

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 7:00 in The Mill

Present

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

Members of the public present

County Councillor Alison Thomas, District Councillor Martyn Hooton, Mrs Yvonne Davy, Mrs Sewrojini Shingleton.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Robert Elliott and 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.

Mr Bates declared a non-financial interest in the grant application from The Mill proposed solar panels.

Mrs Cann declared a non-financial interest in the grant application from The Village Hall solar panels.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 15 July 2025 be approved.

Public Participation

See below.

County Councillor Update

Local Government review

Mrs Thomas reported that the local government review will be voted on by the relevant councils and submitted to central government by the end of the month.

NCC Budget

The budget for NCC is being considered. The savings around adult social care will be achieved by reorganising care around the person rather than making cuts to service.

East Pye letters to residents

The East Pye / Dalcour Maclaren solar letters have been looked at to see if there was a safeguarding issue and also with Trading Standards to explore any infringements, which there was not, however they agreed the letters could cause alarm. The matter is also being discussed further with the NCC leader who may raise the matter with the EDP.

District Councillor Update

Mr Hooton reported that Topcroft residents had expressed concern about Morningthorpe recycling centre closing, however he reported that the lease for the site had been extended for another year. It was noted that the centre does need to be redeveloped but it is likely this will take place on another site.

A new app is due to be released to help streamline bookings for the waste recycling centre as well as for bin collections.

Mr Workman reported that non-computer literate parishioners were struggling to book a space at the recycling centre as the telephone line has such a long wait on it. Mrs Thomas will feed this back to the coordinators. Mr Hooton will find out what the process is for bin collections too.

Food waste collection is due to start on 1 April 2026.

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Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2025/1663 amended - Mr and Mrs James and Alice Drury, Poachers Cottage, Silver Green Hempnall - Outbuilding to replace existing garage.

2025/2367 - Mr Tomlin, The Cottage Turkey Row Lundy Green Hempnall - Details of condition 6 of 2023/2831 - full details of the design, location and sound levels of the Air Source Heat Pump.

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications refused since the last meeting:

2025/1962 - Mr Simon Carver, Land Off Alburgh Road Hempnall - Erection of 1no detached self-build dwelling and ancillary storage outbuilding.

2024/1373 - Mr Adam Austin, Land between 21 & 21A Alburgh Rd, Hempnall - Self-build/Custom-build proposed sustainable/low carbon chalet bungalow with 17 PV panels.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting

There were none.

East Pye Solar Project

Harassment

Mr Bates had explored the possibility, via the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and Norfolk Chief Constable, of the police pursuing harassment, alarm and distress caused to parishioners as a result of communications from Dalcour Maclaren. 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 this action.

PB

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written to Dalcour Maclaren to ask them to be specific about whether they would compulsorily purchase property in Hempnall (their letter currently states it is not their intention, however this is not a definitive answer). They had not responded so Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk chase for a response.

IN

Statutory consultation

Mr Hook and the Clerk had responded to the consultation and asked SNC and NCC to support this position.

Meeting of parish councils

There will a meeting for parish councils on 23 September to discuss future action required. Mr Hook and the Clerk to attend.

DH/IN

Ben Goldsborough MP

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written to Ben Goldsborough MP to ask him to drop his inconsistent, illogical and unfair support of EPS, however he had replied that he did not intend to change his stance. He was also invited to walk the Hempnall area with us to see some of the beautiful countryside that would be ruined if the scheme was to go ahead but he declined to do so. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk and Mr Hook respond to Mr Goldsborough again to encourage him to undertake a with us in Hempnall as he has done in Brooke and Shotesham.

DH/IN

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Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

Planning enforcement – Willow Drive

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written to SNC regarding the inadequate compliance of the Willow Drive tree and boundary hedge planting and chased up for a response to questions about the southern boundary not being in accordance with the approved plans. The enforcement officer was investigating further. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

The issue with regard to the alignment of the southern boundary not complying with the approved planning consent had come to light as a result of studying the planning permission documents for details of the planting conditions attached to the development. The Clerk to Monitor.

IN

Mrs Shingleton asked if any consideration had been given to the danger of children going in the ditch and not being able to get out. Mr Hook proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to SNC to establish who owns the ditch and what conditions there were for the maintenance of the ditch as part of the planning consent.

IN

Application 2024/2027

Mr Hook and the Clerk had responded to the letter from a parishioner.

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 and the Clerk had responded to the consultation in line with the notes circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written to SNC to ask them to publish a clear statement stating that SNC opposes mega solar projects in SNC (similar to Breckland DC)

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written to local parish councils to urge them to write similar letters individually to Mr Goldsborough.

Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk

The Clerk had repeated the previous response to retain the status quo.

