

Crimplesham Parish Council

Minutes of Crimplesham Parish Assembly, 20th March 2025, 6.45pm

Those Present: Cllr Satur, Cllr Dodds, Cllr Ashman, BCllr Moriarty, BCllr Devulapalli, Clerk M Hilton.

Public: eight

Apologies: Cllr Woods, CCllr Long

MINUTES

- 1. Welcome and to consider apologies.** Apologies were approved.
- 2. Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** Cllr Dodds declared being married to a Village Hall trustee.
- 3. To receive a report from the Chair of the Parish Council:**

This is my second year as Chairman of the Crimplesham Parish council, and we have endeavoured to maintain our strategy of improvement within the village.

New Councillor

I would like to formally welcome Councillor Woods to the Parish Council as our latest member.

We still only have 4 Parish Councillors and would welcome applications from the community to join the council

Playing Field

Last year we introduced new equipment into the playing field and within the next two months we will introduce replacements for our current ageing equipment and install new assets such as adult exercise equipment and a family climbing wall.

Village Green

In order to improve the appearance of the village green, councillor Ashman has planted new ornamental flowering cherry trees and a number of flowers which are currently coming to fruition. We would like to have some engagement from the village with regard to implementing any other project to improve the appearance.

Notice Board

The old village notice board has served us well, however, is now beyond economic repair.

A new village notice board has been purchased and will be placed in the same location as the existing board. Any items villagers would like displayed, please let us know.

Village Hall

We understand that the sale of the village hall is now complete and that planning permission for conversion to a domestic dwelling is now being sought. We would like to wish the new owners every success in their new venture.

Speeding in the village.

Unfortunately, we still suffer from uncourteous drivers who have little respect for the village speed limits and see warning signs as targets to be beaten. We do engage with the authorities; however, they have repeatedly informed us that we have had no accidents and are defined as low risk.

Any comments on road speed or other issues can be fed into the SNAP Meetings held in Downham where anyone can attend to discuss community policing issues.

VE day

The 8th of May 2025 marks 80 years since Victory in Europe, a momentous occasion that signalled the end of World War II in Europe. VE80 is a wonderful opportunity to honor the heroes of the past, reflect on our history, and

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celebrate peace and unity with family, friends, and community. The council would like to hold some form of celebration within the village and would welcome ideas from the villagers. Some suggestions are a BBQ on the playing field, cake stall or yard sale for charity etc.

As I commented last year, despite our best efforts to undertake our duties as parish Councillors, it has not always been easy to maintain our enthusiasm for the role when a minority of the village seem to have only one aim, which is to deflate this enthusiasm. I am now in my second year as Chairman, and nothing has changed with regard to this issue. We understand that you can't always please everyone, however, engaging with the councillors to deliver the best possible outcomes for the village will be better than a continual negative approach.

I would like to thank all the Parish councillors for their continuing support and that of our Parish clerk for steering us forward.

4. To receive a report from our Borough Councillors:

West Norfolk BC is in its last term of office in its current incarnation, with term likely to end in 2027, extended by a year while the new unitary authority elected reps take their places to begin work in 2028.

We, at the borough, are asking for 3 unitary authorities to be formed in Norfolk to replace the existing 7 district councils and one county council.

The government will make the final decision by September 2025.

We have managed a tight ship, providing all the services expected of the council, while managing to stay in the black. We have planned and, in some cases, started to execute capital investments including developing KL town, new Alive Leisure facilities for Hunstanton and KL, and new green spaces near Harding's Pits, Gaywood Parkway etc.

Our borough's local plan was passed by central govt in 2025, and will aid us in making robust planning decisions going forward, even though it will need immediate revisions due to the new NPPF which came into force in late 2024.

