Wreningham Parish Council
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 9th September 2025
Margaret Preston Room, Wreningham Village Hall, 7:30pm

In Attendance: Cllr M Hill (Chair), Cllr H Glaves, Cllr J Lambourne, Cllr K Morris
Parish Clerk: Tina Higlett.
Seven members of the public in attendance

1 Apologies for absence. Cllr Tancred advised council of a delay in attending the meeting.

2 To consider co-option to the parish council. No candidate available.

3 Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest. None

4 Open Forum, including reports from District & County Councillors.

1. Public in attendance
   Member of the public asked of the council what is the difference in a planning application between "self-build" and "normal build". District Cllr advised self-build projects are when someone directly organises the design and construction of their own home. This covers a wide range of projects from a traditional DIY self-build home to projects where the self-builder employs someone to build their home for them. They still have to make a planning application defining what they are to build and meet the planning approval conditions.

2. District Councillors.
   Cllr Spratt forwarded a report prior to meeting, which was circulated to members, see Appendix 1. Member of the public spoke of concerns around the demolition of South Norfolk House in Long Stratton. District Cllrs stated that they have asked the question why and have supported the Long Stratton Town Council online petition to save the building. The building received an award for its design it was built using premium materials and is in good condition. To demolish is cultural vandalism and a huge waste of public money. A court injunction is the only way to save the building. South Norfolk house has been advertised on the market for £2million. Council in favour of showing support to save South Norfolk House.

5 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th July 2025. These were approved, with no changes.

6 Responding to and working with other bodies

a) Planning
   I. To receive a report on plans refused/accepted by South Norfolk Council. Nothing to report.

b) Village Maintenance and Highways
   I. Repairs to Trod on Church Road
      Chair advised to date he had not received a reply from NCC Highways regarding how best to remedy the deterioration. Consensus is that it may benefit from having tarmac laid. Nearby builders van's have damaged parts of it and they had agreed to make good.
   II. To consider application for the Parish Partnership scheme for 2026/27.
      Members are aware of the deadline should they wish to submit an application.

c) Concerns around the demolition of South Norfolk house (Long Stratton). Discussed under public forum.

7 Asset Management

a) Playing field
   I. Tree maintenance
      The play inspection report had identified work which required attention. Broadland Tree Services had carried out maintenance recently.
   II. Play equipment
      Cllr Morris reported that the youth shelter had been repainted. New nets are required for the football goals. Proposed submission of a grant application to the Football Foundation to enable the purchase of new smaller goals. Total cost is £500.00. Cllr Morris will speak to the school to see if they are happy to support council in the completion of the grant application.

Action Cllr Morris

Some of the grassed areas need reseeding. Site would also benefit from new seating such as a bench and a picnic table. The swing equipment is out of commission and council have looked into the cost of replacement against repair. A triple swing unit can cost anything from £1500 to £3000

not including fitting. Current equipment is pinewood but members feel that perhaps it should be replaced with galvanised steel. District Cllrs suggested council apply for a grant from their members ward funding and suggested the inclusion of picnic table which has an extended table top to enable wheelchair users to access the table. Council have also looked to install an additional bench at the reading room along with one at the end of the footpath opposite the church. Estimated total cost £4000.00 for all.

lll. Replacement Gatepost
The wooden gatepost was supplied by Farm Bits and fitted by member of public free of charge. Council passed on their appreciation.

IV. Football goals/nets
Previously discussed.

V. South Norfolk Play Park Inspection.
Clerk advised she had notified South Norfolk Council that the parish council were interested in their service to carry out the annual inspection and a list of play equipment had been forwarded as requested. South Norfolk had quoted £90.00+vat.

