

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 7:30 in The Mill

Present

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

Members of the public present

There were none.

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Alison Thomas, District Councillor Martyn Hooton, Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Hamish Rose.

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 Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 17 June 2025 be approved.

Public Participation

There was none.

County Councillor Update

Mrs Thomas submitted the following report.

"Bypass weekend closures as advertised last week of July and first week of Aug. Diversion routes are via equivalent A roads, but unfortunately local traffic is ignoring that.

2nd Aug open day on the bypass for anyone who wants to walk, cycle, cartwheel. There will also be stalls there from our skills and employment teams and the business forum as this is a joint event with the LSEP (Long Stratton Enterprise Partnership)

Hall Lane Bridge should open 2nd week of Aug which will restore connectivity to the eastern villages.

All Councils are drawing up business plans for LGR which need to be submitted to government in late Sept. The County single unitary option has been through cabinet so there are detailed proposals in those papers should people wish to understand more.

Adult Social Care had a CQC inspection last week which seemed to go well with staff energised to share their work with inspectors. I spent an hour 1:1 with the inspectors too!"

District Councillor Update

Mr Hooton had told the Clerk there was nothing further to report.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2025/1845 - Berries Direct Farming Ltd, Spring Farm, Spring Lane, Hempnall - Details of conditions 13 & 14 of 2022/1803 - external lighting and proposed lighting – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the proposed lighting was not as discussed when the planning application for the extension of activities on site was approved. DH to respond in detail outlining the concerns regarding the lighting on site.

DH

2025/1941 - Mrs Hilary Battye, Forge Cottage, The Street Hempnall - Repair and rebuild garden wall – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

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

IN

2028/1962 - Mr Simon Carver, Land Off Alburgh Road Hempnall - Erection of 1 no detached self-build dwelling and ancillary storage outbuilding – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be refused as it is outside development boundary and there is a lack of water pressure and drainage in that area.

IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2024/3704 - The European Trade Centre Hempnall Road Morningthorpe - Planning application seeking to regularise the intensification of the online car sales business at European Trade Centre. Provision of 120 car parking spaces for Wheels 4 Less and 10 spaces for the approved porta cabins, in lieu of 68 spaces approved under the previous application.

2024/3752 - E C Drummond (Agriculture) Ltd, Poultry Farm Road Green Hempnall - Variation/Removal of conditions 2, 3 & 7 of 2021/0515 - (2) amendment to approved plans and documents, (3) amendment to drainage strategy & (7) removal of requirement for offsite highway works due to a reduction in the scale of the operations and associated traffic generation

2025/1197 - Carl Whitman, Cottleston, Mill Rd, Hempnall - Demolish subsiding outbuilding.

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.

Application 2024/2027

A letter had been received from a parishioner in respect of the above, Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk respond.

IN

Planning enforcement

Following a review of the latest enforcement report from SNC, Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook and the Clerk write to SNC regarding the inadequate compliance of the Willow Drive tree and boundary hedge planting and chase up for a response to questions about the southern boundary not being in accordance with the approved plans.

DH/IN

East Pye Solar Project

Harassment

Mr Bates explored the possibility of the police pursuing harassment, alarm and distress matters of parishioners via the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and Norfolk Chief Constable. There had been no response from the Police & Crime Commissioner. The Chief Constable responded that each person who felt harassed should write individually to him and the Police Commissioner. Mr Bates is coordinating.

PB

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Statutory consultation

Mr Hook and other councillors had reviewed the considerable consultation documentation. He had also read the response drafted by BEPS which was made available at last week's BEPS meeting for parish councils.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that he and the Clerk respond to the consultation supporting the reasoned assertion that the statutory consultation be deemed inadequate as evidenced by the BEPS document. In addition, further Hempnall specific examples are to be added. It was further agreed that SNC and NCC should be asked to support this position.

IN/DH

IN/DH

Onshore Wind Strategy

Mr Hook explained the proposal by the government was in summary to allow offshore style turbines up to 200m high to be built onshore.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk and Mr Hook respond to point out that the parish council is in favour of renewables done well, however pointing out that it was against the proposed onshore wind strategy for the following reasons:

- Protection is only afforded to countryside designated as national parks or areas of outstanding natural beauty, however, many areas of the remaining 95% of countryside are worthy of protection.
- A 200m tall turbine is far too big to be placed onshore and would need lighting. It would not fit the English natural landscape.
- Small scale turbines are much more acceptable and efficient, making full use of new improved technology. This approach is being developed in other European countries.

