

Minutes

Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood's Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 9th April 2026, Cantley Village Hall, NR13 3JG at 7.00pm

Present: Dot Machin, Parish Councillor (Chair),

Also Present: Anne Tandy, Clerk to the Council

Members of the public: 7

1. Welcome and apologies received from Cllr Kevin Francis.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday 27th March 2025 were approved.
3. **Parish Council Reports:**
 - a. Chairman's Report (Appendix A)
4. **Reports from Outside Bodies**
 - a. District Council (Appendix B)
 - b. County Council (Appendix C)
 - c. Police (Appendix D)
5. **Reports from Local Organisations**
 - a. Cantley village hall (Appendix E)
 - b. NPWG (Appendix F)
 - c. British Sugar (Appendix G)
 - d. Cantley WI (Appendix H)
 - e. FOCUS (Appendix I)
 - f. Tree Warden (Appendix J)
 - g. Cantley Flower Show (Appendix K)
 - h. Cantley Staithe Charity (Appendix L)
6. **General Parish Issues**

None
7. Meeting closed at 20:05

Appendix A

Annual Parish Meeting Report

Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood Parish Council

Reporting Period: 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

1. Chairman's Overview

This report summarises the work and activities of the Parish Council over the past year. The Council has continued to represent the interests of residents across Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood, maintaining a focus on local services, planning matters, highways, and community wellbeing.

In addition to its regular business, the Council has supported a number of local initiatives and projects which have contributed positively to the appearance and character of the parish.

2. Council Meetings and Governance

The Parish Council met regularly throughout the year, with full council meetings held monthly (excluding recess periods where applicable). These meetings provided a forum for:

- Decision-making on local matters
- Review of planning applications
- Monitoring of finances
- Addressing resident concerns

The Council has continued to operate in accordance with its governance policies, ensuring transparency, accountability, and proper financial management.

3. Planning and Development

Planning remains a key area of the Council's responsibilities. During the year, the Council:

- Reviewed and commented on planning applications within the parish
- Considered the impact of proposed developments on the local environment and infrastructure
- Represented residents' views to the district planning authority

Neighbourhood Plan Group

The Council has set up a Neighbourhood Plan working group and will seek to support their work over the coming months. This is aimed at shaping future development within the parish. This work is an important step in ensuring that local views are reflected in long-term planning policies and that development aligns with the character and needs of the community.

4. Highways and Infrastructure

Highways issues have continued to be a priority, with ongoing concerns including:

- Road safety
- Speeding
- Road maintenance and surface conditions
- Drainage and flooding

The Council has liaised with the county council highways department to report issues and advocate for improvements.

White Gates Initiative

During the year, the Council successfully bid for a grant to acquire **white entrance gates** at Manor Road in the parish. This has been achieved through the Parish Partnership Scheme and a generous donation from British Sugar. These features are intended to:

- Encourage reduced vehicle speeds
- Improve road safety
- Create a clearer sense of arrival into the village

This initiative represents a practical step towards addressing speeding concerns and will be delivered during the next 12 months.

5. Finance

The Parish Council has maintained careful oversight of its finances throughout the year. Key areas include:

- Setting and monitoring the annual budget
- Management of the parish precept
- Regular review of expenditure and income
- Ensuring compliance with audit requirements

Expenditure has focused on maintaining services, supporting community assets, and delivering local improvements.

6. Community and Local Projects

A number of community-focused projects have been supported or delivered during the year:

Cantley Pond Restoration

Work is to be carried out in relation to the **restoration of Cantley Pond**, an important local feature. This project contributes to:

- Enhancing the natural environment
- Improving the visual amenity of the area
- Supporting local biodiversity
-

Village Sign Bench

A new bench will be installed near the **village sign**, using funding from the Parish Partnership Scheme and Andrew Proctor, County Councillor. This will provide:

- A place for residents and visitors to sit and enjoy the surroundings
- An enhancement to the appearance of a key focal point within the village

These improvements, while modest, contribute meaningfully to community wellbeing and the attractiveness of the parish.

The Parish Council continues to fund the grounds maintenance at both Cantley and Limpenhoe churches and the 2 village halls.

In relation to the Cantley Village Hall project being taken forward by the Village Hall Committee, the Council continues to support this where we can.

7. Environmental Matters

Environmental considerations have remained an important part of Council discussions. This has included:

- Protection and enhancement of green spaces
- Tree and landscape matters
- Flooding and drainage concerns
- Supporting projects such as the pond restoration

8. Challenges

The Council has faced a number of ongoing challenges during the year, including:

- Limited resources in relation to increasing demands
- Highway and infrastructure issues outside direct Council control
- Balancing development pressures with local priorities
- Legal implications relating to the Limpenhoe Village Green which are continuing to be looked at.

