

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 7:00pm in the Mill Centre

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Mr Phil Bates, Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Richard Delf, Mr Robert Elliott, Mr Hamish Rose, Mr Mike Turner, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

District Councillor Michael Hooton, Mrs Gillian Marklen-Allen, Mr Jonathan Allen, Mrs Suzanne Jones, Mrs Christie Flint, Mr Martin Flint, Mr Dave Bear, Mr Colin Jangs, Mrs Rachel Shreeve, Mrs Abby Holden, Mr Dominic Parravani, Mrs Rebecca Parravani, Miss Debbie Chamberlain, Hilary Battye, Mrs Claire Tink, Mrs Andrea Chadwick, Mr Barry Tink, Mrs Fiona Lambert, Mrs Miranda Moss, Mr Garth Jeffery. There were approximately 10 others who did not sign the attendance list.

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Alison Thomas.

Declaration of interests

Mr Hook declared a non-financial interest in the East Pye Solar Project as he is a trustee of CPRE Norfolk.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 13 August 2024 be approved.

Public Participation

All of the public were attending re the East Pye Solar project matter below. See comments in that section.

County Councillor Update

There was no report other than information re the East Pye Solar Project.

District Councillor Update

District Councillor Hooton added to the debate re the East Pye Solar Project.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2024/2214 - Mr J Kirk, The Long House, The Street Hempnall - Installation of solar panels and 3 No. rooflights to rear elevation – Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved. IN

2024/2344 - Mr And Mrs James and Alice Drury, Poachers Cottage, Silver Green Hempnall - Single storey rear extension, internal and external alterations – Mr Bates proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved. IN

2024/2345 - Mr And Mrs James and Alice Drury, Poachers Cottage, Silver Green Hempnall - Single storey rear extension, internal and external alterations including flue, 4 no. rooflights and removing oil tank – Mr *** proposed, Mr*** seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved. IN

2024/2106 - Dr Annetta Berry, Park Farm House Barondale Lane Hempnall - Installation of 12 integrated solar panels to pantile roof of the western modern extension – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved. IN

2024/2501 - Mr Buck, Grange Farm Lundy Green Hempnall 10no windows with hardwood double glazed – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved. IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Applications approved since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications refused since the last meeting:

2024/0784 - Unit 4 European Trade Centre Hempnall Road Morningthorpe Norfolk NR15 2AG - Convert Existing Office to 1 no dwelling.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting

There were none.

Island Green Power's proposals for East Pye Solar Project

The clerk reminded councillor of predetermination rules.

Mr Hook explained that Island Green Power (“IGP”) is looking to build a solar project called East Pye Solar (“EPS”) across several sites which includes the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, on-site battery energy storage system, small substations, and the necessary infrastructure to connect to the grid. If approved, the combined sites, according to information provided by the company, have the potential to provide up to 500MW of renewable energy.

An initial community consultation is to take place in October and November 2024. During this time, IGP will present their early-stage proposals for EPS and seek feedback on their plans.

Further to developing more detailed proposals for the project, IGP will then carry out a second stage of consultation (“Phase Two”). This will be a statutory phase of consultation as is required by the Development Consent Order process. IGP expect to carry out this second phase of consultation in Summer 2025. IGP will review our detailed proposals in light of the feedback received during this second consultation, along with the outcomes of ongoing assessments, to finalise and submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate.

The IGP website set up for the project can be found at <https://www.eastpyesolar.co.uk/about>

The scheme is large enough to be considered an NSIP (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project) which means it will not be determined by the local authority. Instead PINs (the planning inspectorate) will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and the SOS will either approve or refuse permission.

The power generated will not serve the local community directly but will head straight into the national grid.

A phone call to the East Pye Solar telephone enquiry number confirmed that the total area of the scheme was 1100 hectares (2718 acres) this is equivalent to 74.22% of the total area of Hempnall (i.e. all the land in the parish not just the built-up bits - 1,482 hectares). Of course it’s not all located within the Hempnall parish boundary but the interactive map on the company’s website confirms that (if approved) a substantial part of the surface area of Hempnall would be covered by solar panels and associated infrastructure.

It was noted that the site maps placed around the local countryside showing fields on which the project would take place did not (in a number of instances) agree with the interactive map on the company’s website. The company was informed of this inconsistency last week but have not responded.

A map and table identifying the sites and acreages was received today and distributed to councillors. Copies of the most recent map from IGP will be placed on the website.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

There was a wide-ranging discussion involving parish councillors, the District Councillor and members of the public. Which included consideration of the following topics:

- 1) How much of the sites' acreage is productive agricultural land?

