

Swardeston Parish Council
Minutes of the July 2025 Parish Council Meeting
At Swardeston village hall, on Thursday 10th July 2025 at 7.30PM
Meeting 7/2025

Present:

Members - Derek Barber, Justin Barber, Graham Jermy, Dominic Everett, Nigel Legg and

Clerk - Carole Jowett

Cllr Webber

3 members of the public attended

1.	To consider apologies for absence Wendy Middleton had tendered her absence which was noted.	
2.	To co-opt member to fill vacancy following election There were no nominations to fill the vacancy.	
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 No issues were raised. Councillor reports Cllr Webber had sent a report which is copied at appendix a to these minutes. There was a consultation on local government reorganisation and devolution. There would be a free union flag available to parishes. There was an application for a large Solar farm which would impact on the Tas Valley way which would also affect Ashwellthorpe. A public meeting led by Ben Goldsborough was to be held in the village hall The South Norfolk Council submission on the Norwich to Tilbury pylons was due to be submitted in late August The budget had been agreed to demolish the old council building in Long Stratton.	
5.	To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2025 and review matters arising The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed Mr J Barber proposed the minutes be agreed as an accurate record, Mr Everett seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed; they were signed by the chairman. Matters arising There were no matters to discuss	
6.	To discuss and agree any action on remaining funding for the village hall Two of the trustees attended the meeting. The chairman explained that there were items of work that needed to be done to complete the first phase of upgrades. A question was raised as to whether the trustees were minded to do the items in phase 1 before moving on to phase 2. There was a balance still available from pledged funds and the trustees were asked if there was a will to do the necessary work. The trustees explained that they had not been able to spend any more money at that stage but Community Payback (CPB) resource had been working on site. They confirmed that they were committed to work together and agreed communication could be improved. There was a desire to get the snagging completed at least cost. CPB were doing the painting, the lagging for the hot water cylinder had been ordered and would be fitted by volunteers. Mr Jermy asked if phase one could be finished and signed off before stage 2 started.	

	There were some items that had not been prioritised due to the season. Quotes were being obtained for works. The list of work to be done was reviewed. It was raised that the disabled access included a step which restricted access for wheelchair users with the path having been laid but not raised. The emergency exit lighting would be done when the electrician was next on site to avoid a call out fee. The flooring repair would be done. The heating was working but there instructions were needed on how to use it. Mr Barber explained that the thermostat controlled the heat but the ones that worked by wi-fi would not respond to the thermostat – this would be investigated and advice sought. It was stated that the 2 separate systems did not work together. It was stated that the boiling water tap needed to be turned round but the trustees said they wanted it to be as it was. The hot water cylinder jacket had arrived and would be fitted. A timer had also been fitted. The trustees agreed it should have been replaced when the work was being done. The other thing that restricted use was the curtains and blinds, these would be replaced when the painting was completed. The door would need a solution that had not yet been identified. A hook and eye would be installed to hold the door open. If prices could be provided consideration could be made to pay from the reserved CIL money. The trustees would provide financial information. Grants were being applied for to help with cost reduction as well as more improvements. The village hall accounts were on the charity commission website. There was a lot more detail in them than previous years. The electricity costs were about half of what they had been. Mr Jermy asked if costs could be provided for the identified items in time for the next meeting funding could be agreed to get these done.	
7.	To review the health and safety policy and agree any changes There were a lot of items in the existing policy that were not appropriate, more work would be needed. The clerk would work with Dr Legg	CJ NL
8.	To receive an update on the playground safety surface and agree any action Work would be done late September early October. The funding was in place from South Norfolk Council and they would be managing it.	
9.	To discuss and agree any action on the damaged bus shelter The bus shelter had been repaired but no invoice had yet been received. The flag had been moved back as part of the repairs to avoid further hits.	
10.	To review the position on the war memorial and agree any action The deposit had been approved and paid and the order placed. It was hoped to have the work done by the memorial weekend. Mr D Barber had informed war memorials trust of the plans.	
11.	To discuss and agree to register with the Information Commissioners Office It was agreed to register and Mr Jermy agreed to do the registration and pay by BACS if possible.	GJ
12.	To review and agree comments on any planning applications 2025/1641 Proposal: Proposed new garage and store extension to existing dwelling Location: Blackthorn Farm The Common Swardeston NR14 8DZ It was agreed not to submit any comments.	
13.	To consider any action on the national energy infrastructure projects There were no items to discuss.	

