



Starston Parish Council

Chairman: Philip Astor

Parish Clerk: Joanne Madders

Email: clerk@starstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of Starston Parish Council Meeting held in the Jubilee Hall at 7.30 pm, Monday 21st September 2026

Present: Cllr P Astor, Cllr K O'Keeffe, Cllr C Sparrow, Cllr V Baker, Cllr J Stone, Cllr J Broadhurst, Cllr S Griffin, County Councillor J Kerrison

Clerk to the Parish Council: Jo Madders

Members of the public: 2

2026/76 To consider accepting apologies for absence

District Councillors Clayton Hudson and Delme Thompson both emailed their apologies prior to the meeting.

2026/77 To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from members on any item to be discussed and consider any dispensations

Cllr O'Keeffe declared an interest in 2026/88.

2026/78 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2026.

Resolved to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting. The Chair signed the minutes.

2026/79 The Clerk to provide an update on the matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and provide any other information on actions that have been undertaken since the last meeting.

Completed Actions:

2026/63 The Clerk sent comments to Cllr Thompson regarding planning decision making

2026/74 The Chair has displayed the fire safety poster on the noticeboard

2026/74 The Clerk replied to the bus service email

Incomplete Actions:

2026/12 Clerk to investigate possibility of using new website for Emergency Plan.

2026/80 To receive reports on matters of interest to the parish from District and County Councillors.

Cllr Thompson was absent from the meeting but sent his report in advance – see Appendix 1.

Cllr Hudson was absent from the meeting and advised that he will send his report after the meeting.

Cllr Kerrison sent his report by email and gave a brief outline during the meeting – see Appendix 2.

Councillors asked if Parish Partnership money could be used for highway signage. Cllr Kerrison would be keen to support such an application. The deadline is 1st December.

Cllr Kerrison left the meeting at 7.45pm.



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2026/81 Parishioner open forum.

Two residents attended the meeting to present their intentions for a future planning application. They will forward the pre-application response to the Parish Council once received. It was noted that parish councils will no longer be consulted on residential applications after October 2026.

2026/82 To receive and ratify matters relating to the finances

- a) To receive the current financial position

Unanimously agreed.

- b) Approve future payments

None to approve.

- c) Clerk's time sheet.

Unanimously agreed.

- d) Clerk's expenses from 20th July to date.

Unanimously agreed.

- e) To note LG pay award 2026, effective 1st April 2026

Unanimously agreed.

- f) Review expenditure vs budget to date.

The Clerk and Cllr O'Keeffe met prior to the meeting to carry out financial checks. The Clerk will update the budget spreadsheet as required. Neighbourhood Plan money should be allocated to the capital spend on dog waste bins; their collection should be allocated to revenue expenditure.

Action: Clerk

2026/83 To receive an update on the litter pick which took place on 15th August 2026

Cllr Baker took part, along with two residents. Some ditches were too deep to be cleared, so longer litter pickers may be required. One resident helpfully collects litter all year round and has asked for appropriate signage to ensure better safety on the road. However, it was felt that as long as it is adults doing the litter picking, hi-vis jackets should be sufficient. It was also noted that, with litter pickers progressing along the road, static signs would not be altogether practical.

2026/84 To receive an update on SAMS2 equipment

The Clerk read an email from Andy Leitch which had been received just before the meeting. This included costs for new equipment. Cllr O'Keeffe will contact Mr Leitch and use the information to submit a bid for Parish Partnership.

Action: Cllr O'Keeffe/Clerk

2026/85 To consider matters relating to village maintenance, PROW and highways

Bunns Lane has now been cleared.



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2026/86 To receive an update from the Emergency Plan Co-ordinator

Cllr Broadhurst has received a few replies to the questionnaire. Some copies of Pigeon Post did not include the flyer.

2026/87 To receive an update on tree planting matters

Many of the trees planted earlier in the year beside the Beck on Askew land as part of the Habitat Enhancement Project have not survived.

30 new trees (hedging species) will be received next month and planted in spots around the Glebe Meadow. Cllr Stone asked for volunteers to help with planting.

Cllr Stone will send the bulb order to the Clerk to spend the South Norfolk in Bloom grant received.

Action Cllr Stone/Clerk

2026/88 To consider planning applications received

Cllr O'Keeffe removed herself from this part of the meeting.

2026/0061

Repairs and improvements to existing moat/pond retaining walls (part retrospective)
Apple Store Church Hill Starston Norfolk

Councillors were concerned that the additional planning queries posed to the resident have still not been addressed satisfactorily. The Chair will send a further response to the planning authority setting out the Parish Council's continued concerns.

Action: Chair

2026/1075

Pleasure Farm Cross Road Starston Norfolk IP20 9NH Discharge of condition 10 -
Surface water drainage for existing application 2025/3392.
(To note now approved).

Noted.

An additional application was received after the agenda was distributed. It was agreed that this could be included on the agenda.

