

Ashby St Mary Parish Council (ASMP)
 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 9th July 2025
 at 19:15 at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall

In Attendance: C Powell (CP) Chair, J Goldring (JG) A Ayres (AA)

Minutes: Tina Higlett (TH) – Parish Clerk.

1. To appoint a Chair for the meeting.
CP resigned as Chair and JG was appointed.
2. To consider co-option onto parish council.
Resident who had previously shown an interest, was not in attendance.
3. To consider apologies for absence.
H Roebuck – work commitments, M Rolph- health reasons. Cllr V Thomson sent his apologies and forwarded a report. Appendix 1.
4. To receive declarations of Interest for items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations.
Nil.
5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2025.
These were approved.
6. Public Forum
No public in attendance
7. Matters arising from the previous minutes.
 - I. Restoration of village sign. Clerk advised she had spoken with District Councillor Thomson regarding a grant, and she was asked to send full costs to him for approval. JG advised she had still to speak to the proprietors of Thurton Foundry to see if they can assist with the removal. Clerk stated she would email them asking whether this was possible and the cost. Members thanked the clerk for contacting Cllr Thomson.
8. Administrative Issues
 - I. Policy Review
 - a. General Risk Assessment – council duly approved. The clerk stated this document will be reviewed yearly for audit compliance.
 - b. Complaints Policy – council duly approved. Next review July 2028
 - c. Data Protection Policy – council duly approved. Next review July 2027, unless changes in the law require otherwise.
9. Finance
 - I. The council's first quarter financial review was forwarded to members prior to the meeting. Appendix 2. There were no concerns.
The council are holding Community Infrastructure Levy of £208.04. The purchase of a bench was proposed with several village locations considered. The council must obtain permission if installation is on land owned by the highway authority. Cuckoo Corner was preferred. CIL funds must be used by the end of 2025. The clerk will investigate the cost of benches and report back to the council.
 - II. Approve payments.
 - a. T Higlett – clerks' salary June/July £386.02
 - b. HMRC – clerks' taxation periods 3 & 4 £91.40
 - c. Norfolk PTS – new councillor training £62.40
 - d. T Higlett – parish council printing costs May 2024 to June 2025 £24.34

10. Report from Village Hall Management Committee

CP reported that the pre-school will be holding a jumble sale on the 12th July 2025. City Fibre have agreed to install a line to the village hall free of charge. There will be a Gin tasting evening in September and quiz nights in October and December.

11. Neighbourhood Security – MR was not in attendance, but he advised the clerk that there was nothing to report.

Oil Buying Syndicate – No orders.

Website – Parish council side of the web site is still not available. MR advised the clerk that he had made good headway. Members expect this to be accessible by September and wondered if this will be feasible and proposed asking MR if the clerk can assist in any way.

12. Correspondence

I. IONOS increase in fees from October 2025 – Council noted.

II. Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme 26/27.

III. Norfolk County Council Road Closure – Mill Common

JG reported that highways signage has been installed to inform about the closure.

IV. Norfolk Parish Training & Support – Training. AA will be attending the new councillor training course on the 22nd and 29th July.

13. Date of next meeting – 10th September 2025. JG advised she will chair the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:25

Appendix 1.

District Councillor's report

Elections

Mayor in May 26

Shadow council in May 26. Still unknown

New Government in place: Unknown

May 27 election for unity council

Devolution

Waiting for detail

Powers

Investment Fund, will be interesting to compare the 2 deals!

This is a County function and will pass on to Mayor so preparation ongoing for transfer Govt being careful when asked for information.

Reorganisation

SNDC are looking at a 2 Unitary solution.

3 is a definite NO

Would accept if Gov said 1 New Government is very clear in the shaping of new Local Government into a Unitary style. We are having a Mayoral Combined Authority. One Mayor over 2 Counties! Norfolk and Suffolk.

All local Councils in Norfolk have been asked, by September 26th, to submit a plan for the shape of the new Unitary System.

There are different versions ranging from 1 to 3 Unitary Councils across Norfolk.

Interests!!!!!!

What matters to you

Delivery of services

Current County council works as a single unitary

Costs: set up and continuing costs. Statutory, dis-aggregation

Feeling local. I am a unitary councillor for 3 PCs in that I cover both County and SNDC

Government being very coy when asked questions

The Government will decide.