The borough council is launching a Garden Wildlife competition for all residents this spring, and I hope every resident takes part in it. There are voucher prizes to be won and wildlife to save, so it's a win for all. There is also a prize for the parish with the most number of entries, so I hope the pc will encourage people to take part, provide entry forms etc. The website will be live later this month (end of March), and everyone will be informed of it via the annual bin calendar, social media, press releases etc.

I am the Vice-Chair of the Norfolk-wide health scrutiny committee at County Hall, and over the past 12 months we have scrutinised the performance of the mental health services, GP services and dentistry. Dr / Cllr Pallavi Devulapalli Airfield Ward BCKL&WN

BCllr Moriarty reiterated BCllr Devulapalli's report, but also said the new Mayor when elected will have more powers. The Planning Department will stay at BCKLWN. There is call for faster decisions on planning applications. He also said the Local Plan should be finalised next week.

BCllr Moriarty apologised for the lateness of informing Parish Councils of the increase in dog waste collection which is up by 60% and municipal waste collection up by £150%. Invoicing for this service was always paid in arrears and is now paid in advance, so two invoices to be paid this annum. BCllr Moriarty said future increase will be issued in November in line with budget setting.

5. To receive a report from County Councillor: Not in attendance.

6. To approve the minutes from Parish Assembly March 21st 2024: these were approved and signed by the Chair.

7. Open Forum – public opportunity for questions to Councillors or issues about matters in the Parish:

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██████ asked why the precept had increased by 40%, the Clerk had prepared a report on the matter and copies handed to the public. The Clerk explained that the precept had been increased by £53 per annum on a band D property, so by £5.36 per month (over the 10-month payment period). ██████ said there needed to be cuts but when challenged could not say where he thought the cuts should be made!

Breakdown of Precept increase 2025 26

As the Council have received some substantial grants, the Council now have to be external audited. This was not budgeted for last year. Cost £250, the same for this coming financial year.

The insurance for the playing field will increase with the new play equipment, a figure has not been agreed as yet but it was agreed to increase the budget by £100

Streetlight energy was increased by £300. However, this may increase sustainably more as from July 2025 all unmetered supplies change to half hourly measurements as mandated by Ofgem.

The Council although they had a CIL grant for goal posts and swings need to pay £600 towards these. A donation of £2K was received for outdoor gym equipment the council have £1540 to put towards the cost.

Dog bin emptying has increased from £146.64 to £260.20 and a second bin is to be installed so this will double. The Borough Council has also decided to change from a year in arrears to a year in advance so two years have been paid in the same financial year.

A grant of £900 is paid to the church for grounds maintenance.

Grounds maintenance is going up 10%

The SAM2 camera has not been serviced for a long time and no budget provision for this in previous years. £500 was set aside for this.

NI increases for employers this was announced late Nov 24 (after budget setting) the NI contributions have increased from 13.8% to 15% and the government also decreased the threshold from £9100 to £5000.

Bank Balance 5/9/24	£16,635.77
estimated balance April 2025	£8,895.00
less estimated net expenditure for 2025/26	£15,052.00
Plus, estimated receipts for 2025/26	£17,948.00
Estimated total cash balance on 1st April 2026	£11,791.00
Less reserves	£3,270.00
Total	£8,521.00
Precept	£17,418.00
precept up	Band D would go up by £53.59 pa

£5.36 per month (10-month payment)

BCKLWN has also decided after this budget was approved to pay the precept in two halves which previously was one lump sum.

██████ had been seen delivering letters to certain villagers, the Cllrs were left out. The letter asks parishioners to attend the meeting and asks why Crimplesham's precept had increased by 40% but West Derham and Wereham's had only increased by 2%. The Clerk explained that West Dereham's precept last year was £17860 with a cash balance of £41000. Wereham's precept was £17978 with a cash balance of £32016.

Last year Crimplesham's cash balance was £9898. So, a sustainable difference.

██████ then asked who had purchased the village hall, the chair said the Council had no idea who bought it, just that the Council wished them well.

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The meeting closed at 19.19pm.

Signed by the Chair **Date**