

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 24 September 2026 at 7:00 in The Mill

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Mr Phil Bates, Mr Ken O'Leary, Mr Hamish Rose, Mr Mike Turner and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

County Councillor Karl Catchpole, Mr Andrew March.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Joan Cann.

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 Rose proposed, Mr O'Leary seconded, and it was unanimously agreed by those who were present at the last meeting the minutes of the meeting on 11 August 2026 be approved.

Public Participation

Morningthorpe Recycling Centre

Mr March has been made aware very recently that it will close on 31/10/26 and asked how residents will find out. Mr Hook explained that this is a Norfolk County Council responsibility however the parish council will put a notice in the parish magazine, on Facebook and the parish council noticeboard. The Clerk to Action. County Councillor Catchpole took details to follow up. It was noted that the nearest recycling centres in future would be Berghampton and Norwich South with the intention of a new centre opening at the Pulham Roundabout off the A140.

IN

County Councillor Update

Mr Catchpole did not have a specific report, however he contributed to other items on the agenda.

District Councillor Update

Mr Hooton had not sent a report. As Mr Hooton had not attended any parish council meetings for some time, the Clerk was asked to invite him to attend the next meeting so he can be fully involved in the important matters affecting the village.

IN

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2026/2340 - Charlie Ash, 6 Old Market Way Hempnall - Loft Conversion with front dormer – Mr Turner proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2026/2068 - Jack In The Box Nursery, Jack In The Box Nursery Hempnall Road Morningthorpe - Retrospective planning application for the installation of external lighting.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk and Mr Hook look at the conditions applied by SNC and if not suitable write to express our views.

DH/IN

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

There were none.

Chairman's initials -----

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Applications refused since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting

There were none.

East Pye Solar

Preliminary hearing and issue specific meeting

Mr Hook and the Clerk had registered to attend and speak at the hearing. Mr Hook reported he had spent 3 days at the hearings last week and gave a general report of proceedings. Mr Hook had been successful in obtaining agreement for an extension for the parish council to submit its supporting information in regard to its written representation. This supporting information can now be submitted by deadline 2.

It was noted that EPS had limited their assessments of various matters to a limited number of receptors and although they may have used correct methodology in analysing the data, if they had used a larger number of receptors they would most likely have been led to different conclusions. Mr Hook will provide proof of this as part of the parish council written representation.

DH

The Inspector had asked the parish council to supply the following:

- Name the 23 villages affected by the EPS proposals.
- Supply minutes of public meetings held to discuss the EPS proposals.

Mr Hook and the Clerk will supply the above to the inspector.

DH/IN

List of site visits

Mr Hook & the Clerk had submitted a list of site visit suggestions for the inspectors. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to the inspector to ask if a member of the parish council can accompany them when they are in Hempnall.

DH/IN

Mr Turner will also chase up the inspector re great-crested newts being present in his pond.

MT

The Inspector had also requested that the parish council provides details of the difference in the assessments of visual effects between the Environmental Statement and the Parish Council where the parish council viewpoints coincide with EPS viewpoints.

DH

Deadlines

The deadlines for the inspector's examination have now been set as follows:

- Deadline 1 – 06/10/26
- Deadline 2 – 27/10/26
- Site inspections – 16/11/26
- Deadline 3 – 24/11/26
- Deadline 4 – 06/01/27
- Deadline 5 – 02/02/27
- Deadline 6 – 16/02/27
- Close of examination – 23/02/27

Details can be found here: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN0110014-000642>

Landscape planning consultant

Mr Hook reported that the site and cumulative impact maps have been revised by him and Mr Walker and Mr Blackledge of Landscape 2B Consultancy is assembling the appendices which will include the map.

DH

Chairman's initials -----

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Mr Hook and Mr Walker are also preparing maps showing the impact on 14 narrative walks affected by EPS in the area.

DH

BEPS update

Mr Bates provided an update of BEPS activity.

The BEPS written representation to the Inspectorate had been circulated to parish councillors. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk include a paragraph in the parish council's written representation that it fully supports the BEPS case.

DH

Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045 Scoping Consultation

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Hook and the Clerk re-state our policy positions and submit those.

DH/IN

South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan – Consultation on Main Modifications

The consultation ends on 26 October 2026, however no comment is required as the modifications do not affect Hempnall.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

Rubbish in ditches on Spring Lane

The Clerk had spoken to Sean Charlton of Berries Direct who offered to ask his employees to clear up the rubbish even though it may not have been them who put it there.

Co-option of parish councillor

The Clerk had informed SNC of the co-option of Mr O'Leary and provided him with the new councillor starter pack and updated the parish council website.

Defibrillator for the Old Market Way area

The Clerk had contacted UK Power Networks to inform them we would not be taking things further.

Erection of new goal post

Mr Delf informed the meeting that the new goal post had been erected after the Clerk had approved a lower quote from a contractor.

Bins on Village Hall Car Park

Mr Workman had responded to Mr Cracknell and asked him to report quickly to Mr Ashcroft any future violations so Mr Ashcroft can look at CCTV to determine who is mis-using the bins.