DH/IN

Public consultation on draft South Norfolk Landscape Susceptibility in relation to energy generation, storage and transmission Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 09 July – 18 August 2025

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook and the Clerk respond in line with the notes circulated prior to the meeting.

DH/IN

Following recent press coverage, Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook and the Clerk write to SNC to ask them to publish a clear statement stating that SNC opposes mega solar projects in SNC (similar to Breckland DC)

DH/IN

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook and the Clerk write to Ben Goldsborough MP to ask him to drop his inconsistent, illogical and unfair opposition to EPS. In addition, Mr Bates proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook and the Clerk write to local parish councils to urge them to write similar letters individually to Mr Goldsborough. In addition, other parish councils should be asked if they would be willing to sign a joint letter along the same lines at a press advertised meeting to which the district and county councillors would also be invited.

IN/DH

IN/DH

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

Co-option of parish councillor

Mr Hook had spoken to Mr Elliott who had withdrawn his resignation, so co-option was no longer necessary.

Action Plan

The Clerk had published the 2025/26 plan on the website and provide councillors with a copy.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Grass cutting – war graves path

The Clerk had contacted the contractor and cut the areas himself to demonstrate what was required. The contractor was now cutting in accordance with the contract.

Local Government Review in Norfolk

The Clerk and Mr Hook had replied to the MPs response to the parish council's original letter.

Annual Accounts to 31/03/25

The Clerk had published these.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return

This had been submitted to the external auditors together with all other required supporting information.

Public Access notice re accounts

The Clerk had displayed the statutory notice.

Parking on The Street

The Clerk had written to SNC asking for white H bars.

Newsletter

The Clerk had drafted and published the summer newsletter.

Surface on junction of Alburgh Rd/B1527

The junction has been resurfaced.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Flood Management – contact with Mornigthorpe & Fritton PC

Mr Bates will continue to pursue this via a Morningthorpe & Fritton parish councillor. One of their councillors will take the matter to their next meeting.

PB

Slow Ways national walking network

Mr Bates wished to carry this matter forward.

PB

Football club container

The Clerk had written to the football club explaining that the container is beyond economic repair and needs replacing, asking them if they were minded to raise funds for a replacement. They will consider further and respond in due course.

Play area repairs / ROSPA report

Mr Delf had carried out an inspection today. The entrapment areas have been solved and other repairs carried out. Mr Delf was thanked for his work.

Tree felling prevention

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written to the landowner to let them know the tenant is cutting down trees and ask them to request him to stop as it was causing great concern to the parish council and residents. A response had been received stating that *"on close inspection it will be seen that a number of the trees were structurally unsafe (particularly the willows). The other trunks are mostly where multiple trunks have grown after they have been previously coppiced."*

The Forestry Commission had visited the site again and reported as follows: *"We carried out a site visit on June 11th and met with the tenant. An assessment of was carried out to calculate timber felled on site in accordance with our Alleged Illegal Felling procedure. A number of trees were excluded due to being dead or under licensable diameter. Of the remainder, we calculated 5m3 of timber had been felled. This is the maximum allowance for tree felling within a calendar quarter without requiring a felling licence. My report was sent to my Regulations Manager, and his decision was, in this instance, to issue an advisory*

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

letter to the tenant, a copy of which has also been sent to the landowners (letters sent out last Thursday 3rd July).

While on site, I also advised the tenant, that should he wish to carry out further felling in the future, he should apply for a felling licence. I explained the process and issued him with guidance leaflets and my contact details should he need assistance with the process.

It may be of note, that should an application be made to coppice the willow and alder trees along the watercourse in future, I would be minded to approve it. These trees have been coppiced at least once historically and excluding a few ash that have unfortunately succumbed to ash dieback disease, they would regrow vigorously, the roots continuing to support the edges of the watercourse. This cyclical approach to tree management with willows and alder is preferable to them becoming overstood and potentially falling over and damaging the watercourse bank. “

Footpath via strawberry farm

Mr Turner had previously reported that parishioners have commented that it is not clear where the footpath goes through the strawberry farm and more signs are needed. The Clerk had contracted PROW to see if they can rectify this and they agreed to erect extra signage. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Mr Bates to contact Mr Rose for the supply of roundel markers.

