



Parish Council Meeting Minutes

For 2nd June 2025,

7.00pm, at St. Mary's Church, Rushall

PRESENT: Cllr. Andrew Goodman (Chair), Cllr. S. Adlam, Cllr. Lisa Buck, Cllr. David Leyserman, Cllr. J. Kerr, Cllr. Pam Reekie

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann Baker (Clerk), Matt Hill (RFO)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 40+ residents

33. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES - apologies were received from: Cllr. R. Theobald, Co. Cllr. C. Rowett, Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson - accepted

34. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS ON ANY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED – Cllr. Goodman - NP developments (min. 37f), Cllr. Buck – Planning 2025/1332 (min.40b)

35. A SHORT PRESENTATION FROM ELMYA ENERGY & RENEWABLES - the company declined the invitation to the meeting

36. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

PUBLIC - Planning Application 2025/1332 Land east of Cuttings Road, Rushall Environmental Impact Assessment Screening request for proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

RESIDENT - enquired how the electricity would be transferred to the site and travel onwards - cabling via the National Grid, as yet there is no provision for this;

RESIDENT - inaccurate letters to residents –lack of transparency, contradictions, transport etc.;

RESIDENT - who will undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment Statement (EIAS) – a standard format including topography, geology, environment etc. carried out by Elmya. The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) group hope to meet with the company - Elmya to explain their concerns in a civilised educated manner that residents are not against renewable energy however this is in 'the wrong place.'

CLLR. C. Hudson – indicated that the group are trying to assess the strength of feeling in the locality, individual approach is stronger than group petitions, the Government approach could change to this type of build. The 'journey will be long' as a full planning application plus consultation has to be carried out;

RESIDENT - are there other areas in S. Norfolk/Norfolk with similar applications; use of old power stations, old airfields, industrial sites etc. would seem more appropriate for this sort of development; several statutory consultees have still not been consulted at this stage - Norfolk Fire & Rescue, Anglian Water;

A MULTITUDE OF VIEWS, CONCERNS - were raised/expressed:- environmental – ponds, woods, fields, rural setting, light/noise, security, dark skies, glacial activity in the area; Highways - access from major roads to site along single track rural lanes, huge numbers of large vehicles;

fire & rescue service – local water storage, evacuation of area – Emergency plans within the County – use of schools, leisure centres etc., compensation etc.; the concreting of large areas, will impact flooding risks; siting ought to be nearer to substations, provision of interceptors/storage, use of industrial sites, cabling to/from sites; the transparency/involvement of the pension group with other consultees; Norfolk/East Anglia MP's need to co-ordinate the Government towards a strategic approach to such projects across the country. The Landowner – should a response be sought from them??

THE Co-Ordinator of the 'Against the BESS' asked that individuals sending responses/questions to the proposal (to Alpaca (the PR group) or Elmya) would be appreciated if the group be 'cc' into the emails

THE PARISH COUNCIL - the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan submitted to SNDC offered clear guidelines regarding industrial development.

DIST. CLLR. C. HUDSON – Added that renewable energy has its place - close to substations away from communities, on industrial sites near to main highways for easier grid connections and storage facilities where the impact on the environment will be minimised

Dist. Cllr. D. Thompson - a report is attached within the Minute file

Co. Cllr. C. Rowett - a full report is attached within the Minute file

The Chair thanked all those attending and the meeting resumed at 8. 32pm

37. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 12TH MAY 2025 -

An amendment was made to item 25d to read more accurately - Cllr. Buck. The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. It was resolved to approve them, proposed Cllr. P. Reekie, seconded Cllr. J. Kerr, all approved.

38. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12TH MAY, 2025, FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY:

a. Website and domain changes (min. 21a) - Cllr. S. Adlam will advise/assist prior to the July meeting

b. Furze Green gateway signs (min. 21b) - Signlines are progressing the Gateways, possibly installing the week beginning 9th June, confirmation required from Highways for exact siting. The Clerk has contacted Needham and Pulham St. Mary with an update of the situation, as they are sharing the costs of one of the signs

c. Dog bin update (min 21c) - a new bin installed at the bottom of Burston Road, Dickleburgh. The relevant authority has been informed

d. Lighting & Doors (min. 21d) - an invoice has been received from M. Drury who installed the initial LED lights in the storeroom, meeting room and kitchen. The PC is awaiting the certification required for this work. Please see below.

e. Daphne Buxton Memorial update (min 21e) - a group of interested residents have recently met and agreed to continue to arrange events at St. Clements Common throughout the year

f. Neighbourhood Planning (min.23) - the responses to the Examiner's initial comments had been circulated by the Chair to councillors - the response had been prepared by a series of meetings with the NP team, the consultant Rachel Leggett finalised the content which was forwarded to R. Squires at SNC and Broadland District Council, who in turn would send to the Examiner. The Parish Council were requested to ratify the response, proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. L. Buck, five voted in favour, one against

39. THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RFO, including notification of payments made over the last month:

a. The RFO initially commented on how little time he had been given to prepare the figures called for. The RFO presented his report commenting on various matters, many of which had been mentioned before

b. The RFO commented that the Internal Auditor indicated the record keeping and dealings with HMRC and VAT office were made in a timely manner, avoiding penalties and fines. The Internal

Auditor also commented on the Asset Register which he found detailed, which the RFO keeps up to date ensuring the Parish Council is not under insured.

