham Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors in attendance:

Cllr O'Brien - **Chair**, Cllr Claydon, Cllr Lunan, Cllr Stringer Cllr Underwood, Cllr Saxelby.

Also present: Rob Shaw- PSLCC (Clerk/ RFO)

BC Moriarty and 0 members of the public were present.

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

**26. F001 Welcome from the Chair and Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972 s 85(1))**

Apologies received from BC Devulapalli none received from Cllr Blackmur

**26. F002 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation. (Localism Act 2011 s21 s33)**

Declaration of interest from Cllr Stringer, Cllr Claydon and Cllr Saxelby in relation to Memorial Hall. Declaration of interest received from Cllr O'Brien in relation to the grant application for St Martins Church - Fincham

**26. F003 To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025. (in accordance with standing orders 12a)**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 be signed as a true copy.

**Proposed by Cllr O'Brien - Seconded by Cllr Lunan - Approved by all.**

The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

**26.F004 To Receive Reports from County councillors and Borough Councillors. (5 minutes each)**

BC Moriarty explained the Borough council had received a bad settlement from central government this year and had, to a degree, undone the good work done last year regarding the budget. The BC have stated that there will be no impact on Parish councils in 2026-27. CIL will be offering more training in February in advance of the release of the new process in March. The CIL pot for distribution to parish councils is looking like to be close to £1,000,000 for 2026.

Cllr Moriarty also stated that there are about to be big changes to the NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework – Allowing less bureaucracy in planning for new housing stock. Borough and Parish councils may have less of a say.

Devolution process has been postponed until 2028 and County elections postponed for a year until 2027. Local elections may still take place but is unlikely.

**26. F005**

**Open Forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public. (10 minutes only in total) -**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

**26. F 006****Items to note:**

Additional Allotment Land has been chased in November and again in January – Still awaiting legal paperwork.

New bin base has been laid in the lay-by – We are just waiting for the replacement housing to arrive. This is scheduled in the next two weeks.

Cllr Saxelby pointed out that the small ramp that had been added to the slab had cracked.

Clerk to inform the contractor to fix when the new housing is fitted.

**Agenda Items**

**26. F 007** A Discussion took place in regard to the need for an alternative Recycling / Clothes Bank due to the notice given by the current supplier. It has been deemed necessary to remove the current clothes recycling bin as it is no longer viable. It was agreed that an alternative supplier will be sort –

**Clerk to Action**

**26. F 008** The council agreed to look to publish before Easter for the first time in 2026.

Content waws discussed and a draft will be drawn up before being sent to publication.

**- Clerk to Action**

**26. F 009** The Allotment working group currently consists of one councillor and it was discussed that a second member was needed to cover if required. This, in the main, would be to assist in the running of the community payback team on their bi-monthly visits.

It was Resolved that the Chair – Cllr O'Brien will step in to the cover roll to assist.

**26. F 010** There has been some ASB – Anti social behaviour in the lay-by reported and the parish council have been asked if there is anything that can be done. It was also noted that the condition of the lay-by may attract people to use it for the purposes reported due to the abandoned look of the site. The Council noted that the layby is the responsibility of the Highways Department and the condition will be reported to them. It was also noted that the Local Beat Officer will be informed of the ASB.

**26. F 011****Planning Consultations****New Planning Application Consultations received from Borough Council/NCC.**

**NONE**

**Notices of Decision by Borough Council and County Council**

**25/01637/F Fincham** -To self-build a traditional Georgian/barn style family home. Land East of Home Farm Barn Downham Road Fincham Norfolk.

This application was rejected by BC Planning.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

**Working Group Reports – To be sent to the clerk prior to the meeting to be distributed to all councillors in future as agreed in April 2024.**

**26. F 012 To hear from Working Groups**

**Finance Committee – All Councillors**

Nothing to report

**Biodiversity– Cllr Stringer, Cllr Claydon, Cllr Underhill**

Nothing to report

**Allotments– Cllr Lunan**

Plot 11 has now been let and there are currently no plots available until the new section is obtained.

**SAM 2 – Cllr Underhill, Cllr Saxelby, Cllr Lunan**

The Camera is currently at Crimplasham and will return in February – Downham Road

It was discussed that an attempt to download the data will be tried again on its return.

This can then be feedback to the Local Police and SNAP meetings.

**H&S – Cllr Stringer**

Reports have been filed and there is nothing to report. Cllr Stringer asked Cllr Underwood to visit the Nature Reserve to assess as Cllr Stringer is finding it difficult to get to the site as often as he has in the past. Cllr Underwood agreed.

**Defib – Cllr Underhill**

The Defib had been removed from the cabinet but not used. It is working as it should be.

**Police SNAP Meetings – Vacant**

Nothing to report

**Newsletter Distribution – All Councillors - Discussed in 26. F 008**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

**Accounts & Finance including:**

**26. F 013** Accounts & Finance including:

To Note the Balance of the Accounts on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Unity Trust Bank Current Account	<b>£ 5413.79</b>
Unity Trust Bank Savings Account	<b>£ 5293.93</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 10,707.72</b>

**26.F 014** To consider Payments for January 2026

**Payments for January 2026 Authorisation**

Payee	Goods/ Services	VAT	TOTAL	DD/EP electronic payment /direct debit	Supplier/ Service
HMRC	231.51	0.00	<b>231.51</b>	EP	HMRC for month 9 - Paid
N Power	64.84	3.24	<b>68.08</b>	DD	N Power - Streetlight Electric for December 25 - Inv IN14718389 - Paid
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>296.35</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>299.59</b>		

**26.F 015** To note money received –

Allotment Plot 11 – Let out - £93 - ( £18 rent for remainder of year + £75 Deposit)

Unity Bank Interest for Savings account - £33.92

**Total Income – £126.92**

**26.F 016 To Note – Grant Applications – Church and Memorial Hall**

A grant application has been received from St Martins Church. After discussion it was resolved by council to grant the application.

Proposed : **Cllr Stringer** Seconded: **Cllr Lunan** – All Agreed – **Cllr O’Brien** abstained from the vote due to the Declaration of Interest registered at the start of the meeting.

Applicant to be informed of the decision- **Clerk to Action**

**26.F 017** To appoint internal auditor for 2025-26 – Mr Robin Goreham

The council resolved to appoint Mr Goreham as the Internal Auditor for 2025-26

Proposed – **Cllr Underwood** – Seconded – **Cllr Saxelby** – All Agreed

It was also resolved for the Clerk to write to the previous Auditor and Thank Her for her support in the past. – **Clerk to Action.**

*Invoices due for payment but received after the publication of the agenda may be considered.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

**26. F 018** To resolve to move into a closed session, on the grounds of confidentiality in accordance with The Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960, s.1(2)

The quote for the Cast Iron Sign and Mile Marker Refurbishment was discussed and council resolved to go ahead with the quote for £270 to complete the works.

The Council agreed it was in the interest of the parish to preserve these items as they are no longer looked after by Highways.

Proposed : **Cllr O'Brien** Seconded: **Cllr Underwood** – All Agreed

**26. F 019 To receive Items for the next meeting agenda  
by Noon on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2026**

**26. F 020 To confirm the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council, scheduled for**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Fincham Memorial Hall  
Full Parish Council meeting will follow the Annual Meeting at 7:00pm.**

**26. F 021 Close of meeting: - 9.04pm (21:04)**

Any business to be considered at a Parish Council meeting must be delivered to the clerk for inclusion in accordance with Standing Order 9b. Please use the "Agenda Item Request Form" and include as much information as possible including any proposal.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_