

Swardeston Parish Council
Minutes of the June 2026 Parish Council Meeting
At Swardeston village hall, on Thursday 11th June 2026 at 7.30PM
Meeting 6/2026

Present:
Members - Derek Barber, Graham Jermy and Justin Barber
Cllr Webber
3 members of the public attended

1.	To consider apologies for absence Mrs Middleton and Mr Everett had sent their apologies for absence which were accepted. Mr Nick Turner had submitted his resignation. The clerk would notify South Norfolk about the casual vacancy.	CJ
2.	To co-opt a member to fill the casual vacancy There were no nominations to fill the vacancy.	
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 A question was asked about any progress with the improvements to Dog Walk. It was explained by the chairman that the parish council's contribution had been made but the timing would be down to the county council however it should be completed within the current financial year. Thanks were expressed to the parish council for the contribution to the new windows in the village hall. Councillor reports Cllr Webber presented a report which is shown at appendix a to these minutes. He reported that he had attended his first planning committee meeting but 2 applications had been in his ward. The ethos of the council was to not refuse those applications that would be likely to be overturned at appeal. The Bracon Ash application had been approved. The Swardeston one had also been approved but Cllr Webber said he had asked questions about the reduction in affordable homes and abstained from the vote. The role of the planning committee would be changing with smaller applications not going to the committee. The county council had produced leaflets for those people struggling with living costs, some were provided to leave in the social club.	
5.	To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2026 and the annual general meeting on 14th May 2026 and review matters arising Mr J Barber proposed the April 2026 minutes be agreed as an accurate record, Mr Jermy seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. They were signed by the chairman. Mr Jermy proposed the minutes of the annual general meeting be agreed as an accurate record, Mr J Barber seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. They were signed by the chairman. Matters arising The insurance policy had been renewed. The additional bank access for Mr Jermy had been completed.	
6.	To consider and agree to accept the community funding from Hall Farm energy storage See agenda item 8	

7.	To consider any action on the national energy infrastructure projects There were no issues to discuss.	
8.	To review the draft deed for the Hall farm community fund and agree next steps The deed had not yet been received for review.	
9.	To consider the provision of a bike rack at the village hall This had been requested at the village meeting. The parish council does not own either the common or the village hall but the request would be passed on to the village hall trustees. The clerk would email the chairperson of the trustees.	CJ
10.	To review and agree any changes to the financial regulations The new version would be checked against the current version and reviewed at the July meeting.	GJ
11.	To review progress with the village hall The grant from Bracon Ash Energy Farm had not been decided.	
12.	To check progress on the dog bin The work should be completed within the next two weeks.	
13.	To discuss the annual litter pick and agree any further actions The completion notice had been sent so there should be a payment of £50 with a chance to win £500. All the equipment and information would be put together for the handover to Mr Jermy and Mr Everett for the next year. Main Road had been bad but the litter pick had gone well.	
14.	To review and agree comments on any planning applications received 2026/0664 Location: Land At the South End of Chestnut Close Swardeston Proposal: Outline planning application for the erection of 3 no residential self/custom build single storey dwellings The application had been reviewed. Mr J Barber proposed no comments should be submitted JG seconded the proposal and was unanimously agreed.	
15.	To receive an update on the defibrillator The check had been completed.	
16.	To agree the annual governance statement The governance statement for 2025/26 was reviewed, Mr J Barber proposed it be agreed, Mr Jermy seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. The chairman and clerk signed the governance statement.	
17.	To approve the annual accounting statement The financial statement for 2025/26 was reviewed, Mr J Barber proposed it be agreed, Mr Jermy seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. The chairman signed the accounting statement The certificate of exemption for 2025/26 was reviewed, Mr J Barber proposed it be agreed, Mr Jermy seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. The chairman and clerk signed the certificate of exemption.	
18.	Finance 18.1 To review and agree the financial statement to 11th June 2026 The financial statement and bank reconciliation was prop by Mr J Barber Mr Jermy seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. 18.2 To check and verify the bank balances against the bank reconciliation	

