

Pulham St Mary Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Pennoyer Centre, on Tuesday 10th March 2026.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Scanlan, Cllr McDaniel, Cllr Freeman, Cllr Hilton, Cllr Boardman and Cllr Yaxley. Cllr Hudson attended as a Parish Councillor and District Cllr. County Cllr Wilby, 2 representatives from the Men's Shed, 2 members of the public and the Clerk were also in attendance.

1. Welcome.

The Chairman, Councillor Scanlan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To consider apologies and reason for absence.

Apologies were accepted from District Cllr Thompson, Cllr Anderson Hewitt and Cllr Burridge

3. To consider declaration of interests and dispensation

Cllr Scanlan declared interests on matters relating to Pennoyers and Cllr Scanlan and Cllr McDaniel declared interests on matters relating to PYEP.

4. To approve minutes of the last meeting held on 10th February 2026.

The minutes of 10th February 2026 were ratified as a true record of the meeting and copy signed by Cllr Scanlan

The public forum was brought forward to allow public discussion.

The Men's Shed have received letter of ownership, which has been forwarded to LPA and is pending decision to proceed. Cllr McDaniel will forward copy of further legal registration documentation as it becomes available.

The Box Factory are providing 2 containers; as permitted within the current planning permission, these will be used as storage until the remaining containers are sourced and the development proceeds. ITFC will be permitted use of space within the temporary storage. If permanent structure is required by ITFC they will be responsible for sourcing their own planning permission.

The buddy bench is near completion, the Clerk confirmed the Landowner is happy for the bench to be sited on allotment land; the Mens Shed will confirm with Cllr Scanlan when they are ready to site the bench.

The Mens Shed and ITFC are happy to pay contribute 50% each towards the current £400.00 pa rent charged by the Parish Charities. The Mens Shed, and ITFC (when able to connect to the power supply) with contribute 50% each towards electricity standing charge and each pay for supply used.

The Men's Shed representatives and one member of the public left the meeting.

A member of the public raised concerns on charges applied to the Parish Council for use of the Pennoyer facilities. They believed that a provision was made for 10% reimbursement to community in exchange for Pennoyer project funds, procured through the sale of the old village hall land (and possibly the schoolhouse). They suggested the Parish Council look back in minutes to confirm this.

Council confirmed that the Parish Council did not own and were not responsible for the old village hall (or schoolhouse). This responsibility for sale and distribution of the old village hall land would have been with the now disbanded village hall charity.

The meeting was re adjourned

5. To discuss matters arising from the last meeting – for information only.

Parish Website.

All news items and statutory records have been updated.

Village/CIL Maintenance and Projects.

A date to install the bus stop has not yet been confirmed.

The Council's application for 50% funding towards a new SAM has been successful. Cllr Scanlan signed the acceptance of the grant for £1,912.00 and this was witnessed by the Clerk. The council's contribution will be funded from CIL funds. ACTION The Clerk will forward completed documents to NCC and order equipment from Westcotec.

The Clerk advised that all allotment plots have now been paid for 2025/26

Concerns were raised by a parishioner on the overgrown condition of the hedge owned by Saffron Housing on Norwich Road. The Clerk has contacted Saffron Housing, who have confirmed they will attend immediately.

A parishioner has raised concerns on water issues immediate to the AW repair site/road closure near Pulham Primary School and the increased use and subsequent damage to village country lanes being used as the alternative route. ACTION the clerk will contact AW for an update.

6. To receive the Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on the recent 'Whats up/Whats on' event, organised by the Pennoyers Centre and the Parish Council. There will be a feedback meeting to be arranged via TPC Trustees, Stella Mackenzie and PSMpc when discussion will take place on how to enhance next year's event. ACTION - Feedback received identified that parishioners wish Councillor attendance to be noted in the monthly parish report.

The Chairman and the Armed Forces Champion attended the Reserve Forces Training Event on 5/3/26. The event provided resources and ideas on how to expand the Armed Forces Champion role and the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. The Armed Forces Champion, Nick Navarro Allen, will attend and future meetings.