Bird fouling in play area

Mr Workman had cleaned the equipment, and the Clerk had responded to the parishioner.

Hempnall Tea Room

The Clerk had responded to the parishioner and invited them to attend parish council meetings if they had further issues.

Speeding in village

The Clerk had responded explaining all the parish council had done in relation to speed control.

Nature Conservation Fund grant launch

The Clerk had passed on the information to the chair of the Church & Town Estate Property Charity who was taking the matter forward.

Chairman's initials -----

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Response from the Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP re local government reorganisation

Mr Hook and The Clerk had written back on this matter. Contrary to the content of Mr Reeds' letters the Government has now scraped plans for local government reorganisation (as recommended by the parish council).

Road Traffic Accident on Field Lane - Friday 26th June 2026

The Clerk had made County Councillor Catchpole aware of this when writing to him about road safety measures in general.

Dates for next year's meetings

The Clerk had booked the Mill Centre and updated the website diary.

Thank you letter to Football Club organiser

The Clerk had written a thank you letter to Mr Shurmer.

Thank you letter to retired Speedwatch co-ordinator

The Clerk had written a thank you letter.

CCTV of public places

The Clerk to respond to the complainant.

Autumn Newsletter

The Clerk had written and published the newsletter.

Hedge cutting back – Fairsted Lane / Broaden Lane

Mr Bates had reported this to NCC Highways.

Ditch Clearance off Mill Rd

Mr Bates had supplied the Clerk with details and reported back to the resident. The Clerk had written to AWA to ask them to rectify the silting to the extent it was caused by the burst main.

Road signage around primary school

The Clerk had responded to the parishioner. The Clerk had written to the school to ask if it was their hedge and if so, could they cut it so the signs were not obscured. In addition, the Clerk had reported it to NCC Highways for the rangers to cut / clean the signs and ask them to refresh the paint on the "slow" and "keep clear" signs on the road surface.

Rental of football pitches

Messrs Delf and Workman had agreed the rent with Tasburgh FC for the 2026/27 season.

The Clerk had responded to Stoke United FC and Mulbarton FC and sent written agreement of terms to Tasburgh FC.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Flood Management – contact with Mornighthorpe & Fritton PC

Mr Bates will continue to pursue this.

PB

Play area shelter

In the absence of Mr Delf this matter was carried forward.

RD

Road Safety

Mr Hook and the Clerk met with County Councillor Catchpole for a tour of the village re road safety issues followed this up with an email and map highlighting the priorities for road safety throughout the village. Mr Catchpole reported that he had met on site with NCC Highways on 18/08 and awaits a response, so Mr Catchpole will follow up. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

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Charity fundraisers outside Morrisons

The Clerk had responded to parishioners and written to Morrisons to make them aware of this and the possible impact on their business and asked if there is anything they can do about it, however he had had the courtesy of a reply.

Speedwatch coordinator

The Clerk had put a plea in the parish magazine for a replacement co-ordinator and volunteers, as yet no response, however the magazine had only just been published.

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
Woodton - Emergency Notice Road Closure of Hempnall Road to facilitate burst water main repair works (Anglian Water) (My Ref: 0017-6938-3019-1483)
Letter to PCs from NCC Deputy Leader
Topcroft - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of Barford Road to facilitate new fibre network installation works (CityFibre) (My Ref: STRO14851)
Woodton and Topcroft - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of Hempnall Road to facilitate carriageway patching works (NCC) (My Ref: STRO14829)
Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Plc for an order granting development consent for the Norwich to Tilbury project – update
Various emails re football pitch
Topcroft - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of Rectory Road to facilitate fibre network installation works (CityFibre) (Ref: STRO14752)
Parish Partnership Bid Letter
Ordinary Watercourse Consent FWC/26/9803 Hempnall Beck, Steppings Lane, Morningthorpe
Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045 Scoping Consultation
Revised launch date for Phase 2 food waste collections
Topcroft - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of Church Road to facilitate new fibre network installation works (CityFibre) (Ref: STRO14749)
Stoke Holy Cross - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of Norwich Road to facilitate pole testing works (Openreach) (Ref: 1404-9284-7895-2131)
Norfolk solar summit 4th September 2026 1.30pm
Hempnall - Notice of Planned Temporary Road Closure at Road Green (known locally as Silver Green Road) to Facilitate Guardrail Repair Works (Works Promoter is Norfolk County Council) My Ref: STRO14925
Hempnall - Upcoming Temporary Road Closure of Bungay Road to facilitate remedial works (Gigaclear Ltd) (Ref: 9847-6490-9452-0490)
Norwich Western Link project update
Topcroft - Notice of Planned Temporary Road Closure at Low Road to Facilitate Water Meter Exchange Works (Works Promoter is Anglian Water) My Ref: 8385-6697-9626-7372
Topcroft - Notice of Planned Temporary Road Closure at Topcroft Street and Denton Road to Facilitate Fibre Network Installation Works (Works Promoter is CityFibre) My Ref: 7933-0208-1805-9217
Upcoming temporary restrictions to facilitate installation and replacement of reflective road studs works in the south area (STRO14907)

No further matters were raised from the above.

