HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2026 at 7:00 in The Mill

Present
Chairman Mr David Hook, Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Richard Delf, Mr Ken O'Leary, Mr Mike Turner, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present
County Councillor Karl Catchpole and District Councillor Martyn Hooton.

Apologies
Apologies were received from Mr Phil Bates 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 Delf declared an interest in planning application 2026/3055 due to being a neighbour of the property.

Minutes of the previous meeting
Mr Turner proposed, Mr O'Leary seconded, and it was unanimously agreed by those who were present at the last meeting, that the minutes of the meeting on 24 September 2026 be approved.

Public Participation
There was none beyond the county and district council updates.

County Councillor Update
Mr Catchpole reported that he is happy to help with road safety and water drainage issues.

Rolls Royce Small Modular Reactors (SMR) are being considered as an alternative to solar on farmland by Mr Catchpole and a working group at NCC.

He reported that NCC are still considering the possibility of calling for a judicial review if the Planning Inspectorate recommends approval of the EPS application.

There will be a wet paint amnesty at Norwich North Recycling Centre on 27 and 28 November.

District Councillor Update
Mr Hooton reported the government is removing the right of district councillors to call in a planning application for committee decision. Therefore, in future the majority of application decisions would be made by planning officers. Only large developments (e.g. c100+ homes) would be able to be called in by district or county councillors. This is a large erosion of democratic power which the parish council has made good use of in the past.

From 9 November food waste collection will commence in Hempnall.

Planning Applications
New applications since the last meeting:
2026/2969 - Hill House Mill Road Hempnall - Section 106 Agreement re Upgrade of septic tank with package treatment plant – Already agreed by SNC, see below.

2026/2860 - Mr Fraser Hall, The Hollies, The Street Hempnall - Proposed Alterations and associated works including the replacement of the boiler, hot water tank and header tank to

be replaced by new pressurised hot water system. Demolition of modern stud walls across all floors including the ground floor hallway and office and stud walls to be demolished within the second floor. Replacement of 2no. Velux rooflights with conservation roof lights with central bar. Significant replacement of plaster ceiling within the drawing room due to water ingress. Proposal of new WC and demolition of current WC utilities room on ground floor. – Mr Turner proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved. IN

2026/3055 - Land East Of Field Lane Hempnall Norfolk - Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and discharge of condition 4 ,6 ,7, 8, 12,15, 16and 18 of original planning application 2020/2396 dated 07/07/2026 Updates to the design of both plots and the supply of information to address conditions – Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed with one abstention that the application be refused as the proposed variations are so significant that the applicant should put in a new full application for consideration. IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:
Appeal Ref: 6004780 Land at Pear Tree Farm, Alburgh Road, Hempnall, Norfolk NR15 2NS - The appeal is allowed and permission in principle is granted for erection of a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 1 detached self-build dwelling and ancillary storage outbuilding at Land at Pear Tree Farm, Alburgh Road, Hempnall, Norfolk NR15 2NS in accordance with the terms of the application, ref 2025/1962.

2026/2340 - Charlie Ash, 6 Old Market Way Hempnall - Loft Conversion with front dormer

2026/2969 - Hill House Mill Road Hempnall - Section 106 Agreement re Upgrade of septic tank with package treatment plant.

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:
There were none.