DH said some of the sites will be on higher quality BMV land and that the current NPPF affords some protection for higher quality land but warned that the Labour Party's revision of the NPPF may remove this protection.

- 2) Inaccuracies in the brochure distributed to local residents by East Pye solar

Comments

It was noted that not all Hempnall residents had received the brochure which was delivered to some (but apparently not to all). It contained an inaccurate telephone number (0800 – it should be 0808) and an inaccurate email address (referencing easypye not eastpye). The map in the brochure was also misleading – e.g. it shows the Norwich to Ipswich railway line crossing the A140 just north of the B1527 roundabout and not at Dunston. It also fails to identify built up areas, Saxlingham and road names. It is very difficult to check the exact location of the fields identified on this brochure map for solar development.

The interactive map on the company's website enables the "Solar Fields" to be located – or does it? Site maps placed adjacent to fields in the area do not agree the company's web site – which is correct?

Several people said that the brochure looked like an advert from a solar panel provider and was discarded unopened.

- 3) Concerns over the decisions made by Ed Miliband (the Secretary of State for Energy) in regard to similar solar projects

Comments

Currently Ed Miliband is the Secretary of State and he has been approving every mega solar farm project that comes before him. It was noted that he has only been in the job a few weeks and there is no way he has been able to read the paperwork associated with all the applications he has approved.

There is hope because over the next 2 or 3 years Mr Miliband's "Smash the Nimbys" actions could well make him and local labour MPs (including South Norfolk's Ben Goldsborough) very unpopular and he could be removed from his post and government policy might change. Similar proposals to these are provoking widespread opposition all over the country and this will only increase as the number of schemes increases. Since the July 4th election the "floodgates" have opened – 3 such schemes were announced for Norfolk on one day last week (11/9/24).

- 4) Are all the landowners involved signed up to the scheme and how much will they earn?

HPC is reliably and accurately informed that rents for land used for solar farms currently start at £1,000 per acre and are index linked. So a landowner renting or leasing 500 acres to the company proposing this scheme would earn £500,000 per year – index linked for 40 years (the company is looking to lease the land for 40 years). One can only imagine therefore how big the profits would be for East Pye Solar.

HPC has been told that the landowners involved have signed initial agreements (according to information supplied in a phone call with the "East Pye team" on 0808 281 3175).

It was suggested that we write to these landowners asking them to consider the huge impact this scheme will have on the local area (perhaps some are not aware of its cumulative size and the fact it would transform the appearance of the local area) and ask them to re-consider

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

their involvement. We can ask them to consider if they really have the right to change the nature of a place so dramatically?

5) Why has this scheme been proposed for our area?

Comments

The District Councillor suggested it may have something to do with proximity to the National Grid's pylon route (Norwich to Tilbury) and the building of a second line of pylons along this corridor.

Others said it's more likely to have resulted from an energy company "fishing" for willing landowners in the knowledge that a Labour government would look more favourably on schemes such as these than the previous government. It was noted that the company contacted some landowners for the first time within days of the election result being announced.

DH said that leaving the provision of renewable energy to the free market (as per the scheme for the Hempnall area) where the main driver is the potential for the developer and landowners to make big profits does not equate to a well-planned national energy policy.

A well-planned policy would: 1) Identify what is required, 2) Decide how best to address this requirement and (crucially) 3) Decide where to produce the energy (i.e. for solar – on roofs, especially commercial roof space and for wind – offshore)

It cannot be right that a limited number of people make huge profits (paid for by the customers of energy providers) via a scheme that will degrade the local landscape and countryside and rob the nation of a large area of good quality farmland that is needed if the UK is serious about securing adequate supplies of home-grown food.

6) What about mitigation and bio-diversity net gain proposals?

East Pye emailed DH on 17/9/24 and said *"At this time, we do not have details of information on the locations for mitigation and enhancement"*

HR said that many arable fields are severely restricted in their bio-diversity due to the heavy use of sprays and fertilizers.

DH commented that promises made regarding bio-diversity gains in Environmental Statements associated with major developments are often not enacted once plans are passed. He cited the Willow Drive development where promises were made to plant a sustainable native hedge along the southern boundary and to plant gaps in the eastern boundary hedge and to plant more trees on land at the north of the estate than the number of trees that were felled as part of the construction work had not been carried out properly or not at all.

7) Other Matters

- It was noted that the NPPF currently provides some protection against the cumulative impact of developments like this but this may change as a result of the current NPPF revision ordered by the government.
- Concerns were expressed about the impact on local roads during the construction phase
- Concerns were expressed about the impact on footpaths and it was noted that two of the area's most tranquil and attractive green lanes (Pymers Lane and Nobbs Loke) would be severely impacted with solar panel fields forming a border to these paths on one side for a considerable distance. DH said that the most tranquil, attractive and rural parts of our countryside (as identified on CPRE Tranquillity

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

maps) would be industrialised and their charm, together with that of the neighbouring footpaths, would be lost.