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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

School Road Crossing

A parishioner had requested improved safety features for the road crossing outside the school. It was agreed that Mr Catchpole would make enquiries with NCC re the possibility of reinstating a lollipop person and inform the Clerk of the outcome. The Clerk to respond to the resident.

IN
IN

Zip wire

It was noted that the Zip Wire had broken due to rust weakening the steel wire. The Clerk is investigating repair via Mr Delf and in the meantime has barrier taped off the area.

IN/RD

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 17 July 2026 to 24 September 2026. The statement was not materially out of line with the annual budget. Mr Bates proposed, Mr O'Leary seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the statement be accepted.

Parish Partnership Bid 2027/28

The deadline for applications is 01/12/26. It was agreed that Mr Catchpole would seek NCC feedback for suitable road safety projects as part of his chase up of action following his meeting with Highways in August. He will liaise with the Clerk.

IN

Items for next newsletter

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

- Recycling Centre
- SAM3
- School crossing refurb

IN

Items for next main meeting

- D Cracknell
- Village Hall AGM
- Gravestone wobble test

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:

20 October 2026 at 7.00pm in The Mill – planning meeting

17 November 2026 at 7:00pm in The Mill - main meeting

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:00

Signed _____ Date 20/10/2026

Chairman's initials -----

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Transactions to 16/07/2026

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
21/07/2026	PKF external audit	(378.00)
21/07/2026	D Whiting – Spray tennis path	(75.00)
23/07/2026	Tops Garden Sve - Churchyard grass	(480.00)
29/07/2026	Forest & Stone - Goal post erecting	(420.00)
29/07/2026	Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
31/07/2026	Ian Nelson Salary	(525.00)
31/07/2026	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/07/2026	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/08/2026	VFM - payroll and accounting	(21.50)
04/08/2026	Tr BPA to c/a	5,000.00
04/08/2026	2b Landscape - re solar	(4,962.72)
21/08/2026	Npower	(26.61)
16/08/2026	Tops Garden Sve - Churchyard grass	(120.00)
31/08/2026	Ian Nelson Salary	(525.00)
31/08/2026	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
23/07/2026	HMRC paye	(39.00)
27/07/2026	ICO subs	(47.00)
03/08/2026	Barclays charges	(8.50)
05/08/2026	NSIB Interest	245.45
31/08/2026	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/09/2026	VFM - payroll and accounting	(21.50)
07/09/2026	Barclays charges	(8.50)
07/09/2026	NSIB Interest	257.61
19/09/2026	Npower	(30.37)
21/09/2026	Ink Cartridges x 4	(119.98)
21/09/2026	Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
22/09/2026	Excite Solutions - Grass cutting	(571.20)
		<u>(944.82)</u>
Closing Balance Current A/c		<u>1,094.71</u>

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
29/07/2026	Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
04/08/2026	Tr BPA to c/a	(5,000.00)
07/09/2026	Barclays Interest	21.62
21/09/2026	Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
		<u>(6,978.38)</u>
Closing Balance BPA		<u>5,928.03</u>

Investments

Chairman's initials -----

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NSIB	
Instant	85,000.00
Hinckley Instant	10,000.00
Hinckley 45 day	20,000.00
Hinckley 90 day	<u>40,000.00</u>
	<u>155,000.00</u>
 Total funds	 <u><u>162,022.74</u></u>

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Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting others

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

Performance of SNC enforcement

Following a long history of inadequate enforcement actions by SNC it was agreed on 17/02/2026 to monitor more closely their performance.

ALL

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting NCC

Footpath 12 finger post

The Clerk had asked NCC to erect a figure post at the junction of footpath 12 where it turns into a bridleway with one figure pointing to the footpath and another the bridleway. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Speed reduction – Alburgh Rd repeater signs

The Clerk had contacted NCC Highways to request that there be more 40mph repeater signs and that they be the larger size type. NCC responded on 17/02/26 stating *“I would suggest that there could be scope to install more repeater signs, but this would have to be funded by the Local Member, and their LMF budget “* Now the elections have taken place this matter will be considered at the next parish council meeting.

IN

Nobbs Lane Spur

Following intervention from District Councillor Catchpole, NCC confirmed that on 9/6/26 they sent consultations out to user groups and interested parties, this period will last for 6 weeks. All responses will be fed into the report that will be written outlining NCC's decision. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting SNC

Millfields Exception Site

We await the outcome of the survey. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

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. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Berries Direct Farming Ltd, Spring Farm, Spring Lane, Hempnall - Details of conditions 13 & 14 of 2022/1803 - external lighting and proposed lighting

Mr Hook and the Clerk had reviewed this delegated decision to see if it is in line with our recommends and determine if it complies with the NPPF and wrote to SNC pointing out where it varied therefrom. The Clerk to monitor a response.

IN

Willow Drive planting

Mr Baines had not reported back following his meeting with his manager, the Clerk to chase.

IN

Tree Preservation Order

The Clerk had contacted SNC re Home Farm. SNC had visited the site and intended to serve an Area Order across the whole site for now. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Chairman's initials -----