9. Priorities for the Coming Year

Looking ahead, the Council will continue to focus on:

- Supporting the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Improving road safety and monitoring the effectiveness of traffic calming measures
- Continuing environmental and community enhancement projects
- Maintaining sound financial management
- Strengthening engagement with residents

10. Conclusion

The Parish Council remains committed to serving the community of Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood. The Council would like to thank all councillors, staff, and volunteers—including those involved in the Neighbourhood Plan Group—for their contributions over the past year.

Appendix B

District Councillor Report for the Cantley Annual Parish Meeting – 9 April 2026

This report outlines the activities of the two Broadland District Councillors for Brundall Ward (Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming) over the last year.

We have attended all the Main Council meetings at Broadland District Council which continues to be run by a partnership of Liberal Democrat, Labour and Green councillors.

Cllr Davis is a member of the Cabinet and holds the Environment Portfolio which covers a wide remit including waste and recycling, community protection and environmental quality, regulatory services, food safety, burials, public health protection and nutrient neutrality.

Cllr Davis is also a BDC representative on the following organisations: Community Rail Norfolk, Broads (2006) Internal Drainage Board, Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance, Norfolk Climate Change Partnership, and the Norfolk Waste Partnership. Cllr Davis also chairs the Broadland Futures Initiative which brings together representatives of the Environment Agency, Broads Authority, and local councils to consider the management of flooding in the Broads area over the next 100 years. He is also a substitute member for the Greater Norwich Local Plan meetings.

Cllr Laming has a place on the following committees/panels: Planning, Overview and Scrutiny, Communities Housing and Planning, Awards and Standards.

We have attended nearly all the main parish council meetings for Postwick, Brundall, Strumpshaw and Cantley, the Cluster Group meetings (at which representatives of local parish councils meet to share ideas and current issues) and the BDC Town and Parish Council Forum meetings. We have raised issues on their behalf and submitted regular update reports.

We corresponded with residents over a wide range of matters such as planning and enforcement issues, pollution, highways concerns, mainly related to road safety and bus service provision, waste collections, dog waste bins, and fly tipping.

We have commented on many planning applications and planning appeals where appropriate, both in the ward and in neighbouring wards, and called in contentious applications to the BDC planning committee.

We submitted responses to several consultations including the Future East survey on Local Government Reorganisation, the NCC consultation on the merger of Cantley Primary school and nursery with Freethorpe Community Primary School, the public consultation by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on Local Government Reorganisation proposals for Norfolk, the Broads Authority consultation on a revised Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document, the government consultation on the new draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the government's technical consultation on Reform of Planning Committees and the NCC Consultation on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Cllr Davis has funded repairs and improvements to the community telephone box in Postwick using some of his £1000 Members Ward grant. The box is used as a community library offering books, puzzles and games to residents of all ages. Part of his Members Ward grant also went to Giggles Toddler group based at Brundall Memorial Hall.

Cllr Laming awarded her Members Ward grant of £1000 to Snowy's Nursery and Pre-School for refurbishment of the existing outdoor learning area and provision of new outdoor learning equipment including a mud kitchen unit and wooden play shed/house for the children to use all year round. The work was completed in the 2025 school summer holidays.

Cllr Davis applied to the BDC Community Grant Scheme in 2025 on behalf of Brundall Scout Group, who were awarded £15000, the maximum amount possible, towards the cost of refurbishing the toilets at Brundall Scout Hut to create unisex facilities with disabled access.

We have attended the following events and meetings:

Brundall Armistice Day and Remembrance Day services, the VE Day Flag Raising ceremony at the Horizon Centre and also the VE day evening service at Postwick Parish Church, the VE Day inter-generational event at Cantley Village Hall, public meetings on the merger of Cantley Primary school and nursery with Freethorpe Community Primary School, the BDC flag raising for Armed Forces Day at the Horizon Centre, the Marriott's Way 10km run, recycling events such as the Summer School Uniform Swap Shop, the Summer Reading Challenge at Brundall Library for children and young people, to hand out certificates and medals, Blofield Courthouse to meet some of the Wellbeing Champions who have completed their training on Mental Health Awareness as part of the Mindful Communities programme, the Town and Parish Council in person Summit at the Horizon Centre, a successful district recycling event for small electrical items and textiles to help residents to reduce waste and recycle more, the BDC Community Awards at the Royal Norwich Golf Club, the Broadland Country Park Breaking Ground ceremony for the park visitor centre which signalled the beginning of its construction, a workshop at Lingwood Village Hall on the new BDC Future for Nature Fund, the official opening of the new, totally rebuilt, Broadland Waste and Recycling Depot at Frettenham which is operated and managed by the BDC assigned waste contractor, Veolia, the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System Conference, the Viking Centre in Sprowston which was awarded this year's BDC Enhancement Award, a Norfolk Warm Homes Team and BDC Communities Team event at Brundall Memorial Hall, some of the Neighbourhood Policing meetings for the Acle area and the BDC Chairman's Civic Reception at the Horizon Centre.