- It was noted that the developers could apply to change the route of a PROW if it got in the way of the planned development.
- Concerns were raised about the impacts resulting from associated infrastructure (security fences and vehicle tracks into the solar fields together with the building of inverters and small sub stations) which would also compromise the rural nature of the area. Residents and councillors would be horrified if security lighting was included in the scheme.
- Concerns were expressed about impacts on property prices which unfortunately are not a planning issue.
- Is east Anglia getting a disproportionate share of the solar farms?
- BMV land is the Best and Most Versatile (classifications 1 to 3A)
- The issue of the direct impact on some properties was raised and the possibility of a more sensitive placement was raised
- It was noted that the local Labour MP has a slim majority and may be sympathetic to the concerns of residents and should be written to.
- SNC and HPC can feed in comments to PINS as consultees. MH said he would feedback comments from this meeting to SNC

The following actions were approved

1) Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk write to all the landowners in the scheme pointing out the serious concerns of residents and councillors about this project stating that will industrialise and degrade the countryside over a large area. The letter will ask them, in view of the severe cumulative impacts of this scheme (which they may not have been aware of when they signed up), to consider withdrawing from the project.

IN/DH

2) Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk write to hopefully enlist the support of our MP in opposing this project and to invite him to a meeting.

IN/DH

3) Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk Write to our District and County Councillors to enlist their support in opposing this project.

IN/DH

4) Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk write to East Pye expressing the concerns of residents and councillors with a request that they withdraw the scheme or at least consider a large reduction in the scale of the proposals.

IN/DH

5) Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Hempnall Parish Council places on record the fact that it recognises that climate change poses a great threat and that HPC supports de-carbonising energy production through increasing the supply of renewable energy. However, this should not be achieved at the expense of the countryside. With good planning and sensible decision making it is possible to deliver a mix of renewable energy solutions of the “right” scale and in the “right” locations i.e. Renewables Done Well

In this context DH pointed out a better way forward for solar energy production citing research, by the [UCL Energy Institute](#), for CPRE, which demonstrated that decarbonising

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

the national energy grid requires far less land than feared. Installing solar panels on existing buildings and car parks would enjoy near-universal public support and help minimise objections to large solar farms in the countryside, the research finds. It also reveals that the potential of brownfield sites to generate renewable energy is dramatically underused.

The key findings are:

- Installing solar panels on existing rooftops and other land such as car parks could provide at least 40-50GW in England by 2035.
- By 2050, with further investment, there is potential to generate 117GW of low carbon electricity from roofs and other developed spaces.

The government has set a national target of 70GW of solar energy generation by 2035.

The report states that if the government fails to kickstart a rooftop solar revolution, an area of countryside larger than the size of Greater London will be required for ground-mounted schemes.

6) Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that a brochure is prepared by the parish council with accurate maps, acreages and photographs of the scheme for distribution to every household in Hempnall together with an invitation to a public meeting to discuss the concerns of residents. A budget of up to £3,000 was approved for this project. The clerk to book the village hall for the meeting and to invite all neighbouring parish councils affected by these proposals and the county and district councillors. The meeting is to be widely advertised with posters and via social media and be put in the newsletter and on the parish website.

IN/DH

IN

IN

It was hoped that an Action group could be formed by concerned residents and that this could follow on from the public meeting

7) It was agreed that we should state (whenever possible) that our actions are not those of a NIMBY and point out that in crowded densely populated England we should be preserving the relatively few areas of countryside that remain attractive and tranquil (the CPRE Tranquillity map shows that many of the “Solar Fields” are in very tranquil locations) for the benefit of all – everyone, visitors and residents alike.

Other matters of relevance to this project

- It was noted that SNC Landscape Character Assessments could be relevant in the determination of this application
- It was noted that one of the proposed sites for a solar field is at the end of the runway at Hardwick Airfield and concerns have been raised that there are safety issues regarding glare and interference with flight instruments if solar fields are located near runways.
- Hardwick airfield itself, to the west of Barondole Lane around Springwood where they plan to put one of the solar fields, is listed as a historic monument as a USAAF Airbase. This fact may influence the planning decisions
- HPC needs a more accurate breakdown of the land use in the 2718 acres and if the land set aside for bio-diversity schemes is additional to this
- HPC needs to calculate exactly how much land will be covered by solar panels and associated infrastructure in Hempnall and in all the villages affected (as a total and a % of the total area of each parish).
- HPC needs to check what the NPPF says on Solar Farms and the changes being brought in via the current revision.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

- HPC to check SNC Conservation Area maps - closeness to these areas could lead to some field sites being removed.
- HPC needs to check the agricultural land quality of the sites – the NPPF currently attempts to protect the highest quality (BMV) farmland from solar development. (The Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land is defined as land which falls in ALC grades 1 to 3a.).
- HPC to check the tranquillity maps of CPRE – tranquil areas deserve protection.
- It was noted that IPG could be connected to EDF.
- There were offers of help to – laminate, erect, print and distribute posters and with map production.