Cllr Tancred joined the meeting and declared an interest in Village Hall 7(c).

b) Installation of glazing in bus shelters and application for NCC grant.
Cllr Glaves had received a quotation from Wymondham Windows for the supply and fit of toughened glass to the shelters. Total cost of £710.05 inc. vat. Clerk to forward onto NCC to apply for a grant of 80% towards the cost.

c) Village hall

l. Update on proposal for solar panel installation
Cllr Tancred spoke of the difficulties the trustees are experiencing in the management of the hall. There has been a decline in attendance. The bar is now open on a Sunday and hire costs have had to be increased. Salaries are now being paid to the Treasurer and bar manager. The installation of solar panels, would cost £20,000 and to include batteries £30,000. They are researching the availability of grants. Would envisage getting the initial outlay back in 6 years. Chair advised he had contacted AC Environmental Services regarding a survey on the roof for asbestos. But since previous Village Hall manager has confirmed a lack of asbestos, there is no need to have a survey.

As the parish council are the landlords their support in the installation would be required. Chair advised that should the hall ever revert to being managed by the parish council then it could put a drain on parish resources. Chair asked for the village hall finances to be made available to the parish council at the November meeting and also a cost benefit analysis for the project.

8 The Farthings
Chair advised of a boundary issue to the west near to footpath 5 beside the Old Orchard property. Marking out and surveying the area has been carried out. A document will be drawn up stating the homeowner is happy with the proposed boundary line, and both homeowner and Chair will sign. Chair to meet with J Wells to go through the S106 before it is submitted to South Norfolk for signing. The builders will be encouraged to finish the community owned land before building commences on properties. Overage has been identified and this has 7.5 years left to run. The wording will be slightly modified by the council's solicitor as the document contains a restriction on the title protecting the overage and requires signing by a solicitor who has since retired. The developer has stated that no overage will be placed on the land.

9 Management of the Parish Council

a) Policy Review

l. Risk Assessment
This was approved. Chair advised that once the Farthings working party has been formally constituted, along with their terms of reference then it will need to be included in the risk assessment. This will be required for council's working group looking after The Farthings.

ll. Responding to a Planning Application
Approved with no changes

lll. Decision Making Policy
Approved with no changes

b) Staffing

I. Clerks pay review.
Local Government Services (LGS) Pay Agreement for 2025 saw a 3.2% pay increase for employees on the LGS pay scheme. Chair spoke of the commitment the clerk has given the council since she commenced employment with them in August 2022. It was proposed the clerk moves an additional spine point from her current salary point SCP 18 to SCP 20 within the LC2 range of SCP 18 to SCP23. Members unanimously agreed.

II. Clerks attendance to Norfolk PTS Autumn Seminar.
Council agreed to the Clerk attending remotely. Seminar will cover the new assertion 10, and other changes planned for the AGAR in 2025/26 and what council will need to do to comply. Chair spoke of the push to get councils to have a gov.uk email account. Parish on Line will provide a free gov.uk email address for the clerk only. Clerk to investigate and if available submit an application.

III. To set a date for the internal review.
Clerk and Cllr Tancred to arrange a suitable date.

10 Finance

a) The accounts showed councils current financial standing as £30,317.76.
Financial accounts for April to July 2025 presented to council. Appendix 2.

b) To approve payments

I.	T Higlett Aug/Sept salary	£459.52
II.	HMRC Months 5 & 6	£109.60
III.	Autela Payroll Services	£84.00
IV.	Norfolk PTS – Training for Clerk	£62.40
V.	South Norfolk Dog Waste emptying	£333.60
VI.	Broadland Tree Services	£5736.00
VII.	K Morris – Paint for youth shelter	£52.23
VIII.	K Nunn – Plants for planters	£6.00

Chair reminded members that they still have to formalise a date to carry out defibrillator training.

Action Cllr Tancred

Clerk will investigate purchase of a bleed kit for inclusion with the defibrillator.

