

Shouldham Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Shouldham held on
Wed 6th May 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Sarah Sheldon (Chair), Geoff Hipperson, Claire Atterbury, John Carman, David Bland. Parish / Borough Cllr Pallavi Devulapalli.

Public: 5

Clerk: Jo Lloyd

Apologies: Cllrs Keith Matthews and Pippa Bennett, BC/CC Cllr Jim Moriarty.

1. Cllr Sheldon welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was proposed that Cllr Sheldon chair the meeting and all agreed.
2. Apologies were received from Cllrs Matthews and Bennett, and B/C Cllr Moriarty.
3. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th April 2025 were agreed and signed.
4. Matters Arising: None.
5. **Annual Report by the Parish Council Chair:** Cllr Sheldon reported that there had been a lot of changes over the last year, including a new Chair, a new clerk and two new Councillors. All have settled in and there is a nice balance of Councillors. The Parish Council have been trying to raise awareness of the work they do. This has included an article in the Shouldham News and being more active on social media. They have been working hard on a number of issues in Shouldham to continue the residents' enjoyment of the village and the protection of its values.
6. **Borough & County Council Members' Reports:** Cllr Moriarty sent his apologies and a report for the Annual Parish Council meeting. B.Cllr Devulapalli provided a report for the Annual Parish Council meeting.
7. **Shouldham Entertainments Committee:** Nigel Walsh, Chair of SEC, reported on events of the last year. Report attached at Annex A.
8. **Parochial Church Council:** A report was compiled by Alex Gammie on behalf of the PCC – attached at Annex B.
9. **Village Hall Committee:** Jenny Malby attended on behalf of the Village Hall Committee and gave the following report. The committee consists of three members, some have been serving for 50 years. The VH will be 100 years old in 4 years time and it takes a lot of upkeep. In the last year they have redecorated and bought heaters for the toilets, a new fridge and a new microwave. Their highest costs are insurance (£500/yr) and electricity. Their biggest source of income is the annual panto which brought in £900 this year. They received a £10,000 grant during the Covid pandemic which has helped with upkeep. No profit is made from hiring income and the hall is not used as much as it used to be. Regular groups are the Ladybirds, Good Companions and the Parish Council.
10. **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:** Ant Hobbs attended to give a report on the NHP. The steering group is in its 4th year. The NHP is in the middle of a 6 week public consultation; the draft plan and associated documents are available for viewing. There will be a presentation on 9th May. Feedback will be collated and amendments could be made. The Borough Council may

also make amendments before the final consultation and referendum on the plan. It is hoped that the process will be completed by the end of the year. If accepted, the NHP must be taken into account by the local planning authority up until 2040. It is important that residents read the plan and documents, and take part in the survey.

11. Shouldham Football Club: Rob Howling, Vice-Chair of Shouldham FC, attended to represent the club. He thanked the PC for the opportunity to give a report. Shouldham FC has continued to grow. They have 15 teams, including 2 girls’ teams, and a large number of committed volunteers, coaches and parents. Altogether they cater for around 250 children and families. They have FA 2 star accreditation. In the last year they have purchased new goal posts and have continued pitch improvements with grounds maintenance and mole control. The Clubhouse Project is progressing with the electricity supply being moved and re-connected. Demolition of the old building will begin after the Presentation Day on 23rd May. There will be a new name for 26-27, with Shouldham FC changing to Shouldham and Marham United. The FC thanked the Parish Council for their support.

12. Shouldham Bowls and Social Club: The club sent a report which was read by Cllr Sheldon and is attached at Annex C.

13. Reports from other Shouldham community organisations: Ant Hobbs gave an update on the King’s Arms Cricket Club. This has gone from strength to strength. They are working with Downham Stow Cricket Club to use their pitch for home matches. They are looking for sponsorship.

14. Public Open Forum:
A member of public commented on the new bus stop on the Village Green, saying it is urban in its appearance and inappropriate with regards to its setting in a conservation area and on the historic village green. They felt it failed to meet the principle criterion set out in Objective B of the draft NHP which provides for the historic environment and assets of heritage value to be protected and enhanced. The member of public was disappointed that the PC had not shown understanding and support of the draft NHP, and that there had not been a public consultation. The Parish Council gave their reasons for supporting a new marked bus stop area, which were to improve accessibility to public transport for villagers, and to improve highway safety with buses previously stopping in inappropriate places near the Green. Both points they felt were in support of the draft NHP. They explained that while there was not a formal consultation, the bus stop had been a Parish Council agenda item for some months. The new tarmac will soon fade and the grass will grow back, helping the area to blend in. A wooden bench has been purchased and will be installed in the near future.

15. Meeting Close.

Chair

Date

Annex A

Shouldham Entertainment's Committee, Chair's Report – to The Parish Council on 6 May 2026 at the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Ents Committee for their continued support and dedication to the Shouldham community. Over the past 12 months, from May 2025 to May 2026, the committee has worked tirelessly to deliver a varied and engaging programme of events.

These have included:

- Cycle Ride
- Cricket Day
- Fete
- o Evening Function
 - Yard Sale
 - Creative Arts East Events
 - Halloween Trail
 - St Martin celebration at the school
 - Christmas Tree
 - Pantomime – celebrating its 10th Anniversary

In addition to these events, we were proud to host the **VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations** on the Green, alongside the formal commemoration of VE Day. This included the raising of the Union Flag by the school and the lighting of the national beacon in the evening—both memorable moments for the village.

Looking ahead, our 2026 programme is already underway. So far this year, we have successfully delivered:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Golf Open
- Cycle Ride

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that all current committee members will continue in their roles. Their commitment is vital, and without them the Shouldham community would not be as vibrant as it is today.

