

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 7:00 in The Mill

Present

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

Members of the public present

Mr M Ayton.

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Karl Catchpole, District Councillor Martyn Hooton, Mr Peter Workman

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 J Cann proposed, Mr R Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed, by those present at the last meeting, the minutes of the meeting on 19 May 2026 be approved.

Public Participation

See planning matter re 2026/0880/1 below.

County Councillor Update

Mr Catchpole reported as follows:

"I wish to lodge my apologies for not making the Parish Council meeting (16th June) but I'm attending a meeting in Watton of Norfolk County Councillors. The emphasis of this meeting is Solar and all that goes with it. We have invited guests from BEPS along to speak. Another issue, that now has surpassed, was the recent road closures for 4 evenings of the B1527 and the initial time discrepancy. I hope this didn't upset and inconvenience too many people and the advertised times of closure were corrected (7pm not 5pm).

And finally, the public right of way issue (Nobbs Lane) is moving forward with a hopefully positive outcome.

Let me know if there's anything I can help with."

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District Councillor Update

Mr Hooton sent a report via the Clerk as follows:

There is a proposal for another solar farm in our local area (approx. 200acres). See map below. This is not an NSIP but will be decided by SNC.



Mr Bates proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to SNC to ask them not to approve any more solar developments in the area and on reflection consider the damage that has been created by the construction of the Bloys Grove site which they previously approved.

IN

Co-option of parish councillor

Mr Turner proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook will liaise with the candidate prior to the next meeting.

DH

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2026/0880/1 - Mr Michael Ayton, Villa Farm, Alburgh Road Hempnall - Part retrospective: Replacement of Softwood casement windows at the front of the property with like-for-like uPVC sash wood-effect windows. Ground floor windows have been replaced, first floor windows to be replaced.

Mr Turner proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

2026/1604 - Mr T Green, Torbay House, Broaden Lane Hempnall - Proposed garage conversion – Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

There were none.

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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

East Pye Legal Challenge

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written letters to County and District Councillors to ask for an update on progress. There had not been any conclusive responses as yet.

Support for extending the application review period

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written to the Planning Inspectorate to ask for at least a period of 4 to 5 months for consultees to consider and prepare written representations. Hempnall's letter was also sent to all other interested parties by The Clerk to ask them to support the request.

Mock-up Panel

The panel had been sited near the Krons.

Potential Compulsory Purchase Notices re East Pye Solar

The Clerk wrote to EPS and the Planning Inspectorate (cc County Councillor District Councillor, Member of Parliament) to highlight:

- the inappropriate location of the notices – at a considerable distance from the properties/land to which they apply
- the fact the individual property notices are grouped together on one post resulting in it being difficult to clearly see them
- some owners have not had any direct communication from EPS about the notices
- some of the maps were not adequate to identify the land concerned

The planning inspector had responded that they would contact EPS about this.

The Clerk had commenced the log on infringements of procedure by EPS.

Landscape planning consultant

Mr Blackledge of Landscape 2B Consultancy is with Mr Hook later this week for site meetings.

DH

The Public Hearing

The public hearing could be as soon as 29/07/26 at a venue to be confirmed. The examination period will commence from the date of the public hearing.

The timetable – Rule 6 letter (yet to be issued) will consist of deadlines for:

- The submission of written representations
- And two further deadline which will enable interested parties to give comments on the written representations submitted by others.

All people / organisations who registered as interested parties should receive a Rule 6 letter.

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Factual errors / inconsistencies in EPS documents, maps and photographs

The documents, maps and photographs submitted by EPS in its application contain numerous errors and misrepresentations.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that we contact parish councils in the scheme area to request that they examine documents, maps and photographs and note errors inconsistencies and misrepresentations in their areas. Mr Bates will take the idea to BEPS later this week.

IN
PB

Correspondence

Correspondence from Parishioners

NCC response to resident re repairs to damaged caused by lorries using Field Lane

NCC Highways has verbally agreed to replace the two 30mph signs and fit a tall kerb on one side of the junction of field Lane and the lode provided there is a £5000 contribution from local residents. Mr Bates proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to NCC to state that the request for funds from residents was totally unacceptable given that highway repairs are the full responsibility of NCC Highways who are funded already by council tax paid by residents. The Clerk to also respond to the resident.

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Stones from driveways on Pavements

A parishioner had written to ask if the parish council could help to ensure any stones from driveways are swept off pavements, as her husband had fallen and hurt himself as a result of stones on the pavement.

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk place an article in the next newsletter and respond to the resident accordingly.

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GNLP 2045 Call for Sites Re-opening 15th June - 13th July

Sites are being sought for another c25,000 houses under the governments housing policy. The Clerk to chase for a response from SNC / NCC to our letter of 1 June asking SNC/NCC to withdraw from the process at least until after local government reorganisation.

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Dog Bin – Old Market Way

Mr Bates reported a resident's suggestion that a dog bin be placed on the grass at the end of the walkway from Roberts Close to The Street, however it was felt that there were sufficient bins already in the locale. Mr Bates to report back to the resident.

PB

Defibrillator site for Old Market Way area

It could be placed near the electricity sub-station on the cut-through walkway from Roberts Close to The Street. The Clerk to write to EDF Networks to ask if they would supply an electrical connection.

IN

Items for next newsletter

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

- Loose stones on pavements
- Keep hedges cut so not to encroach on pavements
- EPS update

IN

Items for next main meeting

- Clerk's salary review

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:

21 July 2026 at 7:00pm in The Mill - main meeting

18 August 2026 at 7.00pm in The Mill – planning meeting

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There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:11

Signed _____ Date 21/07/2026