



## Saxlingham Nethergate Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 14 July 2025, Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall, 7.30pm

**Present:** Elsje Stocker (Chair) Julie King (Clerk)  
Paul Bowen  
Mark Fisher MVO  
Mike Haslam  
Jackie Lee-Smith  
Zoe Yarham

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

- 1 Apologies  
Apologies from Chris Clements, Liz Utting and Harry Leeder 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 9 June 2025  
**These were agreed as a true record of proceedings.**
- 4 Public Open Forum  
John Cook spoke of:
  - Complaints he'd received regarding the increase and speed of traffic through village whilst there had been traffic lights on the A140 in Swainsthorpe. He had raised the issue with Highways which had resulted a change to how the traffic lights operated and warning signs at the A140 end of Cargate Lane.
  - Complaints he'd received regarding noise in Foxhole, which had been passed to the Environmental Protection Team who were investigating.
  - South Norfolk Council had put funds aside to demolish South Norfolk House
  - The responses he'd received from Ben Goldsborough MP and Daniel Elmer, Leader of South Norfolk Council regarding East Pye Solar. There was general concern that Ben was in support of the scheme and was not representing he constituents.
  - A feasibility study of the A140/Flordon Road junction in Newton Flotman was to be carried out following the construction of the Long Stratton by-pass.

Other members of the public had attended to hear discussions on East Pye Solar, traffic and speeding, flooding and resilience and poor mobile signal.

## 5 Responding to and Working with Other Bodies

### a Planning

- i 2025/1847, 3 Kensington Close – First floor extension over garage with the enclosure and improvements of a small porch

**It was agreed to recommend approval.**

- ii Planning Decisions taken by South Norfolk Council

2025/1145 14 Steward Close

Approved with conditions

2025/1613 The Coach House Cargate Lane

Approved

- iii Planning Enforcement Complaint

Elsje Stocker, Mike Haslam and the Clerk had met with Phil Courtier, Direct of Place, South Norfolk Council to discuss the Parish Council's complaint. A written response was awaited but Phil had acknowledged that mistakes had been made and had given assurance of a better service in future.

- iv Planning Enforcement and Planning Appeals

An update regarding Barefoot Farm was awaited.

- v East Pye Solar

It was noted that a comprehensive report had been prepared by Block East Pye Solar providing a thorough critique of the application documents along with a 'section 55' letter that challenged the acceptance of the application by the Planning Inspectorate and a response to East Pye Solar's stage 2 consultation.

**It was agreed to add to the consultation response paragraphs bespoke to Saxlingham Nethergate on impact on Saxlingham Green Conservation Area, listed buildings, public rights of way, flooding, the construction compound on Broadland Lane and the substation in the corner of field 7F and to send, along with the section 55 letter, to East Pye Solar and the Planning Inspectorate, copying in Claire Curtis Area Planning Manager and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project lead officer (NSIP's) at South Norfolk Council and Stephen Faulkner at Norfolk County Council.**

**It was agreed to send a letter of complaint to Ben Goldsborough regarding his failure in his duty to represent his constituents, both individually as a Parish Council but also collectively with neighbouring parish councils drawing attention to some of the of key points from the report and to also send a copy to the press.**

**It was agreed to publicise the short, model response letter that had been produced as well as explaining the action that the Parish Council was taking.**

It was noted that there was to be an ultra-marathon that would be going through the parish the following Saturday. **It was agreed to have 10 A3 posters printed publicising the campaign to block the proposal.**

**It was agreed to ask South Norfolk Council to follow Breckland's lead in opposing large scale solar farms.**

vi Nutrient Neutrality

It was noted that the additional costs for those wishing to build houses was affecting financial viability. Hastoe Housing had indicated that the cost would have to reduce significantly in order to make the affordable housing scheme proposed in the parish attractive to Homes England to fund. **It was agreed to write to Tom Sawyer at Norfolk Environmental Credits for confirmation on the costs involved.**

b Highway Issues

i Footpaths

Elsje Stocker had written to Frances Salway, Norfolk County Council Footpath Officer regarding the cutting of a strip of Redwing's hayfield by their contractors.

ii Finger Post, Junction of Norwich Road and Shotesham Lane

Brooke Parish Council had confirmed that they had undertaken the refurbishment of their finger post. **It was agreed that a resident would be asked if they would be prepared to undertake the work, the Parish Council would pay for all necessary materials.**

iii Parish Partnership 2026/27

It was agreed to consider submitting an application for an additional school wig-wag sign to be positioned north of the school, up to date costings would be obtained and a final decision would be made during budget setting in the autumn.

iv Roadworks on the A140 in Swainsthorpe

This work had now largely been completed.

v Speeding and SAM 2

Analysis had been undertaken which showed that the number of vehicles using The Street whilst there was roadworks on the A140 in Swainsthorpe was almost double the normal number.

The Local Beat Officer had undertaken speed checks on Norwich Road as well as attending the recent village fete, he'd been encouraged to make return visits to undertake speed checks particularly at peak times. **It was agreed to send a thank you note to the officer, his presence at the fete had been much appreciated.**

Jackie Lee-Smith offered to reestablish the Community Speed Watch group.

c Flooding

i Silt Removal from the Ditch Along The Street

It was anticipated that a resident would undertake the work and the disposal of the silt had been arranged. Quotes were being obtained for the hire of a trailer to transport the dredged material. It was hoped that the work could be undertaken before the autumn.

