

Stody with Hunworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting, held on Monday 19th May 2025 following the Annual Parish Meeting at Hunworth and Stody Village Hall

PRESENT: Karl Carter (Chair) (KC). Charlotte Crawley (Vice Chair) (CC). Adam Godwin (AG), Jeremy Philippi (JP), Alan Suffling (AS), Beverley Tiller (BT). Kerry Harris - Clerk. (KH)
6 Members of the Public

25/22. Election of Chair – KC was unanimously elected to be Chair for 2025 – 26 on a Proposal by AS and Seconded by BT. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

25/23. Election of Vice-Chair – CC was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair on a Proposal by BT and Seconded by AG. She signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

25/24. Chair's welcome and to accept apologies for absence – KC welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were accepted by All for Cllr Andrew Taylor. Apologies have also been received from NNDC Cllr Andrew Brown.

25/25. Declarations of interest and dispensations to speak – CC declared an interest in Planning Application LA/25/08889 Plant House. She was given a dispensation to speak.

25/26. To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2025 – These were agreed by all to be a true record of the meeting on a Proposal by BT and Seconded by CC and were signed by KC.

25/27. Matters Arising, not included on the agenda – There were none.

25/28. Open Forum for public participation:

(i) Questions and comments from members of the public- A resident noted his disappointment that more members of the Community did not attend the meeting. He said that although parts of the meeting might be tedious, it was also fun. It engenders a Community Spirit and involvement in where they live. He said he had no clever ideas to encourage more residents to come along, but suggested more publicity. This was supported by Cllrs. KC said that the Resident's and Hunny Bell's email lists had tried to engage the community. AS remarked that residents comment on the lovely village but generally don't engage further.

(ii) To receive report from NCC Cllr Dalby – Cllr Dalby had sent 2 written reports
Annual Report: Council delivers Balanced Budget – while costs have risen by £121million, funding has only increased by £32million and the Government has eliminated the Rural Services Delivery Grant and reallocated funds from rural to metropolitan areas. Council Tax will increase by 4.99%.
Norfolk announced as priority area for new powers and funding – as part of this the Government is seeking to create a devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk which would include the introduction of an elected mayor. The Government also intends to replace the 2-tier structure where services are shared between County & District Councils with unitary authorities. Norfolk signs agreement with Ukrainian region of Lviv. Norfolk CC opposes National Grid pylon scheme. Highways – Norfolk is set to receive more than £65million for highways maintenance this year. Norfolk took the top spot for the 2nd year in a row in the National Highways & Transport survey on roads and transport. The new Herring Bridge in Great Yarmouth has received national recognition. NCC committed over £1million to keep people warm last winter. NCC's New Strategy puts Norfolk at the forefront of the UK economy – Norfolk is a global leader for offshore wind. and, the local Agri-food & Agri-tech economy puts Norfolk at the centre of addressing challenges around food security and climate

change, the Visitor Economy accounts for nearly 20% of all employment, the New Anglia Growth Hub acts as the 'front door' for local businesses looking for support.

Street Lighting – starting in November 2024 100% of NCC's street lighting will use LEDs with an estimated saving of £380,000 pa.

Working Well Norfolk, launched in October 2023, is a scheme to support people in Norfolk with long-term health issues get back into work. For further information tel. 01603 561054

Explore 1,500 miles of Scenic Trails for Walking, Cycling & Horse Riding. For more information – www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42852/Norfolk-Trails

May Report – Local Government Reorganisation – NCC anticipates receiving feedback from the Norfolk & Suffolk Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation consultation within this month; Norfolk's Local Government Nature Strategy (LNRS) is a plan for restoring wildlife across the County. The consultation closes on 11th June.

To receive report from NNDC Cllr Brown: Cllr Brown has sent a written report: Planning Reform – The new Government's planning reform has proposal for easier acquisition of building land by local authorities, localizing planning fees and increasing capacity/power for planning officers with the abolition of Planning Committees. Local Plan – The Govt. Inspector announced that recent changes agreed with the Council are acceptable so the annual target for housing will be 575 new houses over the next 15 years instead of 900+. Food Waste Collections – this is a national requirement from April 2026 and each household will receive a 5l food waste caddy; New Bank Hub – a temporary hub was opened at The Venue in Holt until a permanent venue is ready later this year.; Holt Primary School – NCC will not commit to building the new school due to falling numbers; New Lidl in Holt – NNDC are expecting a planning application

KC commented that the Planning Reforms indicate that Cllrs will not be able to change what the Planners decide.

25/29. To receive an update on Planning Matters

- (i) PF/24//1219 – Land adjacent to Bertha Bloggs Cottage – An Appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate
- (ii) PF/25/0583 – The Cottage Next to Old Chapel – Proposed outbuilding and alterations to existing outbuilding for conversion to annexe – Approved
- (iii) RV/25/20495– Vale House: single storey extension, changes to fenestration and internal works - Approved
- (iv) PF/25/0254 – Hunybeach: Demolition of garage & replace with double carport, office, studio and workshop – Awaiting decision

The PC are in support of the application. The main objector is Historic England. CC and KC will try to attend the site meeting to vocalise local support.

(v) To agree responses to late planning applications

LA/25/08889 – Plant House – repairs to gable end wall following major kerosene spill in November – CC informed the meeting that she owned the property and the damage had resulted from a failed pipe leading to the Aga on 30th November. Repairs have now been agreed by the insurer. Although this gable end is not visible the repair will improve the look of the wall. The application was Supported by All on a Proposal by AG and Seconded by BT.