- c. The Accounting Statements were produced and explained by the RFO
- d. AGAR Paperwork was brought to the Parish Council by the RFO as requested by the Parish Clerk but time conspired against completion, which is anticipated will be finalised prior to the end of the month
- e. Willow Tree on St. Clements Common - this work was undertaken as the tree was in a dangerous state and Waveney Tree Specialists carried out the work immediately. A quote was been provided, the invoice for the work is awaited
- f. The RFO explained he had again been dealing with CCLA, he has now been able to provide the necessary documentation to enable the account to continue to operate. The cost of the tree work in (e) will be partially covered from the CCLA dividend income received quarterly.

Matters arising from last month:

- a. Light and doors - The invoice had been passed to the RFO, simply quoting an amount to be paid, no written guarantees were provided, it was felt there is a need for checking the work to ensure it meets standards required within a public place. Concern was raised over the account to be credited which appears to be a personal account and not a commercial one. The RFO still had questions concerning members of the public using any of the electrical work undertaken and valid insurance cover until it has been confirmed as satisfactory to use. It was agreed these matters needed to be resolved before account was paid
- b. Glass bin emptying (min. 24.(v) The Village Centre Committee discussed at the June meeting, the RFO was not present at that meeting. The question was asked why the Parish Council were paying for the emptying of the glass bin when it appears is all generated by the bar. It is hoped that once clarity has been reached regarding the lease between the Parish Council and Village Centre Management Committee this matter will be resolved.
- c. The RFO would also like it noted that a Minute made at the March 2025 meeting (min.157a) to request an EIS for the Solar Farm proposed in Semere Lane was not actioned until May 2025 which was after the initial consultation had been undertaken by South Norfolk Council and therefore the request was a retrospective one. This is particularly disappointing since the March meeting was attended by a number of residents who expected a prompt response from the Parish Council given the nature of the proposal. It was noted that the Clerk had a broken wrist, and had spoken with the Planning Officer assigned (at SNC) and the PC had been given an extension enabling it to submit the response.

a. **Payments & receipts** – RFO circulated the list of payments and receipts for the month. the main points were as follows:

- (i) The RFO will prepare a revised budget
- (ii) Income - included a VAT return from the last quarter plus the usual monthly sources of income
- (iii) Expenditure included the usual commitments, along with the internal auditor's fee, emergency tree works on St. Clements Common, M. Drury's invoice for lighting works, Eon and British Gas, H. Drake's invoices to come
- (iv) The RFO indicated that reserves will be used to cover some expenditure during the year
- (v) Responsibility for the work at the Village Centre, the Charity Commission paperwork, aims and governance of the Village Centre remains outstanding

The payments and receipts were unanimously approved by those present

- b. **Approval of the AGAR paper** - the internal Auditor's report from Robin Goreham – this was duly approved by Cllr. D. Leyserman seconded by Cllr. L. Buck, agreed by all
- c. **Approval of the AGAR, Section 2 – Accounting Statements for 2024 - 2025** - proposed Cllr. , seconded Cllr. , all in agreement
- d. **Noted - period allocated for the exercising rights to inspect the unaudited accounts can be viewed from Thurs. 26th June to Wed. 6th August 2025** NB these were amended to include 30 days in total Mon. 30th June – Fri. 8th August
- e. **Retrospective approval of emergency works to a willow tree on St. Clements Common** – proposed Cllr. J. Kerr, seconded Cllr. P. Reekie, all approved

- f. **CCLA – removal of signatories T. Blacker & T. Clarkson** - it was agreed that as these persons no longer had a direct connection to the Parish Council that their names be removed from the mandate

40. Approval of the Safe Guarding Policy - this had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Discussion followed – some of the wording would benefit from amending. It was agreed to circulate and bring to the July meeting

The Risk Assessment Policy and Financial Regulations will be reviewed at the July meeting.

41. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AS RECEIVED FROM SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL:

a. **Planning application 2023/3526 land adjacent to Moorlands, Norwich Road, Dickleburgh** - erection of a 3 bed bungalow , double garage/workshop building with new access drive - to be noted this will be discussed at the next Development Management Committee meeting on Wed. 4th June, The Horizon Centre, Broadland Business Park, Norwich. The comments that had been sent previously were agreed to still be relevant

b. **Application 2025/1332 Land east of Cuttings Road, Rushall** – Environmental Impact Assessment Screening (EIAS) – for proposed Battery Energy Storage System - many aspects of this were covered at the start of the meeting – The NP response to the Examiner/Inspector (of the NP document) has maps that could be lifted and used by the BESS group or the PC when making future points. These include indicating the aquifer, glacial scarring, flood zones, topography and peat deposits. In addition members of the public explained there were questions over where boreholes were to be found; position, size of containment water tanks, how deep into the ground, where the run-off will travel – ultimately into Dickleburgh Moor, as the Moor is the low point of a 30 mile bowl; along with other elements of the NP which could be used to inform discussion. An open invite to the July meeting would be extended to the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service, Anglia Water, UK PowerNetworks, Highways, Tourist Information, Elmya and local landowners – as this type of structure will impact the whole industrial infrastructure

c. **Waveney Holiday Park 2024/3439 Lawful development of the site** - no update at present, there needs to be clarity on where this application is – as it is potentially doubling the population of Rushall, affecting the infrastructure of the village – water, sewage, electricity, transport etc. Agree that both District Councillors should be copied into any correspondence

d. **Removal of the hedges on the Chenery site** - nothing new to add, it was agreed to remove from the agenda for the time being

e. **Receipt of Consultees reports of Planning Decisions made by SNC:** - no decisions received

42. Emergency Tree works a willow on St. Clements Common - discussed in finance item 39e. A resident had reported that in the recent strong winds that a major bough was creaking badly. Waveney Tree Specialists came immediately and assessed that it was in danger of falling onto Vaunces Road and property opposite and dealt with it. Clerk contacted both the Chair and RFO to seek approval of emergency works, which was duly given

43. HIGHWAYS AND PROW REPORTS:

a. **Bus Service to the Doctors Surgery** - Cllr. A. Goodman will send a response to Co. Cllr. C. Rowett and the Clerk regarding his recent meeting with Pulham Doctors Surgery, for a daily service that would encompass Dickleburgh and Rushall residents requiring an appointment at the Surgery

b. **PROW** - Cllr. L. Buck had spoken with Francis Salway regarding direct contact with the department. However Frances Salway preferred the PC to use the website for issues rather than contacting her direct , which is understandable as she covers all of Norfolk . Cllr. L. Buck will liaise with Matt Hill re reporting issues about PROW

The Clerk will contact a resident who offered to cut the 'Green Path' from Langmere Road to Harleston Road

44. PLAYING FIELD REPORT: Receipt of play inspection weekly reports:

- a. **Monthly Play Inspections** - as yet Cllr. J. Kerr has to meet with the Caretaker, the simplified weekly inspection forms will be mailed to him
- b. **Update on the Petanque Court** – Cllr. D. Leyserman needs to liaise with Cllr. R Theobald regarding the questionnaire and an application for a Community Action grant (CAF)
- c. **Repairs to Play area equipment:** (i) basket swing - replacement chains £359.40
(ii) Spiders Web – renew horizontal ropes £677.04
(iii) Bonded Rubber Mulch – two area that puddle badly £1,212.00

Councillors requested additional and specific repair quotations, which the Clerk will attend to in due course. The bearings on the roundabout also require attention

NOTE: The bearings were last re greased in around three years ago.

It was noted that there was some urgency with these repairs as the schools break up in July for the summer break.

- 45. INFORMATION TO NOTE:** (i) Update on the Norwich/Tilbury project - noted
(ii) NCC adoption of the Norfolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan - noted
(iii) SNC/Broadland Building Design Code consultation by 23 June 2025 - this covers both rural and urban development – however it was felt that there needs to be more aspects specific to rural environs. Clerk to send link to Cllr. P. Reekie who offered to take a look

46. MATTERS OF INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLORS:

- **Cllr. P. Reekie** - had noted a road sign was missing on Ipswich Road, she offered to report on the SNBDC website
- **Cllr. S. Adlam** - requested the Clerk send details of the Highways engineer, A. Mayo regarding the safe footway across the car park grass verge
- **Cllr. A. Goodman** - highlighted the weekly sessions re ‘the Great Collobration,’ detailing environmental issues that are being tackled by the group. Clerk to circulate the weekly links to all councillors

47. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING & RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA:

Petanque, Land east of Cuttings Road – BESS site & presentation

Cllr. S. Adlam gave his apologies for the July meeting

MONDAY 14TH JULY, 7.00PM, DICKLEBURGH & RUSHALL VILLAGE CENTRE

The Chair thanked all Councillors for their attendance and contributions,

The meeting closed at 22. 10 pm

SIGNED

DATE