	This was adjourned to the next meeting as there were no non-signatories present. 18.3 To agree an additional bank signatory This item was adjourned to the next meeting. 18.4 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget <table> <tr> <td>BACS £305.35</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> </table> Mr J Barber proposed the above payments be made, Mr Jermy seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed.	BACS £305.35	Norse Eastern Ltd	Grounds maintenance	BACS £124.83	C Jowett	Clerks salary	BACS £82.80	HMRC	PAYE	
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19.	To consider correspondence received 19.1 Norwich Apex Data Centre had written about proposals for a new data centre on land adjoining B1113 and Ipswich Road with a request for a meeting. 19.2 South Norfolk Council had written about the change to the publication of parish councillors' home address and register of interests 19.3 Notification of Swainsthorpe Neighbourhood Plan - Reg. 16 Consultation by South Norfolk Council had been received. 19.4 The annual play inspections were available through South Norfolk Council again and would need to be registered by 28th October 2026.	CJ									
20.	To adjourn the meeting for public participation No issues were raised.										
21.	To agree agenda items for the next meeting on 9th July 2026 at 7:30 To review and adopt a reserves policy as recommended in the internal audit report To confirm the check on the defibrillator To check progress on the dog bin To review and agree comments on any planning applications received To consider any action on the national energy infrastructure projects To agree an additional bank signatory To consider Swainsthorpe Neighbourhood Plan - Reg. 16 Consultation and agree any comments The meeting closed at 20:30pm										
Signed: Mr D Barber Chairman to Swardeston Parish Council https://swardestonparish.gov.uk											

District Councillors' Report for Swardeston Parish Council – 11 June 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. Please also discuss larger grants with your District Councillors (see Communities Action Fund and Communities Facilities Grants below).

Communities Action Fund (CAF) and Communities Facilities Grant (CFG)

Much larger grants (potentially up to £40,000) are also available from the District Council through CAF and CFG grants. Applications, via your District Councillor, are now open. The closing date is 16th August. Applications are more likely to be funded if matched funding is available from other sources.

In Bloom Grant

Applications for In Bloom Grants have reopened to Parish Councils and other community organisations. Grants are for “projects that enhance the visual appeal of their communities, encourage the growing of produce, and promote wildlife and biodiversity.” The total amount available per parish is limited to £1 per resident and applications must have at least 50% matched funding. Applications are now being accepted until 15th November 2026.

Electricals Recycling

A quick reminder about the Council's collection service for small electricals and batteries.

Simply book a collection and leave your items out on your usual bin day, we'll do the rest.



What you can recycle: Small items like kettles, toasters, hairdryers, chargers, cables, and batteries



What we can't take: Large appliances (like microwaves or TVs), commercial waste, or items that don't fit in a standard carrier bag



Book your collection here: <https://orlo.uk/mT0fD>

Local Government Reform and Devolution

There are no new developments in the ongoing process of local government reform and devolution, although local council leaders continue to voice concern and opposition to the proposals. If elections to the new Unitary Authorities are to happen next May, the Structural Change Order must pass through Parliament in September/October. The advice from Sout Norfolk Officer's is that “LGR is still happening until it is not happening”.

Hethel Roundabout Project

The confirmed dates for the closure of Wymondham Road in Hethel are 14th July to 18th September. During this period Bridge Road in Wrenningham will be closed to all traffic apart from deliveries and local residents and businesses. Access to Browick Road from Wymondham Road will be controlled to ensure diversionary traffic does not use this route.

Temporary traffic lights will be installed on Wymondham Road from 21st September to 2nd October to permit the formal stopping up of the junction with Potash Lane. The final completion of the work is expected on 20th November.

Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045

South Norfolk Council has formally approved commencement of the next iteration of the GNLP. A scoping consultation will be undertaken in the summer, a first 6-week consultation of the local plan will be undertaken in 2027, and it is expected that the new Unitary Authorities will adopt the plan by 2030.

East Pye Solar Farm.

Registrations with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for this scheme are now closed. The timetable for the examination stage will now be set by the Planning Inspectorate.

EDF Energy Solar Park



EDF are nearing completion of the Bloys Grove Solar Farm at Swainsthorpe and a BESS to the North of the village. Now the company has advised that another solar farm is proposed on the East side of the A140 running from Dunston Hall Golf Course to the A140 junction with Church Road, Swainsthorpe – see image. Consultation events will be held later in the year.

‘Norwich to Tilbury’ Update

The National Grid’s Development Consent Order continues at the examination phase. This is scheduled to close on 10 August 2026, although an earlier close is possible. The initial public hearings have been completed and can be viewed online: [Examination timetable - Norwich to Tilbury - Find a National Infrastructure Project](#).

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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