An Important Concluding Note

And finally, it was recognised that these proposals could represent the thin of the wedge. More landowners could still sign up to this scheme and once the cables are in place linking numerous sites in this area to the grid the Hempnall area will become an obvious location for yet more onshore renewable schemes (solar and wind) – our local countryside could become one big power station.

National Planning Policy Framework Consultation (NPPF)

Mr Hook volunteered to respond on this on behalf of the council. The main points to be included are:

Re. Housing

1) The government should drop its plan to reintroduce compulsory targets - this is not a sensible or effective policy - It did not work in the past and it will not work now. It is a policy based on the mistaken belief that requiring local authorities to allocate even more sites for new housing will speed up the rate at which new houses are built whereas in reality it merely increases the size of the developers' land banks. For example: In Norfolk compulsory housing targets led to the local planning authorities setting unnecessarily high targets and making an excessive number of site allocations (mostly Greenfield) to accommodate those targets. Because developers only build what they can sell they cherry pick the most desirable sites (often in rural areas) and land bank the rest. As a result previous mandatory targets have not been met - in the Greater Norwich area alone sites for 30,000 houses were not built out during the term of the Joint Core Strategy plan and have been "rolled over" in to the new plan (The GNLP). The planners had done their job - it was the builders who were blocking the development of sites in order to maximise profits by building only what they were able to sell at the highest possible price. Compulsory targets merely leads to the penalisation of local authorities and they are not the guilty party.

2) A plea for the phasing of housing - It would be far better if the builders were required to develop their land banked sites. According to the Competition and Markets Authority (November 2023) the 11 largest housebuilders own or control an estimated 1.17 million land plots across more than 5,800 sites in Britain that have not been built out. The government should insist that these land banked sites are built out before any new sites are allocated. Hempnall Parish Council is one of 161 parish and town councils in Norfolk that support the CPRE Norfolk campaign for the phasing of housing.

3) Building on Brownfield sites must be prioritised, as should the provision of social rented housing, because the linking of affordable housing provision to the building of market housing has failed to provide communities in Norfolk with genuinely affordable homes.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

4) The NPPF should better facilitate the creation of small-scale rural exception sites for social rented housing in villages as the best way to provide social rented housing in villages.

5) The NPPF should include policies to increase occupancy rates in holiday homes and second properties - this would make better use of the existing housing stock.

6) The NPPF should more effectively encourage the regeneration of inner cities (and protect countryside from development) by encouraging the conversion of redundant office and retail space into residential usage.

7) The NPPF should introduce a statutory requirement for all new buildings to be carbon neutral and have solar panels on roofs.

On Planning:

The creation of the planning system is one of the major achievements of post war Britain. It was designed to prevent urban sprawl and is still very much needed in this regard. Unfortunately, planners are often unfairly criticised by politicians.

In Norfolk we know that the blocking of housing development has not been caused by the planners. It is the builders who are the blockers having failed to develop allocated sites for 30,000 houses in the Greater Norwich area. It is not a good idea to weaken the planning system, or to reduce the role of local communities in decision making.

1) Proposals in recent years to create growth areas where planning rules would not apply must be resisted.

2) The NPPF should re-introduce regional planning. This could enable the special features of an area to be recognised as important considerations in the plan making process. The relatively few remaining parts of lowland England which are still mainly rural in character, e.g. Norfolk, that act as the “green lungs” of the nation deserve better protection. Not everywhere has to be equally suburbanised - that is not good planning. Please support: reforming and strengthening the planning system to ensure that our countryside, landscape and environment are properly protected

3) The NPPF should support a strengthening of community involvement in all planning decisions – local democracy is a key element in the planning process and must be respected

On Renewables Done Well

Climate change poses a great threat and Hempnall Parish Council supports de-carbonising energy production through increasing the supply of renewable energy. However, this should not be achieved at the expense of the countryside. With good planning and sensible decision making it is possible to deliver a mix of renewable energy solutions of the “right” scale and in the “right” locations.

1) Promote the inclusion in the NPPF of the objective to prioritise roof top solar energy production – A CPRE study demonstrates that there really is no need to sacrifice countryside to solar farms

2) Promote via the NPPF the use of small scale and community owned onshore wind schemes involving new micro wind harvesting technologies to avoid the negative impact of large-scale turbines on the landscape.

