

Swardeston Parish Council
Minutes of the January 2026 Parish Council Meeting
At Swardeston village hall, on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30PM
Meeting 1/2026

Present:
Members - Derek Barber, Graham Jermy, Dominic Everett, Justin Barber and Wendy Middleton
Cllr Webber
1 member of the public attended

1.	To consider apologies for absence Dr Legg had sent his apologies for absence.	
2.	To co-opt member to fill vacancy following election Mr D Barber nominated Nick Turner to be co-opted as a member of the parish council. Mr Everett seconded the nomination and it was unanimously agreed. Mr Turner signed the acceptance of office form and joined the meeting. The clerk would get a new email address set up for him.	CJ
3.	To receive declaration of interests in items on agenda There were no declarations of interest.	
4.	Resolution to adjourn the meeting for public participation and district/county councillor reports Public Participation No issues were raised Councillor reports Cllr Webber presented a report (Appendix A).	
5.	To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2025 and review matters arising The minutes of the December meeting were reviewed. Mrs Middleton proposed the minutes be agreed as an accurate record, Mr Everett seconded the proposal which was agreed; they were signed by the chairman. Matters arising There was a local handyman who was willing to deal with the post the dog bin is attached to. The chairman said he had a spare dog bin with a steel post attached so the post could be used although it may not be suitable for the finger post. The chairman would contact the handyman. The off cuts of insulation had not been able to be located but the contractor would be asked to provide some alternative off cuts; Mr D Barber would make contact.	DB DB
6.	To discuss progress with installation of the war memorial The war memorial had been installed but soil had been used to fill the gap between the granite and concrete; Mr D Barber said he would rectify this. The vicar had been asked to dedicate it and the veterans' group was keen to be involved. The War Memorial trust had sample service sheets that could be used and a date would be set for springtime.	DB
7.	To discuss and agree any action on remaining funding for the village hall Grants had been very difficult to get as many providers were national and were looking for projects offering specific outcomes.	
8.	To review and agree the asset register The new noticeboard, the commemorative bench and the new war memorial had been added to the asset register and photographed. It was agreed that the asset register was correct.	
9.	To review and agree comments on planning applications 202025/3856 Location: Swardeston Bowls Club, The Common Swardeston NR14 8EB	

	Proposal: Details reserved by condition 3 of 2025/1923 – roof tiles, timber door and cladding, sauna glass Mr Everett proposed that no comments were submitted. Mr J Barber seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. 2025/4006 Location: Land To The Rear Of Be You Tiful Beauty Main Road Swardeston NR14 8DN Proposal: Outline application for one self-build dwelling with access as a matter for consideration Mr Everett proposed that no comments were submitted. Mrs Middleton seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.																
10.	To receive an update on the defibrillator The defibrillator would be checked on 9th January 2026 and The Circuit updated. The pads would need to be replaced next year and were likely to cost £60 and £80.																
11.	Finance 11.1 To review and agree the financial statement to 8th January 2026 Mr J Barber proposed that the statement be accepted as an accurate record. Mrs Middleton seconded the proposal which was agreed. 11.2 To confirm budget requirement for 2026/27 The budget was discussed and revised to add the cost of the defibrillator pads. Mr J Barber proposed the budget be accepted; Mr Everett seconded the proposal which was agreed. 11.3 To set the precept for 2026/27 After discussion Mr Everett proposed that the precept should be set at. £6692.00 which would keep the amount householders would pay the same as the current year. Mr Jermy seconded the proposal which was agreed by a majority. 11.4 To confirm the bank balances Mr Everett checked the bank balances on-line against the financial statements and confirmed they were correct. 11.5 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget <table border="0"> <tr> <td>BACS £554.00</td> <td>Brierton & Woods</td> <td>War memorial</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS £249.70</td> <td>Norse Eastern Ltd</td> <td>Grounds maintenance</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 £4590.00</td> <td>Shawn Gilbey</td> <td>Village Hall windows and doors</td> </tr> </table> There was no confirmation that Norse had been cutting the grass in line with the contract and invoices were paid without checking. The clerk would ask if the dates of cutting to be added to the invoice or a schedule provided to enable monitoring if required. Mr J Barber proposed the payments were made, Mr Everett seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.	BACS £554.00	Brierton & Woods	War memorial	BACS £249.70	Norse Eastern Ltd	Grounds maintenance	BACS £124.83	C Jowett	Clerks salary	BACS £82.80	HMRC	PAYE	BACS £4590.00	Shawn Gilbey	Village Hall windows and doors	CJ
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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 12th February 2026 at 7:30 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 To consider the war memorial dedication and any actions To consider any action on the national energy infrastructure projects The meeting closed at 20.50pm																

Signed: Mr D Barber

Chairman to Swardeston Parish Council

<https://swardestonparish.gov.uk>

District Councillors' Report for Swardeston Parish Council – 8 January 2026

Member Ward Grants

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. Member Ward Grants for 2025/26 are now fully committed. Further funding is expected to be available in April for the 2026/27 financial year.

Communities Action Fund Grants

South Norfolk Council provides funding to support local community projects via the Communities Action Fund. SNC Cabinet is being asked to approve a further £150,000 in funding for the current financial year. If approved, applications can be made from 12th January until mid-February. This would bring total CAF funding to £300,000 for 2025/26. Applications are made by District Councillors; please contact Bob, Ian or Jim to discuss your project.

Initial budget discussions suggest that CAF funding for 2026/27 could be materially above £300,000. Projects are more likely to be supported if there is a material level of funding from other sources.

Local Government Reform and Devolution

There have been no new announcements regarding the timetable for LGR and devolution. The Government's consultation on the three different proposals for local government reform in Norfolk closes on Sunday 11 January 2026. The consultation 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>

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

Local councils are being consulted on whether planned local elections(including the already deferred County elections) should be held in May 2026.

Tasway Energy Park

Tasway Energy Park has been awarded a Gate 1 offer following the recent review of Grid Connections by the National Energy System Operator. This means that the project has no confirmed grid connection point and connection date at present.

The Company states: "The project team will now be reviewing next steps for the Tasway programme and how this outcome will affect this. This outcome will mean there will be a delay to the planning submission process until the project has better visibility of a grid connection point." Previously the Company indicated that a planning submission might be made in early 2027.

Further information can be found on: <https://taswayenergypark.co.uk/>

East Pye Solar Farm

This solar proposal has received a Gate 2 offer meaning it has a firm offer (date and place) for connection to the Grid. 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 remains 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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