

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 7:00pm in The Mill

Present

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

Members of the public present

County Council Alison Thomas and District Councillor Hooton.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Peter Workman and Mr Mike Turner.

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 Hook proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 17 December 2024 be approved.

Public Participation

There was none.

County Councillor Update

Mrs Thomas reported that NCC had negotiated a draft deal regarding devolution and local government re-organisation with the previous Conservative government. The present Labour government has indicated that it is minded not to honour the previous draft agreement but would offer devolution on different terms with a mayor for all of Norfolk and Suffolk. NCC voted to apply to be put forward on the priority devolution programme so as not to lose out on greater funding and autonomy. If successful, one condition of this is that the county council elections will be postponed from 2025 to 2026. Indicative proposals are required from NCC to government by March 2025 and evidence of universal support by October 2025. There are still many things to consider to finally determine if it is the most beneficial way forward for Norfolk.

Mrs Thomas had been in correspondence with a parishioner regarding the potential of yellow lines on Broaden Lane / The Street, but she informed them that the budget is prohibitive due to the amount of consultation required. She has however, referred it to NCC Highways for review.

District Councillor Update

Mr Hooton reported that SNC would be providing bins for all food waste (raw and cooked) from 01/04/25 to any business over 10 employees. All households would get the bins from 01/04/2026.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2024/3752 - E C Drummond (Agriculture) Ltd, Poultry Farm Road Green Hempnall - Variation/Removal of conditions 2, 3 & 7 of 2021/0515 - (2) amendment to approved plans and documents, (3) amendment to drainage strategy & (7) removal of requirement for offsite highway works due to a reduction in the scale of the operations and associated traffic generation

The Clerk had arranged and extension for responding to SNC until 24/01/25.

The Clerk read a letter from a parishioner opposing the application for the change in conditions.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application is rejected with regard to condition 7. Specifically, the applicant should not be released from

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

the highway condition 7 due to the existing poor quality of the access road. It should be noted that although the number of sheds, as compared to the original application, has reduced by half, the capacity of the number of birds has not reduced by this much, thus the traffic movements are not expected to decrease significantly. The road edges are already being destroyed by the existing lorries which use the route, and any extra will make the road worse. As a minimum the road should be repaired and maintained at the applicant's expense.

IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2024/3233 - Mrs Tammy Emms, Firs Farm Silver Green Hempnall - Erection of roof above livestock loading dock

2024/2782 – Wood Farm Fairstead Lane Hempnall – Details reserved by condition 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, of 2023/2677- materials and plans

2024/3547 - Joanne Sutherland, Wood Farm Fairstead Lane Hempnall - Details reserved by condition 3, 4, 5 and 6 of 2023/2678.

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

2024/3599 - European Trade Centre Hempnall Road Morningthorpe - Conversion of office to provide office space during the day for the applicant and staff and overnight accommodation for applicant – Mr Hook and the Clerk had responded by the deadline reiterating the parish council view.

District Councillor Hooton said he was supporting further action via the enforcement officers and would follow this up.

East Pye Solar Project

The Clerk had responded to two anonymous emails sent via Mr Bob Goldsborough MP.

Mr Hook and the Clerk had written to Mr Bob Goldsborough MP to ask him to relay to central government the strong feelings of parishioners and other parish councils in the area against the EPS project. He was also informed of the Parish Council's views in regard to the NPPF revision.

The Clerk had invited District Councillor Hooton to this meeting to discuss EPS

EN0110014 East Pye Solar - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation had been issued with a response deadline of 12/02/2025.

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk responds to the scoping consultation having consulted with interested parties.

IN

Long Statton Town Council had written giving support to Hempnall's position. The Clerk to respond.

IN

It was noted that the timetable being advanced for this NSIP application was for the Statutory Consultation stage to take place in the summer of 2025 and that an application to the Planning Inspectorate is expected at the end of 2025.

The Sunshine Bill

This Private Member's bill was to ensure all new buildings would have solar panels fitted. It's progress through the legislative process has been halted.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

D Cracknell

The Clerk had written a thank you letter and made payment to Mr Cracknell.