3) Ask for the re-instatement in the NPPF of a requirement for community support before onshore wind proposals can proceed. The new government's removal of the 2 footnotes that provided local communities with a meaningful voice in on-shore wind decisions is not democratic.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

4) Ask that the NPPF should require that the long-distance transmission of energy is facilitated by offshore grid connections or by the burying of cables. and not via pylon routes

5) The NPPF should require all new buildings to be carbon neutral and provide for substantially greater funding to be made available for schemes to increase the energy efficiency of existing buildings

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook respond covering the above points.

IN/DH

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

Roadside nature reserves / rewilding verges

The clerk had informed Andy Driver of the successful outcome of the work he had started.

Footpath cutting Morningthorpe (FP6)

The Clerk had asked NCC to cut this path.

Theft of No Horses signs

The Clerk had reported the theft of the signs to the police.

Items o/s with NCC

The Clerk had forwarded a copy of the outstanding road safety issues to Mr Overland at NCC Highways.

Grass verges

The parishioner had informed the Clerk that the offending verge had since been cut by NCC.

Maintenance of public footpath 12

The Clerk had responded to the parishioner agreeing the footpaths should be suitably maintained and giving information on how to report such matters to NCC using their website.

Support for The Hempnall Trust

The Clerk had written to the trust setting out the support the parish council would provide.

2024/2027 - Change of use of land from agricultural to residential gardens

The Clerk had responded to the parishioner to reassert his previous email that all the parish council can do is ask SNC to impose conditions as part of the planning approval that no structural development be allowed.

Consultation - District-wide Design Code for South Norfolk and Broadland districts

The deadline for phase 1 consultation could not be moved, so the parish council will take part in phase 2.

Over hanging hedge Lundy Green

The Clerk had written to NCC to ask them to cut the hedge and notified the parishioner of this and pointed out that if they cut it before NCC, it would avoid a bill to them from NCC.

White Lines – Fairsted Lane / The Krons

The Clerk had asked NCC to repaint the lines. The Clerk to monitor. Mrs Cann had fed back the parishioner.

District Councillor support for Speedwatch

The Clerk had reminded District Councillor Hooton of his promise to meet with the Speedwatch team and supplied Mr Elliott's contact details to allow him to liaise directly.

Summer Newsletter

The Clerk had drafted, and it had been published.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

SAM2 on Alburgh Rd

Mr Turner had placed the SAM2 unit on Alburgh Rd closer to the Three Horseshoes as requested by the parishioner and the Clerk had informed the parishioner.

Maintenance of public footpaths

The Clerk had enhanced the footpath page on the parish council website with information on maintenance responsibilities and how to report issues to NCC. An article had also been placed in the newsletter.

School Crossing / parents car speeds

The Clerk had written to the head teacher requesting their help.

Roberts Close / The Street footpath safety

The dropped pedestrian crossing point has had the H white lines added.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Parking on the street

The Clerk asked NCC to place double yellow lines from the east side of the drop kerb to the war memorial corner on both sides of the road. NCC Highways responded as follows:

“Unfortunately any changes to waiting restrictions, double or single yellow lines require a Traffic Regulation Order, we cannot install yellow lines without going through his process as the lines would not be enforceable.

We no longer have a budget for progressing traffic schemes, this was cut many years, and as far as I am aware there is no indication that it will be reinstated.

The only option to consider waiting restriction schemes is via the local members budget, but with even simple schemes costing around £9000, there are very few that are being progressed currently, and those that do make it onto our programme often take 18 months to deliver.

The other issue you need to consider before approaching Alison would be displacement, i.e. where would the cars park if you install a long length of waiting restrictions. From my experience small scale traffic schemes such as this often cure one problem, but in doing so they often create another problem that had not existed previously, I would suggest that perhaps this needs some more thought.”

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk take this matter to County Councillor Alison Thomas.

IN

Morrison’s delivery lorries

The Clerk had written to Morrisons pointing out the issues caused to local residents and to see if they can organise the deliveries in a more socially acceptable time and to ask if smaller lorries could be used and/or whether a loading bay would be useful. A positive response was received from the local manager who suggested a time restricted parking area would be more suitable so as to allow customers to park there when not needed for loading.

The Clerk had asked Mr Overland of NCC to investigate the possibility of a loading bay / time restricted zone and awaits a response. The Clerk to monitor

IN

The Clerk to responded to the resident who raised the issue.

Broadland & South Norfolk Design Code - online workshop for South Norfolk Parish & Town Councils

Mr Delf had attended the online workshop and no further action was necessary.

