

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 7:00pm in the Mill Centre

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Mr Phil Bates, Mr Robert Elliott, Mr Mike Turner, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

County Council Alison Thomas.

Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Hooton, Mr Richard Delf, Mrs Joan Cann.

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 Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 15 October 2024 be approved.

Public Participation

See County Councillor Report.

County Councillor Update

Mrs Thomas reported she had a meeting with East Pye Solar today, but they were unable to add any further information re mitigation and stated that there was no evidence for property devaluation and thus they would not be offering compensation. (see comments under East Pye Solar matter below)

EPS had also confirmed to her that:

- the height of panels was 4.5m but offered no mitigation measures.
- the grid connection would be via the existing pylon route.

The leader of NCC, Kay Mason-Billig and Alison Thomas were both reviewing NCC's response to non-statutory consultation to ensure it reflected local views.

District Councillor Update

District Councillor Hooton had informed the Clerk he had nothing to report.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2024/3233 - Mrs Tammy Emms, Firs Farm Silver Green Hempnall - Erection of roof above livestock loading dock – Mr Turner proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2024/2108/2200 - Mr & Mrs Allen, Cottleston, Mill Rd, Hempnall - Demolition of detached single garage and associate garden wall.

2023/2831 - Mr & Mrs M Tomlin, The Cottage Turkey Row Lundy Green Hempnall - Single and two storey extensions, new solar PV panels, new air source heat pump and associated internal alterations

2024/2344 - Mr And Mrs James and Alice Drury, Poachers Cottage, Silver Green Hempnall - Single storey rear extension, internal and external alterations.

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.

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2024/1843 - Berries Direct Farming Ltd, Spring Farm, Spring Lane, Hempnall - Approval of condition 10 of 2022/1803 - biodiversity method statement.

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

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.

Applications refused since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting

2024/2982 - Mr Richard Harper, European Trade Centre - Details for condition 5 of 2018/2043 - external lighting with sensors – Mr Hook reported that he had responded to SNC to state that this condition had already been ruled upon but had not complied with. SNC need to research what should have happened and what has happened.

East Pye Solar Project

The Clerk had booked the Village Hall for the public meeting for 8 November at 7.30pm and invited all neighbouring parish councils affected by these proposals and the MP, county and district councillors. The meeting was widely advertised with posters and via social media and put in the newsletter and on the parish website and noticeboard. Hempnall residents were also informed of the meeting via an information leaflet distributed around the village. Mr Hook was thanked for the way he chaired the meeting. There were 261 attendees who signed in to the meeting, but the actual attendance figure was closer to 300. On a show of hands only one attendee voted to support the development, fewer than 10 people abstained and everyone else voted to oppose the development.

The Clerk had asked ISG for the full dimensions of the solar panels but their response was limited to a description of the height, being a maximum of 4.5m – almost as high as the guttering on a 2 storey house. There is an example of the 4.5m panels at Great Melton opposite the rugby club.

Mr Hook had organised the publication of the public information leaflet.

The Clerk had completed the memberships for the parish council of the CPRE Alliance and of the UK Solar Alliance.

Mr Hook reported that studies had shown the average decrease in value of properties in the general area of solar panel projects is 3%-5%. A local estate agent has advised a resident that their property, which is directly adjacent to the proposed development, would suffer a reduction of 33% or more in value if the development was permitted.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the parish council's response to the non-statutory consultation should be that as the project is of such a huge scale it is totally unacceptable, and no amount of mitigation would make it acceptable.

DH/IN

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Ben Goldsborough MP in response to his comments that he had passed on the concerns of residents to the government and ask him to clarify exactly what concerns he has passed on, to whom and what their response was. Did he for example pass on the main concern which is that a large number of local residents totally oppose the proposals? In addition the Clerk is to query if Mr Goldsborough has stated, as has been reported, that local people seem supportive of solar power but do not want the energy infrastructure built in this area. The Clerk is to point out that this is not the view of the parish council nor is it the view held by most local people. The parish council is supportive of solar energy production from roofs and other artificial surfaces but opposes solar energy production on Greenfield sites and certainly does not want to see other places having to suffer the kind of proposals facing our area – HPC does not want this kind of infrastructure to be imposed

IN

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anywhere. Furthermore the Clerk is also to inform Mr Goldsborough of the huge strength of opposition expressed at the Hempnall public meeting and point out that it would have been desirable for the local MP to have been present at such a significant event,

IN

Mr Bates reported that the action group, BEPS, had been very active and a recent meeting last Saturday attracted many extra people to help with training others to collate information on biodiversity etc in regard to the sites proposed for solar arrays. They had also formed links with the joint head of the Landmark Trust Charity.

Mr Hook pointed out that a NESO report has recommended a change in planning rules to enable the fast tracking of solar energy applications so they could be decided in a period of just 6 months. He pointed out that even when parliament approves this report it will still take time for planning rules to be revised.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to all local affected councils to suggest they consider possible costs involved in fighting the application and precept accordingly in January 2025.

