

South Walsham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting on 6th July 2026

at South Walsham Village Hall

1. ATTENDANCE

Present: Peter Crook (PCr) chair, Malcolm Steward (MS) vice chair, Amanda Miller (AM), Clive Grant (CG) and Sue Grant (SG).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of meetings held on 11th May and 5th June agreed and signed as a true record.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

NCC counsellor Jan Davis reported on current topics from County Hall including the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) call for sites, electrical waste recycling, free composting workshops, and the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme.

No district councillors present.

A member of the public reported an oak tree in Wymer's Lane that was dead. PC to report to NCC.

A question on cemetery access was raised. See item 5c below.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Village name sign – this cast iron heritage sign is now under repair and will be back in position later in July.
- b. King's Arms triangle – ownership being established by NCC legal section.
- c. Cemetery access - Village Hall committee happy for vehicles connected with burials to use the track up the playing field to gain access to avoid using the dangerous entrance on Acle Road.
- d. Defibrillators – MS updated the meeting on progress on his review of the parish's defibrillators, and his written report will be completed and submitted at the next meeting.
- e. Play area inspection – MS addressing list of minor issues highlighted in the recent annual inspection. New bearing on roundabout being installed in early August.
- f. Churchyard lime trees – deadwood removed successfully by contractor team. Rod Sparkes of The Hall thanked for his offer of financial support for this. It was agreed that the cost of any similar work needed in the future would be expected to be shared by the residents of the properties behind the churchyard, on a similar basis to work done on trees on The Green and the adjoining properties.

6. VILLAGE ISSUES

- a. Overgrown verges and hedges on Ranworth Road around Norton Hill reported to NCC and landowners for action.
- b. School Road footpath hedges and grass cut by parish council under contract to NCC. Second cut will take place when growth necessitates. Top of field side hedge responsibility of farmer who did not cut it last year resulting in the possible loss of young trees becoming obscured in the hedge.
- c. Village Hall – the council agreed to pay £400 towards the cost of the outside bar floor area.
- d. Joint working with the PCC – the PCC is briefing Andrew Tapsell (the new rector) on the background to the historic working arrangements between the PCC and the PC after which a meeting will take place to discuss the future.

- e. Notice board on Village Green – the current notice board is now almost beyond repair. PCr's report on purchasing a metal replacement for around £1000 was agreed and PCr will order.
- f. Parish Forum – this has some merit and PCr will circulate details so other councillors can participate.
- g. Cemetery – one interment of ashes recently. Fly tipping has happened again. Jan Davis asked that any fly tipping be reported as BDC wished to be more proactive about the problem.
- h. Slipway keys – going smoothly.
- i. Dying oak tree in School Road inspected by NCC and will require felling.
- j. Village walk – agreed a summer walk was not required this year.

7. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- a. Bills for payment approved
- b. May and June accounts approved
- c. Closure of deposit account 0751 agreed now not needed.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

None. Next meeting: Monday 7th September 2026 at 7.30pm, South Walsham Village Hall.