Cllr Davis helped to secure £25,000 from the Greater Anglia Community Fund for Postwick parish council to carry out a feasibility study to upgrade the footpath between Postwick and Brundall Gardens railway station to a cycleway.

Cllr Davis has continued to liaise with National Highways managers re the volume and speed of traffic through local villages in relation to the A47 dualling works, and particular issues relating to disruption to local traffic routes during the sugar beet campaign. He attended a meeting at the end of February at Lingwood Village Hall which gave an update on the current progress of the A47 dualling project and upcoming planned works including the installation of new bridge structures.

Throughout the year there has been a significant focus on government plans for

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. This does herald one of the biggest changes in local government in Norfolk for 50 years with the planned dissolution of BDC as a council due in 2028. We have engaged with the consultation process throughout and will work to ensure that the interests of Broadland residents are represented.

(submitted by Cllr Jan Davis and Cllr Eleanor Laming 1/04/26)

Abbreviations: BDC – Broadland District Council; NCC – Norfolk County Council

County Councillor – Annual Parish Report 2025-26

This is a brief summary of what the County Council promised and what was delivered in the year:

Our Promises	What Was Delivered	Impact
Libraries & Culture	Built new libraries, invested £3m+ , and transformed Norwich Castle into a world-class attraction	Stronger cultural offer and a major boost for tourism
Better Care	Invested £40m+ in care homes and supported living	More residents able to live independently for longer
Backing Our Children	GOOD-rated services , £2.5m+ for care leavers, £5m for jobs, and 600+ opportunities created	Better life chances and stronger futures for young people
Better Roads	Major infrastructure projects completed and £10m extra invested in maintenance	One of the best-performing highways services in the country
Improved Buses	£50m+ invested , more electric buses, and 26% growth in passenger numbers	Cleaner travel and better public transport access
Protecting the Environment	850,000+ trees planted and emissions cut by 50%	Protecting Norfolk's countryside and tackling climate change
Growing the Economy	Investment in high streets, improved connectivity, and hundreds of new homes built	Stronger local economy and thriving communities

Norfolk County Council, under a Conservative administration, has a strong record of delivering on its promises and investing in the county's future. From new libraries and major road schemes to over £40 million in care and significant improvements in children's services, we have focused on the priorities that matter most to residents. We have strengthened local transport, supported businesses and high streets, expanded opportunities for young people, and taken meaningful action to protect Norfolk's environment. This shows a combination of experience with action backing communities, improving services, and driving sustainable growth, while continuing to stand up for Norfolk and secure the investment it deserves.

The Government decision to halt Mayoral Election and slash Devolution Funding

Norfolk County Council expressed serious concern following the Labour Government's announcement that the planned 2026 mayoral election for the Norfolk & Suffolk Combined County Authority is being deferred until 2028. The sudden decision means that Norfolk would now receive only around one-third of the investment previously promised under the devolution programme.

The “Minded To” decision of the government to create 3 Unitaries for Norfolk under Local Government Reorganisation

Norfolk County Council made a robust bid for a Single Unitary council for Norfolk under the proposals for LGR. This bid was based on sound financial information with the primary purpose of protecting front line services, whilst ensuring value for money. NCC already deliver 85% of local services in Norfolk, a single unitary was the easiest to implement, would ultimately save money for taxpayers and was the most obvious choice for the county. It was also backed by key stakeholders like the NHS and the Police. None of the other proposals, which would split services and cost more to implement and run, stacked up as well as the single unitary proposal. It is therefore disappointing that despite the 3 unitary proposal not meeting the government’s own criteria, that this is the option chosen. This may be more a political decision than a practical one and seems irrational. The council is considering the details of the decision and may choose to challenge it.

A balanced and responsible budget for 2026–27

Norfolk County Council approved a balanced £613.8m budget for 2026–27 in February, demonstrating strong financial leadership and prudent management in what remains one of the toughest funding climates in decades.

The administration has once again delivered stability and certainty for residents, setting a balanced financial position while identifying £42.3 million in savings and efficiencies and committing £76.3 million in targeted investment to protect vital services and strengthen Norfolk’s economy.

Despite significant national financial pressures and ongoing constraints in central government funding, we have ensured the county remains on a firm financial footing, without resorting to emergency measures. This stands in stark contrast to a growing number of upper-tier authorities across the country that have issued Section 114 notices or are facing effective bankruptcy.

The budget enables the council to continue:

- Protecting frontline services
- Investing heavily in adults and children’s services
- Delivering new libraries and modern learning hubs in key towns
- Supporting heritage, culture, and tourism
- Driving transformative reforms to improve efficiency and outcomes
- Backing economic growth and infrastructure
- Maintaining long-term financial sustainability

In line with national funding assumptions a 4.998% increase in council tax was implemented due to the government’s continued reliance on placing the burden on local taxpayers to safeguard core services. This decision reflects the financial realities facing councils nationwide, while ensuring essential services remain protected for Norfolk residents.