Nuttle Close Ditch

The Clerk had written to Mr Allen (the landowner of the ditch) to ask him to clear the ditch and remind him to cut footpath 8.

IN

Tennis Club rental setting

The Clerk had issued the invoice.

Budget/Precept 2025/26

The Clerk had informed SNC of the required precept.

HPC newsletter

The Clerk had drafted and published the winter newsletter.

Streetlight timers and heads

The new streetlight heads have all been installed.

The Clerk had contacted UK Power Network for a reduction in electricity cost for the unmetered connection and awaits a response.

IN

The Clerk awaited a response to his request to the supplier to rectify the timing of the streetlight operation.

IN

Nobbs Lane Spur

Mr Hook had submitted the application to NCC and we have received confirmation of compliance. We await their review. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Speed limit Lundy Green Hempnall

The Clerk had asked NCC if it was possible to have some or all of this area as a 30mph limit. We await a response.

IN

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Defibrillator replacement

The Clerk had purchased a new defibrillator for the village hall location.

The clerk had applied for a grant, but it was noted that under the terms of the grant the defibrillator cabinet would need to remain unlocked, uncoded and readily accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week which would leave it vulnerable to vandalism. In addition, success in obtaining the grant was not guaranteed and even if successful, it would be April before a defibrillator could be obtained. For public safety reasons, Mr Delf proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk, after liaising with the village hall committee, purchase a replacement as soon as possible.

IN

Bench on Play area / ROSPA report

Mr Delf to arrange for the contractor to lay the matting under the metal climbing frame and provide the new bench and fix the double gates.

RD

Mr Delf will also be replacing 2 brackets on the MUGA and replacing the basketball nets.

RD

Mr Delf will carry out a safety inspection after the work has been completed.

RD

Flood risk maps

The Clerk had provided copies of correspondence from the Environment Agency on this issue. Mr Bates wished to carry this matter forward.

PB

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Slow Ways national walking network

Mr Bates wished to carry this matter forward.

PB

Playing field grass cutting

The Clerk presented quotes to the meeting.

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk accept a quote from Excite Solutions subject to successful cancellation of the contract with the existing contractor.

IN

Footpath 7/8 Kissing Gate

Mr Bates had obtained a quote for £263.84 plus VAT for the supply and erection of a kissing gate on footpath 8 to replace the existing "style". The Clerk had contacted NCC PROW and been informed that Having checked the documentation they confirmed that there is no structure recorded at the junction of FP8 and FP7. Therefore, unless the landowner is going to keep agricultural livestock in the adjacent field imminently, they cannot authorise a structure at this location and any barrier that is currently in situ will require removal.

If the landowner does not comply with the Parish Council's request to remove the barrier, it should be reported to NCC PROW who will pursue the matter.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to Mr Allen to inform him of the above.

IN

Graveyard maintenance

As Mr Workman was not present it was not known if he had cut the foliage so the matter is carried forward.

PW

The Clerk was awaiting a meeting with the contractor to obtain a quote to replace reattach the cross on the gravestone near the entrance to the church.

IN

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk arrange a site meeting with the contractor to establish the facts regarding the collapsed wall ready for discussion at the next meeting.

IN

Community Emergency Planning WhatsApp Proposal

The Clerk had determined that there was not a legal requirement to have a coordinator. He is to distribute a template for a plan to councillors for consideration at the next meeting.

IN

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

Norwich Western Link project update

Quarterly Neighbourhood Policing Meeting - January 2025

Norwich to Tilbury - Project Update - January 2025

Anti mega solar alliance newsletter

Quarterly Neighbourhood Policing Meeting - Jan 25

Devolution White paper

Press coverage

Devolution and Local Government Reform (LGR)

East Pye Solar – Submission of EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate

Norwich Western Link project update

No further matters were raised from the above.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

All covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 15 November 2024 to 15 January 2025. The statement was not materially out of line with the annual budget. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates 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 31 December 2024. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the statement be approved.

The Clerk reported the problems he was having with SNC collecting rent on behalf of the parish council. Mr Bates proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk should write to District Councillor Hooton to explain the matter and ask him to locate the correct person to progress it. The Clerk to also ask if the parish council can collect the rent directly in future.