The Chairman updated councillors on the recent alleged 'drive by shooting' and damage to the window at the Post Office, as reported in the Diss Express and other property damage within the village. Councillors requested that the police are again asked to attend a parish meeting. Council also discussed attendance to the next community police event.

The route of the 36A bus, during the road closure on Norwich Road by the primary school. There seems to be conflicting information, but it is believed the bus can be hailed and will stop if safe to do so.

Glass has been cleared from the playpark and Cllr Scanlan and Freeman will carry out a safety check prior to the Rsopa inspection.

The Chairman reported the PYEP youth club attendance was 40 across both age groups. Cllr Scanlan reported on current activities and the planned introduction of music activities.

7. To receive County and District Councillors Report

The County Councillor Wilby provided a report. Copy attached. Cllr Wilby advised that he will be standing down at the 7/5/26 elections.

District Cllr Thompsons report was received. Copy attached.

Cllr Hudson attended the recent village litter pick organised by Pennoyers; Approximately 15-16 bags were collected. Every registered group who carries out a litter pick now receives £50.00 from South Norfolk Council and are entered into the prize draw, with 5 participation groups able to win £500.00

There was a 100% agreement on the 2026/27 district budget: for a £5.00 annual increase to the charge. Included within the budget is a provision of £500,000.00 for the Community Action Fund. £500,000.00 for a new Community Facilities Fund and an increase to £2,000.00 for members grants, which they can allocate.

SNC has now launched the South Norfolk in Bloom Fund, a discretionary grant scheme aimed at supporting towns, parishes and community groups across the district. The scheme provides 50% match funding at up to £1 per resident. ACTION the Clerk will ask for clarity on 'every resident' and how PSM can source this information. Council can consider and any applications can be submitted until 19/4/26. This will be on the April agenda.

This years South Norfolk Community Awards are now open. Nominations until 15/5/26

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/leisure/south-norfolk-community-awards>

The District Council have been granted an injunction at the High Court to prevent the owner of the Kings Head, from knocking down the historic public house.

8. Public Forum

No further forum required

9. Items for discussion and ratification

2025/2513 & 2515 Listed approval - Post Office Stores – replacement of air condition units/fridge compressor and 2025/2515 Listed building consent. – **support was submitted 15/9/25**

2025/2994 Reserved matters 2022/1353 Proposed development of 2 properties South of Norwich Road - **Support submitted for the environmental report.**

2025/3564 Grid reference 622280 288264 North Green Farm Installation of 32 solar panels on headland of agricultural field to be fitted in ground mount frames **Support submitted 12/1/26**

2026/0081 Listed building Grid reference 621713 288264 North Green Farm. To investigate chimney stack and works to remediate existing damage. Replacement of some windows of single glazing with vacuum glazing. **Support submitted on 9/2/26**

New applications

2026/0510 Ivy House Farm North Green Road Pulham St Mary - Notification for Prior Approval for change of use of agricultural building to two residential dwellinghouses. **Notice expires on 22 April 2026 - Council raised no objection or concerns, no response required**

2026/0288 Listed building consent - Installation of solar panels on roof of a building located at Garlic Farm PSM **Council viewed and considered the application, no objections were raised a response of support will be submitted 11/3/26**

Council agreed to extend the meeting to complete parish business

- **To discuss and consider request from ITFC.** ITFC have requested a 10 year lease to use South Green to enable them to obtain grant funding from the FA. The Clerk advised Council that she has already informed ITFC that the Parish Council are unable to offer a lease on land they do not own or purport to give rights to the club that the Parish Council has no power to grant. The matter has been referred to the Parish Charities.
- **Ongoing consideration of rent and expenditure for South Green.** *Discussed during the public forum*
- **To consider plaque for village bench.** Council considers the proposed plaque too large and require wording to be reduced. ACTION the Clerk will revert to the applicant
- **To ratify expenditure on materials to refurbish the parish notice boards.** Councillors ratified the cost up to £630.00 to provide 3 new notice boards. Volunteer PP has agreed to provide labour FOC.