PB/HR

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Mr Bates had considered more closely if he wished to be involved as part of his role as PROW officer and due to foreseeable workloads, he would not take this on at present.

Village Hall Solar Panels

The Clerk had established that the parish council could use CIL funds to make a donation to the village hall committee for this capital expenditure.

Road safety in the village

The Clerk had chased NCC on all road safety matters.

The bollard to protect pedestrians where the road narrows near the village hall has been programmed, and they will endeavour to install in the next 4 to 6 weeks (by mid-September 2025), albeit this will depend on the position of the utility services (BT). The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Improved chevrons on B1527 near the bridge - work to be carried out late September/early October. The Clerk to monitor and ask Mr Whiting to liaise with Mr Hook re cutting the shrubs back in that area.

IN
DH

NCC has reached saturation point with fixed VAS signs, and as such they would not consider installing a fixed VAS. They have been assisting Town and Parish Councils with the purchase of SAM2 in recent years, it is felt that they are now more effective than fixed signs. NCC suggested that if we have the evidence of non-compliance that you raise the matter with the police, as they are ultimately responsible for enforcing the existing speed limits. Mr Elliott suggested he would talk to the police and gain information about exactly what they had done in the village and when they had done it.

RE

NCC will not install ford signs at The Krons.

The new sign pole and 30mph repeater signs for Broaden Lane have been programmed and will be installed in the next 8 to 10 weeks (by end of September 2025). The Clerk to Monitor.

IN

Work to refresh the lining at The Krons/Fairstead Lane was completed.

We await a response re the bus shelter and the SLOW markings on the road on the entrance to the village, particularly Broaden Lane. Mr Elliott and the Clerk to liaise re outstanding

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

issues. Consideration should be given to evidence of extra traffic volumes and excess speeds.

RE/IN

A letter had been received from a parishioner re excessive speed, the Clerk to respond pointing out the action being taken by the parish council.

IN

Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk to repeat the previous response to keep the status quo.

IN

Flood Barriers

The Clerk had heard from by District Councillor Thomas that the quota of barriers available had gone to other villages. The Clerk had been in contact with another village to gain further details re size of the barriers and storage requirements and it was agreed that the Clerk should let Mrs Thomas know we would be interested in barriers in future if they were available.

IN

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
Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Notice of Adoption
HEMPNALL - Upcoming Road closure off U76176 Silver Green to facilitate Anglian Water, meter exchange works (my ref STRO12383)
Stoke Holy Cross - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of C201 Skeet's Hill to facilitate pole testing works by BT (My Ref: STRO12647)
Letter from Mr Shurmer re planning
Norwich Western Link project update
Local Government Reorganisation
Help Us Spread the Word – Join the Norfolk Local Access Forum!
Phase Two Statutory Consultation for East Pye Solar
Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk - your views
Norwich Western Link project update
Local residents to be given first look at new bypass
Alburgh - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of C357 Mill Road to facilitate tree cutting works by Norfolk County Council (My Ref: STRO12983)
Alliance against mega solar farms in Norfolk newsletter June- CPRE Norfolk.
Emergency Temporary Closure of C201 Fairstead Lane in the Parish of Hempnall due to BT access to underground structure to restore service (my ref: STRO13070)
Quarterly Neighbourhood Policing Meeting - July 2025
Norwich Western Link project update
Public consultation on draft South Norfolk Landscape Susceptibility in relation to energy generation, storage and transmission Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 09 July – 18 August 2025
Upcoming Temporary Closure of C201 Skeets Hill in the Parishes of Saxlingham Nethergate and Stoke Holy Cross (my ref STRO13084)

No further matters were raised from the above.

Items placed directly onto the Parish notice boards were:

Relevant notices/agenda
Long Stratton VE Day Celebrations poster
Local residents to be given first look at new bypass

No further matters were raised from the above.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Website &/or Facebook

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

Added relevant notices/agenda and minutes.
Added various papers to be tabled at meetings.

No further matters were raised from the above.

Correspondence from Parishioners

There was none to discuss.

Request for Support - Objection to Demolition of South Norfolk House

Long Stratton parish council had requested support for the above. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write a letter supporting objection in principle to the application stating that the current village hall in Long Stratton was inadequate to serve the existing community let alone after a further 1800 homes were built. The old SNC building was a great community asset, but the community would need to support its use by a robust business plan.

IN

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 16 May to 8 July 2025. The statement was not materially out of line with the annual budget. Mr Turner proposed, Mr Elliott 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 June 2025 Mr Delf proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the statement be approved.