IN

Speedwatch Report

Mr Elliott had liaised with District Councillor Hooton to attend a session. He had also liaised with the police to get them to carry out more frequent speed checks at relevant times, particularly at Broaden Lane. They have since attended for more checks but not at peak times.

Mr Elliott will replace Speedwatch area signs.

RE

The Clerk to follow up with NCC re the new 30mph sign near the bus stop so this can also be used to mount the SAM2.

IN

Another SAM2 unit

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that Mr Elliott investigate the costs and pro/cons of having a SAM2 permanently in one location and the possibility of having a fixed police camera.

RE

Playing Field hedging and trees

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk ask Mr Havens to give the hedges surrounding the playing field a light trim.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Items for next newsletter

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

- Speedwatch
 - Bird nesting / hedge cutting
 - East Pye Solar timeline for the NSIP process
- IN

Items for next main meeting

- The parish meeting will take place at 7pm on 18 March 2025. The Clerk to send out notices and request reports.
- IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:

- 18 February 2025 at 7.00pm in The Mill – planning meeting
 - 18 March 2025 at 7:00pm in The Mill - parish meeting
 - 18 March 2025 at 7:45pm in The Mill - main meeting
- IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:27

Signed _____ Date 18/02/2025

DRAFT

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising awaiting others

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting others

Policy for use of chemicals

Mr Bates reported he is running a trial at home to determine the best options. PB

Hempnall Natural Flood Management

The Environment Agency had started work on the Hempnall Natural Flood Management scheme in early October. The Clerk to monitor. IN

Flood management

West end of the village

The Clerk had contacted Fritton & Morningthorpe parish council three times with a view to meeting to discuss matters further, with a view to involving the EA later. Unfortunately, they had not replied, the Clerk will persist. The Clerk last chased by email 28/03/24, 03/04/24 and 10/07/24 and left messages on their clerk's phone but received no response. The Clerk to continue to chase. IN

Flood Barriers

The Clerk had circulated initial details of a scheme to supply mobile flood barriers, provided by District Councillor Thomas. The Clerk to monitor. IN

Installation of owl sculpture on playingfield

Mr Delf has this in hand, and it will be set on a concrete plinth and will be put in when the weather permits. Mr Bates proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the position of the sculpture be as recommended by Mr Delf. RD

Hempnall Primary School – Rewilding Scheme

Hempnall Primary School are to be invited to collaborate on a rewilding scheme. DH

Field Lane surface water flooding

The Clerk had asked AWA to investigate the area which floods near the council houses / Allen's field and awaits a response. The Clerk to monitor. IN

Churchyard Grass cutting

We await a quote from contactors. The clerk to chase. Last chased 15/09/24. IN

Adult Outside Gym at recreation ground

It was agreed to re-agenda this matter in spring following the article in the spring newsletter. IN

Outside Toilets at recreation ground

Mr Bates had made initial enquiries with the Village Hall Committee who had no objection if the toilets were not attached to the hall. They were prepared to consider use of the hall's utilities to connect the toilet block. The cost of maintaining the toilets was thought to be significant and would need to be quantified before progressing. Given the time required to attend to the EPS issues, it was agreed to postpone further consideration of outside toilets until after the conclusion of the solar planning application. PB

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting NCC

Bollard to protect pavement near Willow Drive

Mr Overland will ask his team to survey this area again with a view to erecting a bollard if at all possible. The Clerk to Monitor.

IN

Traffic calming on B1527 West

It was agreed to arrange for the hedge to be cut so as not to obscure the sharp deviation signs and Mr Overland to investigate replacing the existing signs with modern brighter full chevron (double the size) signs. The Clerk to monitor. He also confirmed that there was insufficient footfall to justify the cost of a formal crossing near the doctors / Mill Centre. This would still be the case even after any further development of social housing in that area. The Clerk had asked Mr Whiting to undertake the hedge cutting. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

IN

Road Calming/signage for The Krons & Fairstead Lane

The Clerk had asked NCC Highways for signage re the ford across the Krons and no pavement signs along the Krons and Fairsted lane. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Traffic calming at east end of B1527

The SAM2 results show the 85th percentile is 28mph, well above the 20mph limit. Our requests for chicanes were again turned down as it was not in line with NCC policy. The possibility of a permanent flashing 20mph sign is to be explored. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Traffic calming at Broaden Lane

Again, any kind of artificial road narrowing was ruled out by Mr Overland. The extension of the 30mph limit had also previously been ruled out. However, it was agreed that he would ask his team to look at placing a new 30mph reminder in sightline of incoming traffic not far past the bus stop and he would look favourable on the placing of the SAM2 unit on that post in order to catch traffic sooner.

