

Swardeston Parish Council
Minutes of the December 2025 Parish Council Meeting
At Swardeston village hall, on Thursday 11th December 2025 at 7.30PM
Meeting 12/2025

Present:
Members - Derek Barber, Nigel Legg, Graham Jermy, Dominic Everett, Justin Barber and Wendy Middleton
Cllr Webber
3 members of the public attended

1.	To consider apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence	
2.	To co-opt member to fill vacancy following election A member of the public in attendance has expressed an interest in joining the council and will attend the January meeting with this in mind.	
3.	To receive declaration of interests in items on agenda There were no declarations of interest made.	
4.	Resolution to adjourn the meeting for public participation and district/county councillor reports Public Participation The footpath finger-post on Wood Lane to which the dog bin is attached has been damaged and needs to be replaced. As the post is not the council's, a new post will be installed specifically for the bin, and the damaged footpath sign reported to the relevant authority. The handyman used by the village hall trustees to be approached with a view to carrying out this work. Flooding continues to be an issue on the B1113 north of the underpass, the reasons for this were discussed and remains a National Highways issue. Norfolk Highways to be contacted about bringing continuing pressure to get a resolution. Lorries have been continuing to use Browne's Lane to access the cable laying operation as the national roadworks database had not been updated to show Short Lane as open. This has been reported to Orsted who intend to ensure it is updated. Orsted had intimated dissatisfaction with Holbrooks (the haulage contractor) already. NL has already spoken to Holbrooks about other routes taken, not conforming to the route plans submitted by Orsted as part of the planning documents. Councillor reports Cllr Webber presented a report (Appendix A).	GJ DB
5.	To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2025 and review matters arising The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed. DE proposed the minutes be agreed as an accurate record, GJ seconded the proposal which was agreed; they were signed by the chairman. Matters arising The 10-year guarantee document for the play area safety surface has now been received. No offcuts of insulation had been left by the village hall's contractor for lagging the hot water heater, Obtaining some back form the contractor will be chased up. Partnership funding application for Dog Walk has been submitted. Play area hedge has now been trimmed on the inside..	GJ
6.	To discuss and agree any action on remaining funding for the village hall No further action at this time.	
7.	To review and agree the asset register Awaiting completion of the WWII memorial before review. Final installation of the memorial to be arranged.	DB

8.	To review and agree comments on planning applications 2025/3507 Location: 7 Chestnut Close Swardeston NR14 8FA Proposal: 10m x 5m swimming pool, a fixed slide, a 7m x 4m garden room and a pump room No comment submitted 2025/3761 Location: Cavell House The Common Swardeston Norfolk NR14 8DZ Proposal: Side extension, internal revisions and 2 bay carport No comment submitted													
9.	To consider any action on the national energy infrastructure projects No further action at this time													
10.	To receive an update on the defibrillator The defibrillator was checked on 12th December 2025 and The Circuit updated.													
11.	Finance 11.1 To consider and agree the accounting statements 11th December 2025 JB proposed the accounts be accepted as a true record; GJ seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. 11.2 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget Following submission from the PCC, it was proposed by DB that the payment in relation to the churchyard maintenance be set at £450, as per the budget. Seconded by JB, unanimously agreed <table border="0"> <tr> <td>BACS £60.00</td> <td>J R Vincent-Bunn</td> <td>Hedge cutting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS £124.83</td> <td>C Jowett</td> <td>Clerks salary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS £82.80</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS £450</td> <td>Swardeston PCC</td> <td>Burial ground maintenance</td> </tr> </table> JB proposed the payments were made, GJ seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.	BACS £60.00	J R Vincent-Bunn	Hedge cutting	BACS £124.83	C Jowett	Clerks salary	BACS £82.80	HMRC	PAYE	BACS £450	Swardeston PCC	Burial ground maintenance	
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BACS £450	Swardeston PCC	Burial ground maintenance												
12.	To consider correspondence received There were no issues to discuss													
13.	To adjourn the meeting for public participation There were no matters raised.													
14.	To agree agenda items for the next meeting on 8th January 2026 at 7:30 To confirm budget requirement for 2026/27 To set the precept To complete co-option forms for adding a member of the council To discuss progress with installation of the war memorial. To confirm the check on the defibrillator To review and agree comments on any planning applications received To discuss and agree any action on remaining funding for the village hall The meeting closed at 20.58pm													
Signed: Mr D Barber Chairman to Swardeston Parish Council https://swardestonparish.gov.uk														

District Councillors' Report for Swardeston Parish Council – 11 December 2025

Member Ward Grants

Member Ward Grants for 2025/26 are now available. Requests for support with small projects (typically up to £1,000 per project) to benefit the local community can be made to your District Councillors.