10. Accounts

- To ratify income and expenditure for March 2026**

Council ratified all income and expenditure for March 2026. The balance following presentation of the listed Income and expenditure will be £74,875.51

PYEP have submitted an invoice for hall hire at PMMH for £1,128.00 covering to December 2026. Although this covers two financial periods, Council agreed to fund from the 2025/26 budget. Cllr Hudson proposed supporting the £99.88 over the original budget for PYEP, from the general community support budget. This was seconded by Cllr Boardman and unanimously agreed. Cllr Hudson noted disappointment that the PMpc has not provided any financial support for PYEP, which is providing a positive community provision to both parishes and the local neighbourhoods. **ACTION this payment will be raised and included in the EOY accounts.**

Cllr Yaxley approved the Bank Reconciliation for February and Cllr Feeman will authorise the payments set up by the Clerk.

ACCOUNTS : MONTH : March				
INCOME:	Amount	Description		
Allotment Rent	£32.93	Allotment plot 15		
County Broadbank	£180.00	Single wayleave payment		
TOTAL INCOME	£212.93			
Cheques to be paid:				
EXPENDITURE:	Gross	VAT	Net	Description
Eon	15.07	0.72	14.35	Pavillion Supply
SSE	98.83	4.71	94.12	Streetlights
Ulric	18.00	3.00	15.00	Hosting
L Shulver	114.99	-	114.99	Reimburse Mcfee annual subscription
BT	36.99	6.16	30.83	Phone and Internet package
Pennoyer Centre	194.50	-	194.50	Contribution towards community event
Pennoyer Centre	50.00	-	50.00	Room Hire February - awaiting invoice
Eon	15.57	0.74	14.83	Pavillion Supply
SSE	80.52	3.83	76.69	Streetlights Feb
Ulric	18.00	3.00	15.00	Hosting
Pennoyer Centre	270.00	-	270.00	Room Hire PYEP
L Shulver	680.55	-	680.55	Salary WFH and Mileage
HMRC	41.21	-	41.21	PAYE month 12
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1,634.23	£22.16	£1,612.07	£1,634.23

11. To receive other reports.

Flood Mitigation No further report

Mens Shed No further report

Youth Engagement Project Cllr Scanlan provided report in the Chairmans Report

Footpath Warden No further report

Tree Warden No further report

SAM following receipt of the new SAM, the current machine will continued to be used as a further deterrent against speeding through the village.

Sports and Recreation Committee Cllr Freeman and Scanlan will carry out a playground interim inspection

To consider the date of next meeting

The next parish meeting will be on **14/4/26. The Annual Parish Meeting will be scheduled for 7pm at the Pennoyer Centre to be followed by the April Parish Meeting at 7.30pm**

Meeting Closed at 21:45

Signed Date.....

MW Report

Elections for all 84 divisions of Norfolk County Council will now go ahead on 7th May, following a late reversal by the Government to withdraw its previous to postpone the vote. The original postponement had been announced to allow councils to focus on preparations for local government reorganisation and devolution. However, the sudden change of direction has created uncertainty for local authorities across the country.

NCC has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local communities with the approval of 99 new highway improvement schemes for 2026-27, delivered in partnership with town and parish councils across Norfolk. The parish Partnership, now entering its fifteenth year, gives local communities a voice in shaping the highways enhancements that matter most to them, whether that's improving pedestrian safety, slowing vehicle speeds, or making it easier to walk, cycle or access local services. This year 68 small highway projects such as village gateways, new trods, signage, surfacing, benches, and access improvements were approved, along with 31 vehicle activated speed signs (VAS/SAM2) projects, helping encourage safer speeds through our villages and towns.

