

RUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

COMMONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 20 June 2025, 4pm, Reading Room, East Runton

Present: Cllr C Davidson, Cllr P Nichols, Cllr C Rennison, Cllr K Jonas

Minutes: L Harper, Clerk

1. Welcome and consider apologies

Cllr S Gurney

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr C Davidson was proposed by Cllr P Nichols, Seconded by Cllr C Rennison

3. Terms of Reference were circulated, discussed and approved.

Proposed by Cllr C Rennison, seconded by Cllr P Nichols

4. Future Meeting Dates

7 October 2025 agreed to be next meeting. Agenda items would include: Review contracts, performance and costs. Propose and agree plans and budgets for 2026-2027. Propose and agree winter jobs.

Mid January 2026 meeting.

5. Current Cutting Regime

For all future cuts the contractor must contact the Clerk, before carrying out the work. This is to ensure that the Clerk, as RFO, is managing the expenditure against the budget.

6. Current Contractors

East Runton Commons – Phil Pashley

West Runton Commons – Robert Slaughter

The Hurn West Runton, Grass around Village sign and pond East Runton – B Darling

Greens and Abbs Common, Stewardship Agreement cut and collect – Adam Jones.

Runton Parish Council has received complaints about the state of the Lower Common in East Runton. Discussion took place regarding what options were available.

The common would continue to be cut around the boundary of the common within approx. one metre. The mole hills will be planted on. Nettles and ragwort will be removed. A pathway will be mowed from the trod to the track, as currently carried out. Any foliage from the trod around the wooden bollards will be trimmed and kept clear.

A signage board will be displayed advising the public the common is being allowed to grow wild to promote biodiversity. Reference will be made to Runton Parish Council Biodiversity Plan (on website).

It was agreed to relook at the biodiversity action plan at the next meeting.

7. Review budget for year

It was agreed to continue with current contractors as the budget had already been set using the costings. A review of expenditure against the budget will be presented at the next meeting.

Action: Lisa Harper

8. Formal Tree Survey

The need for a comprehensive survey was discussed and it was agreed to obtain quotes. Norfolk Wildlife Trust could be approached, also the National Trust. Legal advice may need to be sought to confirm who owns what tree and what land. Local solicitors to be approached also NALC. A full proposal to be presented to the next meeting.

Action: Lisa Harper/Carole Davidson

9. Renovate Greens Common Pond

It was agreed to report to Parish Council to get approval to move ahead with the work, using the same contractor (John Service) as carried out work at the Retting Pond.

10. Policy for Tree Planting

Discussion took place regarding the planting of trees on the common. It was agreed that, as the council is managing commons, tree planting should not be allowed. A planting policy will be drawn up. Unanimously agreed by committee.

11. Sparrows Park

This was discussed and it was agreed that the cost of creating and maintaining a true wildflower meadow was beyond the Parish Council's budget

12. Note date of next meeting: 7 October 2025, time to be confirmed.