Christmas Parking Help

South Norfolk Council is an extra hour of free parking on Saturday 13th and 20th December. Shoppers in Wymondham, Diss, and Loddon can park for 2 hours without charge (usually 1 hour) in Council car parks. Simply display a Free or Pay & Display ticket on your dashboard – while the extra hour won't appear on the, the Council's parking team will automatically apply it. This offer applies only to Free or Pay & Display tickets and does not include RingGo or Check In Check Out options. From 1st December, parking will be free after 4pm Monday to Friday.

Food Waste Collection

Food waste collection will be introduced across South Norfolk in 2026. The service in Swardeston is expected to start in July. Recycling will help cut down on waste and transform leftovers into energy and fertiliser. Further details and food waste containers will be available nearer the start date.

Details will be available in the new South Norfolk Bin Collection App, which now includes helpful information on which items can be recycled. The app is available the Google and Apple app stores and through the following link: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/bin-collections-and-app/south-norfolk-bin-collection-app>

Devolution Timetable

The Government has recently indicated that the proposed Mayoral election for Norfolk and Suffolk will not be held in May 2026 as previously planned. The formal announcement states "In order to make sure strong foundations are in place ahead of devolution, Ministers have today confirmed they are considering holding inaugural mayoral elections in these areas in May 2028, with areas completing the reorganisation process before Mayors take office." So, the election may be in 2028 but then again it may not.

Local Government Reform

The three different proposals for local government reform In Norfolk have all been accepted by the Government. The Government is now asking for views from Norfolk residents, businesses and community organisation. The consultation is open until 11 January 2026. The survey can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-norfolk-and-suffolk/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-norfolk-and-suffolk>

South Norfolk Council considers its own proposal for 2 Unitary Authorities comes closest to meeting all of the Government' objective's for LGR.

The consultation is non-binding. The Government is expected to announce its conclusion in March 2026 with the enabling legislation laid before Parliament in the Spring next year, with elections to the new shadow Council(s) in May 2027.

South Norfolk Planning Consultations

The consultations on the GNLP Green Infrastructure SPD and the GNLP Sustainable Communities SPD close on 13th December.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/future-development/supplementary-planning-documents/joint-supplementary-planning-documents-for-broadland-and-south-norfolk-councils>

Neighbour Planning Grants

The council has established a Transitional Neighbourhood Plan Fund to support the development of Neighbourhood Plans in the district. The fund is intended to compensate for the withdrawal of national funding for Neighbourhood Planning, and is available to parish and town councils that still need additional funding to meet their project costs. In aggregate up to £16,000 is potentially available towards the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. Email: neighbourhoodplans@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

SNC Consultation on Sex Establishment Licensing Policy

There are no licensed sex premises in South Norfolk at present. This piece of policy development is intended to give the Council greater influence and control should any applications be forthcoming. The consultation closes on 25th February 2026.

Tasway Solar Farm

The Tasway Phase One Consultation has closed. A large 700 MW solar farm with BESS is proposed on land running from Ashwellthorpe to Wacton, possibly connecting to the National Grid at Norwich Main. The preliminary timetable suggests construction could start in 2030. Further information can be found on: <https://taswayenergypark.co.uk/>

East Pye Solar Farm

The targeted consultation closed on 26th November. The developer has announced that it plans to submit its application to the Planning Inspectorate in February 2026. The Inspectorate has 28 days to decide on whether to accept the application.

‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update

The National Grid's Development Consent Order is now in its pre-examination phase. The date for registration with the Planning Inspectorate as an interested party has passed. The next stage is for the Inspectorate to announce the dates of the examination.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027>

PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to campaign against the pylon proposals and are fundraising. For further information visit: <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions>.

Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber

	<u>Councillor Contact Details</u>	
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