NCC is delivering targeted support for the county's vital hospitality sector, launching a £250,000 package at the recent Norfolk Market Towns Conference as part of a wider £1m investment in our high streets. Building on the success of the council's High Street Matters initiative, the new programme will offer bespoke training for pubs, restaurants, hotels and independent retailers. Businesses can access practical workshops, both in-person and online, covering marketing, bookings, menu development and staffing, alongside business improvement grants of up to £1,000. To find out more visit www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk/norfolk-high-streets-matter

NCC is once again shining a spotlight on the county's outstanding enterprise as nominations open for the prestigious Norfolk Rural Business Awards 2026. From pioneering food and drink producers to forward-thinking farming innovators, and dedicated community champions, the awards celebrate the very best of rural Norfolk. Businesses, individuals and organisations are invited to apply across nine categories, with finalists honoured at a special ceremony during the Royal Norfolk Show in June. All details can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/norfolk-rural-business-awards

Your Norfolk magazine has recently been delivered to every household across the county with the usual information and updates. In addition to our printed magazine, get news delivered direct to your inbox with Your Norfolk Extra, our monthly digital newsletter. Your Norfolk Extra rounds up NCC news and offers an easy way to stay informed about local services, events and community developments across the county.

Best Wishes

Martin

Cllr Delme Thompson: Parish Update March 2026.

Full Council Meeting 18 February

At the full council meeting last month, the 2026/7 budget was unanimously approved, which included:

- £5 increase in council tax due to central government cuts.
- A new Community Facilities Grant – specifically aimed at helping parishes update and maintain village halls and community centres.
- An increased pool for the Community Action Fund next fiscal year, with applications of up to £40,000 being considered – as long as the application has a minimum of 25% match funding secured.
- A fund of £134,000 available for improving playgrounds in the District.

In Bloom Grant

In Bloom is a discretionary grant scheme designed to support towns, parishes and community groups across South Norfolk in delivering projects that enhance the visual appeal of their communities, encourage the growing of produce, and promote wildlife and biodiversity. With £1 available for every resident, we have an incredible opportunity to make South Norfolk bloom, for nature, for wellbeing and for future generations.

What will the grant support?

- Visual Enhancements - Projects that improve the appearance of public spaces (e.g., floral displays, landscaping, public art with planting schemes).
- Community Growing Produce - Initiatives to start or expand community gardens, allotments, or edible planting in public spaces, encouraging local food production.
- Wildlife and Biodiversity - Actions to increase habitats for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife; wildflower meadows; pond creation; and biodiversity education.

Projects should also:

- Demonstrate how they would maintain and look after plants after the project has been completed
- Have landowner permission
- Deliver within 12 months of grant approval
- Provide at least 50% of the total project cost

Full details of all grants will be published in due course.

Planning

National Planning Policy Framework

Cornerstone Barristers recently published a summary of the Government's draft revisions to the NPPF, which were released in December. Consultation on the proposed changes runs until 10 March 2026

The summary is available to view at the link below, and I encourage all councillors to familiarise themselves with the key points raised. <https://cornerstonebarristers.com/unpacking-the-new-nppf-draft/>

Fraud Prevention.

Fraud affects thousands of people across Norfolk and leads to losses of over £16 million each year. The exploitative methods used by criminals to manipulate people are sophisticated and often target the most vulnerable in society, but anyone can be a victim of fraud.

The Norfolk Community Safety Partnership provides resource and support to the [Norfolk Against Scams Partnership](#) commitment to taking a stand against fraud. The partnership's ambition is to make Norfolk a scam free county. I would ask the council to share the link to these resources with Parishioners. > [Visit our dedicated fraud webpage to find out more about what the partnership does to tackle fraud in our county](#)

Neighbourhood Policing Survey

More than 600 people have already taken part in the Neighbourhood Policing Survey - it takes just five minutes and means parishioners can help shape the future of policing in our neighbourhood. Feedback will help inform how neighbourhood policing teams operate, ensuring they focus on the issues that matter most to the people they serve. Take the survey, here: [Neighbourhood Policing Survey | Norfolk Constabulary](#)