14.	To consider the invitation to bid for the parish partnership 2026/27 The surface on Dog Walk had been a longstanding issue. Mr D Barber had spoken to the highways engineer who has agreed to survey and put together a plan and costings. He had advised the parish council would need to write to residents and ask them to cut back hedges. Mr D Barber proposed that he photograph and write up what was needed; costs could then be sought for consideration. Mr Everett seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.																			
15.	To receive an update on the defibrillator The defibrillator had been checked and the Circuit had been updated.																			
16.	Finance 16.1 To consider and agree the accounting statements 10th July 2025 Mr J Barber proposed the accounts were accepted as a true record; Mr Jermy seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. 16.2 To check and agree bank balances The balances were checked by Mr Everett online against the bank reconciliation he confirmed they were accurate and matched the balances stated. 16.3 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget <table border="0"> <tr> <td>BACS £250.00</td><td>Bierton & Woods</td><td>CIL (war memorial deposit)</td></tr> <tr> <td>BACS £249.70</td><td>Norse Eastern Ltd</td><td>Grounds maintenance</td></tr> <tr> <td>BACS £120.71</td><td>C Jowett</td><td>Clerks salary</td></tr> <tr> <td>BACS £80.40</td><td>HMRC</td><td>PAYE</td></tr> <tr> <td>BACS £84.00</td><td>Norfolk ALC</td><td>Website hosting fee</td></tr> <tr> <td>BACS £52.00</td><td>ICO</td><td>Registration</td></tr> </table> Mr J Barber proposed the payments be made, Mr Jermy seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.	BACS £250.00	Bierton & Woods	CIL (war memorial deposit)	BACS £249.70	Norse Eastern Ltd	Grounds maintenance	BACS £120.71	C Jowett	Clerks salary	BACS £80.40	HMRC	PAYE	BACS £84.00	Norfolk ALC	Website hosting fee	BACS £52.00	ICO	Registration	
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17.	To consider correspondence received Consultation																			
18.	To adjourn the meeting for public participation No Issues were raised																			
19.	To agree agenda items for the next meeting on 14th August 2025 at 7:30 To confirm the check on the defibrillator To review and agree comments on any planning applications received To review the health and safety policy and agree any changes To consider and adopt the IT policy To discuss and agree any action on remaining funding for the village hall To consider the public consultation on draft South Norfolk Landscape Susceptibility in relation to energy generation, storage and transmission Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) To consider and agree to bid for the parish partnership scheme 2026/27 The meeting closed at 20:45 pm																			
Signed: Mr D Barber Chairman to Swardeston Parish Council https://swardestonparish.gov.uk																				

District Councillors' Report for Swardeston Parish Council – 10 July 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.

Devolution & Local Government Reform

South Norfolk Council has launched its own online consultation on local government reform:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/NQkQl3wyjuXt1stf?ref=Link>

Everyone with an interest in the management of Council Services is encouraged to complete the survey. There is also a chance to win Amazon vouchers or a luxury hamper!

South Norfolk has scheduled a meeting to review its submission to Government on 24th September. Final submissions are due in on 26 September 2025.

VJ Day – 80 Flags Project

SNC is encouraging organisations and groups to fly the Union Jack flag on 15th August – the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. A limited number of flags are available from the Communities team at South Norfolk.

Landscape Susceptibility Supplementary Planning Document

South Norfolk is under pressure from many energy infrastructure projects including solar farms, Battery storage systems, converter stations and grid enhancement. The Council has opened a consultation on a new planning guide designed to highlight site sensitivities, design and mitigation, helping applicants align proposals with national and local planning frameworks while minimising adverse impacts on the landscape and local communities. The Leader of the Council said, "I am proud to say this council is taking a hard-hitting, proactive stance to ensure that our contribution to the nation's energy future never comes at the cost of our irreplaceable and unique local character".

<https://southnorfolkandbroadland.oc2.uk/>

Tasway Solar Farm

Proposals are emerging for another large solar farm on the Southern edge of the ward. The Tasway solar farm would generate c700mW of electricity, around 40% more than the neighbouring East Pye proposal.

The park would run from Ashwellthorpe to Wacton – the Tas river, the London mail line and the current and proposed pylon routes would run through the park. <https://taswayenergypark.co.uk/>

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

National Grid has advised that archaeological surveys including trial trenching at some locations along the proposed route will be continuing for 6 months.

The National Grid application for a Development Consent Order is planned to be submitted in late August 2025.

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

Bob McClenning, Ian Spratt & Jim Webber

	Councillor Contact Details	
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