- ii Ditch Along The Street – Letter to Agencies  
Michael Kinge, Senior Advisor – Strategic Flood Risk at the Environment Agency, had had informal discussions with colleagues at the Council and would be meeting with them the following day. It was anticipated that a further update would be available following the meeting and further discussion with agencies and the Parish Council would be arranged if required.

The ditch along Cargate Lane was in need of clearing, Jackie Lee-Smith would investigate and discuss with the landowner.

- d Mobile Signal  
Following two recent incidents of Wi-Fi outages, concerns were once again raised regarding the lack of mobile signal in the village. Zoe Yarham agreed to follow up on the progress of the initiative utilising data collected from refuse collection vehicles.

## 6 Asset Management

- a War Memorial
  - i Bollards  
The estimate from Highways was awaited.

- b Allotments  
The Clerk had attended the Allotment Committee AGM the previous week, the following were noted:
  - The use of the brushcutter was working well, the undergrowth was being cut back from the fence monthly, this would allow any holes in the fence to be identified early and the Committee would repair as and when necessary.
  - Plot 16b was going to be difficult to work due to blackthorn suckers from the hedge infiltrating the plot. The Committee would see what they could do to cut back the hedge and dig out the suckers in the autumn but it may be necessary for the Parish Council to finance some work to bring the plot back up to a position that it could be cultivated.
  - There had been some problems regarding dogs, it had been noted that the agreement required that dogs be kept within the confines of an owner's plot, allotment holders would be reminded of this.
  - Both gates were in need of attention. **It was agreed to find out if the smaller gate was required and then obtain quotes so that the matter could be considered during budget setting in the autumn.**

- c Play Area  
Thanks to assistance from a resident, all the items raised during the annual inspection had been taken care of other than the top of the slide which would be repaired in due course. They had made no charge for this work and it was agreed to formally thank them through the Contact article.

A seat had been moved from adjacent to the bowls green into the play area, this would be moved back by councillors.

d Noticeboard West End

This would be considered again during budget setting in the autumn.

7 Management of the Parish Council

a Risk Assessments

**These were reviewed and adopted.**

b Annual Asset Inspection

This had been carried out by Zoe Yarham and circulated. The following were considered and agreed:

- War Memorial steps could do with weeding, **in hand**
- White writing on the village sign would need touching up at some point and bottom right-hand corner of the village sign was damaged, **Mark Fisher would approach a local resident who may be able to assist**
- The right hand door of the noticeboard at Hootnanny didn't open easily, **Zoe Yarham would approach a local resident who may be able to assist**
- Bus shelter had graffiti on the outside, **monitor**
- Main allotment gate mesh needed fixing and bolt was difficult to use, **this had been discussed earlier in the meeting, a replacement would be considered as part of next year's budget**
- Two allotment posts were broken, **Elsje Stocker would repair**
- The Neighbourhood Watch sign at the bottom of Pitts Hill was in need of attention, **Elsje Stocker would investigate**

c Internal Control Policy and Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Internal Control Policy was reviewed; **it was agreed that the internal controls were sufficient.** A quote for Internal Auditing was awaited.

d Remembrance Sunday Road Closure

**It was agreed that the Parish Council would once again arrange for the road closure on Remembrance Sunday.**

e Training

**It was agreed to pay for Chairmanship training for Elsje Stocker (£75) and induction training for Jackie Lee-Smith, Paul Bowen and Liz Utting (up to £80 each).**

f IT Policy

**It was agreed to adopt this policy.**

g Email Address

It was noted that from the current financial year it was a requirement for parish councils to have a council owned email address. **It was agreed to ask Parish Online to organise clerk@saxlinghamnehtergate-pc.gov.uk for the Council at no cost.**

h Agenda Papers

**It was agreed that agenda papers would continue to be sent as email attachments.**

8 Finance

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

David Ashley-Cowan	Footpath cutting	£160.00
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	£6.00

b The following were approved for payment:

Julie King	June salary	£457.49
Norfolk Pension Fund	Pension contribution	£135.56
Parish Online	Mapping	£45.00

c The following receipts since the last meeting were noted:

Unity Trust Bank	Interest	£59.89
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d First Quarter Accounts

The accounts summary had been circulated and **was agreed**. Mark Fisher had inspected the accounts and found them to be in order.

9 Village Organisations

a Village Hall

The minutes of the recent meeting had been circulated. It was noted that fundraising and the replacement of the boiler were both discussed.

b Playing Field

Nothing to report.

c Trustee for Saxlingham United Charities

A resident had put themselves forward. **It was agreed to forward their details onto the Chair of the Charities and as long as they were happy to appoint them as a trustee.**

d Parochial Church Council (PCC) Grant Application

The PCC had submitted a grant request for payment of half of the churchyard grass cutting for the year, **this was agreed**.

10 Items for Next Month's Agenda

None.

11 Date of Next Meeting

There was a possibility that an additional meeting would be required on Monday 4 August otherwise the next meeting would be Monday 8 September 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.59pm

Chair's Signature.....

Date.....