

ANNUAL DOCKING PARISH VILLAGE MEETING

Minutes

Monday 11th May 2025

6.00pm | Coffee and biscuits

6.30pm | Annual Docking Parish Public Meeting Opens

Present: Chair David Wroth, **Minutes:** Annalisa Dovey, approx. 25 members of public

1. Welcome:

- 1.1. David Wroth chairs the meeting and welcomes everyone at 18:30
- 1.2. Meeting hears that Cllrs in the room as present as members of public and that no decision is a binding council decision as those can only be made in a council meeting.

2. Parish Group Reports

- 2.1. Parish Council Annual report – delivered by David Wroth (Appendix 1)
- 2.2. Playing Field report delivered by Hugh (Appendix 2)
- 2.3. Speed Watch (RG): The Speedwatch is very active on its 9th year with an average of 2-3 watches a week. Alas high numbers of high speeders continue for a small village. Speedwatch is trying to find new ways to curb speeding. Speedwatch has noticed that as soon as people are past, they pick up again, particularly motor bikes. Weekends are the worst, demonstrating it is visitors also. Speedwatch is committed to continuing as long as possible, but help is required.
 - 2.3.1. Thanks raised to the team
- 2.4. Brownies: Report received (Appendix 3)
 - 2.4.1. Also noted: There is room for more Brownies.
- 2.5. Heritage Group Report: delivered by Hugh (appendix 4)
 - 2.5.1. Note the link to purchase the Heritage group book is available on the
- 2.6. Docking Allotment for Recreation & Exercise Charity update received
 - 2.6.1. Two grants have been awarded.
 - 2.6.2. Accounts are being updated.
- 2.7. Borough Report from Sam Sandell received. (Appendix 5)

3. Public Consultation on ORG To receive ideas and requests for the ORG for the future.

- 3.1. Loves the ORG – so peaceful to be up there.
 - 3.1.1. Noted the access road is a little rough.
 - 3.1.2. Proposal that extra seats might be better on the Village green, or as well as the village green, to make sure everyone benefits.
- 3.2. Suggestion for cut flower path.
- 3.3. Suggestion for bird boxes and insect hides.

- 3.4. Request to remove thistles: noted that mowing is best.
- 3.5. Request for a 'please pick up litter' sign halfway around,
- 3.6. Biodiversity Borough Officer is keen to do bird box workshops.
- 4. **Public Consultation on Village Sign Proposal.** Offer of
 - 4.1. Its good idea and needs doing – likes the flint design.
 - 4.2. Offer of donation of stones
 - 4.3. Preference to keep it as close to the current style as possible.
 - 4.4. Preference for the stepped design
 - 4.5. Preference for not having the round bit on top.
- 5. **Extended Public comments (3 minutes per speaker per topic)**
 - 5.1. Doctor surgery – need a pedestrian sign crossing.
 - 5.2. Request for 20 mph school area to be extended around the whole school.
 - 5.3. Noted dangerous speeds and poor roads.
- 6. **Close:** Village meeting closed at 19:10

Appendix 1: Docking Parish Council's Chair's report.

Chairman's Report

It has been another busy and productive year for Docking Parish Council, and I would like to thank all councillors, our Clerk, contractors, volunteers, and residents for their continued support and commitment to our community. Choosing to put yourself in the public eye as a councillor, under the scrutiny that comes with managing issues such as council tax precepts, village open spaces, planning matters, and traffic measures, is no easy task. Those who continue to do this year after year for the benefit of the wonderful community of Docking deserve recognition and appreciation for their hard work.

This year has also been marked by a period of sadness for the Council following the passing of Councillor Leverett. Councillor Leverett served the parish with dedication and integrity, giving generously of her time and experience for the benefit of the community. Her contribution to parish life and commitment to public service will be remembered with great respect and gratitude. On behalf of the Parish Council, I extend our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Throughout the year, the Council has continued to work on behalf of residents, addressing local concerns, supporting village initiatives, and maintaining the services and facilities that are so important to parish life. We remain committed to ensuring that Docking continues to be a welcoming, vibrant, and well-maintained community for all who live here.