This budget reinforces Norfolk’s Conservative administration’s commitment to careful stewardship of taxpayers’ money, strong local services, and a resilient future for the county.

Investment in community led highway improvements across the county

Norfolk County Council has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local communities with the approval of 99 new highway improvement schemes for 2026-27, delivered in partnership with town and parish councils across Norfolk.

The Parish Partnership Programme, now entering its fifteenth year, gives local communities a voice in shaping the highways enhancements that matter most to them, whether that's improving pedestrian safety, slowing vehicle speeds, or making it easier to walk, cycle or access local services.

This year's programme represented a total investment of £769,034, made possible through the longstanding 50/50 funding model. Town and parish councils will collectively contribute £384,517, matched by £384,517 from Norfolk County Council, enabling more than twice as many small-scale schemes to be delivered than could be funded by the council alone.

In total local councils submitted 99 bids for 2026/27 and all were approved as viable schemes after being carefully assessed against value for money, community outcomes, safety benefits and compliance.

Norfolk's bus service improvements deliver record growth and faster journeys

Norfolk County Council's ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) has transformed public transport across the county, driving a 26% increase in passenger numbers since 2022 and making Norfolk a leading national example for sustainable travel.

These are examples of what has been delivered thanks to the £65.45 million secured for Norfolk from the Department for Transport:

- New and enhanced bus services on more than 44 routes across Norfolk, including more evening and Sunday services
- Affordable fares: capped single fares in key towns and multi-operator ticketing
- Greener fleet: 75 zero-emission buses in Norwich and 24 more electric buses coming in 2026
- Improved passenger experience: real-time information, safer waiting areas, next-stop announcements and real-time information on more buses.

Not only are we seeing record-setting and increasing numbers of passengers, but customer satisfaction has also risen to 87%, bucking national trends and reinforcing Norfolk's approach to improvements in bus travel across the county.

Norfolk's winter gritting

Norfolk County Council's winter gritting got underway during the recent winter, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes, and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. The first runs of the recent winter season (late 2025/early 2026) started as temperatures dropped, utilizing the 58-strong fleet with automated salting to cover 2,200 miles of routes, supported by stocked salt barns and public grit bins.

Norfolk County Council took first place in the Eastern region in annual Highways and Transport Satisfaction Survey

Norfolk County Council has once again demonstrated strong performance in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey, taking the top spot in the Eastern region for overall satisfaction and second out of 29 county councils across England.

The annual survey, which gathers public views on highways and transport services, saw Norfolk achieve an overall satisfaction score of 48%, well above the national average of 40%.

This marks the 15th consecutive year Norfolk has participated in the survey, and the 7th year in a row that we have come either first or second overall.

Key highlights from this year's results include:

- Top Regional Performer: Norfolk ranked 1st in the Eastern Region for overall satisfaction.
- Some of the best above average score were in our bus services thanks to improvements that have been made as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan. The 'local bus services' overall category we were 10% above the group average with sub indicators as follows:
 - Public Transport Information (11% above group average)
 - Frequency of bus services (9% above group average)
 - Ease of access to school / work (6% above group average)
- Condition of highways (8% above group average)

Norwich Castle Keep reopens following £27m redevelopment

Norwich Castle Keep reopened to visitors following a comprehensive five-year redevelopment project that introduced new accessibility features alongside new galleries and interpretive displays.

Funded by £12 million from Norfolk County Council and over £13 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, all five floors of the newly named People's Palace were opened to the public for the first time ever.

The Grade I listed castle, originally commissioned by William the Conqueror 900 years ago and completed by his son Henry I in 1121, retained its historic significance while embracing modern improvements.

A new light-filled atrium adjacent to the Keep was unveiled in the first phase of the redevelopment in July 2024. Visitors also benefited from a new café, gift shop, and additional toilet facilities to enhance the visitor experience.

Importantly, a lift was installed to provide full wheelchair accessibility throughout the Keep, allowing access from the basement all the way up to the battlements, where visitors can enjoy panoramic views across Norwich.

Nationally recognised 'AI programme to be rolled out across Norfolk to prevent falls

A new, nationally recognised proactive intervention scheme is rolled out across the whole of Norfolk. The initiative was delivered in collaboration with local partners including Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSE), city, district and borough Councils and NHS organisations, aims to reduce falls in vulnerable and older adults.

Following a successful pilot with 1250 residents, the programme, which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify residents at risk of escalating needs, enhances the safety and wellbeing of those at risk of falls. The latest Artificial Intelligence technology, natural language processing is used to 'read' case notes and automatically extract meaningful insight about our residents. This technology enables the council to identify and prioritise individuals in Norfolk most at risk of falling, allows for proactive intervention before they fall.