11 Correspondence

I. Norwich to Tilbury Update
II. PKF Littlejohn Data logged – notification of exempt status
III. South Norfolk Council Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Policy Review
IV. Norfolk PTS newsletters and Autumn Seminar
V. NCC 2025 Community Biodiversity Awards
VI. South Norfolk Litterpick winners
VII. Norfolk PTS Autumn seminar
VIII. Norfolk Police Operation Radium Trigger Plan.
IX. NCC Infrastructure – Lotus Roundabout Traffic Regulations Order

Chair advised attendees that the name of the stream had been chosen – Wren Brook. Chair will now advise South Norfolk Planning and ask for the details of the legal entity who will need to include this in future mapping.

Member of public spoke of concerns around the placement of a 40mph speed sign which blocks the view of farm equipment exiting the farm alongside it. The sign would be better placed at the start of the village by Church Road and not at the top of the hill.

12 Date of next meeting: 11th November 2025

Meeting closed at 21:10

Appendix 1.

District Councillors' Report, Wreningham Parish Council 9th September 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

Consultations on the alternative proposals for Local Government Reform in Norfolk have now closed. Three proposals are expected to be sent to Government in late September. Norfolk County Council is expected to propose a single unitary authority(UA). South Norfolk Council is expected to propose 2 unitary authorities and the remaining 2nd tier councils (including Norwich, Broadland and Breckland) are expected to submit a proposal for 3 UAs. The boundaries for the 3 unitary model are still not publicly known.

In Suffolk, there will be only two proposals. The County Council is proposing one unitary authority, while the 2nd tier authorities are proposing 3 UAs centred on Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft. South Norfolk Council has scheduled a meeting to review its submission to Government on 24th September. Final submission is due in on 26th September 2025.

The Government has proposed that Supplementary Voting will be used for future Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner elections, but it is still uncertain that this system will be used for the 2026 election of a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk scheduled for 7th May. Under the Supplementary Voting system electors would get a second vote which will be counted if no candidate gets 50% of the vote in the first round, and the electors first choice candidate is eliminated. This is believed to be fairer than 'first past the post'.

Solar Together

South Norfolk Council is promoting a solar panel group-buying scheme for local residents. The Solar Together scheme offers solar panels with optional battery storage and EV charge points, as well as retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar. Householders can register online without obligation via https://solartogether.co.uk/south-norfolk/home by 17 October 2025.

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. This closed on 1st September.

South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocation Plan

The plan has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. Further details will be provided when known. Any questions about the examination process please contact Mrs Annette Feeney, the independent Programme Officer at SNC on 07775 771026 or Annette.feeney@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk.

Tasway Solar Farm

Proposals are emerging for another large solar farm on the Southern edge of the ward. The Tasway Energy Park would generate c700mW of electricity, around 40% more than the neighbouring East Pye proposal. The park would run from Ashwellthorpe to Wacton. Further information can be found on: https://taswayenergypark.co.uk/

There are serious concerns that South Norfolk is being 'disproportionally targeted' for several large projects, such as Tasway Energy Park. Daniel Elmer, leader of South Norfolk Council has stated that proposals that come forward work for the residents of South Norfolk as well as everyone else. Ben Goldsborough, South Norfolk MP has issued a letter to residents throughout the area, stating, 'I am firmly against the proposed Tasway Energy Park solar farm'. He has launched 'No Way Tasway' campaign and led a public meeting in Ashwellthorpe on 23rd July: https://bengoldsborough.co.uk/no-way-tasway

East Pye Solar Farm

The East Pye Statutory consultation has closed. South Norfolk Council responded with a strong objection. The Council response highlighted the cumulative impact of East Pye and other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (including Tasway) and the lack of adequate consideration of these on the district. The Council also highlighted the inadequate communication and consultation.

'Norwich to Tilbury' Update

The latest project update from National Grid contains little new information. Archaeological surveys are continuing and the formal application for a Development Consent Order (the equivalent of planning permission) is expected later this year. PylonsEastAnglia are continuing to campaign against the pylon proposals and are fundraising. For further information visit: https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions

A47 Thickthorn Junction Upgrade

National Highways have appointed Skanska to upgrade the A47 Thickthorne junction. The £153m contract includes construction of a new 1.6km free-flow link road, connecting the A11 northbound to the A47 eastbound via two new underpasses. A second c.1km local link road will also be constructed, connecting Cantley Lane South with the B1172 Norwich Road. It will feature a modular bridge spanning the existing A11 and new free-flow link road to the A47. The project includes two new junctions on the local road network, widen the existing slip road on the A47 westbound and replacing an existing footbridge with a new one for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. Information and latest updates can be found at:
https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-thickthorn-junction-near-norwich/

Lotus Site and Hethel Roundabout.