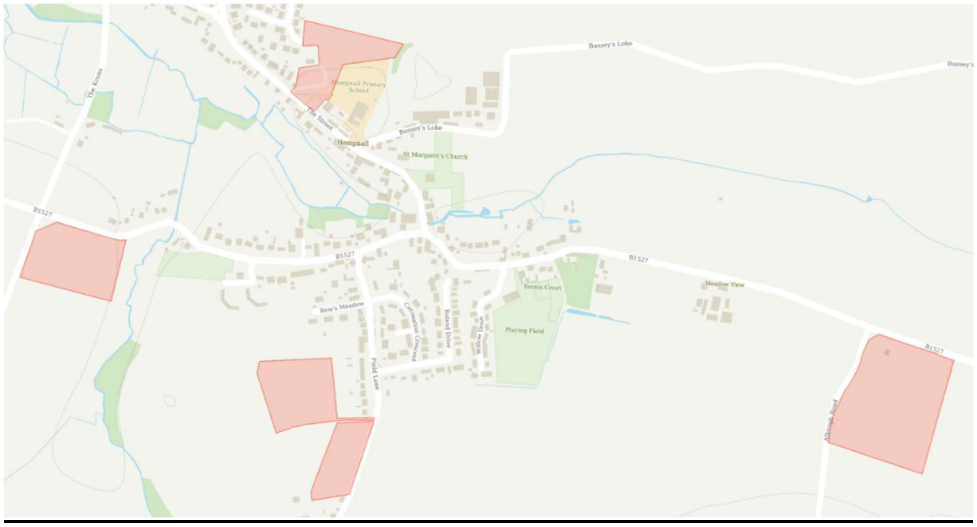
Applications refused since the last meeting:
There were none.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting
2026/2942 - The European Trade Centre Hempnall Road Morningthorpe – Non-material amendment of 2024/3704 - minor revisions to the landscaping arrangement shown on approved drawing ETC-HR-N-SCP01 Rev J. The revised scheme would omit planting from Areas A and B, where existing hardstanding makes new planting impractical, and redistribute and increase planting within other areas already identified for landscaping under the approved scheme. The approved planting species and overall landscaping strategy would otherwise be retained, with no changes to the approved use, parking layout, access arrangements, buildings or operational development. – SNC officers have already approved this.

2026/2952 - European Trade Centre, Unit 2 European Trade Centre Hempnall Road Morningthorpe - Retention of lean-to structure for storage and ancillary use in connection with Wheels 4 Less at The European Trade Centre – Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be refused and recommend that SNC no longer grant retrospective permissions as this applicant has submitted far too many such applications and amendments to applications, the sum total of which have led to significant damage to this rural valley environment. The Clerk to attach the drone video to demonstrate this. IN

Chairman's initials ----------

Revised GNLP
The map following the latest call for sites for the GNLP has been published. This will be put to public consultation in due course. A copy of the map for Hempnall is below showing the proposed sites for development in pink:



It does not necessarily follow that these sites will be included in the revised local plan housing allocations. Hempnall Parish Council has always opposed large scale housing estate development in the village.

East Pye Solar

Preliminary hearing and issue specific meeting
Mr Hook reported that the parish council's 66 page written representation and supporting evidence had been submitted, together with information requested by the Inspector at the Preliminary hearing. Support had also been given for the BEPS written representation.

Site visits
The Clerk had written to the inspector to ask if a member of the parish council can accompany them when they are in Hempnall. The response said that this was not possible. We have however recommended the Inspector visits 4 particular locations.

Mr Turner had chased up the inspector re great-crested newts being present in his pond and the Inspector's visit. The correspondence is to be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate. DH/IN
Mr Turner to supply to the Clerk. MT

Deadline 2 submission
Mr Hook reported that all of the additional supporting information will be submitted to the Inspectorate by deadline 2 (27/10/26). DH/IN

Meeting with Mr Goldsborough MP
Mr Delf proposed, Mr O'Leary seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk and Mr Hook attend a constituency meeting with Mr Goldsborough to discuss EPS and consider further the possibility of lobbying the minister at the appropriate time. DH/IN

BEPS update
In the absence of Mr Bates, Mr Hook reported that BEPS had submitted their written representation.

Joint County & District Council approach
Mr Hook asked NCC and SNC to work together against the EPS scheme.