AI is a rapidly developing technology with the potential to improve the delivery of services. The council is using AI to benefit the people of Norfolk in a safe, ethical and transparent way.

Falls are a major concern, particularly among older or vulnerable adults, and can lead to severe injuries and a decline in quality of life. Through this programme, the council will be able to predict people who are at higher risk and offer timely and targeted interventions to support them.

Norfolk County Council Approved £500k Community Fund to Boost Local Projects

Norfolk County Council approved the launch of a new £500k Norfolk Community Fund for 2025/26, aimed at supporting grassroots projects that strengthen communities and improve local wellbeing.

The fund empowers local voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) groups to apply for grants between £200 and £2,500 to deliver small-scale initiatives that bring people together, promote inclusion, and enhance quality of life. Each of the county's 84 councillors was allocated £5,000 to distribute within their divisions, ensuring funding reaches every corner of Norfolk.

Appendix D

Cantley Parish Council – Police Report Thursday 9th April 2026.

Please see report from the Acle Beat Team, our apologies for not being able to make the meeting this evening.

Team Members:

PC 1586 Jackie Chambers

Sgt 841 Steve Knightley.

Team contact: SNtacle@norfolk.police.uk

For the next 6 months, PC Sally Nairn will be on a secondment to another department in Norfolk Constabulary. She will not be undertaking any Safer Neighbourhood work whilst she is attached to this other department. We wish her well in the secondment.

Acle Beat Team Priority Setting Meeting:

Our last Priority setting meeting was held on March 17th 2026, hosted by the Acle Methodist Church. The hybrid meetings of in person and with the choice to join online is working really well. We are always on the look out for venues to host our meetings, so please get in touch if you have a suitable venue. We try to move them around the area as much as possible, this also includes Old Catton, Sprowston and Thorpe St Andrew.

These meetings are to invite any person to come along and talk to us about local policing issues. Our next Priority Setting Meeting is June 16th 2026 at 1800 hours – location to be announced. Please contact the Team on SNtacle@norfolk.police.uk for details closer to the time. Following the last meeting our priority moving forward will be **Road Safety**.

Crime figures (snap shot) January 2026 to end of March 2026

Cantley only:

4 crimes recorded, 2 of which relate to dog bites. One of which resolved via a Community Resolution outcome.

1 report of ASB Personal – this relates to a neighbour dispute.

Team engagements for this time of year have mainly involved popping into the Reedcutters and welfare checks on the Sugar Beat Factory.

Road Safety:

The Team have conducted the first Road Safety operation of the year whereby we chose a problematic road, drawn from community complaints and targeted this for speeding offences and other motoring offenses identified. This one was conducted during the hours of darkness as that's what the information suggested were the problematic times. Although this time round the concentration was on Sprowston, Thorpe and Lingwood, please do let us know if speeding is an issue in your area.

We will be arranging further Road Safety operations over the coming months, car meets and the ASB that comes with them are of a particular priority over the summer months and we are working very

closely with Broadland District Council on this. There is currently a Public Space Protection Order for the whole of Broadland helping to combat these issues.

We also have very good communication links with the Sugar Beet factory, Highways and the A47 Project team if there is anything to address.

The Acle Beat Team and our colleagues will be attending the Cantley Village Fete on the 12th September, we were there last year and received a very warm welcome so we have made sure we can attend this year, we look forward to that event.

DRAFT



**Chair's Annual Report
Cantley Village Hall
Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Charity Commission Registration No: 1209574
(April 2025 – March 2026)**

1. Introduction

It is my privilege to present this year's report covering April 2025 to March 2026 — a year of quiet determination, consolidation, improved governance and processes providing administrative progress and vastly improved community engagement. The trustees, ambassadors and volunteers have once again demonstrated the value of teamwork, good governance and genuine local commitment.

2. Governance and Board Activity

The Board continued to meet monthly with well-attended meetings throughout the year. 2025–26 saw a stable trustee team support augmented by the addition of Ariana-Ştefania Ion who joined us in June 2025 as a full trustee, strengthening our communications and digital capability.

The transfer to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) has now largely been completed and awaits final closure of the former charity number. A full suite of governance policies was reviewed and updated, including our privacy, safeguarding, code of conduct and conflicts of interest registers, confirming our compliance with the Charity Commission's good-practice guidance.

3. Finance

Our Treasurer Anita Hagger reported healthy finances despite inflationary pressures on utilities plus the impact of using restricted reserves in FY 24/25 to fund the planning application. Month-end balances rose steadily increasing by 75% to the end of the financial year:

Month Total Balance

- April 2025 £15,495
- March 2026 £27,092 with £18,188.89 allocated to restricted funding

Surpluses were mainly generated from hall hire, quizzes, jumble sales, and the new and increasing popular K9 Café. Broadland District Council corrected its council-tax invoicing mid-year, and a regular monthly plan resumed.