Flood Barriers

The Clerk had let Mrs Thomas know we would be interested in barriers in future if they were available. Mrs Thomas said that the mobile flood defences are being assessed and if effective she is prepared to use her budget to supply more to help parishes. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Request for Support - Objection to Demolition of South Norfolk House

The Clerk had written a letter supporting objection in principle to the application.

Hedge cutting re chevrons

The Clerk had asked Mr Whiting to liaise with Mr Hook re cutting the shrubs back in that area. The shrubs had now been cut.

Speeding in the village

The Clerk had responded to the parishioner's letter pointing out the action being taken by the parish council.

Bollard

The bollard to protect pedestrians where the road narrows near the village hall has been erected. It was noted that it had recently been damaged. This proved the need for the post to prevent vehicles endangering pedestrians on the pavement. Mr Bates to report to NCC.

PB

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Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Flood Management – contact with Mornighthorpe & 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. No feedback received so Mr Bates will chase.

PB

Slow Ways national walking network

Mr Bates wished to carry this matter forward.

PB

Police inactivity on speeding

Mr Elliott had previously 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. This matter was carried forward in the absence of Mr Elliott.

RE

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.

Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was agreed unanimously to approve a donation of £2,500 towards the cost of the solar panels and that the Clerk should inform the Village Hall Committee of this decision.

IN

It was further agreed that councillors were prepared to consider an application from The Mill for solar panels at a later date.

PB

Road safety in the village

Mr Elliott had requested information from the police about exactly what they had done in the village, when they had done it and what the outcome was. This matter was carried forward in the absence of Mr Elliott.

Mr Elliott and the Clerk had liaised re outstanding issues and all were already recorded in the minutes.

Parish Partnership – SAM3 Unit

The Clerk had received support for our application from the county councillor and awaits the same from NCC Highways before submitting a bid for a third SAM unit. The Clerk to provide the datasheet to Mr Turner for review.

IN
IN/MT

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

Norwich to Tilbury - July 2025 Project Update

South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan submission update

Hempnall - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of C204 Spring Lane to facilitate carriageway repair works by Norfolk County Council (My Ref: STRO13198)

SNC Statutory Consultation response to East Pye

Trowse with Newton - Upcoming Temporary Road Closures of A146 Loddon Road/Trowse Bypass to facilitate lining works by Norfolk County Council (My Ref: STRO13230)

Police – Operation Radium

Alburgh - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of C204 The Street to facilitate meter exchange works by Anglian Water (My Ref: STRO13012)

WOODTON - Upcoming road closure off B1527 Church Road to facilitate Anglian Water, new connection works (my ref STRO13164)

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Norwich to Tilbury has reached a significant milestone with the submission of its Development Consent Order (DCO) application

No further matters were raised from the above.

Items placed directly onto the Parish notice boards were:

Relevant notices/agenda

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 papers to be tabled at meetings.

No further matters were raised from the above.

Correspondence from Parishioners

Himalayan Balsam (“HB”)

The trustees of the Church and Town Estate Property Charity had asked the Parish Council to request other landowners upstream of Krons Meadows remove their HB. Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk put an article in the April edition of the newsletter to ask householders/landowners along the watercourses to take action. In addition, a leaflet would be prepared and hand delivered to relevant properties at that time.

IN
IN

Detail in minutes

A parishioner had questioned details shown in the minutes of a previous meeting, namely: *"The latest enforcement report from SNC" is referred to but there is no explanation of the contents of this report.* and *"Questions about the southern boundary not being in accordance with the approved plans is also referred to without explaining what these questions are or who has raised them."*

The Clerk explained that the only legal requirement for detail in the minutes is that those in attendance are noted and details of resolutions passed are recorded. The manner in which the issue about the alignment of the southern boundary of Willow Drive came to the attention of the parish council is explained in these minutes under "Planning Enforcement, Willow Drive"

Mr Hook and the Clerk to respond.

IN/DH

Streamlining Infrastructure Planning Consultation

Onshore Wind Consultation

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook respond to any consultations highlighting the existing views of the parish council.

DH

Parking on the verge around the War memorial

A Parishioner reported that on three separate occasions, in July and August, vehicles were parked on the grass triangle surrounding the War Memorial. It was agreed that such parking was disrespectful to the Memorial and could potentially block the view of motorists. Various councillors also commented that for many years they had not witnessed such behaviour before and hoped that the recent incidents would not be repeated following completion of building/road work in the area. The risks associated with adding chains around the area were also considered. Mr Workman proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the situation be monitored as it was not known to happen regularly in the past.

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Field Lane plot

A parishioner had complained to SNC about the state of the land on the building plot off Field Lane. They had already contacted SNC about this but without the desired outcome and they have asked if the parish council can help.

Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to the landowner requesting they cut back foliage to the pavement boundary so as not to inconvenience pedestrians and ask them if they could also have consideration of the neighbouring properties and keep weeds/brambles down.