Clerk's Salary Review

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk's salary be increased by 6% to take effect from 1st July 2025, his annual salary review date. The Clerk was grateful for the increase and was thanked for his services over the last year.

IN

Police inactivity on speeding

Mr Elliott reported that the Police action (or lack of it) has been most disappointing. He had received an email from Martyn Hooton completely agreeing. It was agreed that he would enlist Mr Hooton's help in the short term and also consider assembling data that could be submitted to escalate matters with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

RE

Parish Partnership – SAM2 Unit

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk submit a bid by the deadline of 01/12/2025 for a third SAM2 unit.

IN

Items for next newsletter

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

- Update on EPS statutory consultation
- Local Access Forum
- Parish council urging Ben Goldsborough to oppose EPS.

IN

Items for next main meeting

- External Audit of accounts to 31/03/25 result

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

- Dates for next year's meetings

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:

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

16 September 2025 at 7:00pm in The Mill - main meeting

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:42.

Signed _____ Date 19/08/2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Transactions to 08/07/2025

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:	£
23/05/2025 Janette Franks internal audit	(120.00)
23/05/2025 Stamps	(5.10)
23/05/2025 Euro Computers - repair	(39.99)
23/05/2025 Cartridge People - blank toner	(32.90)
23/05/2025 Cartridge People - blank toner	(62.90)
31/05/2025 Ian Nelson Salary	(471.39)
31/05/2025 Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/05/2025 Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/06/2025 VFM - payroll and accounting	(20.56)
05/06/2025 NSIB Interest	27.69
08/06/2025 NGF - Safety Surfacing	(1,944.00)
08/06/2025 NGF - Accessible table & movements	(1,584.00)
08/06/2025 NGF - Owl installation	(252.00)
08/06/2025 Play Safety Ltd - ROSPA report	(139.20)
08/06/2025 Broadland digital Web Hosting	(79.20)
08/06/2025 Excite Solutions Ltd - grass cutting	(547.20)
08/06/2025 Euro Computers - repair	(30.00)
20/06/2025 Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
30/06/2025 Ian Nelson Salary	(471.39)
30/06/2025 Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
30/06/2025 Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/07/2025 VFM - payroll and accounting	(20.56)
02/07/2025 The Mill - balance of kitchen grant	(2,000.00)
03/07/2025 D Hook printing and travel	(56.22)
05/07/2025 D Whiting - spray churchyard drive	(45.00)
07/07/2025 NSIB Interest	26.80
27/07/2025 ICO fee	(47.00)
25/04/2025 SNC precept	9,150.00
11/04/2025 Zurich Insurance	(1,004.02)
	<u>1,163.86</u>
Closing Balance	<u><u>1,769.86</u></u>

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:	£
02/06/2025 Barclays interest	459.55
20/06/2025 Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
	<u>(540.45)</u>
Closing Balance	<u><u>157,622.39</u></u>

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Policy for use of chemicals

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

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

Playing Field hedging and trees

The Clerk ask Mr Havens to give the hedges surrounding the playingfield a light trim like last year. After 1 March Mr Havers had contacted the Clerk to explain that he had been unable to cut the hedges as ground conditions had not been firm enough to allow the machinery on the field without cause too much damage. Now the bird nesting season had started the work would not be carried out until after September. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Graveyard maintenance / wall

The Clerk had engaged the contractor and instructed that any left-over stones/bricks were retained for future repairs. Work should start w/c 21 July. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting NCC

Traffic calming at east end of B1527

The SAM2 results show the 85th percentile is 32mph, well above the 20mph limit. Our requests for chicanes were 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.

RE

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

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

Nobbs Lane Spur

Mr Hook had submitted the application to NCC, and we have received confirmation of compliance. The Clerk chased 08/07/25 – NCC not even started to look at it and suggested they would start later this year. We await their review. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Bus shelter on west side of Broaden Lane

The Clerk had researched cost of a shelter which would be around £3,000 plus base plus fitting plus NCC costs. The Clerk had written to NCC Highways to ask about the procedure and costs. The Clerk to Monitor.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

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 incomplete planning issues

The Clerk had written to SNC as not all the points raised by the parish council in previous correspondence (18/07/2024) had been addressed in SNC's update of 31/01/2025. The Clerk had reiterated the points of concern and requested an update as to action taken. The Clerk to monitor.

IN