2026/2462 & 2026/2463

The Grove 31 Wilderness Lane Harleston Norfolk IP20 9DD

Single storey side extension including 4 x roof lights, a roof lantern and solar panels
and new rear bay with French doors

Councillors noted that this property is in Harleston, and had no comments to make on the application. The Clerk will respond to the planning authority on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk

2026/89 To receive an update on the 'Warm Welcome' initiative

Cllr Broadhurst is no longer able to coordinate Warm Welcome, but has agreed to organise the rota until the end of the year. She will require volunteers to keep this outreach going. Volunteers are



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required for setting up, lifts, etc. Funding has been received until April 2027. One resident has agreed to coordinate in the future, but more help is needed. The Chair thanked Cllr Broadhurst for her commitment to this valuable community event.

2026/90 Correspondence received

a) Free community climate action training – email 7/9/26

Cllr O’Keeffe plans to attend and represent the Parish Council.

b) Email from resident regarding Thurlings Farmhouse – email 2/9/26

Discussed at 2026/81.

c) Invitation to bid for Parish Partnership 2027/28 – email 20/8/26

Discussed at 2026/84.

d) Greater Norwich Local Plan 2045 Scoping Consultation – email 17/8/26

Noted.

e) Revised launch date for Phase 2 food waste collections – email 17/8/26

Noted.

f) Let's Go! Explore South Norfolk and Broadland – New Tourism initiative – email 1/8/26

Not applicable.

g) South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan – Consultation on Main Modifications – email 14/9/26

A significant housing development is being proposed along Redenhall Road, Harleston. Councillors are not opposed in principle, but are concerned about the likely impact on local infrastructure, traffic and community facilities. The Clerk will reply to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk

2026/91 The Clerk to provide and receive items for the next agenda and confirm the date and time of the next Parish Council meeting, to be held on 16th November 2026 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.30pm.

Noted.

At the end of the meeting Cllr Broadhurst formally resigned from the Parish Council due to a change in her personal circumstances.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting of Starston Parish Council held on 21st September 2026.

Chair



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Appendix 1

Report from District Councillor Delme Thompson

Cllr Delme Thompson: Parish Update September 2026.

Summer Fetes and Fayres

My thanks and congratulations to all who helped organise and attended events over the summer holidays, It was lovely to be able to attend the music day in August briefly, amid the chaos of ferrying our teenagers around the county!

Local Government Reorganisation –Withdrawn

The Government has withdrawn the current plans for LGR in Norfolk, that would have placed this community in the Country's poorest Council. While full details of the review process remain to be seen, the District boundaries will remain as is for the foreseeable future, and elections for District Council are expected in May 2027.

While some local councillors described the legal challenge as futile, scaremongering that a failed legal challenge could add £5 to residents' council tax next year - I was pleased to wholeheartedly support a prudent and pragmatic approach – which, combined with other challenges, has served our residents well.

The latest information received is that **central government will be covering the vast majority of the costs SNC incurred in mounting the challenge.**

Further updates to follow.

Greater Norwich Local Plan - Call For Sites

479 sites were put forward in the recent call for sites, and will now be reviewed, with public consultations opening in Summer 2027. Full details here: [Greater Norwich Local Plan - Call for Sites Report 2026](#)
New National Planning Policy Framework

The new NPPF was published on 17 August, with several key updates to regulations around where developments can be permitted and some shifts in perspectives on the considerations councils must take account of, when reviewing an application. SNC is preparing an update for Parish and Town Councils. The full NPPF document can be accessed here: [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#)

Food Waste Collection

39,000KG of waste was collected in the first 4 weeks of the programme.

Due to a staffing issues and shortage of HGV drivers, phase two will now roll out on 10 November, not 27 September. Full details on the programme can be found here: [South Norfolk food waste collections | Broadland and South Norfolk](#)

Annual Canvass 2026

Each year the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is required by law to carry out an Annual Canvass of all the properties within Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council, to check that the information held on the electoral register is correct and that all individuals who are eligible to vote are registered.

To do this, we send correspondence to every household asking you to confirm whether the details on the electoral register are correct or need to be updated. The letter sent to your household will be addressed to 'The Resident'.

Key dates:

- Canvass forms will be posted on **24 September 2026**
- Reminder forms will be sent on **2 November 2026**

Residents are asked to review the letter carefully and follow the guidance within it.

Further details are available here: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/elections/annual-canvass-2026>



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Appendix 2

Report and letter from County Councillor Joseph Kerrison

Local Festivals & Community Gatherings

I would like to start this report by saying thank you to all those involved in organising festivals, fetes, social events and community gatherings throughout the summer months. My family and I were fortunate enough to attend a few of these events, including the Waveney Festival organised by 'Harleston's Future'. Events like these are immensely important for bringing people together from all walks of life, boosting local economies and sharing our rural culture – a proud summer for our towns and villages in the South of Norfolk.

Local Government Reorganisation ~~SCRAPPED~~

In a huge win for Norfolk residents, which will see over £100 million saved, LGR has officially been declared off the table. District Councillor elections will proceed as normal in 2027 using the existing electoral boundaries. This has no impact on devolution, with an election for a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor still moving forward for 2028. The Reform administration decision to cancel the Inner Circle contract, saving taxpayers over £6 million, has been proved to be the correct decision. No more costly, divisive, bankrupting, service duplicating unitary authorities for Norfolk!