Personally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for having voted myself in as chairman last year, it does come with its challenges, but one that I have enjoyed.

I would especially like to recognise and thank Annalisa for her professionalism, dedication, and hard work throughout the year. The role of Parish Clerk carries significant responsibility, and her support and guidance to me are invaluable to the smooth running of the Council

Finally, I would like to thank all residents who contribute to village life in so many ways. Your involvement, feedback, and community spirit are what make Docking such a special place.

Thank You

David Wroth

Chairman

Docking Parish Council

Appendix 2: Docking Playing field Report.

Annual Parish Meeting

Report 2025/26

The past year has seen us progressing towards Charitable Incorporated Organisation status as a Charity following advice from Norfolk Community Foundation. We commenced the process in November 2024 and have been working with Community Action Norfolk and Fields In Trust.

We held our Public Meeting to approve the new charity and Governing document in June 2025 and papers were finally submitted to the Charity Commission in November 2025. It has been a long process and we now await the final approval by the Charity Commission.

Our Race Night in May was a great community event and fundraiser for us. We thank our community for their support.

We held a community event in September with entertainment from the Castaway Crew and a rounders match.

The tennis memberships we have established mean that residents and the surrounding community now enjoy tennis on a regular basis with a Sunday Morning Social. Non members can still continue to book on a Pay per Play basis.

We welcomed Docking Rangers and Dersingham football teams to our facilities, using both the pitches and the MUGA.

The all purpose MUGA meant that the Bowls Group were able to continue with their Social Group through the winter months.

Craft workshops, parties, meetings and social events continue to meet in the Pavilion. We held a Christmas Floral fundraiser and thank those who supported the event.

We continued to adopt further policies and risk assessments which ensure our compliance with legislation and support grant applications.

Appendix 3: Brownies Report



We enjoyed a walk along the coastal path at Brancaster in July, we raised some money for a seal rescue charity in October, and the girls also went on a county visit to Banham Zoo in October. We celebrated our 50th birthday with a party and cake, inviting the parents to attend, and the brownies dressed up in 1970's uniforms.. We joined Heacham brownies at the pantomime of Sinbad the Sailor in January. Recently, we have been on our Pack Holiday for 2 nights to Patteson Lodge in Coltishall, and they took part in adventurous activities, such as climbing, low ropes and grass sledging. Some of the parents do struggle to pay our subs of £10 per month per child regularly, and we have to pay central girlguiding £62 per annum per member, as well as paying the rent £10 per week at the Ripper Hall.

We benefited from a generous grant from the Jack's Lane Wind Farm, which enabled us to subsidise the costs of crafts, badges and trips this year. I have applied again for £500 to help to subsidise a Pack Holiday next year, possibly to the Scout's Jimmy's Field lodge in Snettisham. I am waiting to hear if I have been successful. I also raise money via easy Fundraising and the annual Hall of Stalls in Hunstanton.

If the Parish Council would like to contribute to a particular activity, such as our planned trip to Pensthorpe this term, (which will cost £12.95 per person, plus transport costs) we are expecting that 9 girls and 3 leaders will go to this. So the total cost will be about £160, plus costs of food and drink.

With Best Wishes

Rosemary Rayner

Barn Owl

Appendix 4: Docking Heritage Group Report

So far this year we have produced a new book, 'Docking Heritage Trail' on sale for £5. We hope to follow this with second volume next year.

We held our AGM in February and re-elected our officers and committee with no changes.

In March we held a talk in the church entitled 'Pathways to History; Footpaths, Road and Tracks in Norfolk' by Dr Sarah Spooner which was well attended by people from all over Norfolk.

On the first May Bank Holiday we held our annual event; this year renamed as the Festival of Local History. 8 other villages and organisations attended and we had an archaeology help desk as well as a series of talks on the Monday which were very well attended and received.

On Wednesday May 27th we have the first of two village walks meeting at the Village sign at 6.30pm; the second one is on Saturday June 20th at 4pm. We take people on a tour of historic Docking ending at The Railway Inn.

