

# HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 7:00 in The Mill

### Present

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

### Members of the public present

Mr David Dye.

### Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Alison Thomas, District Councillor Micheal Hooton and Mr Robert Elliott.

### Declaration of interests

Mr Hook declared a non-financial interest in the East Pye Solar Project and the GNLP matter as he is a trustee of CPRE Norfolk.

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 20 January 2026 be approved.

### Public Participation

See Poultry Farm matter.

### County Councillor Update

Mrs Thomas sent a report via the Clerk as follows:  
*"The May 26 elections are going ahead. "*

### District Councillor Update

Mr Hooton had not sent a report.

### Planning Applications

#### **New applications since the last meeting:**

2026/0234 - Mr & Mrs M Oakley, 8 Broadway Close Hempnall - Dormer extension to front of dwelling to accommodate additional bedroom space – Mr Workman proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

#### **Applications approved since the last meeting:**

2025/3524 - Mr Shingleton, 11 Willow Drive Hempnall - Retrospective change of use of redundant land to residential garden land.

2025/1845 - Berries Direct Farming Ltd, Spring Farm, Spring Lane, Hempnall - Details of conditions 13 & 14 of 2022/1803 - external lighting and proposed lighting. It was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook and the Clerk review this delegated decision to see if it is in line with the decision notice and determine if it complies with the NPPF. And the verbal commitments made by Berries Direct Farming Ltd in regard to lighting at the development management committee meeting at which approval for the development was given.

DH/IN

#### **Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:**

There were none.

#### **Applications refused 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.

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## **Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting**

There were none.

## **East Pye Solar**

### ***BEPS Update***

Mr Bates had contacted other parish councils in his capacity as a Hempnall Parish Councillor highlighting the urgency and requesting further support. BEPS has now engaged a barrister to represent them as and when required. The land parcels are currently being reviewed by volunteers.

### ***Liaison with Classic Landscape Architecture***

Mr Hook had liaised Lisa Finch of Classic Landscape Architecture who had been engaged by Shotesham PC. They had also discussed helpful tactics.

### ***District & County Councillor support re inadequacy of EPS Consultation***

The Clerk and Mr Hook had written to Mrs Thomas and Mr Hooton strongly expressing the need for NCC & SNC to ensure they highlight the inadequacy of EPS Consultation and asked for details of the procedure and timetable they need to comply with in order to object. Mr Hooton responded on the 8 February to say that the NSIP officer was still working on the SNC response for the deadline of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 to submit their response via PINS. It was noted that as yet there has been no response from Stephen Faulkner at NCC despite Mrs Thomas' request to him of 2 February.

Mr Hook proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk should send a follow up email to SNC and NCC tomorrow to ask if they were going to submit a paper re the inadequacy of the consultations.

IN

### ***East Pye Solar - General update***

Mr Hook reported that he attended a seminar given by barristers at Landmark Chambers with regard to changes to the NPPF and the grid queue connection regime.

## **Review of the Greater Norwich Local Plan - Call for Sites**

The Greater Norwich authorities (Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council, working with Norfolk County Council) are preparing to review the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) which was adopted in March 2024.

This review is prompted by national planning reform and the government's new method for calculating housing need. In addition, the government has introduced a new plan-making system, which changes the way local plans are prepared.

Mr Hook outlined the timetable for the review and warned that the current housing target of 45,000 could increase as high as 68,000 because the annual delivery requirement has increased and the timeframe for the plan will be extended by 8 years. The current target would have caused a great loss of countryside, and the new target will cause even more devastation.

Mr Hook proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook and the Clerk write to the GNLP team and NCC to say how very disappointed the council is at the new targets and ask that the protections for countryside areas in the existing plan are carried over into the new plan and request that they pause the process as it makes no sense to produce a plan for councils which may no longer exist after devolution

DH/IN

## **Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed**

### **The Field Battery energy storage system (“BESS”)**

The Clerk and Mr Hook had responded to state that the parish council's objection to the application and to point out that there was no need for BESS as the government has already said that Norfolk has reached its quota.

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## Consultation on the new National Planning Policy Framework

Mr Hook will send a response in line with existing parish council policies and views.

DH

## Willow Drive and planning application 2025/3524

The Clerk and Mr Hook had responded to SNC's last email and to ask whose responsibility it is to ensure planning conditions are fulfilled. They responded as follows: *"Regarding Willow Drive there is a residents management company that is in charge of the maintenance of the planting. I will take a look at the southern boundary and request additional planting be carried where plants have failed. I have a meeting with my line manager next week to discuss your email of 7<sup>th</sup> January in response to my email of 24 November 2025 advising no further action can be taken regrading additional planting mentioned in the Biodiversity Method Statement. I will update you following my visit and meeting"*.

The Clerk to monitor for a response post Mr Baines' meeting.