Chairman's initials ----------

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Flood Management – contact with Mornigthorpe & Fritton PC
In the absence of Mr Bates this matter was carried forward. PB

Play area shelter
Mr Delf asked this matter to be carried forward until spring. RD/IN

School Road Crossing
Mr Catchpole had made enquiries with NCC re the possibility of reinstating a lollipop person and informed the Clerk that NCC were prepared to consider unmanned school crossing options, however they would need to carry out surveys beforehand to ensure the area qualified. Also see below re road safety.

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 as money is limited it would be helpful if the parish council provided a prioritised list of action it would like to take place. Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk inform NCC that the speed reduction humps / road priority measures proposed on the B1527 around the Mill, the doctors and the bridge be given priority. IN

Parish Partnership Bid 2027/28
The deadline for applications is 01/12/26. This will be reconsidered following NCC feedback on the road safety matter above. IN

Zip wire
The Clerk is investigating repair, but suppliers are not responding to calls for the work. The Clerk will continue to chase. IN

Correspondence

Correspondence from Parishioners

Car Parking at Village Hall
It had been pointed out that there was still an issue with people parking on the grass/football pitch. Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mrs Cann refer the matter to the Village Hall Committee with a view to stopping people using the field as a car park except by exception for large events and even then, the village hall would need to ensure such parking was supervised. JC

Speeding motorists in Topcroft
Mr O'Leary said that a resident of Topcroft would like to know what course he could take to improve safety in those areas. Mr O'Leary to get back to him to suggest that he approaches Topcroft Parish Council for support which in turn can direct its request to NCC Highways. In addition, Hempnall parish council would be happy to consider supporting road safety measures. KO

Overgrown hedgerow along the footpath off Robert's Close to The Street
A parishioner had complained about the overgrown hedgerow along the footpath off Robert's Close to The Street. Mr Workman proposed, Mr O'Leary seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to the householders concerned via Mr Workman who would personally deliver the letters and talk to the residents. IN/PW

Chairman's initials ----------

Tree Preservation Order SN0834 – Home Farm Bungay Road
In response to the consultation document received from SNC, Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk respond to object to the blanket protection order but support protection for specific trees. The Clerk to request a site meeting between SNC, the parish council and landowners to see which trees should be protected. IN

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting
The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 25 September to 15 October 2026. The statement was not materially out of line with the annual budget. Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the statement be accepted.

Quarterly Budget Report
The Clerk presented the quarterly budget report showing the movements for the quarter ended 30 September 2026. Mrs Cann proposed, Mr O'Leary seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the statement be approved.

Items for next newsletter
The Clerk to draft and publish, when appropriate, articles on the following:

- Recycling Centre
- SAM3 IN

Items for next main meeting

- Statement Regular Payments IN

Date of next meeting
The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:
17 November 2027 at 7:00pm in The Mill - main meeting
15 December 2026 at 7.00pm in The Mill – planning meeting IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:15

Signed _____Date 17/11/2026

Chairman's initials ----------

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Transactions to 15/10/2026

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		**£**
25/09/2026	M Turner chain and padlocks for SAM3	(19.31)
30/09/2026	Ian Nelson Salary	(525.00)
30/09/2026	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
30/09/2026	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/10/2026	VFM - payroll and accounting	(21.50)
01/10/2026	SNC precept	9,150.00
02/10/2026	Tr c/a to BPA	(3,000.00)
05/10/2026	Barclays charges	(8.50)
05/10/2026	NSIB Interest	257.80
06/10/2026	Tr BPA to c/a	5,000.00
07/10/2026	NCC Parish Partnership grant 26/7	1,722.50
		12,521.99
Closing Balance Current A/c		13,616.70

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		**£**
02/10/2026	Tr c/a to BPA	3,000.00
06/10/2026	Tr BPA to c/a	(5,000.00)
		(2,000.00)
Closing Balance BPA		3,928.03

Investments	
NSIB	
Instant	85,000.00
Hinckley Instant	10,000.00
Hinckley 45 day	20,000.00
Hinckley 90 day	40,000.00
	155,000.00
Total funds	172,544.73

Chairman's initials ----------