There will be no Community Dig this year as we are working on a private project.

On July 26th we will be attending the Open Day at SHARP (Sedgeford Historical & Archaeological Project).

Our Summer Tea party for members takes place this year on August 15th and during September we shall be taking part in Heritage Week. The plan is to exhibit our photo collection in the church on Saturday 19th and take people on a 'Churchyard Tour' at 10.30 am followed by a talk at 2pm 'Docking Workhouse'.

Our final talk of the year will be by Jeff Hoyle 'Trues Yard and Kings Lynn's North End'.

2026 will end with our Christmas Meal at the Railway Inn.

We are a busy and active group of like minded people attempting to share the history of our village and encourage people to enjoy learning about the place they live. Our membership cost £15 per annum and we welcome new members to come and share their expertise and research interests. Please take a look at our web page. It might surprise you how many projects are currently running that people are actively researching.

Appendix 5: Borough Councillor Sam Sandell Annual Report

Docking Annual Parish meeting MAY 2026

Good evening.

Thank you for the invite to your parish AGM.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the Councillors and Clerk for their hard work over the last year.

We said goodbye last year to an excellent Parish Councillor who worked very hard for the Village of Docking and the residents.

I look forward to continuing working with you all. Being any sort of Councillor can be challenging yet very rewarding.

Since the last AGM a couple of you are new Councillors, so I would just give you an update as to what roles I have within the Borough Council.

I am the Chair of the Homeless and Housing task Group. I am the Vice Chair of the Standards Committee. I sit on the Appointments Board, we have had some really good candidates apply for many of our higher tier management posts, some have been difficult to call as all the candidates had very good experience and skills. I also sit on the Local Plan Task Group, the

Environment and Community Panel, the CIL spending panel and last year I was voted as the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group. Being a Cllr I sit on 2 outside bodies, one being the Burnham Overy Harbour trust and the second one being West Norfolk Girls School trust. I am always at the end of an email or telephone if anyone has any issues. I do try and respond within 24 hours and like to give the residents an answer to their queries quickly. This is just a snapshot of my role; I do also try and attend as many Parish councils as I can. I have 6 Parish Councils within my ward.

I am also a Parish Councillor where I live, a trustee of the Village Hall and the Alms-house trust. I also Chair Burnham Market Surgery Patient Participation Group.

Over the last 12 months the Borough Council has started to see change and the future of the Borough is changing. This is because of Local Government Reorganisation. It will mean that rather than a Borough and County Council there will be one council doing the roles of both Councils. There will no longer be County and Borough Councillors there will be one person doing the role. As you know Norfolk has been split into 3, which is the best option for the residents, in terms of finances and the services provided. The Borough will stay until 2028. Unitary elections will be next year 2027. The Government will develop a statutory change order to create the new Council.

This will be laid out before Parliament in the summer and signed off late Autumn this may be subject to change unitary will go live in April 2028.

I am still receiving emails about the increase in the 200% council tax. The Borough only receives a very small portion of this. We are using the extra money for our Homeless and Housing strategy; I never voted for this.

In the Budget there is a provision of half a million pounds for community projects. CIL will be much more difficult to access.

Planning Changes are coming into force in September I believe. Planning Committee will meet once a quarter and it will be Chair of Planning and the Assistant Director making planning decisions. There will be no option for Borough Councillors to call applications in. Parish Councils must be a strong voice for any applications in their village.

The Local Plan is now being reviewed the Last one took 9 years the Government have said that this one has to be done in 30 months. Our housing delivery numbers have been increased from 554 to over a thousand. This doesn't include windfall sites. If the Council doesn't build them, we are financially penalised. LOCAL PLAN – the Government, in setting political targets before analysis, are reducing the weight of public opinion. I recommend each Parish sends a representative to training sessions, (currently arranged for 15th and 22nd June).

This is just a snapshot of things happening within the Borough.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With Best Wishes

Cllr Sam Sandell.

Borough Councillor for Burnham with Docking

