

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 15 April 2025 at 7:00pm in The Mill

Present

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

Members of the public present

County Councillor Alison Thomas.

Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Martyn Hooton, Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Richard Delf, 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 Turner proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 18 March 2025 be approved.

Public Participation

There were none.

County Councillor Update

Mrs Thomas reported as follows:

The Long Stratton bypass is progressing well.

Applications have been received from a company other than EPS re battery storage in Great Moulton and Wacton. The company concerned has refused to meet with parishioners directly. Mrs Thomas is writing to the company in strong terms about their lack of willingness to consult parishioners affected by their plans.

It was noted that SNC were not asking for an Environmental Impact Assessment to be carried out as part of the application process re the battery storage units. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to SNC to ask that the applications be required to have an Environmental Impact Assessment because of the risks they pose, for example the risk to populated areas that would be affected by a fire in a BESS.

IN

Local Government Reorganisation – Mrs Thomas will provide the Clerk with slides to circulate to councillors. She said that it now looked like anything other than a single unitary authority will not bring cost savings and service efficiencies. Final submissions will be sent in to central government by the end of September, with final decisions by end of December. The creation of a devolved regional authority, including the election of a mayor would pre-date the establishment of a unitary authority. The election of a Mayor is scheduled for May 2026. In 2027 both county and district authorities will be disbanded and replaced by a new unitary authority(s).

District Councillor Update

Mr Hooton had indicated there was nothing to report.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2025/1005 - Joanne Sutherland, Wood Farm Fairstead Lane Hempnall - Non-material amendment to 2023/2677 – Mr Bates proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

2024/2027 - Mrs Rachel Shreeve - Land to The Rear of 25 Coronation Crescent and 2-10 Roland Drive Hempnall - Change of Use. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

was unanimously agreed that the application be approved subject to the same conditions as last time, namely:

1) That no buildings are to be erected on this strip of land because this could lead to the land being re-classified as residential which could result in an extension to the Hempnall settlement limit, which is contrary to Parish Council policy.

It was noted that, on the application form, the applicant states that: “The site will be garden with grass and vegetation/trees with no building development of any kind”. This commitment must be conditioned in order that the built up/built on area of Hempnall is not extended southwards.

2) That a native hedge is planted along the field boundary on the southern border of this land. The applicant indicates that the owner of the field will do this – this commitment must be conditioned.

It was noted that the application states that the southern boundary is to be post and rails, however it should be composed of native hedging and trees and this discrepancy is to be pointed out in the Parish Council’s response to the application

IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2025/0378 - Mr And Mrs James and Alice Drury, Poachers Cottage Silver Green Hempnall - Approval of Condition Details of condition 3, 4 and 5 of 2024/2345- (3)- materials of external surfaces, (4) detailed drawings of windows and doors, (5) detailed drawings of roof lights.

2025/0405 - Mr And Mrs James and Alice Drury, Poachers Cottage Silver Green Hempnall - Approval of Condition, details for conditions 3 & 4 of 2024/2344 - (3) External Materials & (4) Window & Door.

Amended Planning Application 2020/2396 - Clayland Estates Ltd, The Deals, Mill Road, Hempnall - Residential development of 2 dwellings.

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications refused since the last meeting:

2025/0149 - Mr Michael Watts, Land to The West of Alburgh Road Hempnall - Outline planning permission for 5no single storey dwellings and access road with all matters reserved.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting

There were none.

East Pye Solar Project

Mr Bates reported many events were happening to raise awareness.

East Pye letters to householders

It was noted that many, but not all households in Hempnall, had received letters from Dalcour Maclaren acting for East Pye Solar asking householders to complete a questionnaire about their property. The letter stated “you may have an interest in land and/or property which may be required for the project” which had caused much concern amongst residents.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write a strong letter to Dalcour Maclaren (cc MP, County and District councillors and Kay Mason-Billig NCC Chair) on behalf of residents to state that the letter was causing great concern and scaring people particularly with regard the sentence containing a veiled threat of land acquisition/house demolition. They should also be asked why they need this information

DH/IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

and what will it be used for, especially as these properties do not form part of the plans we have seen to date.

Land use framework consultation

CPRE Norfolk has made available its consultation response and the Clerk had circulated this to councillors prior to the meeting. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk respond to the government stating that the parish council endorses the CPRE response.

IN

Planning enforcement update

It was noted that the rates issue re the garage at Villa Farm had been dropped from the enforcement list with no explanation. The Clerk to ask why this was the case.

IN

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write again to SNC enforcement officer about the apparent extension of the curtilage on the southern boundary of Willow Drive, which was not shown in the approved plans. The Clerk to specifically request detail of when and how the extension was approved and who was consulted. In addition, the Clerk to comment on the nature of the southern and eastern boundary hedges with reference to the original planning application as the outcome seemed to fall short of promises made by the developer.

DH/IN

Speeding in the village

General frustration was expressed about the lack of practical support from both the police and NCC to put in place effective speed control measures despite parish council and Speedwatch group suggestions and offers of finance.

The matter was made worse by traffic using the Krons and Broaden Lane as a rat run whilst the A140 roadworks were taking place. In Broaden Lane in Nov/Dec 2024 the SAM2 units recorded 570 vehicles per day (in one direction only) whilst in March 2025 it was 1,155 per day. In the Krons 301 per day compared to 632 per day. i.e. traffic had more than doubled.

Mr Elliott from Speedwatch reported that despite even the chief constable visiting the areas concerned there had been little police action, and he would be writing to the police again and requesting County and District Councillor support.

It was noticed that marks had appeared on the road following a recent site visit by NCC seeming to indicate some of the traffic measures requested by the parish council were about to be implemented.

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk make enquires as to whether it was possible to install an ANPR speed camera in the village and to find out if we have the correct frequency of 30 and 20 mph repeaters in the village.

IN

IN

Correspondence from Parishioners

Swing noise

The tennis club had written to request that the swings be oiled or greased to stop the squeaking noise. It was agreed unanimously that the Clerk ask Mr Delf if he can arrange for this to be done.

RD

Insurance cover review

The Clerk had circulated the latest insurance renewal documentation to ask councillors if they were satisfied with the level of cover therein. Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk renew the policy with the proposed cover levels.

IN

New Town in South Norfolk

CPRE had written to the leader of SNC, Daniel Elmer, regarding this. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to Mr Elmer in support of the views expressed in the CPRE letter against such a development.

DH/IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

Items for next main meeting

- Appointment of Chair and other Officers
- Internal Audit
- Annual Accounts to 31/03/13
- Notice of expenses
- Insurance renewal
- Review of Policies and Procedures
- Standing Orders Review
- Risk Assessment Review
- Declaration of Interests Review
- Action Plan
- Information Audit

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meetings will take place as follows:

20 May 2025 at 7:00pm in The Mill - main meeting

17 June 2025 at 7.00pm in The Mill – planning meeting

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.43pm

Signed _____ Date 20 May 2025