This was our first year with a full budget and half year budget re-forecast. Our year end shows an income of £2.6k above budget, a fixed costs underspend of £1.2k and a small overspend on variable costs of £2k. The overspend is due to expenses we had not budgeted for, Land Registry, Trustee Training, IT and Marketing costs and a £2k grant to Social Moments Enterprises which we are in negotiation with for a partial refund due to their earlier than planned withdrawal.

We have year-end unrestricted funds of £9,103 (including petty cash float) with budgeted in year costs of £9,307 demonstrating that we have sufficient running costs for FY26/27.

4. Bookings and Events

Hall usage remained strong, with long-term hirers Dance Fit (SOSA), Parish Council and the WI remaining core users. New casual bookings and charity functions continued, reaffirming the Hall's reputation as an affordable and friendly venue (£8–£12 per hour).

Long term bookings with Social Moments Enterprise, to provide an Early Explorers stay and play session, were curtailed earlier than planned due to a lack of attendees from pre-school children despite the closure of the Cantley Village School and its own pre-school facility. We were pleased to provide local bakery Dreamy Bakes with a base as they started their new commercial venture and are pleased that they have now moved onto bigger premises, to further grow the business.

We organised and hosted a record 30 regular community fundraising events with quiz nights, jumble sales and K9 Cafés proving to be our most reliable income streams. These events have generated close to £10k income at a cost of less than £3k providing a surplus of £7k which is 40% over our original budget.

Cantley Fun Day 2025 was exceptionally well organised by a hybrid team of Trustees and volunteers and once again sponsored by British Sugar Cantley. The event attracted 27 local stallholders, a fun dog show, with several local charities also raising funds for their own causes.

5. Facilities and Maintenance

Routine maintenance has kept the existing hall serviceable and safe. Annual PAT, fire safety and kitchen hygiene inspections were completed with top ratings. A new 5-star catering certificate was achieved, benefitting both hirers and public events.

The hall also upgraded signage, secured fire-exit illumination checks, and introduced a revised Trustee-hirer liaison system so every user group now has a named trustee contact. We have also taken on responsibility for the maintenance of the external defibrillator which has seen the addition of a Bleed Kit.

6. New Village Hall Project

This remains the Board's major strategic focus. Following planning groundwork and professional surveys in 2024/25, the emphasis this year has been on funding readiness and governance improvements, including reinforced financial governance and reporting to provide assurances to larger funders.

The main highlights are:

- QS project cost projections to be secured via a mini competition using Crown Commercial Services RM6165 Construction Professional Services framework contract. Projections to be provided on a value engineering basis with future proof inflation up to Feb 2028 when the planning permission expires.
- Land registration: ongoing; ownership evidence supplied to Land Registry who have now provided the necessary Section 105 certification transferring the assets from the old charity to the new incorporated charity.
- Funding applications: over a dozen submissions including Aviva Community Fund, Arts Council Creative Fund, Fore Trust, GSK Community Health Programme, and Garfield Weston Foundation.
- External partnerships: pro bono assistance secured from Statisticians for Society, Costello Medical Virtual, qLegal, and Grants AI.
- Fundraising accreditation: registration with the Fundraising Regulator completed, permitting display of its logo on all promotional material.
- Networking & advocacy: attendance at regional conferences including Driving Better Health Through English Devolution and Community Action Suffolk Village Halls Forum.

Funding to date has surpassed £100,000 (cash and in-kind). The professional documentation e.g. risk register, fact sheets, and funding strategy are now at a stage where larger-scale bids can progress.

7. Community Relations and Marketing

The refreshed newsletter has been well received, and digital channels expanded significantly under Ariana's stewardship. A new Facebook page and Instagram feed now complement the website, attracting new followers and improved promotion for events.

Printed newsletters are being phased down in favour of emailed versions to comply with GDPR, and our charity has registered with the Information Commissioner's Office as a data controller.

8. Outlook for 2026–27

Priorities for the coming year are to:

- Launch a fresh fundraising appeal aligned to the CIO.
- Finalise land registration and develop planning-ready documentation.
- Continue building social media reach and hall bookings.
- Strengthen volunteer base and encourage younger residents' involvement.
- Establish a clear timetable for the new build as funding milestones are met.

9. Thanks and Acknowledgements

None of this would happen without the extraordinary commitment of our trustees, ambassadors, volunteers, and supporters. My thanks go to the newly formed Events Management and Financial Management sub-committees who have provided a new level of governance that was sorely needed.

We are also indebted to the continual support of the British Sugar factory at Cantley that provided support and encouragement throughout the year.

Thanks also to every volunteer who set out tables, ran stalls, baked cakes, or walked dogs in support of Cantley Village Hall. We are steadily turning aspiration into reality—and doing so with warmth, humour, and community pride.