We are always delighted to welcome new members. As our schedule demonstrates, involvement can vary throughout the year, and we fully understand that not everyone can attend every meeting or event. What matters most is teamwork, clear communication, and—above all—enjoying what we do.

Long may it continue.

Thank you.

N Walsh

Chair

Annex B

All Saints Church, Shouldham

West Norfolk Priory Group Benefice

Parish Report for the year 2025 - 26

Ministry and Services

The church has now been open daily for nearly 18 months, which has been very much welcomed by the village.

All Saints continues to have two services a month, on the first and third Sundays, one Morning Prayer conducted by an ALM and one Holy Communion conducted by Rev David Karoon, with a

steady congregation of around 17. We had larger numbers at the Easter morning prayer service, which happened to fall on the first Sunday of the month, and also had a very healthy turnout of all ages for our Carol Service mid-December.

Every term All Saints have also welcomed St Martin's School for an end of term or Christmas service.

We had 3 'full' funerals, 1 graveside funeral and 1 burial of ashes in All Saints, and 1 wedding in August over the course of the year.

Our new Garden of Remembrance for burial of ashes has been laid out in the Old Churchyard, with local sponsors coming forward to cover the costs (the pub committee, The Ladybirds and Holman and Sons stonemasons), and it has become a popular place for rest and contemplation from the bench.

The precarious chancel steps have been improved with the addition of a temporary but very solid, handrail, while we plan to replace it with a wrought iron and wood permanent one, which has been offered as a gift from a parishioner.

The borrowed domestic CD player and speakers which had been used for playing recorded hymn tunes (in the absence of a regular organist) has been replaced with a fantastic new amp, microphones, speakers and sound system, entirely paid for by a donation from a congregation member.

Members of the congregation have joined others in the Benefice to take part in Carol and hymn singing in local care homes at Christmas and Easter.

The 'Friends of All Saints' Group has been formed on paper, although we are still seeking additional committee members to move forward with the fundraising work the Group can do on behalf of the PCC.

Finance and Fundraising

All Saints has seen growing numbers joining the Parish Giving Scheme, which has been running for nearly two years now, and has improved our regular income. We have purchased our own contactless giving machine, which has helped to boost one-off donations.

We have paid our full ministry share to the Diocese and our contribution to the West Norfolk Priory Group Office administration.

Fundraising events have included the continuing regular event of the Flower Festival in August, and the second poetry and music evening for All Saints Day, which we also hope will become a regular fixture in November. We have again been the beneficiary of our local pub's regular charity quiz and coffee morning during the course of the year, and also the Carol singing around the tree on the Green in December.

Safeguarding

All Shouldham All Saints PCC members have completed the Basic, Foundation and Awareness of Domestic Abuse Course, and all DBS checks are up to date.

Fabric

All Saints has been added to the Heritage at Risk Register by Historic England, and a plan is being formulated for a major fundraising plan to fund a programme of investigations and repairs to the rainwater goods, chancel roof and the plasterwork in the ceiling and walls, which is estimated to cost in excess of £600,000.

We had quite a dramatic fall of plaster from the vestry ceiling in July 2025, which was swiftly made safe by the company which also 'netted' the West end of the nave, and who also cleared further rubble from the exiting netting and extended it down the nave, paid for by an emergency grant from the Norfolk Churches Trust.

PCC

All Saints has a small PCC who contribute enormously with the day-to-day work, and welcoming congregations and providing refreshments at services, but we also rely on a growing number of volunteers who help in other ways cleaning and maintaining the church and churchyard, contributing flowers, fundraising, volunteering at the Flower Festival and locking and unlocking the church. It is hoped that the Friends of All Saints will bolster this team and help to share the extra admin work that will be generated by the proposed programme of repairs.

We have a proposed new PCC member, David Heley.

Alex Gammie, All Saints PCC

May 2026

Annex C

Report from Shouldham Bowls and Social Club

After a steady year with Neil Matthew as our chairman and Christine Matthew as our treasurer and 'pulling together' of a lot of members, the Shouldham Bowls and Social Club find themselves in a stable financial position.

A very busy bowling season was enjoyed by all with participation in 8 different leagues. Shouldham entered two teams in the Federation Howden Triples league for the first time with the 'A' team winning their league and gaining promotion.

The Pool team had a successful season, finishing 3rd in the Downham & District Pool League. The 'A' Crib team transferred to the Kings Arms, leaving the 'B' team to enjoy a more successful season after a shaky first year, managing to finish mid-table in the Crib league. We continue to have good relationships with Shouldham Youth Football and the Ryston Runners.

The Social side of the Club continued with the very popular once a month Sunday Carvery, and various events Including Ladies Ascot Day, an Indian Bollywood night and a Valentines Meal were extremely successful. The weekly Community Friendship Club continued to run throughout the non bowling season and we were well supported in our fortnightly Bingo as well as the odd Quiz night.

May is the beginning of a new membership year for us and early signs are good with a membership of 70, 47 of which are bowling members. Hopefully numbers will continue to increase to around the 100 mark as the year progresses.

The main goal in the coming year is to hopefully complete the project to enable better disabled access.

This year we celebrate our 80th Anniversary. To honour this we aim to hold a Hog roast in July which will be open to all the village including non members, and a bowls tournament with local bowls players in August.

I would like to say thank you to all the local people and Shouldham villagers who continue to support the Club throughout the year, your support is invaluable.

Shirley Jones

Chair Shouldham Bowls & Social Club