Bench on Play area / ROSPA report

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Delf had made arrangements for the fitting and reorganisation of benches with the contractor as part of the play area maintenance work being undertaken. The Clerk had supplied Mr Delf with the information re costs. The matter is in progress

RD

RD

Mr Delf was also replacing 2 brackets on the MUGA

RD

Mr Delf continued to attend to issues highlighted in the ROSPA report.

Mr Delf was thanked for all he does in maintaining the play area.

Flood risk maps

The Clerk had provided copies of correspondence re the Environment. Mr Bates wished to carry this matter forward.

PB

Slow Ways national walking network

Mr Bates wished to carry this matter forward.

PB

Potentially purchasing land for a re-wilding project

Messrs Bates, Rose and Hook are to look at areas in the village to make specific requests of landowners. This item was carried forward.

DH/PB/
HR

Footpath 6 plank

Mr Delf had spoken to Mr Allen to determine if he would mind if the plank was removed however, at present, he would like to retain it in case he uses the field for livestock. Mr Bates volunteered to look into further and suggested a variable width restriction access which would stop bikes but allow pedestrians. Mr Bates to formalise a proposal.

PB

Willow Drive attenuation area

SNC enforcement officer Andy Baines is investigating this matter as a potential planning permission non-compliance issue. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Weeds on path next to the tennis courts

Mr Workman had kindly removed the weeds and was thanked.

Footpath map at Village Hall

Mrs Cann reported the village hall committee had given permission for the parish council to display a suitable map in their noticeboard. Mr Bates volunteered to arrange a suitable map to be displayed.

PB

Correspondence

Items given directly to Councillors or representatives since the last main meeting were:

Various police crime summaries

Various planning applications

Relevant notices/agenda and minutes

Various SNC Planning Monthly Enforcement Reports

Correspondence from parishioners

HEMPNALL - Upcoming temporary closure of B1527 Bungay Road to facilitate Norfolk County Council carriageway repair works (REF STRO11276)

MORNINGTHORPE & FRITTON - Upcoming temporary closure of B1527 Hempnall Road to facilitate Norfolk County Council carriageway repairs (REF STRO11277)

Norwich Western Link project update

Upcoming Temporary Closure of C204 Barondale Lane in the Parish of Topcroft due to BT pole replacement works (my ref STRO11377)

Norwich to Tilbury - Project Update - August 2024

Upcoming Temporary Closure of B1527 Bungay Road in the Parish of Hempnall due to BT cable repairs (my ref STRO11313)

Introduction to Island Green Power's proposals for East Pye Solar Project

South Norfolk House

Broadland & South Norfolk Design Code - invitation to 2nd stage engagement workshop

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

No further matters were raised from the above.

Items placed directly onto the Parish notice boards were:

Relevant notices/agenda
Audit completion notice and AGAR

No further matters were raised from the above.

Website &/or Facebook

The following changes had been made since the last main meeting:

Added relevant notices/agenda and minutes
Added various planning application details
Added various papers to be tabled at meetings

No further matters were raised from the above.

Correspondence from Parishioners

Other than re the East Pye Solar project there was none.

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 12 July to 14 September 2024. The statement was not materially out of line with the annual budget. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the statement be accepted.

External Audit of accounts to 31/03/24 result

The Clerk reported that a clean audit report had been received and the audit completion notice together with sections 1 to 3 of the Annual Return had been displayed on the parish council notice board. The Annual return in full and other financial information had also been uploaded to the website.

Speedwatch Report

Mr Elliott will be liaising with District Councillor Hooton to attend a session as Mr Hooton had indicated he would do so when he first took office.

RE

The Clerk had placed another article for volunteers in the newsletter.

Speedwatch to be invited to have a “stand” at the public meeting re the proposed solar project.

RE

Mr Hook reported a vehicle had collided with the fence near his home knocking over the roadside reflector – The Clerk to note on the accident list.

IN

Parking issues Fairsted Lane

Mr Bates reported that he had a meeting with the Property Trust tenants at The Krons recently & they advised me of the following:

- An annoying habit has been brought to my attention in that people are parking outside The Krons allotments & blocking the access to said allotments & Fairstead Lane
- A photo of a white estate car parked half across the current gate & half on the road.
- Another parishioner also stated that on a number of occasions he has not been able to get out of the farm road onto Fairstead Lane & had to find a different route & not been able to get into our field.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

- An Allotment holder had also stated he had been in the allotment & someone parked across the gate

Mr Bates will revert to the parishioners explaining that parking violations causing a danger to others should be reported to the police and suggest that there would be no objection to a “No Parking” sign being erected on the gate to the allotments.

PB

Football pitch cutting

The Clerk had written to many contractors over the last few months and was frustrated with the lack of interest in responding to tender invitations. He would continue to try and get quotes.