Stephen Heard

Chair

Cantley Village Hall CIO

April 2026

Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Report to April 2026

The group seeks to prepare a plan which supports retaining the rural and village feel and appearance of the parish while acknowledging and supporting the need for affordable, appropriate housing development particularly for local people, maintaining greenspace and wildlife areas and ensuring that water, power and other services are adequate, and that highways and footpaths are appropriate and safe for all. In due course a community referendum will take place and ultimately the parish will seek for the plan to be adopted by Broadland District Council for consideration and guidance of planning policy.

The group was formed in early February this year, with volunteers from the three villages bringing a diverse range of views in support of a constructive and inclusive approach to a formal plan to outline the communities' wishes regarding local development going forward.

The first meeting was held on 12th February when we received an introduction to neighbourhood planning and policy from Richard Squires of Broadland District Council. The group received very helpful information about the process and technicalities of developing a plan, and Richard will continue to support us throughout the process.

Terms of reference have been agreed and a logo for the project has been created, and the area designation has been accepted. A social gathering allowed the volunteers to get to know each other and a formal meeting followed where we confirmed a tender for a planning consultant which is now out and awaiting responses. We are currently in the process of applying for funding from Broadland District Council who strongly support the development of neighbourhood plans, to augment the parish precept which was applied for this year only.

The process is likely to take around 18 months to two years and meetings will take place roughly monthly, with information being made available to all as the plan develops.

Tony Johnson, Chair

Report from British Sugar

The Cantley factory successfully completed both pre-campaign juice-refining operations, processing 30,000 tonnes of stored thick juice syrup into white sugar prior to the start of the campaign. Campaign operations commenced on 13 October and ran for 144 days. During this period, the factory processed 959,444 tonnes of sugar beet, producing 120,000 tonnes of white sugar and storing a further 29,000 tonnes of syrup for conversion into white sugar later in the year.

The factory has also successfully commissioned the new Gas Turbine Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant. This state-of-the-art facility supplies electricity to both the site and the national grid, while also providing the steam required for factory operations.

Cantley continues to actively support the local community and was once again pleased to contribute to the Cantley Village Fun Day. This year, we showcased site operations through an information stall and promoted our early careers and learning opportunities. We remain committed to supporting local community groups, schools, and charities. In addition, we were delighted to host a visit from the Wherry Maud Trust, welcoming around 40 members of their team to learn more about British Sugar and the Cantley site, including a factory tour.

During the campaign, the factory held regular review meetings with Galliford Try, the main contractor for the A47 project, as well as our haulage partners, to help mitigate the impact of the A47 road works on the local community

Appendix H

CANTLEY & DISTRICT WI REPORT – Annual Parish Meeting 9th April 2026

Since last year, membership had remained stable at 13. The members remain committed and we have enjoyed regular attendance of 10 or more at our monthly meetings. However, two committee members have not renewed their memberships for next year, mainly due to ill health, which has reduced current numbers to 11. We will be looking to advertise to try and increase membership. I am pleased to report that the internal issues, which threatened to cause the Women's Institute to close, have been resolved and we are looking to move forward.

Our bottle stall was a successful fund raiser once again at the Fun Day in September and we have been fortunate enough to secure a £300 Keep It Going grant from Broadland District Council to help with hall hire and speakers' fees.

We enjoyed a varied and interesting programme this year culminating in the reinstatement of our birthday party in March when we invited members from Acle, Brundall and Reedham WIs to join us for a wonderful evening when we were entertained by Yare Folk. We have planned what we hope to be an equally varied programme for the coming year, including one or two returning speakers.

Members supported eight Norfolk Federation events this year, which cover crafting, painting and educational topics as well as coach trips. Four members enjoyed Norfolk & Norwich Operatic Society's 100th anniversary production of Les Miserables in July and five members are due to attend the Federation Annual Meeting later in April. Two members also had photographs selected for this year's WI calendar and several of us carried a teddy wherever we went for opportunities to submit entries for the 2027 calendar.

Regarding our own events, lunch club remains popular and quite well supported, and we enjoyed a day out on the Bure Valley Railway on 21st August. A few also enjoyed a boat trip at Rollesby and the walking group continues to seek out interesting places to visit and enjoy a coffee. Our Christmas party in December was fun, and we also enjoyed a festive lunch at Cantley Cock on 12th December. Several members also supported the Village Hall's commemoration of VE Day on 8th May where there was a display of the WI's contribution to the war effort.

We continue to meet at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of every month, except August, at Cantley Village Hall.

I and the remaining committee members will continue to use our best efforts to keep the Women's Institute active for as long as we can to provide a friendly environment to meet and enjoy activities.

Carole Grimes
President

FOCUS

'U' CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

The annual Greater Anglia Awards Ceremony was held in Ipswich in October 2024 and Cantley jointly won Best Small Station. We have yet to see evidence of this as none of us were able to attend in October and we are still waiting to receive the award.

