



## Saxlingham Nethergate Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 13 October 2025, Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall, 7.30pm

**Present:** Elsje Stocker (Chair) Julie King (Clerk)  
Paul Bowen  
Chris Clements  
Mike Haslam  
Harry Leeder – from item 5bii  
Liz Utting  
Zoe Yarham

Members of the public: four including John Cook, District Councillor

- 1 Apologies  
Apologies from Mark Fisher MVO and Jackie Lee-Smith were noted. Alison Thomas, County Councillor had also sent her apologies.
- 2 Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest  
Zoe Yarham declared an interest in 5aiv, effected by Nutrient Neutrality.
- 3 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 8 September 2025  
**These were agreed as a true record of proceedings.**
- 4 Public Open Forum  
John Cook spoke about:
  - The Norfolk Councils' responses to Local Government Reorganisation - of the eight councils in Norfolk, six had proposed that we have three unitary councils, Norfolk County Council was proposing one and South Norfolk Council had proposed two unitary authorities. The responses had been submitted prior to the 26 September deadline; a response was awaited.
  - Mobile signal – Norfolk County Council were using waste collection vehicles to collect data on mobile signal which is mapped and used to lobby mobile phone operators. Their website contained a map showing coverage for all the major providers as well as a form that could be completed by residents.
  - Foxhole noise complaint – South Norfolk Council had served a Community Protection Warning Notice on the residents involved.

- John was asked about the outcome of the discussions regarding the permanent closure of Shotesham Ford and reported that there had been no further updates.

Members of the public raised the following:

- Pleased to hear that work was due to start installing leaky dams upstream of Wash Lane to help prevent flooding
- Concern regarding the gradual deterioration of footpath posts and signs
- Question regarding whether there was a statutory obligation on providers to provide a level of mobile signal
- Suggestion that it might be possible to designate the road containing Shotesham ford a 'quiet lane', it was thought that it then wouldn't be used by satellite navigation systems.

## 5 Responding to and Working with Other Bodies

### a Planning

#### i Planning Decisions taken by South Norfolk Council

2025/2193 Hawthorn Cottage, Pitts Hill

Approved with conditions

2025/2815 The Old Rectory, Church Hill

Tree work approved

#### ii Planning Enforcement and Planning Appeals

It was noted that South Norfolk Council had served a Community Protection Warning on the residents in Foxhole, informing them that they should not play amplified sound at such a level to cause nuisance or annoyance to other residents.

#### iii East Pye Solar

It was thought that East Pye might be conducting a further public consultation possibly with alterations to the proposed fields.

It was recognised that that once the application was submitted there would only be eight weeks to form a response. Efforts were underway to outline the collective tasks needed, enabling each Parish to allocate their resources effectively in preparing a response.

It was acknowledged that a compelling argument would be necessary to highlight the significant issues to the inspectors. One suggestion was to create a film illustrating the potential impact on the area.

**It was agreed to increase the working party to include Marie Francis and Philip Bolus.**

It was noted that as the project was a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), the developer was able to exercise compulsory purchase powers usually only available to local authorities. It was thought that it would be useful to know if any parishioners had been approached by the developers regarding potential compulsory purchase and it was **agreed to ask any such residents to make contact as there may be assistance available via BEPS (Block East Pye Solar).**

iv Nutrient Neutrality

A response to the Parish Council's correspondence had been received from Phil Coutier, Director of Place at South Norfolk Council. Whilst he agreed that Nutrient Neutrality had had a significant impact on the delivery of homes and that it would be far better if it hadn't been imposed by Natural England, he felt that the mechanism that had been developed to trade credits was simple and transparent.

b Highway Issues

i Footpaths

It was noted that a second cut of the footpaths would not be necessary this year. Following concerns raised that footpath signage in the Parish was deteriorating, Paul Bowen agreed to look at what could be done in light of the fact that Highways were not prepared to issue the Parish Council with any materials so that repairs could be carried out locally.

ii Speeding and SAM 2

Concern was expressed regarding the number of vehicles that were exceeding the speed limit particularly on Norwich Road.

*Harry Leeder joined the meeting.*

**It was agreed to send the recent figures from the SAM 2 device to the local Police Officer and request that they return to the village to undertake speed checks.**

iii Community Speedwatch

It had been ascertained that to set up a Community Speedwatch group, a minimum of six volunteers, who were over the age of 18 including a co-ordinator, were required. Jackie Lee-Smith had agreed to be the co-ordinator and notices via Contact, Village Voice and Facebook would be sent to ask for volunteers to come forward.

c Flooding

i Leaky Dams, Wash Lane

It was noted that Norfolk County Council were to install these upstream of Wash Lane during October. It was hoped that these would slow the flow of water and reduce the risk of flooding around the War Memorial and along The Street.

ii Ditch Along The Street – Working with Agencies

Harry Leeder was to attend a multi-agency meeting including representatives from the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, on 13 November.

iii Information Leaflet for Residents Regarding Flooding

Consideration was given to the information that needed including. **It was agreed that this would be finalised and circulated.** It was noted that garden waste had been dumped in the ditch that ran along The Street, a request not to do this would be included in the information leaflet.

