

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 7:00pm in The Mill

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Mr Phil Bates, Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Richard Delf, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

Mrs Yvonne Davy, Mrs Annetta Berry, Mr Martyn Hooton.

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Alison Thomas, Mr Hamish Rose, Mr Mike Turner and Mr Robert Elliott.

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 Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed (by those who were at the meeting) the minutes of the meeting on 20 May 2025 be approved.

Public Participation

There was none.

County Councillor Update

Mrs Thomas submitted the following report:

"County LGR preferred model (single unitary) is now published with further work to do before submission to government in Sept. Papers on council website if Cllrs wish to read.

Long Stratton road closure 8pm 4/7 to 6am 7/7 to enable roundabout construction. Will inevitably bring more local traffic through Hempnall I'm afraid although formal diversion via A roads.

Pleased to have attended ground-breaking ceremony in Harleston for housing with care project delivering over 100 independent affordable units with care and support on hand. This enables folk to remain independent for as long as possible.

Gary Overland has also met with Mr Hook regarding the £2k from my highway budget for road safety improvements."

District Councillor Update

Mr Hooton reported that domestic food waste collection will commence between May and September 2026 in three phases. Residents will receive information on this from September 2025.

Mr Hooton has made further representations regarding the SPD document to reflect Hempnall Parish Council's views. He awaits a response to his question about whether SNC will hold a vote on whether to oppose the East Pye Scheme, he intends to push for one. There will be a consultation regarding the SPD document starting on 07/07/25 which will run for 6 weeks. This will give all concerned individuals and Parish Councils a chance to submit their views and any proposed amendments.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook and the Clerk respond to the consultation repeating the points previously made including that if the SPD is adopted that it only applies to decisions made by SNC and not to NSIPs.

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Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2025/1515 - Lundy Lodge, Lundy Green, Hempnall – s106 agreement - Upgrade of septic tank with package treatment plant – Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

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2025/1663 - Mr and Mrs James and Alice Drury, Poachers Cottage, Silver Green Hempnall - Outbuilding to replace existing garage – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

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Previous Applications – comments from parishioners

2025/1365 - Mr & Mrs Tidder, Bry-mor, The Street, Hempnall - Cert of lawfulness for change of existing use playroom (c3) for massage therapy treatment (class e)

Since the last meeting, the parish council had received 2 letters from parishioners expressing concerns. The Clerk to respond to say that the council had already made a response having taken into account these concerns and asked for a condition to be made for the provision of off-road parking for customers and staff as on road parking would be very dangerous. Furthermore, the Clerk to write to SNC to ask that white line H bars be added as a condition to prevent parking on the road.

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2024/2027 - Mrs Rachel Shreeve - Land to The Rear of 25 Coronation Crescent and 2-10 Roland Drive Hempnall - Change of Use.

Mr Hook explained that SNC have removed the right to permitted development. It was never our intention to stop the applicant having a garden shed. Mr Hooton explained that if they wanted a shed they could apply for planning permission.

Mr Hooton had asked Ben Burgess, Head of Planning, to review the matter, and he said that SNC would stick to their decision.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to SNC to clarify the parish council's position that it was never our intention to stop them having a garden shed, just to stop the development boundary from being extended.

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Applications approved since the last meeting:

2025/1255 - Joanne Sutherland, Wood Farm, Fairstead Lane, Hempnall - Non-material amendment to 2023/2677

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications refused since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting

There were none.

East Pye letters to householders

Mr Hook and the Clerk had provided a press release on this matter which resulted in media coverage including Anglia News, the Telegraph, the Daily Express, That's TV, BBC Online and MSN.

Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Bates explore the possibility of whether there was justification for parishioners, who had received "alarming" correspondence from Dalcour Maclaren, to pursue a case of harassment. Mr Bates to write to the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and Norfolk Chief Constable.

PB

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East Pye Solar Project

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written to SNC regarding the SPD document pointing out the dangers of producing a document of this type.

Mr Hook had attended a meeting to learn how best to respond to a statutory consultation.

The Clerk had acknowledged the copy of Mr Shurmer's letter to MPs.

The Clerk had notified parishioners about the East Pye Solar pre-application statutory consultation in the newsletter.

Mr Bates reported that BEPS was organising a meeting of parish councils in the near future.