IN

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of thanks to Mr William Walker and David Hardaker for their assistance with the solar panel sites mapping project.

IN

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

National Planning Policy Framework Consultation (NPPF)

Mr Hook had responded to the consultation.

Accident

The Clerk had noted the accident previously reported by Mr Hook on the road accident list.

Dates for next year's meetings

The Clerk had made the relevant Mill Centre bookings and published the data on the website.

Footpath map at Village Hall

Mr Bates had erected a suitable map at the Village Hall.

Remembrance Day

Mr Bates had laid the wreath and read the names of those remembered.

War Graves paths

The Clerk had arranged for Mr Whiting to cut the paths and areas around the war graves.

Defibrillator at the Village Hall

The Clerk had arranged a registered contractor to carry out repairs and they had been completed.

Ditch behind Nuttle Close

Mr Elliott had spoken to several residents but been unable to identify the original complainant, so the matter was left for the parishioner to make contact with the parish council as originally advised.

Removal of footpath 24 kissing gate

This has now been removed.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Parking on the street

The Clerk had liaised with County Councillor Alison Thomas however there was no more that NCC could do until the area suffers from a poor accident record.

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Bench on Play area / ROSPA report

Mr Delf had obtained a quote for £1320 plus VAT of which £585 would be funded by a grant, to supply, fit and reorganise the benches.

Mr Delf was also replacing 2 brackets on the MUGA and replacing the basketball nets. RD

Mr Delf continued to attend to issues highlighted in the ROSPA report. He had obtained a quote for £1620 plus VAT to supply and fit matting under the steel climbing frame in order to mitigate a medium risk item in the ROSPA report.

On approval of the above quotes, the contractor will also attend to the problem of securing the double gate free of charge.

Mr Delf will carry out a safety inspection after the work has been completed. RD

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

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Delf proceed with all the work itemised above. RD

Flood risk maps

The Clerk had provided copies of correspondence from the Environment Agency on this issue. 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

It was agreed that due to lack of response from landowners this matter could not at present be carried forward.

Parking issues Fairsted Lane

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

- An annoying habit has been brought to his attention 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.
- That another parishioner had 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 his field.
- That an Allotment holder had also stated he had been in the allotment & someone parked across the gate

Mr Bates had liaised with the parishioners explaining that parking violations causing a danger to others should be reported to the police and suggested that there would be no objection to a "No Parking" sign being erected on the gate to the allotments.

No further contact had been received from the parishioners, so the matter was considered as closed.

Playing field grass cutting

The Clerk had emailed and spoken to more contractors. He would continue to try and get quotes. IN

Adult Outside Gym at recreation ground

It was agreed to re-agenda this matter in spring following the article in the spring newsletter. IN

Gravestone wobble test

Messrs Delf and Workman had undertaken the wobble test and reported that the following require attention:

- Stone cross near entrance is very loose and has been laid down for safety reasons. Re-erection required.
- Seven stones affected by bush and tree growth need attention.
- Tree growing between two stones which are being pushed outwards in two places.
- Bushes and grass needs cutting back as stone's unseen.

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the cross be erected, the Clerk to obtain a quote.

IN

Mr Workman offered to cut the foliage.

PW

The other issues to be monitored

Footpath 6 plank

Mr Bates had found some examples of variable width restriction access gates which would stop bikes but allow pedestrians and would discuss the matter with PROW and obtain a quote for the work.

PB

Outside Toilets at recreation ground

Mr Bates had made initial enquiries with the Village Hall Committee who had no objection if the toilets were not attached to the hall. They were prepared to consider use of the hall's utilities to connect the toilet block. The cost of maintaining the toilets was thought to be significant and would need to be quantified before progressing. Given the time required to attend to the EPS issues, it was agreed to postpone further consideration of outside toilets until after the conclusion of the solar planning application.

PB

Nobbs Lane Spur

Mr Hook has obtained the paperwork and will progress as soon as possible.

DH

Correspondence

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

Various police crime summaries
Various planning applications
Various "solar" emails
Relevant notices/agenda and minutes
Various SNC Planning Monthly Enforcement Reports
Correspondence from parishioners
SNC Electric Vehicle Charge point and Solar PV Grant
Broadland & South Norfolk Design Code - 2nd public consultation now open
Norwich to Tilbury - Project Update - October 2024
Norfolk ALC – letter from president
Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Publication of proposed Main Modifications and Additional Modifications
Numerous solar emails to Messrs Hook & Bates

No further matters were raised form the above.

Items placed directly onto the Parish notice boards were:

Relevant notices/agenda
Poster – B&SNC Design Code
Notice of Parish Meeting

No further matters were raised form the above.

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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
Added dates for next year's meetings
Added Notice of Parish Meeting

No further matters were raised from the above.

Correspondence from Parishioners

Trevor Shurmer various letters re Solar – passed to D Hook and P Bates and Mr Bates had liaised with Mr Shurmer.

