

OVERSTRAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2026 IN THE PARISH HALL

Present: Cllr B Stratton (Chairman) and Cllr G Partridge (Vice Chairman)
Cllrs V Bond, A Debbage, E Newcombe and G Turner.
Cty Cllr Maxfield

Members of Public: - 1

Minutes taken by: Kelly Batterham

1. To receive Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Fitch-Tillett and Smith.

2. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Cllr Stratton declared an interest in item 9.1 being a payee during January.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 Members agreed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7 January 2026, which were duly signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Members agreed and accepted the Minutes of the Shoreline Management Committee meeting held on 19 January 2026, to be signed at the next Shoreline Management Committee meeting.

4. Chairmans Report

Nothing to report on this occasion.

5. County & District Councillor Reports

Cty Councillor Maxfield had submitted a reported - annexed hereto.

6. Police Report

The Clerk reported that during the month of October 2025, there had been 3 crimes reported in Overstrand; 1 of possession of weapons on The Londs – which is currently under investigation, 2 of violence or sexual offences on Carr Lane – which is currently under investigation and Lutyens Drive – where the police were unable to prosecute. During the month of November; 1 violence or sexual offence was reported on Carr Lane – where the police were unable to prosecute. There were no reports of any crimes during December.

7. Public Participation Time

No-one wished to speak on this occasion.

8. Planning

8.1 Planning applications for consideration:

PF/25/2819 Erection of single storey side extension to dwelling
24 Cromer Road, Overstrand NR27 0NX

Members agreed to make no comment on this application.

8.2 To report on planning decisions made by North Norfolk District Council:

PF/25/2255 Replacement of shed/summerhouse and installation of new french drain
around dwelling
13 The Londs, Overstrand NR27 0PW

Approved

PF/25/2389 Erection of single storey extension to form new entrance porch and living
room, inclusive of alterations to ground floor layout / fenestration.
21 High Street, Overstrand NR27 0AB

Approved

NMA/26/0060 Non-Material amendment of Planning Permission PF/24/2481 (Installation of solar panels on south-facing roof slope) to allow Increase the number of panels to be installed from 8 to 10, occupying the same area of roof, due to a change in the dimension of the panels
Danum House, 22 Pauls Lane, Overstrand NR27 0PE

Approved

9. Finance

- 9.1 Members agreed and accepted the payments and receipts for January 2026.
- 9.2 Members considered and accepted the bank reconciliation up to 31 January 2026.

10. Document Review

- 10.1 Members reviewed and agreed to adopt the Co-option of Parish Councillors Policy.
- 10.2 Members reviewed and agreed to adopt the Data Protection Policy.
- 10.3 Members reviewed and agreed to adopt the Equal Opportunities Policy with one small amendment.
- 10.4 Members reviewed and agreed to adopt the Freedom of Information Policy.
- 10.5 Members reviewed and agreed to adopt the Information Protection Policy.

11. Working Group Membership

- 11.1 Following discussion, it was agreed to add Cllr Turner to the Crab & Windfarm Info Point Working Group and the Events & Publicity Working Group.

12. Activity Overview

- 12.1 Members discussed the status of Council Working Groups and scheduled meeting dates. The Clerk was asked to put items on the next agenda 1) to discuss and agree to alter the scope of the Crab and Windfarm Info Point project, 2) to consider quotations for playground maintenance and 3) to consider seeking grant funding towards the Neighbourhood Plan.

13. General Purposes and Amenities

- 13.1 Cllr Newcombe supplied the following website statistics for January 2026 which were relayed to the meeting: 408 users of which 48.5% were on desktops, 45.4% used mobile devices to visit the site and 6.1% used a tablet. The most popular pages for January were Parish Council homepage (173 views), Agendas and Minutes (104 views), Our Village (65 views), Overstrand Parish Hall (52 views), The Belfry Centre (50 views), The Churchill Connection (46 views) and What's On (43 views).
- 13.2 Members discussed the continuing problems being encountered on Coast Road/Clifton Way with parking obstructions and it was agreed to seek the support of NCC and NNDC, request an on site meeting with all interested parties to agree positioning of the yellow lines, receive costings and bring the item back to full council.

14. Overstrand Coastal Transition Action Group

- 14.1 Recommendations from the Shoreline Management Committee were discussed by members and it was agreed to convey the recommendations for amendments to the Terms of Reference for the proposed Overstrand Coastal Community Transition Action Group to Coastwise. The amended terms of reference will return to Full Council for agreement.

15. Represented Groups

- 15.1 Nothing to report on this occasion.

16. To Report any other Business

- 16.1 The Clerk informed members that she had duly completed a retail relief review for 26/27 as requested by NNDC which will enable them to calculate rates due for the new tax year.
- 16.2 The Clerk informed members that PAT testing had been successfully carried out on all electrical appliances in the Parish Hall.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Full Council on Wednesday 4 March 2026 in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.16pm.

Chairman..... Date.....

County Councillor's Report February 2026

So now we know... or do we?

On 22nd January, the Government finally announced that it plans to postpone the County Council elections in Norfolk (and a number of other councils) again.

The Government says its decision is to allow the councils to focus on the work needed to set up new unitary councils that will cover Norfolk. Elections to the new unitary councils are expected to take place in May 2027, with the new councils expected to be up and running in April 2028. However, it is not quite as clear-cut as that because there is a legal challenge to the postponement that will be heard on 21-22nd February. The postponement will only be confirmed if the courts agree the move is legal.