IN

Ditch behind Nuttle Close

Mr Hook reported a parishioner had reported a problem but they had not written to the clerk with details, so we have no further information. Mr Elliott to speak to the parishioner to obtain more details.

RE

Adult Outside Gym at recreation ground

It was noted this was considered as part of play area redevelopment and had not attracted sufficient interest, however, it was agreed to float the idea again in the next parish council newsletter and Mr Bates volunteered to see if there was fresh interest.

IN
PB

Outside Toilets at recreation ground

Mr Bates will make initial enquiries to establish if Village Hall Committee would support the idea.

PB

Dates for next year’s meetings

The Clerk had circulated proposed dates for councillors to consider prior to the meeting. Mr Bates proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the following dates be set for next year’s meetings, generally being the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The Clerk to make the relevant Mill Centre bookings.

IN

21/01/2025	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
18/02/2025P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
18/03/2025	7.00pm	Parish Meeting
18/03/2025	7:45pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
15/04/2025 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
20/05/2025	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full - Annual Meeting
17/06/2025 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
15/07/2025	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
19/08/2025 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
16/09/2025	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
21/10/2025P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
18/11/2025	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
16/12/2025 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning

Items for next newsletter

The Clerk to draft and publish, when appropriate, articles on the following:

- Adult Gym
- Solar project

IN

Items for next main meeting

- D Cracknell
- Village Hall AGM

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council planning meeting will take place on 15 October 2024 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre and the next main meeting on 19 November 2024 at the Mill Centre at 7:00pm. IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:43

Signed _____ Date 15/102024

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting others

Nobbs Lane Spur

Further forms are required to be completed. Mr Hook will co-ordinate ASAP. Names of users are being collated. It was noted that the path is already shown on the Sustrans cycle map.

DH

Policy for use of chemicals

Mr Bates reported he is running a trial at home to determine the best options.

PB

Streetlight timers and heads

The Clerk had ordered the new streetlight heads The Clerk to monitor. Last chased 15/09/24.

IN

Once installed, the Clerk to contact UK Power Network for a reduction in electricity cost for the unmetered connection once the installation is complete.

IN

Hempnall Natural Flood Management

The Clerk reported that the Environment Agency had said that work is to be undertaken as part of the Hempnall Natural Flood Management scoping report is due to start on Allen Farms land in Summer 2024 and it is hoped as a result other landowners will follow. The Clerk to monitor. Last chased 15/09/24.

IN

The Clerk had asked Helen George if the pond on Back Lane should be dredged. The Clerk last chased 15/09/24, to monitor.

IN

Flood management

West end of the village

The Clerk had contacted Fritton & Morningthorpe parish council three times with a view to meeting to discuss matters further, with a view to involving the EA later. Unfortunately, they had not replied, the Clerk will persist. The Clerk last chased by email 28/03/24, 03/04/24 and 10/07/24 and left messages on their clerk's phone but received no response. The Clerk to continue to chase.

IN

Flood Barriers

The Clerk had circulated initial details of a scheme to supply mobile flood barriers, provided by District Councillor Thomas. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Installation of owl sculpture on playingfield

Mr Delf has this in hand, and it will be set on a concrete plinth and will be put in when the weather permits. Mr Bates proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the position of the sculpture be as recommended by Mr Delf.

RD

Hempnall Primary School – Rewilding Scheme

Hempnall Primary School are to be invited to collaborate on a rewilding scheme.

DH

Field Lane surface water flooding

The Clerk had asked AWA to investigate the area which floods near the council houses / Allen's field and awaits a response. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Churchyard Grass cutting

We await a quote from contactors. The clerk to chase. Last chased 15/09/24.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting NCC

Bollard to protect pavement near Willow Drive

Mr Overland will ask his team to survey this area again with a view to erecting a bollard if at all possible. The Clerk to Monitor.

IN

Traffic calming on B1527 West

It was agreed to arrange for the hedge to be cut so as not to obscure the sharp deviation signs and Mr Overland to investigate replacing the existing signs with modern brighter full chevron (double the size) signs. The Clerk to monitor. He also confirmed that there was insufficient footfall to justify the cost of a formal crossing near the doctors / Mill Centre. This would still be the case even after any further development of social housing in that area. The Clerk had asked Mr Whiting to undertake the hedge cutting. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

IN

Road Calming/signage for The Krons & Fairstead Lane

The Clerk had asked NCC Highways for signage re the ford across the Krons and no pavement signs along the Krons and Fairsted lane. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Traffic calming at east end of B1527

The SAM2 results show the 85th percentile is 28mph, well above the 20mph limit. Our requests for chicanes was again turned down as it was not in line with NCC policy. The possibility of a permanent flashing 20mph sign is to be explored. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Traffic calming at Broaden Lane

Again, any kind of artificial road narrowing was ruled out by Mr Overland. The extension of the 30mph limit had also previously been ruled out. However, it was agreed that he would ask his team to look at placing a new 30mph reminder in sightline of incoming traffic not far past the bus stop and he would look favourable on the placing of the SAM2 unit on that post in order to catch traffic sooner.