Parishioner complaining re fireworks – passed to Friends of Hempnall School

Speed limit Lundy Green Hempnall

A long standing resident of Lundy Green had written to ask for a 30mph limit for that area due to a large increase in the volume of cars and HGV's using the lane. She said that the speed limit is currently 60mph and a large percentage of traffic appear to be driving to this limit. It is a very narrow lane especially by the residential houses and bungalows. Children play in the lane; it is popular with dog walkers and is a well-used lane for horse riders. Recently traffic had been diverted here for road maintenance in the village. Lorries to and from the chicken farm and delivering and collecting from the strawberry farm use the lane as a cut through.

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk ask NCC if it was possible to have some or all of this area as a 30mph limit.

IN

Community Emergency Planning WhatsApp Proposal

An email had been received today suggesting that Hempnall appoints a Community Emergency Planning Coordinator to join a group of equivalents from other local parishes. The Clerk to determine if such a coordinator is a requirement and the matter will be considered at the next meeting.

IN

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 15 September to 14 November 2024. The statement was not materially out of line with the annual budget. Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the statement be accepted.

Quarterly Budget Report

The Clerk presented the quarterly budget report showing the movements for the quarter ended 30 September 2024. Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the statement be approved.

D Cracknell

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Elliott seconded and it was unanimously agreed that a gratuity of £900 be paid for his sterling work around the village over the last year in maintaining the bus shelter, litter clearance and bin emptying. The Clerk to write a thank you letter and make payment.

IN

Laptop

The clerk explained that the ethernet socket and a USB socket had ceased to work. He had obtained a quote for £90 to repair. There were several other issues due the machines age. Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should buy a new parish council computer at a budget of £249 plus VAT rather than delay the inevitable by trying to repair the old one.

IN

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Lighting Maintenance Contract

K&M lighting are not able to service the new streetlights. The Clerk had contacted Amey who do not provide a service contract but would provide a repair service if required. The only time the old contractors were called out was to reset the timers but this is not expected to be an issue with the new lights so Mr Bates proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that there was no need for the Clerk to search for another maintenance contractor.

External audit

The Clerk reported that the external auditors had provided a clean audit report, so the figures produced by the Clerk had not changed. Audit completion notices had been published.

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

He is liaising with the police to get them to carry out more frequent speed checks at relevant times, particularly at Broaden Lane.

RE

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

Items for next newsletter

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

- Adult Gym – spring issue
- Report on public meeting

IN

Items for next main meeting

- Playing field rental setting
- Statement Regular Payments
- Precept
- SAM2 purchase

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council planning meeting will take place on 17 December 2024 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre and the next main meeting on 21 January 2025 at the Mill Centre at 7:00pm.

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:55

Signed _____ Date 17/12/2024

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Draft

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting others

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 new streetlight heads have all been installed. IN

The Clerk had contacted UK Power Network for a reduction in electricity cost for the unmetered connection and awaits a response. IN

Hempnall Natural Flood Management

The Environment Agency had started work on the Hempnall Natural Flood Management scheme in early October. The Clerk to monitor. IN

Helen George had confirmed there were no plans to dredge the pond on Back Lane.

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

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Matters arising awaiting others

Draft

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 chevrons (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

Draft

Morrison's delivery lorries

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

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

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

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

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Transactions to 14/11/2024

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
17/09/2024	Microsoft 365 annual licence	(59.99)
17/09/2024	PKF - external audit fee	(378.00)
18/09/2024	SNC - Precept	9,150.00
19/09/2024	Tr C/a BPA	(9,000.00)
30/09/2024	Ian Nelson Salary	(471.39)
30/09/2024	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
30/09/2024	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
30/09/2024	HMRC - VAT Refund	14,324.30
30/09/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
30/09/2024	D Hook – Ord Survey Maps	(49.97)
01/10/2024	VFM - payroll and accounting	(42.56)
05/10/2024	D Hook – CopyDiss - maps#1	(50.60)
05/10/2024	Tr C/a BPA	(14,000.00)
07/10/2024	D Hook - CopyDiss - maps#2	(50.60)
16/10/2024	I Nelson - Cash bal banked	5.40
17/10/2024	NPower - streetlight power	(30.41)
18/10/2024	IJN - pay in tax amount	4.80
19/10/2024	HMRC - PAYE	(1.72)
07/10/2024	NSIB Interest	32.30
31/10/2024	Ian Nelson Salary	(471.39)
31/10/2024	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/10/2024	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/11/2024	VFM - payroll and accounting	(42.56)
24/10/2024	SNC CIL	33,000.00
25/10/2024	Tr C/a BPA	(33,000.00)
25/10/2024	Leafprint Ltd - brochure re Solar	(848.43)
19/11/2024	NPower - streetlight power	(32.99)
05/11/2024	NSIB Interest	33.38
08/11/2024	K&M Lighting - Replace defib light	(251.16)
08/11/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
		<u>(299.59)</u>

Closing Balance 1,133.03

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
19/09/2024	Tr C/a BPA	9,000.00
30/09/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
05/10/2024	Tr C/a BPA	14,000.00
25/10/2024	Tr C/a BPA	33,000.00
08/11/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
		<u>54,000.00</u>

Closing Balance 135,785.17