- d Lack of Mobile Signal

**It was agreed that residents would be encouraged to register concerns regarding signal on Norfolk County Council's website - <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/mobilemap>.**

- e Upkeep of The Green

A resident had raised concern regarding the lack of cutting of the verges along The Green. It was recognised that The Green was privately owned and that residents had differing opinions on whether it should be regularly cut back, with some preferring less maintenance which provided habitat for wildlife. **It was agreed not to take any action.**

## 6 Asset Management

- a War Memorial

- i Bollards

A quote of £1,165 excl. VAT had been received from Highways to install two bollards to prevent motorists driving on the grass. **It was agreed to explore whether there was any County Council member funding available for this project.**

- b Allotments

The Chair of the Allotment Committee had carried out a substantial repair of the vehicular gate. All payments for the forthcoming year had been received; there was currently one vacant half plot.

- c Play Area

Was noted that in the longer-term the climbing frame would need to be replaced.

- d Grit Bin – Norwich Road/Shotesham Lane

Following successful refurbishment of the fingerpost, it had been noted that the area would look better if the grit bin was moved, **this was agreed.**

## 7 Projects

- a Bulb Planting

**It was agreed to use the litter-pick receipts to purchase bulbs to be planted at the northern end of Norwich Road and at the southern end of the village on The Green.**

- b Community Library in the Telephone Kiosk on The Green

**This was agreed on an interim basis and would be subject to review.**

## 8 Management of the Parish Council

- a Communication Strategy

**It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.**

- b Poppy Wreath

**It was agreed that the Council would purchase a poppy wreath for £19.99 and make a further donation of £20.01 to the Royal British Legion.**

c Remembrance Sunday Arrangements

A road closure order had been submitted. The risk assessment for the event was reviewed and adopted. Zoe Yarham and Elsie Stocker were to organise the signs and bollards and the road closure points would be manned as follows: Steward Close –Liz Utting, Pitts Hill – Jackie Lee-Smith and Hall Lane/Church Hill – Zoe Yarham. Elsie Stocker would lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

d Safeguarding Policy

**The policy was reviewed and agreed.**

## 9 Finance

a Budget and Precept

Consideration was given to the projects that might want to be undertaken in 2026/27 and the following were suggested and would be costed:

- School wig-wag sign
- Gov.uk email addresses for Councillors
- Gov.uk domain for website
- Replacement posts for the pedestrian gate at the allotments
- Noticeboard for West End
- Management of allotment plot 16b
- Old Bridge, Saxlingham Thorpe
- Asset Valuation – Zoe Yarham and Elsie Stocker to look into this
- Fighting the East Pye Solar application
- Communications (newsletters etc.)
- Welcome pack for new residents
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Entering Village in Bloom/Best Kept Village – Paul Bowen and Chris Clements would look into this
- Refurbishing/replacing the play area climbing frame

b The following payments made since the last meeting were noted:

Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	£6.00
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c The following were approved for payment:

Julie King	September salary	£472.31
Norfolk Pension Fund	Pension contribution	£139.95
Tony Millett	Allotment gate repairs	£57.84
Saxlingham Nethergate PCC	Contact events page (Oct 25 – Mar 26 incl)	£84.00
Martin Ogilvie	Fingerpost repairs	£71.03
Community Heartbeat Trust	Replacement pads	£85.14
Lisa Vincent	Allotment overpayment	£29.00

d The following receipts since the last meeting were noted:

South Norfolk Council	Precept	£8,248.00
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Allotment holders	Rent and deposits	£767.00
Unity Trust Bank	Interest	£47.29
South Norfolk Council	Litter pick	£220.00

e Half-year Accounts

The accounts summary had been circulated and **was agreed**. The accounts would be inspected and reported on at the next meeting.

## 10 Village Organisations

a Village Hall

Jackie Lee-Smith had provided Councillors with an update. It was noted that the Committee had received a good response to their survey.

b Playing Field

Nothing to report.

c Grant to the School to Provide a Summer Room-type Building

Information was awaited; **it was agreed to defer the item until the next meeting**.

## 11 Items for Next Month's Agenda

To consider registering as an Interested Party and making a Relevant Representation to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury Development Consent Order – application reference: EN020027.

## 12 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 10 November 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.41pm

Chair's Signature.....

Date.....