



Saxlingham Nethergate Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 10 November 2025, Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Elsje Stocker (Chair) Julie King (Clerk)
Paul Bowen (left during item 8ai)
Chris Clements
Mark Fisher MVO
Mike Haslam
Jackie Lee-Smith
Harry Leeder
Liz Utting
Zoe Yarham

Members of the public: four including John Cook, District Councillor and Alison Thomas, County Councillor (from item 5aiii)

- 1 Apologies
None.
- 2 Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest
Zoe Yarham declared an interest in 5av, effected by Nutrient Neutrality.
- 3 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 13 October 2025
These were agreed as a true record of proceedings.
- 4 Public Open Forum
John Cook spoke about:
 - A meeting with South Norfolk Planning Enforcement team; there were to be changes to the monthly update reports which would provide a better trail and more accountability
 - He had attended the opening of the Long Stratton bypass, the attenuation ponds along with the planting of trees, bushes and hedgerows would be good for biodiversity
 - At a recent South Norfolk Full Council Meeting, the Homelessness, Domestic Abuse and Biodiversity Strategy had all be reviewed
 - He had attended a meeting regarding noise in quiet areas of Norfolk
 - He had asked for the application for Barefoot Farm to be referred to committee

Members of the public raised the following:

- Concern regarding loss of footpaths signs and markers
- The letter that had been received by residents who lived adjacent to The Street/Church Hill from an agent working on behalf of East Pye Solar regarding land ownership. There was concern regarding what response should be given and that they had previously been assured that construction traffic wasn't going to drive through the village.
- The Secretary of Saxon Bowls Club attended to advise the Parish Council that due to rabbit damage to the green, rising maintenance costs and a drop in membership, it was no longer financially viable to be based in Saxlingham Nethergate and that, from the 2026 season, they would be sharing a green with Wymondham Dell.

5 Responding to and Working with Other Bodies

a Planning

- i Planning Decisions taken by South Norfolk Council
South Cottage, Pitts Hill Cherry (T1) - Removal of tree to ground level No objections
- ii Planning Enforcement and Planning Appeals
It was agreed that Mike Haslam (and should he not be available, Tim Procter) would speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the Development Management Committee Meeting that determined the Barefoot Farm application.
- iii East Pye Solar
It was noted that the targeted consultation was regarding HGV and AIL (Abnormal Indivisible Load) routes and additional panels for site 7.

Considerable concern was raised regarding letters that residents were receiving regarding land ownership and the potential need to widen the road through the village to allow access for construction traffic.

It was agreed that the working group would produce a draft response to be agreed at a specially convened meeting on Monday 24 November.

It was agreed that a public meeting would be held on Friday 21 November as well as circulating information to residents about how they can usefully respond to the consultation if they are concerned.

Alison Thomas joined the meeting

Alison spoke regarding:

- East Pye Solar – having spoken with the Planning Officer responsible for responding to NSIPs (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects) on behalf of the County Council, the letters regarding land ownership were part of the process that the developer was required to complete. She had been made aware of residents' concerns and had raised them with the Adult Safeguarding Board and advised that anyone who felt threatened should contact the Police. She had

secured a Teams meeting with Highway and Planning Officers to answer Parish Councils' questions.

- Devolution, which would lead to a County Combined Authority and a directly elected Mayor in May 2026, had been agreed.
- Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) submissions had gone in and Central Government were due to make a decision on which they would be consulting on.

iv National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury development Consent Order
This was noted, **it was agreed not respond.**

v Nutrient Neutrality
Nothing to report, **it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda for the time being.**

b Highway Issues

i Footpaths

Over the coming month, Paul Bowen would be reviewing the report of missing signs and produce an action plan.

ii Speeding and SAM 2

A response had been received from the local Police Officer; they had promised to return and carry out further speed checks on Norwich Road.

iii Community Speedwatch

Four required volunteers had come forward; **it was agreed that the request would be repeated in Village Voice and on Facebook to secure the remaining two.**

iv Child Safety at School Drop-off and Pick-up

Concern was once again expressed, considerations included:

- crossing patrol – it was noted that this would have to be funded by the school
- school communications
- Wig-wag sign for traffic travelling south – quotes had been obtained and this would be considered further for the following year's budget
- narrowness of the footpath outside Church Hill Cottage – concern was expressed that widening this pavement would require narrowing of the road which was already a pinch point and at times became blocked
- requesting the extension of the zig-zag lines – Harry Leeder to draft

c Flooding

i Leaky Dams, Wash Lane

The work had been delayed due to a timber supply chain issue. It was hoped that work would be carried out in early November but if conditions got too wet, it may be delayed until spring 2026. It was noted that at the time of the meeting work had not commenced.

- 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
Amendments were agreed, including a request to avoid dumping garden waste in ditches. The updated information would be published online and shared through Village Voice and Facebook.

6 Asset Management

- a Allotments
Nothing to report.
- b Play Area
The loose cap at the top of the slide had been secured, thanks were once again expressed to the resident who was regularly carrying out repairs at the play area.

7 Management of the Parish Council

- a Communication Strategy
A draft strategy had been circulated and all were in agreement. Mark Fisher and the Clerk would meet to discuss further and report back at next meeting.
- b Village Hall Trustee
It was noted that Ray Small had stood down as one of the Parish Council appointed Trustees. **It was agreed to send thanks to Ray for his 25 years' service and to consider the appointment of his successor at the next meeting.**
- c Playing Field Committee
It was agreed to reappoint Ross Jolliffe and Paul Newman as the Parish Council's representatives on the Playing Field Committee.

8 Finance

- a Budget and Precept
 - i Reserves Policy
This was reviewed and agreed.

Paul Bowen left the meeting
 - ii Draft Budget
This was reviewed and would be finalised in December/January.

- 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	October salary	£472.31
Julie King	Poppy wreath and donation	£40.00
Norfolk Pension Fund	Pension contribution	£139.95
Chris Clements	Daffodil bulbs	£96.00

It was noted that whilst the arrangements for the road closure for Remembrance Sunday largely went well, there had been problems with traffic entering the closed off area via Hall Lane. It was agreed that in future either the parade would have to be from the pedestrian access to the playing field or there would need to be barriers at the bottom of Hall Lane. It was possible that once the parade had passed the closure could come down Church Hill to just past Hall Lane.

d The following receipts since the last meeting were noted:		
Allotment holder	Rent and deposits	£54.00

- e Half-year Accounts
Mark Fisher had inspected the accounts and found them to be in order.

9 Village Organisations

- a Village Hall
The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. **I was agreed to invite a representative of the Village Hall Committee to the next meeting to provide a financial report.**

- b Playing Field
It was noted that the AGM would be held on Tuesday 25 November, 7pm at the Saxon Club.

- 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.**

10 Items for Next Month's Agenda

Updating of the Emergency Plan – Harry Leeder would discuss with Bryn Austin prior to the next meeting.

11 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8 December 2025 with an additional meeting on Monday 24 November 2025 to agree the response to East Pye Solar's Targeted Consultation and a public meeting on 21 November regarding East Pye Solar.

The meeting closed at 9.33pm

Chair's Signature..... Date.....