Last summer was very dry. We have lost the use of the water supply from the bowling green. As no one uses it anymore the water has been turned off. We have however now installed a 1000 litre cube in the rose bed and moved the existing water butt to the other side of the lamp hut and joined it to the other water butt. We now need some rain to fill them.

We have recently trimmed our lavender plants on Platform 2 and are waiting to see how many recover.

We no longer have quarterly coffee mornings at Norwich Station. So apart from Alan's marathon newsletter every Friday we have very little contact with Greater Anglia or the Wherry Lines.

The boat is looking wonderful at present. Perhaps you would like to see it.

Robert Beadle Treasurer

Tree Warden's Report – 09.04.2026

In the last year I have helped plant a new Birch tree at the Staithe, but have otherwise not been asked to be involved in any activity with the Parish Council specifically.

I have maintained my observations of trees on Parish land and those on or overhanging the roadway/footpaths. There have been no issues that I am aware of, other two reasonable sized branches that have fallen from a tree in the Former British Sugar Sports Field, notwithstanding that they fell onto British Sugar property I will be contacting the factory to ask their intentions with regard to the tree from which they fall.

Unfortunately John Fleetwood, the Co-ordinator of the Broadland Tree Wardens Network, has now retired from the role. Regrettably no-one else was in a position to replace him. With no Co-ordinator the Network had no alternative than to be folded up.

This means that I am no longer covered by the Network's Public Liability Insurance, so I would like the opportunity to discuss this matter at Council in the near future as I would hope not to be hindered from carry out any actions that may be needed in the future.

I would like it placed on record my sincere and heartfelt thank to John for his efforts as the co-ordinator which, among other things, provided the shrubs for the hedge around the School sports field and the trees to the side of the church and on the old pavilion site on the sports field.

Simon Huggins

Tree Warden, Parish of Cantley Limpenhoe & Southwood.

CANTLEY FLOWER SHOW

Annual report 2025/26

We had another successful Show in September 2025.

The Henry Preston Cup for the best exhibit in the Show was won by Carole Grimes for a doll's wardrobe. A full list of winners is on the website.

We were pleased to welcome Polly Smith, Food Quality and Safety Manager at British Sugar, to present the trophies.

Poster Competition subject in 2025 was Circus. Unfortunately due to the school closing this was our last competition. The winning posters are displayed on the Station.

George, our fruit, flowers and vegetable judge has had to stand down due to ill health. He has served our Show for many years and it is with great regret that we see him go. We will miss him.

The Flower Show section of the Cantley.org web site is up to date and contains full details of the Flower Show. It also contains our online entry form. This proved successful but we will still be issuing our programme with the usual paper entry forms. Thank you to Roger Hewin for administering the website.

Thankyou to Cantley Factory for assisting in printing the programmes and supporting the raffle, and to the Wherry Lines for supporting the Poster Competition prizes.

I would like to thank all the members of the Flower Show committee and all the other helpers for their hard work and support during the year and on the day of the Show to make the Show successful. I would also like to thank Matt Goodrum for doing the auction and Carol Drew for doing the refreshments. Also a big thank you to all of you who enter.

This year's show will be on 5th September 2026. We look forward to seeing you then.

Robert Beadle Chair

Appendix L

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING APRIL 2026

Last year, we anticipated that the application to the Charity Commission would soon be submitted to set-up and transfer the charity. However, this proved to be overly optimistic. The process has taken longer than expected due to unforeseen issues.

Timeline and Next Steps

- In June 2026, as the application was being finalised, it became clear that the staithe land, leased by British Sugar, had not been properly allocated. This required a review of the entire area and a reassessment of easements from Elizabeth Holdings.
- Throughout April 2026, legal advisors worked with us to resolve these matters. As of early March, all parties have reached agreement, and we are now preparing the final leases for submission.
- We expect to submit the application to the Charity Commission by the end of April 2026. Their response is anticipated within eight to twelve weeks, though this may vary depending on their workload.
- Once approval is received, the Trustees will appoint an engineer to conduct a full assessment of the floating pontoon. This will determine what remedial work is required and estimate the remaining lifespan before replacement becomes necessary.

Challenges and Resolutions

- **Land Allocation and Easements:** The discovery of incorrect land allocation delayed progress. With support from legal professionals, the area and associated easements were reassessed and corrected, allowing us to move forward.
- **Business Rates:** During the application review, it was found that the charity had never been registered for business rates. This oversight has now been rectified. The liability is limited to a three-year retrospective period, but business rates will now be an annual expense for the charity.
- **Partnerships:** Our ongoing collaboration with British Sugar continues to ensure that the area remains accessible to the community and those using hiring the moorings.

Future Actions

- Submit finalised application to the Charity Commission by 31 May 2026.
- Monitor for feedback and approval, expected by September 2026.
- Following approval, engage a qualified engineer for a comprehensive assessment of the floating pontoon.
- Implement any necessary remedial works identified in the engineering assessment.