LUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman's report for the year to 31st March 2026.

Fortunately, in a very successful village the annual report does not change very much from year to year.

For many years Ludham Parish Council has been able to hold the precept at a low level. Unfortunately, as we all know everything has become more expensive in recent times and we were finding that we were not keeping up. So regretfully although we maintained a low level up to the financial year ending March 2026, householders will have noticed an increase for the financial year we are in now.

The precept pays for clerical and administration costs, insurance, subscriptions, donations, general repairs and maintenance, the children's play area maintenance, audit fees, a grant for the maintenance of the Village Hall and room hire for meetings.

Much of the rest of my report remains the same as previous ones I have prepared. However, in the past year we have been very aware that there are plans for potential expansion in the village and there is serious concern that our infrastructure is not equipped for so many extra properties.

The Parish Council continues to be responsible for "urban grass verge cutting", with a small grant from Norfolk County Council.

The Parish Council maintains reserves to pay for any future election expenses, general repairs and maintenance, audit fees and other contingencies.

The Womack Staithe Charitable Trust continues to give substantial financial assistance to the Parish Council to cover most of the expenditure incurred in the maintenance and upkeep of village grass cutting and amenities, the Parish Churchyard, and the balance of funds required to pay for the urban verges grass cutting.

The Parish Council was able to hold all its scheduled council meetings and was able to hold the annual New Year's Eve firework display.

The Parish Council has continued to work with Ludham Churches together. We have been pleased to support their applications for grants to help parishioners through the continuing difficult financial times. These applications have been successful, and the council is grateful on behalf of the villagers for the hard work of the members of our churches.

I would like to record my thanks to my fellow Councillors for their support and the various tasks they have applied themselves to throughout the year, to our parish clerk for her support, hard work and unfailing patience, and to the internal audit (Mike Flett) for ensuring that the parish finances are monitored.

I would also thank our District and County Councillors for attending our meetings and for their support.

Ludham continues to be a great place to live not only due to the environment but to the generosity and public spiritedness of the residents.

A.J. Lupson

5th May 2026