IN

Request for SAM unit/ 20mph limit for Field Lane

A parishioner had requested a SAM2 unit be erected in Field Lane and/or the speed limit be reduced to 20mph.

Mr Turner had inspected the area and the problem was the narrow road and repeater signs close to the road edge and farm traffic and wide lorries could cause damage to a SAM unit. The centre of the bracket to the edge of SAM 2 is 25cm overhang. However, there is one repeater 30mph sign on which the unit could be erected near the old lawnmower centre entrance. NCC permission will need to be obtained.

IN

Mr Turner proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to NCC for such permission. Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that data from the SAM unit in this area be reviewed later to see if it supported an application for a 20mph limit.

IN

The Clerk to respond to the resident accordingly.

IN

BEPS signs

A letter had been received complaining about discarded BEPS signs. The Clerk to pass on a redacted version of the email for BEPS to action.

IN

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 9 July to 11 September 2025. The statement was not materially out of line with the annual budget. Mr Bates proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the statement be accepted.

Investment Accounts

The Clerk had circulated an investment proposal prior to the meeting. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk action the proposal.

IN

Speedwatch Report

Mr Elliot had presented a report which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. One point raised concerned the desire for extra data from the SAM units. Mr Turner will talk to the suppliers of the SAM units to establish if additional meaningful data can be obtained from the unit.

MT

Dates for next year's meetings

The Clerk had circulated proposed dates for councillors to consider prior to the meeting. Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Delf 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

20/01/2026	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
17/02/2026 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
17/03/2026	7.00pm	Parish Meeting
17/03/2026	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
21/04/2026 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning

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19/05/2026	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full - Annual Meeting
16/06/2026 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
21/07/2026	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
18/08/2026 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
15/09/2026	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
20/10/2026 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
17/11/2026	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
15/12/2026 P	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning

Football Club

Other clubs using the pitch

Messrs Delf and Workman explained an arrangement to encourage junior football back into the village. This had been agreed with the football club so that a second pitch could be located on the playingfield for this purpose. It involved allowing Tasburgh junior teams (which included players from Hempnall) to use the pitch. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk invoice the two under 13 Tasburgh football teams from Sept 2025 a £75 fee for use of the second pitch on the playing field.

IN

It was noted that the football club was looking to erect some form of protection to prevent balls being punctured by hedging along the southern boundary of the field. This would be funded by Tasburgh football club. The design to be agreed with the parish council before it is erected. Councillors stated that the protection should be a moveable structure that would only be erected when matches were in progress.

RD/PW

Grass cutting

Hempnall football club was not satisfied with the frequency of the cutting of the playingfield (two cuts per month). It was agreed to reiterate that they were free to arrange extra cuts at their cost if they wished. The Clerk to inform the club.

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.
- Share of CIL donation to solar at VH
- Concerns about the letters from Dalcour Maclaren

IN

Items for next main meeting

- D Cracknell
- Village Hall AGM
- Gravestone wobble test
- Play area shelter

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:

21 October 2025 at 7.00pm in The Mill – planning meeting

18 November 2025 at 7:00pm in The Mill - main meeting

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:03.

Signed _____ Date 21/10/2025

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Transactions to 11/09/2025

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
16/07/2025	SNC adaptor receipt	200.00
19/07/2025	Delfs - Play area repairs	(190.99)
24/07/2025	HMRC	(26.28)
31/07/2025	Ian Nelson Salary	(499.67)
31/07/2025	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/07/2025	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/08/2025	VFM - payroll and accounting	(20.56)
05/08/2025	NSIB Interest	27.69
06/08/2025	Tr BPA to c/a	2,000.00
06/08/2025	Church wall rebuilding	(1,980.00)
16/08/2025	SNC Dog Bin Emptying	(676.80)
16/08/2025	Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
21/08/2025	CPRE subs	(60.00)
31/08/2025	Ian Nelson Salary	(499.67)
31/08/2025	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/08/2025	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
26/08/2025	D Whiting - chevron site clearance	(170.00)
26/08/2025	D Whiting - footpath clearance	(65.00)
26/08/2025	D Whiting - churchyard drive	(45.00)
01/09/2025	VFM - payroll and accounting	(20.56)
05/09/2025	NSIB Interest	27.69
		<u>(1,067.15)</u>
Closing Balance		<u>702.71</u>

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
06/08/2025	Tr BPA to c/a	(2,000.00)
16/08/2025	Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
		<u>(3,000.00)</u>
Closing Balance		<u>154,622.39</u>

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Matters arising awaiting others

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

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

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. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting NCC

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

Footpath via strawberry farm

PROW to erect extra signage. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Chevrons

Improved chevrons on B1527 near the bridge - work to be carried out 29 September. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

New 30mph sign

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

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting SNC

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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