Following the announcement that Lotus would be cutting 550 jobs (over 40% of the workforce), Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council have announced a comprehensive package of services for those affected at Lotus and in its supply chain.

Your District Cllrs have previously questioned the wisdom of spending large amounts of public money on a new roundabout at Hethel at a time when the future of the Lotus site seems so uncertain. The Leader of South Norfolk Council responded that the planned development would continue and he expressed confidence that the site had a positive future 'even if the worst thing happens'.

Appendix 2.

Wreningham Parish Council **Accounts 2025-26** **Responsible Finance Officers Report** **Sep-25**

Q1 April – July 2025 Accounts for the financial year 2025-26

Payments	Budget 2025/26 £	Actual spend £	over/ under spend £
Employees			
Salaries	3,650.00	1,138.24	2,511.76
Staff Training	50.00	0.00	50.00
Staff expenses	30.00	0.00	30.00
Total for Employees	3,730.00	1,138.24	2,591.76
Administration			
Stationery	50.00	28.84	21.16
Postage	30.00	0.00	30.00
Software support	80.00	0.00	80.00
Total for Administration	160.00	28.84	131.16
Communications			
Grant Village magazine	100.00	0.00	100.00
Website host	230.00	0.00	230.00
Total for Communications	330.00	0.00	330.00
Members			
Members expenses	50.00	0.00	50.00
Members training	200.00	0.00	200.00
Total for Members	250.00	0.00	250.00
Professional Services			
Legal fees	400.00	0.00	400.00
Audit	300.00	50.00	250.00
Payroll Services	250.00	0	250.00
Insurance	1,500.00	998.00	502.00
Total for Professional Services	2,450.00	1048.00	1,402.00
Subscriptions			
ICO	42.00	47.00	-5.00
Norfolk PTS	115.00	111.66	3.34
Total for Subscriptions	157.00	158.66	-1.66
Grants & Donations			
Grants other	500.00		500.00
Total for Grants and Donations	500.00		500.00
Village Maintenance			
Grounds Maintenance	1,320.00	0.00	1320.00
Village Maintenance	1,100.00	325.81	774.19
Dog Waste Emptying Service	450.00	0.00	450.00
Total for Village Main-	2,870.00	325.81	2544.19

Receipts	Budget £	Actual £
Precept	10,841.00	5,583.00
Grants (other)		
CIL		194.19
Other		
Vat refund 2024/25	357.96	
Total	11,198.96	5,777.19

Opening Balance 1st April 2025	27,324.86
Total Income	5,777.19
Total Expenditure - Column A	2,784.29
Balance 30,317.76	

Community Account at 18/08/2025	**30,317.76**

Cash in bank 18/08/2025	30,317.76
Allocated funds (B)	8,320.71
General Reserves (C)	17,046.80
CIL money	3,589.19
Available to spend = C/Acct - CIL -B -C	**1,361.06**

General Reserves **(C)**

Tree maintenance	£5,736.00
Defibrillator	£750.00
The Farthings	£5,000.00
Highways Improvements	£5,000.00
Open Gardens	£60.80
Churchyard	£500.00
Total £17,046.80	

tenance			
Village Services			
Churchyard Maintenance	250.00	0.00	250.00
Defibrillator	400.00	76.74	323.26
Total for Village Services	650.00	76.74	573.26
Other			
Planter maintenance		8.00	
Total for Other		8.00	
		(A)	**(B)**
Totals	***11,097.00***	***2,784.29***	***8,320.71***