IN

## Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

### Correspondence from Parishioners

#### Footpath PF9 - upgrade request

Mr Bates reported that a number of people have mentioned that FP9 between Mill Road & The Street is very slippery due to the volume of rain recently and asked if the council consider putting hardcore down the length of the footpath to the river bridge.

It was noted that any changes would need the permission of the landowner.

Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Delf will explore the issue further with Mr Allen and Mr Bates will obtain a quote for consideration in more detail by councillors. It was stated that it would not be a tarmac surface.

RD/PB

#### Poultry Farm - Road Green Hempnall

Applications 2021/0515 & 2024/3704 & 2024/3752 - Mr Sam Drummond, Poultry Farm, Road Green Hempnall - Demolition of 8 No. existing poultry sheds and erection of 6 No. replacement poultry sheds, together with control rooms, feed bins, concrete apron, dirty water tanks and drainage attenuation pond.

Mr Dye explained all the serious troubles he and his neighbours were experiencing as a result of the development.

Messrs Delf and Workman had carried out a site visit of the road today and reported that the public road was now in a very poor condition and has collapsed in several places due to the lorries using the road for construction of the poultry farm. Mr Dye was very concerned about the road from the junction at John Ellis's farm to the site as it is collapsing into the culvert due to the huge, loaded lorries taking concrete etc to the site and needs urgent attention before someone slips into the culvert.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Delf will liaise with Mr Dye about a personal impact statement to be used by the Clerk and Mr Hook who will write to the following:

RD

- NCC Highways re the road condition and the damaged being caused by the site.
- SNC enforcement re enforcement of conditions attaching to the development.
- Environmental Health at SNC re the impact of construction lighting, noise and fire risks.
- Developers/Owner re all of the above.

DH/IN

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## **European Trade Centre, Hempnall Road, Morningthorpe**

The SNC enforcement officer had reported that he had met with the agent for the European Trade Centre and had been in regular contact with a view to getting all outstanding matter regularised on the site. He understood the agent is meeting his client this week to go through these. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

## **Lighting at Jack in the Box Nursery**

The SNC enforcement officer had reported that a planning application had been submitted regarding the lighting. It was agreed that Mr Hook and the Clerk investigate the application to assess if it complies with the decision notice that granted planning permission in which it was stated there would be no permanent lighting (i.e. dusk to dawn).

DH/IN

## **Performance of SNC enforcement**

Following a long history of inadequate enforcement actions by SNC it was agreed to monitor more closely their performance.

ALL

## **Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Norwich to Tilbury Project- Interested Party Reference number: FA3B5A733**

Mr Hook and the Clerk to respond to the examination by re reproducing the parish council's views as submitted earlier in the process.

DH/IN

## **Goalpost for informal use**

Messrs Hook, Delf and Workman had met on site with Mr Shurmer and agreed the position for the goal post. The cost is c£700+vat for a professional, aluminium maintenance free goal post. Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that it should be purchased and Mr Delf kindly agreed to fit.

RD/IN

## **Classification of the B1527**

A member of the public had requested that the B1527 be downgraded to a C road as had previously happened on the section west of the A140.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to NCC and ask for the B1527 be downgraded to a C road and to respond to the member of the public. The Clerk will also point out that the parish council has campaigned over many years over the declassification of the B1527.

IN

## **Items for next newsletter**

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

- No increase in the Precept
- Himalayan Balsam
- EPS update

IN

## **Items for next main meeting**

- Parish meeting - IN
- Parking on playingfield - PW

IN

## **Date of next meeting**

The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:

17 March at 7:00pm in The Mill - Parish meeting

17 March at 7:45pm in The Mill - main meeting

21 April 2026 at 7.00pm in The Mill – planning meeting

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:09

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 17/03/2026

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Noise and 7am to 7 pm for months. Flood lights and work carried on at night.

Residents not heard when work is to be carried out at night keeping residents awake who have jobs to do the next day some operating machinery.

Eroding verges

Business under pressure – deliveries not able to come in other end due to height restricted by cables

No fires on site per planning but all was burnt one night last August breach of planning

Andy Baines – contacted owners – they are entitled to do what they are doing.

Tried to contact safety officer no response.

Noise and flooding lighting

Other farm and business lorries and the bus need to use that road.

Unlawful if lorries are using a non-lorry route

Conditions re when works done

200,000 birds every month 44t lorries

Hi David, Jimmy Dye called in to see me on Wednesday and asked if the Parish Council could help in any way regarding the construction work on the new chicken hut site behind his house, they are working through the night making lots of noise and have many flood lights illuminating the sky which is keeping his household awake during the night, also he is very concerned about the road from the junction at John Ellis's farm to the site as it is collapsing more and more into the culvert due to the huge loaded lorries taking concrete etc to the site and needs urgent attention before someone slips into the culvert, I have sent Ian a copy of this letter, Thanks, Richard.

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