

Docking Parish Annual Meeting

Date: 6th May 2025

Time: 18:30 – 19:00

Location: Pavillion, Playing Field, Docking

Chair: Melanie Lewis

Clerk/RFO (Minutes): Annalisa Dovey | clerk@DockingParishCouncil.gov.uk

Present: Melanie Lewis (Chair), Annalisa Dovey (Clerk), Members of the Public

Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening

The Chair welcomed all attendees and formally opened the meeting at 18:30.

2. Playing Field Report: Nicola Smith, representing the Playing Field Committee, delivered a summary of the annual report (attached in full). She noted a productive and successful year, with a positive outlook for the year ahead.

3. Speed Watch Report: Rita Goold provided a report on Speed Watch activities. Key points included:

- 81 speed watch sessions carried out
- 1,020 speeding incidents reported
- 2 vehicles recorded travelling at 70mph
- Rita Goold emphasised the importance of the SAM2 speed signs in supporting this work and reiterated that Docking remains consistently among the top three villages in the region for speeding concerns.

4. Brownies Report: Rosemary Hirst gave an update on behalf of the local Brownies group, highlighting:

- A busy and successful year, with multiple outings including trips to Coltishall, South Creak, and Skaters
- Upcoming events include the start of a new Rambling badge, a litter-picking session on 11th June, and a workshop on surnames at the church led by Peter Cooke
- The group will celebrate its 50th anniversary in October at Ripper Hall
- Strong links with the school and the enrolment of seven new Brownies, bringing total membership to 14, with good geographic representation, including from Monk's Close
- Thanks were expressed for the generous support received through grants.

5. Heritage Group Report

A written report was submitted by the Docking Heritage Group and read aloud by the Clerk. (Full report attached.)

6. Public Participation: With no further group reports, the Chair opened the floor to public comments.

- **Clay Pits Access:** A query was raised regarding public access to the clay pits, noting that although it is a public right of way, it remains inaccessible.
- **Traffic and Speeding Concerns:** Concerns were expressed over the ongoing severity of speeding in Docking and the lack of progress in arranging a public meeting with the Highways department.
 - The Council noted that Highways cannot be compelled to attend a public meeting, though requests have been made repeatedly.
 - It was confirmed that motions cannot be re-resolved within six months, though there is no restriction on raising related questions
 - It was reiterated that no decisions can be made during a public session; however, councillors may choose to raise items at future meetings for inclusion on the agenda. The report of this meeting will be submitted to the next Parish Council meeting.
- **Access Road to the ORG (Old Recreation Ground):**
 - A parishoner expressed dissatisfaction with the Council's handling of safety concerns regarding access to the ORG and further dissatisfaction at not having contractor work dates directly confirmed.
 - The council confirmed that contractor work dates are not possible to directly confirm due to fluidity of planning though the intention to commence was publicised.
 - The Council confirmed that both the original email and the formal response were acknowledged at the previous Council meeting, and no further action will be taken.
 - The Council also noted that it is not obligated to discuss or respond to matters raised by members of the public solely because they have been submitted by email, though it may do so at its discretion.¹
 - The Council advised that repeated correspondence on matters where a full response has already been given, and no new information is provided, may be considered vexatious under local government guidance.
- **ORG Consultation:** A parishoner noted that a public consultation had previously been agreed upon concerning the ORG. This comment was noted.

7. Closure

The Chair thanked all attendees and formally closed the meeting at 19:00.

Attachments:

- [Playing Field Annual Report](#)

- [Docking Heritage Group Report](#)

¹ This position is in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidance and supported by Standing Orders and Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, which limits agenda items to those accepted by the proper officer (the Clerk), typically at the request of a councillor. Persistent or repetitive communications may also be addressed under the council's vexatious communications policy and in line with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance.

Docking Playing Field Annual Parish Meeting Report 2024/25

The past year has been an extremely busy and rewarding one for Docking Playing Field Charity. We commenced the refurbishment of the Pavilion in April. We launched our Sponsor A Plank campaign which was well supported by our community. We now have a great facility which is used by local groups and residents.

Our Race Night in May was a resounding success. A great night was had by all and we raised funds towards the Pavilion project, allowing us to upgrade our kitchen facilities.

We obtained a grant from Norfolk Community Foundation to update the old tennis courts into a Multi Use Games Area, providing sports facilities year round. A grant from Sport England meant we could install lights for winter use. The facility has been used by Football clubs from Docking and Dersingham , our village tennis group, residents and those on holiday.

Everything from the Race Night to Sponsor a Plank, to The Grand Opening in September exceeded our expectations and the support that we had from the community showed their appreciation for what we were doing.

We now have a range of policies and risk assessments which have supported us to achieve grant applications and ensure our charity remains up to date and compliant. We continue to review and update these.

The grant funding from the Borough Council, Jacks Lane and The Chipflow wind farms, Love Norfolk , Freebridge Community Housing fund and the Lugden Hill charity were all vital in our achievements . The support and guidance from the Norfolk Community Foundation was also key to our projects being able to happen.

Without the Section 106 money available from Borough Council, we would not be in the position we have been in this year and the updated facilities would not be available for our community to use and enjoy.

In November, following advice and guidance from Norfolk Community Foundation, we began the process of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which will future proof our charity.

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Heritage Group

Chairmans Report February 2025

2024 was a relatively quite year for the group in comparison to a lot we've had.

Our largest event was of course our Local History Fair in May. There was the usual good selection of other groups and organisations that joined us there and combined with that we also had a Waggs reunion on the Sunday remembering the old bakery business. Due in part to that the turnout for the weekend was very good.

Off the back of that, ourselves and several of the other groups were invited along to another small history fair event at Gaywood in September. It was only a one-day event and despite it taking place during King's Lynn's Heritage Open Day and being free entry, turnout was very disappointing with visitor numbers probably only in the 20s if you were lucky.

Our other main event last year was our Community Dig. Unfortunately for the first time since the project began the weather beat us. The weekend we had planned to do the dig in July was too wet so it was re-scheduled for later in the year. We did eventually do it in September but because of the change of date we were down on volunteers to help but it was once again a successful dig and the results did add something to our records.

Despite our dig being delayed, SHARP's open day at Sedgeford did take place a week later when we took along our Community Dig display. It was another good day out with several visitors there so another worthwhile event to go to.

We had a few talks during the rest of the year, the most interesting for me being from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission back in March. And we did see the return of Chanters Jigg in December for another evening of Christmas entertainment but unfortunately the turnout was disappointingly low and we made a loss on the evening. Given the increased cost we've had to cover in order to keep the heritage room open, and with a lack of other funding available, this is something we can do without.

Apart from that the year was quite quiet as far as other events go but there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes researching and putting together new material for future use.

This year should be busier though with several talks, events and a visit planned.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone in the group who has helped in some way. To Helena for organising everything and allowing us to use her house for parties and meetings, to Gay for sorting out our finances, and a particular thank you goes to Frances for sorting out our website, particularly recently when we've been having issues with it.

As we move into our 18th year, I look forward to another busy and successful year for the group.