

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

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

Members of the public present

There were none.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Joan Cann and District Councillor Micheal Hooton.

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 Hook declared a non-financial interest in the tennis club rental setting as chair of the tennis club.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 18 November 2025 be approved.

Public Participation

There was none.

County Councillor Update

Mrs Thomas had not submitted a report.

District Councillor Update

Mr Hooton reported prior to the meeting that *“following the decision by the government to postpone the Mayoral elections in May 2026 most things at the Council are up for further discussion as we assess the implications this decision will have.*

I am sure you and the council members have heard about the Aukera/Tasway announcement that they are pausing their planning application in light of National Grid's revised grid offers.”

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2025/3472 - Mr Adam Austin, Land Between 21 and 21A Alburgh Road Hempnall - Remove existing double garage. Erection of 4 garages. Change of use of land from residential to commercial – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be rejected as there is a lack of information as to what commercial use the garages will be put to.

IN

2025/3524 - Mr Shingleton, 11 Willow Drive Hempnall - Retrospective change of use of redundant land to residential garden land – Mr Hook proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved subject to the boundary being planted with a native hedge on all three sides and to request that SNC be consistent with conditions imposed to match those agreed following the appeal of application 2024/2027 Land to the rear of 25 Coronation Crescent and 2-10 Roland Drive Hempnall - Change of use of land from agricultural to residential gardens. It is also a parish council requirement that it would not constitute an extension of the settlement limit.

IN

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Applications approved since the last meeting:

2025/2773 - Poultry Farm Road Green Hempnall - Details of condition 4, 7 and 12 of 2024/3752 - (4) Noise and dust management plan, (7) Potential Passing Place Locations plan and (12) Tree protection plan.

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 Solar

BEPS Update

Mr Bates reported that BEPS has made a formal complaint against Mr Miliband re undue influence from lobbying. BEPS expect EPS planning application to be presented in Feb 2026. Both NCC and SNC are expected to state that the consultations carried out by EPS were inadequate.

BEPS are also planning some fundraising events with a view to having a fighting fund for a judicial review.

Mr Hook reported that the Tasway application had been paused by the developers due to the changes in the national grid queue formula as applications which are not already “shovel ready” will not be granted a Gate 2 connection to the grid.

Engagement of landscape planning consultant to cover the visual intrusion and landscape aspects

Mr Hook had liaised with Bill Blackledge of Landscape Consultancy to carry out a focused review on an NSIP application which would involve 4 to 5 days work at a cost of circa £3,000 + VAT. Mr Blackledge has assessed several schemes in Yorkshire already.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Blackledge be engaged at the appropriate time based on the above budget. Mr Hook to liaise with Mr Blackledge.

DH

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that when the EPS application is issued the Clerk should apply for an extension to the 28 days to respond in order to allow time to consider the vast quantity of papers.

IN

NCC Highways (“NCCH”) response to EPS consultation

Mr Hook reported that he and the Clerk had written to NCCH offering an alternative approach to their stance on the access consultation response. Mr Hook read the NCCH reply to the meeting.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk and Mr Hook reply to NCCH to state that the parish council does not share their view that haul roads are fit for purpose and also comment on the possible pre-determination danger in the way NCCH had responded to the consultation.

DH/IN

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Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Play area – bench

The Clerk had presented a typical quote for a bench to the meeting costing circa £323 + VAT.

Mr Turner proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk purchase a bench to replace the wooden bench which is in poor condition. Mr Delf volunteered to consider installation.

IN
RD

Play area shelter

This matter was carried forward.

RD

Football pitch static goal

This matter was carried forward.

RD

Correspondence

Correspondence from Parishioners

We had been invited to attend on the 4 January the licensing ceremony of the Rev'd Canon Susanna Gunner to serve as Associate Priest (House for Duty) in the Brooke Benefice and in the Hempnall Group of Parishes. Mr Hook volunteered to attend if he was able.

DH

Financial Statements

Tennis Club rental setting

Mr Hook handed the chair to Mr Delf.

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Tennis Club rent be set at £175 for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Clerk to issue the invoice.

IN

Mr Hook retook the chair.

Statement Regular Payments

The Clerk presented the statement of regular payments to the meeting Mr Delf proposed, Mr Elliott seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the statement be approved.

Budget/Precept 2026/27

The Clerk presented the budget for 2026/27 as previously circulated to Councillors.

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Elliott seconded and it was agreed unanimously that the precept be set at £18,300, i.e. leaving it at the same level as the previous 4 years.

The Clerk to inform SNC of the required precept prior to the deadline.

IN

Consultation on local government reorganisation in Norfolk

Mr Hook reported that the Government's statutory consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for Norfolk has been launched.

Three proposals are being considered:

- One unitary council for Norfolk, as proposed by Norfolk County Council
- Two unitary councils, as proposed by South Norfolk Council
- Three unitary councils, as proposed by the remaining six district councils

The consultation invites views on which option would best deliver strong and sustainable local government for Norfolk. It asks a series of questions about each proposal to help inform the Government's assessment and decision.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk respond to the consultation stating that the status quo should be retained.

IN

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Playingfield hedge cutting

The Clerk has asked the contractor, Mr Havens, to liaise with Mr Hook on this. Mr Hook to monitor.

DH

Ordinance Survey Licence

Mr Hook clarified the position about whether a map produced by the parish council that is based on an OS map can be published by other parties. This is possible as long as the third party is promoting the same objectives as the parish council.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that councillors were content for 3rd parties to use any such maps so long as they were used in a way that was in line with parish council values and strategy.

Willow Drive

The parish council had already pushed for the developers to comply with the biodiversity plan contained in the planning application. The latest communication with SNC planning enforcement had not resulted in a satisfactory response.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Mr Hook and the Clerk write back to SNC enforcement to ask if it is correct procedure SNC officers to set aside commitments made by the developer to be substantially reduced when these commitments were an integral part of the planning application approval.

DH/IN

Items for next newsletter

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

- VOIP
- New Defibrillator

IN

Items for next main meeting

No new items were identified.

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:

20 January 2026 at 7.00pm in The Mill – main meeting

17 February 2026 at 7.00pm in The Mill – planning meeting

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:41.

Signed _____ Date 20/01/2026