Government consults on new planning powers for mayors

The Government has launched a six-week consultation on giving mayors in England greater powers over strategic planning applications. Proposed powers would allow mayors to "call in" certain major planning applications and potentially direct councils to approve or refuse them.

The proposals would initially apply to developments such as schemes involving more than 150 homes, more than 15,000 square metres of commercial space, or buildings over 30 metres. The Government wants the new powers in place by early 2027.

Rural councils' financial pressures debated in Parliament

A Westminster Hall debate on Government support for rural upper-tier local authorities took place on 2 September. The debate focused on the additional pressures faced by rural county councils, including the cost of providing services across large geographic areas, lower population density and difficulties in achieving economies of scale.

Other areas highlighted include the costs of delivery associated with adult social care, SEND, school transport, highways and public transport. Concerns were also raised around rural areas facing weaker access to services, housing, digital connectivity and economic opportunities, creating additional barriers to growth.

How to report shops suspected to be selling illicit tobacco and vapes

You will hopefully be aware of the great successes recently of Norfolk County Council's trading standards team in tackling the trade of illicit tobacco and cigarettes on high streets throughout the county, particularly in Great Yarmouth. These shops are often fronts for organised criminal networks.

Our operations are intelligence-led, meaning that businesses are targeted for inspections based on information received - often from the public. As Members you may have concerns raised with you directly or may have concerns that you need to report.

There are three ways to report a concern:

For anyone with information about illegal tobacco, cigarette and vape sales:

- Contact Citizens Advice by calling 0808 223 1133
- Report it anonymously online at [Report a concern about the sale of illicit tobacco or cigarettes](#)

For anyone being coerced into preparing, distributing or selling illegal tobacco:



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- Report it to HMRC online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-tax-fraud> or by contacting the HMRC Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887
- If you believe someone is a victim of modern slavery or exploitation rather than simply reporting fraud, the Modern Slavery Helpline (0800 0121 700) can also provide support and advice

Homelessness in county and rural areas - County Councils Network analysis

New [County Councils Network \(CCN\) analysis](#) highlights a sharp rise in homelessness and the use of temporary accommodation in county and rural areas. It finds that more than 23,000 children were living in temporary accommodation in March 2026, while council spending on temporary accommodation more than tripled between 2019/20 and 2024/25.

CCN says rising demand, higher accommodation costs and a shortage of affordable housing are putting growing pressures on councils. It is calling on the Government to ensure that homelessness funding and affordable housing investment meet the needs of county and rural areas, as well as urban areas.

CCN is thus concerned that almost all the first £10 billion recently allocated through the Social and Affordable Homes Programme (outlined below), will go to England's major cities rather than county and rural areas.

Heritage Open Days in Norfolk, 11–20 September

Councillors are encouraged to promote Norfolk Heritage Open Days to residents, parish councils and community groups, and to share the link below.

The festival gives residents and visitors the opportunity to explore buildings, historic places and cultural sites across Norfolk, including places that are not usually open to the public.

The Forum Trust funds the coordination and promotion of Heritage Open Days (HODs) in Norfolk, and the programme is delivered through collaboration between hundreds of venues, organisers, community partners and volunteers.

The printed Norfolk listings brochure for 2026 is now available at venues across the county, including The Forum, Norfolk libraries and museums.

All the events are free. Some have limited capacity and must be booked in advance. There are also almost 200 drop-in events that do not require booking.

The free open days and activities include several events at Norfolk Museums. Norwich Castle will be taking part on 19 September - this event must be booked in advance.

Further information, brochures and online booking are available on the HOD pages link [Everything you need to know](#).

Cabinet sets out new priorities for the County Council

Norfolk County Council's cabinet has pledged to secure value for money for residents, in its first report on the issues facing the authority and how to tackle them.

A report to cabinet outlines what has been discovered during the administration's first 100 days and sets out its priorities for the next 18 months.

The report recognises that the council has committed staff and valued services but identifies a range of issues that need to be tackled. These include:

- Opportunities to improve productivity
- A need for strong grip and accountability
- Significant financial and service pressures
- The need for greater investment and support to boost economic growth
- Cost and uncertainty arising from local government reorganisation and other national changes that could disrupt services in Norfolk



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The Stand up for Norfolk report outlines five new priorities for the council, known as Standing Up for Norfolk:

- Putting Norfolk's residents first - Supporting families, protecting vulnerable people and making sure residents are heard.
- Growing Norfolk's economy - Backing business, supporting jobs and investment and helping high streets and market towns thrive.
- Keeping Norfolk moving - Fixing roads, improving transport and creating better connected communities.
- Building strong communities and places - Building safe, resilient and inclusive communities where people are proud of where they live.
- Running an efficient and effective council - Spending wisely, challenging waste and focusing on what matters most.

A detailed delivery plan will be developed for November's cabinet meeting, to turn the priorities into clear outcomes, commitments and measures.

Cabinet will consider the report when it meets at 3pm on Friday, 11 September.

"*Standing Up for Norfolk 2026 - 2028* is intended to be recommended to Full Council for adoption as the Council's new strategy and policy framework, replacing the previous council strategy which expired in 2025