It's a mess. A mess that is entirely of the government's making.

- The elections that were due last year should not have been postponed. There was no justification for it. The County Council will probably cease to exist in 2028 so councillors elected for four years in 2021 will end up serving seven years
- There's still no definite timetable for Local Government Reform. I simply don't understand how senior politicians and experienced civil servants (in the department responsible for local government) could have launched on this journey without any idea of the timetable. At this stage we still don't know for sure when the new councils will be set up or if elections *next year* will go ahead
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- Councils should be able to do more than one thing at once. The idea that they need to cancel the elections to have the time prepare for LGR just doesn't sound truthful

So, shouldn't I (and my councillor colleagues) just resign and force a by-election? I have thought about this a lot as you can imagine. I have decided that, at this stage, it is not the right thing to do. To start with, we still don't know whether the elections will be postponed – that should be decided by the courts at the end of February. We also don't know for certain whether by-elections will even be allowed if councillors do resign.

Most importantly, though, individual councillors resigning will not do what those calling for it want. **This was a government decision – they won't change their mind just because a few Norfolk councillors resign.** It also won't change how things are run at County Hall. The County Council is governed on party political lines. The Conservatives run the council with 52 of the 84 councillors. **To change who runs the council, it would need at least ten *Conservative* councillors to resign. Councillors from other parties, or Independents like myself, resigning, would change nothing.**

I work to hold the people running the County Council to account, and to make sure they don't forget the needs of the people in the twelve parishes I represent. I will carry on doing that to the best of my ability.

That is my position for now. If it looks like my resignation would force a change of mind by the government, of course I will reconsider. If the elections for the new unitary councils do not go ahead next May, I will definitely resign – those new councillors will have the job of running the new councils and it is vital that people have a vote to elect them.

Local Member Highways Allowance and Norfolk Community Fund

Assuming the elections are cancelled then I guess the Local Member Highways Allowance and the Norfolk Community Fund will top up again in April. So just a plea to have a think about projects might qualify for funding from these two pots (and remember that there is still money in the Community Fund for this year).

Bus shelters

I understand that the deadline to apply for funding for new bus shelters is to be extended from 31st January to 31st March. If you would like to apply, let me know and I can send you the paperwork. Remember that the Parish Council would have to contribute 20% of the cost and unfortunately my Local Member Highways Allowance is fully allocated for this financial year so I cannot help.

Increase in fees for foster carers

Foster carers in Norfolk will receive a 15% increase in fees as part of Norfolk County Council's plan to recruit and retain more foster carers. The proposals include:

- A 15% uplift in fees for mainstream and kinship carers
- Additional uplifts for mainstream carers looking after children aged 10 and older
- Greater rewards for long service
- An expanded therapeutic support team
- Enhanced practical support

Anyone interested in finding out more about fostering can read about the services here: [Fostering - Norfolk County Council](#)

5% Council Tax increase proposed

Norfolk County Council's cabinet will consider proposals for a balanced Budget for 2026–27, at a meeting on 26 January. The report includes a recommendation to increase council tax by 4.998%. The proposals also include £42.3 million in savings and efficiencies.

Ed Maxfield

Overstrand Parish Council – Payments and Receipts for January 2026

Date: January 2026							
No.	Payee	Detail	Pm't Method	Net (£)	VAT (£)	Gross (£)	Receipts (£)
EX107	Octopus Energy	Parish Hall gas and electric - Dec	DD	98.83	4.94	103.77	
EX108	Lloyds	Service charges	DD	12.23	0.00	12.23	
EX109	SSE	Street light energy	DD	120.58	6.03	126.61	
EX110	Zen internet	Parish Hall internet and clerks phone	DD	41.99	8.40	50.39	
EX111	Bruce Stratton	Xmas tree festival lights and batteries	EFT	25.83	5.17	31.00	
EX112	Kelly Batterham	Clerk salary and WFH allowance - Jan	EFT	1,295.86	0.00	1,295.86	
EX113	HMRC	PAYE/NI - Jan	EFT	591.44	0.00	591.44	
EX114	Norfolk Pension Fund	Pension contributions - Jan	EFT	499.10	0.00	499.10	
INV32	Hirers	Parish Hall Hire	EFT				90.00
INV33	Firework attendee	Firework donations	EFT				25.00
INV34	Business owners	Website entries x2	EFT				50.00
INV35	The White Horse	Firework dontion	EFT				100.00
HH10	Lloyds bank	Interest	EFT				29.49
TOTALS				2,685.86	24.54	2,710.40	294.49

OVERSTRAND PARISH COUNCIL
BANK RECONCILIATION
31-Jan-26

BANK STATEMENTS

Bank balances as at 31 January 2026		
Deposit Account	£34,600.00	
Community Account	£6,059.83	
Shoreline Management Account	£3,963.89	
Reserves	£57,889.91	
Total cash in bank at 31 January 2026		£102,513.63
(a cumulative total of all balances listed above)		
Less uncleared invoices at 31 January 2026	£0.00	£102,513.63
Add unbanked cash at 31 January 2026	£0.00	£102,513.63
Net balance as at 31 January 2026		£102,513.63

CASH BOOK

Cash book opening balance at 1 April 2025		£107,880.57
Add receipts during the year	£35,999.05	£143,879.62
Less payments during the year	£41,365.99 ⁻	£102,513.63
Cash book closing balance		£102,513.63