Mr Elliott said that he thought that “Slow” or “30” painted in road and remove the white lines. Mrs Thomas thought she may be able to use some of her highway’s budget to fund small measures like that. The Clerk had asked Mr Overland to consider painting “30” on the road and requested NCC to remove the central white lines on the road after just entering the village from Saxlingham.

IN

Bus shelter on west side of Broaden Lane

A parishioner had asked if the parish council could provide a bus shelter at this location due to is high usage by young and old people. Mr Overland thought that this may be possible via the Parish Partnership and will await to here from the parish council. The Clerk to research costings

IN

Surface on junction of Alburgh Rd/B1527

Mr Overland assured us that the resurfacing of this junction had been in the plan for some time, and he would be putting it forward for funding shortly. It was noted that pot hole repair work had been undertaken in August 2024 but part of the junction was left unrepaired. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Footpath 12 finger post

The Clerk had asked NCC to erect a figure post at the junction of footpath 12 where it tuns into a bridleway with one figure pointing to the footpath and another the bridleway. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

White Lines – Fairsted Lane / The Krons

The Clerk had asked NCC to repaint the lines. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting SNC

Villa farm industries

On 30/11/23 Andy Baines, the SNC enforcement officer, said “*By way of update on Villa Farm the only unauthorised use is Harvey Lane Garage. I have written to them to encourage the submission of an application but if this is not received, we will then have to consider whether it is expedient to take any further action. Should an application not be received I will update you further what action the council will take.*” The Clerk to Monitor. See enforcement report 20/05/24.

IN

Wheels 4 Less planning issues

Mr Hook had reviewed the various planning consents in detail and listed all the suspected non-compliance issues in a 7-page letter to SNC enforcement officer. The letter was acknowledged, and they intend to carry out a site visit - We await a further response.

IN

Millfields Exception Site

We await the outcome of the survey. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Removal of footpath 24 kissing gate

Frances Selway the Countryside Access Officer had reported that in week commencing 21/07 the fence will be removed by the site owner, and she will carry out a site visit to ensure compliance. On inspection on 15/09/24, the Clerk discovered that all they have done is make a walk around on the right. There are no footpath signs to show this is a PROW. The Clerk has informed Frances Selway. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Willow Drive southern hedge

Mr Hook had investigated the original planning application further and written a comprehensive letter to complain to SNC of the many deviations from the original application and he also commented on the unsatisfactory manner of planting and nurturing which was likely to lead to the hedge not surviving.

SNC were investigating. The Clerk to monitor. – see enforcement report 29/08/24

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Transactions to 14/09/2024

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:	£
15/07/2024 Tr BPA to c/a	5,000.00
15/07/2024 Amey LG Ltd - new streetlight heads	(5,525.45)
31/07/2024 Ian Nelson Salary	(471.39)
31/07/2024 Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/07/2024 Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/08/2024 VFM - payroll and accounting	(42.56)
05/08/2024 NSIB Interest	33.38
13/08/2024 SNC - Dog Bins	(17.34)
14/08/2024 Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
15/08/2024 NGF Play - zip wire repairs	(238.94)
15/08/2024 stamps	(10.50)
15/08/2024 Makro - printer paper	(24.22)
15/08/2024 Go-Ink print cartridges	(48.10)
15/08/2024 Printbase - printer	(402.90)
20/08/2024 Brother - cashback re printer	100.00
15/08/2024 G Moulton plaque	(19.96)
17/08/2024 NPower - streetlight power	(29.24)
21/08/2024 CPRE	(60.00)
21/08/2024 SNC Adaptor	200.00
28/08/2024 D Whiting churchyard cutting	(150.00)
31/08/2024 Ian Nelson Salary	(471.39)
31/08/2024 Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/08/2024 Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/09/2024 VFM - payroll and accounting	(42.56)
02/09/2024 SNC - Dog Bins	(655.20)
18/09/2024 NPower - streetlight power	(29.35)
05/09/2024 NSIB Interest	33.38
14/09/2024 Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
	<u>(940.34)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>1,432.62</u>

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:	£
15/07/2024 Tr BPA to c/a	(5,000.00)
14/08/2024 Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
02/09/2024 Barclays Interest	320.68
14/09/2024 Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
	<u>(6,679.32)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>81,785.17</u>