Village clusters plan

[South Norfolk District Council- VCHAP Regulation 22 Submission- Documents for South Norfolk Committees](#)

Agreed to

SPD on self build/custom build

[Advice_Note_on_proposals_for_Custom_and_Self_Build___Final_revised_following_Dec_2017_Cabinet_0](#)

SPD on green energy

Waiting for link, go to website and enter

South Norfolk Landscape Susceptibility in relation to Energy Generation

The purpose of this report is to seek member sign off for public consultation on the draft SPD. Consultation is scheduled to commence on 7th July and last for six weeks.

This report presents the draft Supplementary Planning Document entitled South Norfolk Landscape Susceptibility in relation to Energy Generation, Storage and Transmission and seeks member sign-off for public consultation.

Consultation is scheduled to commence on 7th July and to last for six weeks.

The South Norfolk Landscape Susceptibility Study Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides additional guidance on matters covered by the South Norfolk Local Plan, and is a material consideration for decision makers.

FTTP

The new utility. It has been an up and down ride getting rural fibre networks! At least 4 firms around my division.

We are now facing the roll out, causing a lot of TROs.

Hopefully by end of Spring to Early Summer the roll to residents will begin.

Planning

5 year supply. Our target has been increased so we lose 5 year protection

NN. Credits are now available for mitigation

There are some minor issues about lines drawn by Natural England's catchment areas.

Anglian water

Award for local plan!!

New settlement

SNDC has applied to Govt for new settlement

Infrastructure first, government funded rather than developer funded

Stop pepper potting smaller villages

Conservation Fund:

We have a new fund that will fund at least five small and medium scale projects of up to £10k each across South Norfolk that meet the combined goals of nature restoration, carbon sequestration and enhancing public access to our countryside. If successful, this will be rolled out further in 2026.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/15snnpE7m2/?mibextid=wwXlfr>
Nature Conservation Fund | Broadland and South Norfolk

My grant available
VJ day grant August
Free Flag

Appendix 2.

Accts. 2025-26

Apr June

1st Quarter 2025-26

Payments

	Budget 2025/26	Actual spend	Over/ Under spend	Receipts	Budget	Actual
	£	£	£		£	£
Administration						
<i>Salaries and related costs</i>	£3,550.00	510.10	3039.90	Precept	4381.00	4381.00
<i>Staff Training</i>	£50.00	0.00	50.00	Grants (other)	0.00	
<i>Stationery</i>	£20.00	0.00	20.00	CIL (Community Infra- structure Levy)	0.00	
<i>Postage</i>	25.00	0.00	25.00	VAT refund	216.59	
<i>Software Support</i>	30.00	0.00	30.00			
<i>Website Support</i>	150.00	0.00	150.00	Total	£4,597.59	£4,381.00
<i>Village Magazine</i>	50.00	0.00	50.00			
<i>ICO</i>	40.00	0.00	40.00	Opening Balance @1st April 2025	1391.62	
<i>Venue Hire</i>	160.00	120.00	40.00	Total Income	4381.00	
<i>Audit Fees</i>	100.00	50.00	50.00	Total Expenditure	1014.60	
<i>Insurance</i>	400.00	277.00	123.00	Balance 30th June 2025	£4,758.02	
<i>Payroll Services</i>	300.00	0.00	300.00			
<i>Norfolk PTS</i>	55.00	57.50	-2.50	Bank statement @ 30th May 2025	£4,758.02	
<i>Members Expenses</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00			
<i>Members Training</i>	150.00	0.00	150.00	Allocated Funds	£5,025.40	
<i>Legal Fees</i>	110.00	0.00	110.00	Community Infrastruc- ture Levy	£208.04	
Total Administration	5190.00	1014.60	4175.40			
Village Maintenance						
<i>Street Furniture Maintenance</i>	100.00	0.00	100.00			
<i>Dog Waste Bin Emptying Ser- vice</i>	250.00	0.00	250.00			
Total Village Maintenance	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00			
Grants & Donations						
<i>s137</i>						

<i>Sub Total Grants</i>			
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OtherWebsite develop-
ment

500.00

0

500.00

<i>Sub Total Other</i>	<i>£500.00</i>	<i>£0.00</i>	<i>£500.00</i>
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Totals			£6,040.00	£1,014.60	£5,025.40
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