Mr Elliott said that he thought that “Slow” or “30” painted in road and remove the white lines. Mrs Thomas thought she may be able to use some of her highway’s budget to fund small measures like that. The Clerk had asked Mr Overland to consider painting “30” on the road and requested NCC to remove the central white lines on the road after just entering the village from Saxlingham.

IN

Bus shelter on west side of Broaden Lane

A parishioner had asked if the parish council could provide a bus shelter at this location due to is high usage by young and old people. Mr Overland thought that this may be possible via the Parish Partnership and will await to here from the parish council. The Clerk to research costings

IN

Surface on junction of Alburgh Rd/B1527

Mr Overland assured us that the resurfacing of this junction had been in the plan for some time, and he would be putting it forward for funding shortly. It was noted that pothole repair work had been undertaken in August 2024, but part of the junction was left unrepaired. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Footpath 12 finger post

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

IN

White Lines – Fairsted Lane / The Krons

The Clerk had asked NCC to repaint the lines. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting SNC

Villa farm industries

On 30/11/23 Andy Baines, the SNC enforcement officer, said “By way of update on Villa Farm the only unauthorised use is Harvey Lane Garage. I have written to them to encourage the submission of an application but if this is not received, we will then have to consider whether it is expedient to take any further action. Should an application not be received I will update you further what action the council will take.” The Clerk to Monitor. See enforcement report 20/05/24.

IN

Wheels 4 Less planning issues

Mr Hook had reviewed the various planning consents in detail and listed all the suspected non-compliance issues in a 7-page letter to SNC enforcement officer. The letter was acknowledged, and they intend to carry out a site visit - We await a further response.

IN

Millfields Exception Site

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

IN

Willow Drive southern hedge

Mr Hook had investigated the original planning application further and written a comprehensive letter to complain to SNC of the many deviations from the original application and he also commented on the unsatisfactory manner of planting and nurturing which was likely to lead to the hedge not surviving.

SNC were investigating. The Clerk to monitor. – see enforcement report 29/08/24

IN

Willow Drive attenuation area

SNC enforcement officer Andy Baines is investigating this matter as a potential planning permission non-compliance issue. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Transactions to 15/01/2025

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
30/11/2024	Ian Nelson Salary	(471.39)
30/11/2024	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
30/11/2024	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
30/11/2024	VFM - payroll and accounting	(42.56)
03/12/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	3,500.00
03/12/2024	Tops - Grass Cutting	(2,520.00)
03/12/2024	Laptop Outlet Uk	(299.99)
03/12/2024	RBL - Poppy Wreath	(24.49)
03/12/2024	Stamps	(6.80)
18/12/2024	NPower - streetlight power	(37.15)
07/12/2024	D Hook Travel Expenses	(59.74)
12/12/2024	Mill Centre room hire	(17.50)
05/12/2024	NSIB Interest	31.32
31/12/2024	Ian Nelson Salary	(471.39)
31/12/2024	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/12/2024	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/01/2025	VFM - payroll and accounting	(42.56)
18/01/2025	NPower - streetlight power	(38.63)
06/01/2025	NSIB Interest	30.24
31/12/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
31/12/2024	D Cracknell Litter Clearance	(900.00)
14/01/2025	Mill Centre room hire	(225.00)
14/01/2025	Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
		<u>336.36</u>
Closing Balance		<u>1,469.39</u>

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
03/12/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	(3,500.00)
02/12/2024	Barclays BPA	413.24
31/12/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
14/01/2025	Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
		<u>(5,086.76)</u>
Closing Balance		<u>130,698.41</u>