25/30 To receive an update on The Hunworth Bell pub– KC read the following email from Charlie MacNicol: By way of update, we are in good discussions with NNDC, they have asked for more work and more reports, hence the delay.

As we've said many times, we listen to reasonable concerns and we continue our work with planners to alleviate these.

We remain keen to kick on with this project.

KC read out an email from NNDC Cllr Brown: Just to recap on where the Planning Authority are with this application which I referred for a decision to the Development Committee on 2 January at a date to be determined.

The main concern for the planners is the about the merits of promoting rejuvenation of the pub with such extensive new building. They need re-assurance that the number of dwellings is in fact proportionate without "unjust enrichment". Without the pub qualifying as a planning justification for the scheme, housing development in this location would not satisfy NNDC's current planning policy which restricts development in the countryside and it would probably be refused. In planning terms the pub is the "material consideration" which enables the Planning Committee to consider whether the housing is justified not least because of its benefit to the community were it to re-open if consent is granted. The response from the Strategic Housing Team at NNDC via the planning website on 15 January summarises the position very succinctly if anyone needs more information on this aspect.

A number of consultees to the planners have expressed their concern; particularly NNDC's independent viability expert who is asking for clarity on why new building is preferred to alternative funding schemes to refurbish the Hunnybell. I understand that further information has been requested and this is still in the process of being provided by the applicant but I am happy to be corrected on this if not the case.

Some consultees also have concern about highways access, flood prevention, tree preservation compliance, land contamination examination and landscaping. The 3 affordable units currently proposed only just meet the minimum requirement in policy terms and represents something of a missed opportunity to meet the needs of the community. However, the Economic Development and Conservation & Design teams are in support of the scheme as currently proposed.

I hope that both sides are able to come to an agreement to ensure the pub's long term future for which there is undeniable universal support.

KC noted that the pub had now been closed for almost 12 months.

25/30. To receive an update on Highways matters and Approve any Action.

(i) To receive an update on the parking layby on the Main Green – The area will be formally divided into 6 spaces of 2.75m across each. One space will be allocated to each of the 4 terraced cottages and the final 2 spaces will be available to visitors. All residents beside the Main Green have received a letter to this effect with a deadline of last week to voice any objections. None have been received.

KC offered thanks to AS for tidying up the layby area

(ii) To receive an update on the Track by Hunworth Main Green – Stody Estate have agreed to pay the bill and to invoice residents for their share minus VAT. KC has written to the affected residents and is in the process of receiving replies.

JP asked about the water run-off. KC informed him that the Track Contractor is aware of this and will make sure it runs clear of all properties.

(iii) To consider and Approve any action on funding for a bus shelter – There is no money available.

25/31. Finance and Governance matters

(i) To Agree the Internal Audit undertaken for y/e 31st March 2025– The cordless mower and Defibrillator have been added to the asset register and Cllrs are aware that any purchases must be in the PC's name.

Financial Regulations and Standing Orders will be revised later this year. The Internal Audit was Approved by All on a Proposal by BT and Seconded by AG.

(ii) To Approve the Signing of the Exemption Certificate for 2024/25 - As the PC has income and expenditure of less than £25,00 signing of the Exemption Certificate was Approved by All on a Proposal by JP and Seconded by CC.

(iii) To Approve the Governance Statement for 2024/25 (AGAR Form 2) - The Governance Statements were read by KC and Approved by All on a Proposal by BT and Seconded by AS.

(iv) To Approve the Accounting Statement for 2024/25 (AGAR Form 2) - The Accounting Statement was Approved by All on a Proposal by JP and Seconded by AS.

(v) To note the dates of the Notice of Public Rights – Public Rights will take place this year from Monday 9th June until Friday 18th July.

(vi) To Approve the Cashbook and Budget Update – The balance on the Bank Account from 1st May statement was £8,846.48. Since the last meeting: Receipts: NNDC (first half of precept) £2,950.00; Payments – D. Dann (Internal Audit) £40.00, A. Suffling (petrol for mower) £63.41; North Norfolk Garden Machinery (Mower service) £488.58; There were no questions and the Financial Statement was Approved by All on a Proposal by AG and Seconded by AS.

(vii) To Approve the Asset Register – This was Approved by All on a Proposal by CC and Seconded by JP. KC agreed to take photos of the assets and to forward them to the Clerk.

(viii) To Approve the Insurance for 2025 - 26– Zurich Municipal were Approved by all as the Council's Insurer, cost £241.00, for the forthcoming year on a Proposal by BT and Seconded by AG.

25/32 To note any Correspondence.

NCC LGA interim Re-organisation Submission
 NNDC Response to LGA Re-organisation
 Briston Invite to VE Day for PC Chairs
 NCC funding for bus shelters
 NNDC Planning training
 Draft report on flooding, Winter 2023-24

NPTS Spring update
 M Dalby April report
 Domain name requirement for PCs
 May closure of B1354
 Environment Agency, local work
 Report from MP Steffan Aquarone

25/33. To note dates of Parish Council meetings – 7pm, Tuesdays 9 September, 16 December

25/34. Any other business for information only – CC offered thanks to KC and KH for all they have done and to AS for his work on the Green. Thanks also to Elaine for the Teas this evening.

25/34. To close the meeting – KC thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed

Date