Notice of statutory consultation received today, with the documentation being made public tomorrow. Mr Hook and other councillors will review before the next meeting and bring notes to the July meeting.

DH/ALL

Correspondence from Parishioners

Concrete floor in container

The Clerk had circulated a letter from the football club to councillors prior to the meeting. The parish council owns the container (purchased with a donation from the football club). Mr Delf had inspected the container, and it was in a very poor state.

Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to the football club explaining that the container is beyond economic repair and needs replacing. They should be asked if they were minded to raise funds for a replacement and remind them that they paid for the existing container.

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Norfolk Local Access Forum

The Clerk had circulated a letter from Norfolk Local Access Forum inviting members of the parish council to be a member of the forum and asking the parish council to promote the forum.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk place an article in the next newsletter and Mr Bates volunteered to consider closer involvement as part of his role as PROW officer.

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Village Hall Solar Panels

Mrs Cann explained that the village hall committee were looking to add a further 14 panels costing 13k to the roof of the village hall. She stated that the existing panels already contributed a significant amount to the hall allowing them to keep prices down for parishioner hirers. She asked if the parish council would consider helping with a small contribution towards the cost.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk check to see if CIL money could be used for this purpose and the matter be placed on the July agenda.

IN

Co-option of parish councillor

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Elliott had submitted his letter of resignation as a councillor.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Cann seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook contact Mr Elliott to discuss this further and if he does not wish to withdraw his resignation, the Clerk would issue the statutory notice and agenda the matter for the July meeting.

DH/IN

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Speedwatch co-ordinator report

Mr Elliott had submitted the following written report:

"I'm increasingly disappointed with just about everyone at the moment. The Police (unsurprisingly) have said "no" to the suggestion of a fixed camera. I have been in correspondence with them, as the PC knows. The April figures show 9 motorists tracked by the Police. Given the rise in the volume of traffic, this is disappointing too. I do not have a separate figure, but based on previous data, most if not all will be in Mill Rd rather than Broaden Lane.

Alison said she would chase up the painted SLOW and speed limits on the road at each village entrance. Hopefully she will have an update.

Do we have any indication of when NCC will provide the additional 30mph speed limit sign in Broaden Lane, so the SAM2 can be sited closer to the first 30mph sign?

I saw Martyn Hooton, who is happy to help with the Police.

We had a new Speedwatch volunteer, but they have been discouraged by the Police paperwork. I did visit them and try to persuade them to reconsider, but they were unwilling.

The Speedwatch team has managed only one session this year. In Broaden Lane 14 motorists were tracked at in excess of 35mph. There would have been more, but for them speeding in "packs".

Mr Elliott indicated that he would be prepared to remain as the parish council's Speedwatch coordinator if councillors desired. Councillors welcomed this.

Financial Statements

Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that the internal audit for the year ended 31st March 2025 had been completed by Mrs J Franks who presented a clean report. The Clerk had thanked Mrs Franks and arranged payment.

Approval of Annual Accounts to 31/03/25

The Clerk had distributed the accounts for the year to 31/03/25 to all Councillors with explanatory commentary. Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the accounts be approved, and the statement of assurance be signed. Authorisation was given for them to be signed by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer and Mr Hook as Chairman.

DH/IN

Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return as drafted by the Clerk be approved and signed by the chairman and responsible financial officer.

DH/IN

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Annual Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on a public website before 1 July 2021. The Clerk to comply.

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Parking on The Street

A parishioner has requested H bars be placed on the bend near the war memorial. The parish council had already asked for and been refused double yellow lines, however, Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to SNC to request a white H bar in this area as part of the planning application 2025/1365.

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Speeding in the village

The Clerk to chase NCC for an update on all road safety issues.

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ROSPA Report on Play area

The Clerk had circulated the report to councillors prior to the meeting. There were no matters requiring urgent attention. Mr Delf was attending to the advisory matters and was thanked for doing so.

RD

Items for next newsletter

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

- New retail outlet at the old butchers – Mr Delf to supply details.
- Update on EPS statutory consultation
- Local Access Forum

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Items for next main meeting

- Clerk's salary review

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Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:

15 July 2025 at 7:00pm in The Mill - main meeting

19 August 2025 at 7.00pm in The Mill – planning meeting

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There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:12.

Signed _____ Date 15/07/2025