

South Walsham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of meeting on 3rd November 2025

at South Walsham Village Hall

1. ATTENDANCE

Present: Peter Crook, Chair (PCr), Clive Grant (CG), Sue Grant (SG), Amanda Miller, Malcolm Steward (MS)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None for this meeting

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed and signed as a true record by chair.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

- a. Fran Whymark briefed the meeting on the expected timescale and potential benefits of the new unitary council structure. Parish councils are expected to be able to opt for more responsibilities. Another hazardous waste disposal opportunity at NCC's St Faith's tip on 28/29 November. Booking required. No district councillors present.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Church lime trees – meeting with contractor to take place later in week.
- b. Road signs - iron road sign at east end of The Street with NCC for repair – feedback awaited. 30 mph signs on Acle Road and School Road broken off. MS will report via NCC website – PCr to supply photos. Offer from residents to install speed sign on Acle accepted.
- c. King's Arms triangle – AM explained mistake by contractor would result in new grassed area to be tarmacked over if rectified. Council wished to keep grass and accept responsibility for cutting. PCr to advise contractor.
- d. Ponds - contractor to visit this week to advise on dredging ponds at Burlingham Woods, Pilson Green and Marsh Road. John Debbage thanked for clearing vegetation from Marsh Road pond and unblocking feeder drain from Oakfield Drive. MS servicing lifebelts at PG and BW ponds.
- e. A47 dualling – MS and PCr attended contractor's open day on 13th October. All works months ahead of schedule – new carriage ways to be in use in early January and overall project completion by early summer.
- f. Defibrillators – all fully operational.
- g. Councillor recruitment – ongoing.
- h. Illegal encampment on Fleet Dyke – issues still unresolved – council disappointed at failure of authorities to take action.
- i. Play equipment safe – MS to confirm to resident this week.
- j. Churchyard lights. These will soon require replacement/updating. MS reported on options for use of solar power. PCr outlined the background to the last two installations. It was agreed that a revised specification should be reviewed with both solar and mains fed options considered. Funding sources need to be determined. Sue Hitchcock, MS and PCr to meet and consider options.
- k. Village Hall – AGM report and accounts circulated. CG reported continued upgrades and improvements and healthy finances. Survey for new communication mast in hand so installation seems to be moving forward (at last). Next year's AGM to be in April. VH committee and trustees thanked for their hard work.

- l.** New council strimmer/brush cutter purchased and reported to be 'excellent' by Richard Bond. Council hay rakes also repaired.
- m.** Sotshole Broad purchase completed by NWT.
- n.** Village Green – title (ownership) acquired on behalf of the community by the council on 29 October. This was considered a significant achievement since a number of previous unsuccessful attempts to acquire ownership had been made by the parish council since the first attempt in 1968.
Agreed to produce a plaque to recognise the Frere family's role in enabling the area to be used by the community since the early 1900's.

6. FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Bills for payment approved and September/October monthly accounts agreed.

7. VILLAGE ISSUES

- a.** Community payback (unpaid work) team to spend the 24th November working in the churchyard. A further workday will take place in the new year.
- b.** The Ship Inn – planning application to convert to domestic use to be considered by BDC on 5th November.
- c.** Fly tipping – multiple cans of paint discovered in Green Lane ditch and reported to BDC.

8. Items for inclusion in the next agenda - none

Next meeting:

Monday 1st December 2025. 7.30pm South Walsham Village Hall

All Parish Council meeting dates, times and venues are displayed on village notice boards and website