

BUNWELL PARISH COUNCIL

www.bunwellpc.info

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MINUTES of Bunwell Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1st October 2025 at the Village Hall, Bunwell.

Cllrs Present at the Meeting: Cllr M Booty (Chair), Cllr M Crouch, Cllr D Ward and Cllr R Watson

Also Present: Parish Clerk, District Cllr Suzanne Wateridge and 5 members of the public.

MINUTES	ACTION
1. To receive apologies – there were no apologies.	
2. To record declarations of interest from Council members in any item to be discussed – there were no declarations of interest.	
3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd September 2025 – the minutes of the meetings held on 3 rd September 2025, pages 600-606, having previously been circulated to all members, were agreed and signed by the Chair.	
4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting	
4.1. Update on Village Emergency Plan – This matter is progressing and will be completed shortly.	Cllr Crouch
4.2. Installation of waste bin on roundabout at Greenways – There are problems with finding a suitable site for a litter bin and a decision will be delayed for the moment due to anti-social behaviour problems in the area which the Police are monitoring.	
4.3. Possible Nature Recovery Projects in Bunwell – councillors discussed the possibility of siting an area for a Nature Recovery Project on the site of the removed adult gym equipment on the Playing Field. The area is approximately 25m x 5m and more information will be sought on how to set up the area and maintain it for the future. The local Primary School will be contacted to see if they are interested in helping with the Project.	
5. To receive the District and County Councillors' Reports – County Cllr Catherine Rowett had sent her apologies but her full report is attached to these minutes. In brief, she mentioned NCC views on the abuse of British flags and the need for their prompt removal. Unfortunately, the cost of such removal diverts money from the Highways budget which results in less spending on Highway matters. Other issues included various energy projects, Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk, a support package to help Lotus Car employees, and Government investment in High Streets and Communities. District Cllr Suzanne Wateridge's full report is also attached to these minutes. She spoke about the various Energy Projects in our area, including a visit by the Tasway Project team to Bunwell Village Hall on Friday 14th November from midday to 8pm. She also mentioned that South Norfolk Police have arranged a	

MINUTES	ACTION
meeting at Tibenham on the 19 th October at 10.00am, and she gave details of how she has spent her Ward Allowance in Bunwell and Great Moulton.	
6. Resident's Questions – The idea of providing a BMX-type cycle track on the land at the bottom the Playing Field was suggested to provide more leisure resources for the young of the village. Councillors will look at other similar tracks in neighbouring villages and enquiries will be made into possible funding. The young people of the village will be invited to complete a simple questionnaire on local social media to find out what resources they would like to see provided in the village.	Cllr Crouch
7. To receive and discuss correspondence – all correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors and matters of importance had been dealt with.	
8. Highway & Footpath Matters – It was agreed that NCC Highways be contacted to enquire as to whether the poor surface of Bunwell Street will be improved in the near future.	Clerk
9. Playground/Village Hall –	
9.1. The adult play equipment has been removed and the area made good.	
9.2. Action Play & Leisure have been asked to quote for the items on the RoSPA report which need attention, and Cllr Crouch has pegged down one of the football nets and removed the other one which was in poor condition. It was agreed that new nets should be purchased and the posts repainted. A new picnic table is needed and prices will be sought.	
9.3. Upgrade to the existing outside toilet at the Village Hall – the work on this project is now complete and the toilet is ready for use by sports groups who have contracted to use the Playing Field. The Village Hall have agreed to clean the area regularly and review the cost entailed.	
9.4. Discussion took place to decide whether it would be a good idea to have a dog bin sited somewhere on the playing field area. Councillors will meet on site to discuss a suitable position. There are already signs around the play area stating that dogs are not allowed inside the play area site.	Cllrs Booty & Crouch
10. Local Energy Infrastructure Projects – The Development Consent Order (DCO) for the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Project has now been passed to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. Bunwell PC will be registering as an interested party. Tasway has now published details of their first round of public consultations. One of these will be on Friday 14 th November in Bunwell Village Hall from midday to 8pm with various others in Fornsett, Tacolneston and Ashwellthorpe, as well as online webinars. Councillors agreed to attend for as much of the time as possible to support local residents and get up to date information on the project.	
11. Potential Future Projects – possible future projects include:	
11.1. Providing changing facilities for sports teams at the Village Hall	
11.2. Providing a BMX cycle track on the playing field	
11.3. Improving the access from the centre of the village to the Village Hall area.	
12. Planning Applications – to discuss and vote on any new planning applications – A planning application for a 2-storey front extension and alterations at 142 Bunwell Street had been received. The Parish Council had no objections.	
13. Council Policies – The following Council Policies had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting and they all agreed that they be adopted: Standing Orders; Code of Conduct; Financial Regulations, Financial Controls, Financial Risk Assessment;	

Reserves; IT; FOI Regulations Scheme. The updated Policies will be added to the PC website.

14. Finance

14.1. Payments for September had been circulated and councillors agreed to these transactions.

14.2. The cashbook balance was noted.

14.3. The Half-yearly Position Statement was received by Councillors and noted.

15. To receive matters of importance from Councillors – there were no matters of importance which had not already been addressed at the meeting.

16. To receive items for the next Agenda for Consideration – To follow up items raised above.

17. Date of next meeting – the next meeting is on Wednesday 5th November 2025 at 7.30pm.

18. Meeting Closed 9.35pm

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	
BALANCE AS AT 03.09.25	£22,373.97

RECEIPTS AS AT 03.09.25			
DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
17.09.25	South Norfolk Council	Precept	7,750.00
BALANCE C/FWD			£30,123.97

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL THIS MONTH: UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT					
BALANCE AS AT 03.09.25			£22,373.97		
PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT	PAYE
BACS	G's Gardening Services	Sep Grasscutting	350.00		
BACS	Bunwell Village Hall	Hall Hire, June	30.00		
BACS	J Goddard	Removal of Adult Gym Equip.	650.00		
BACS	R Hoolahan	Upgrade to VH Outside Toilet	80.00		
BACS	M Crouch	Play Area repairs	52.42	7.59	
BACS	Microsoft	365 Annual Sub (Pd by MR)	84.99	14.16	
BACS	M Ridgwell	Sep Salary & Exps	379.75		
BACS	HMRC	PAYE to month 06	86.20		86.20
	Unity Trust	Service Charge	6.00		
Total			1,719.36	21.75	86.20
BALANCE C/FWD			20,654.61		

CASHBOOK BALANCE: 01.10.25

Details		CR	DR	
Cash Book Balance Brought Forward (Unity Trust Bank Current Account)	A	£22,373.97		
Receipts this month (see listed above)	B		7,750.00	
Payments this month (listed above)	C			1,719.36
Cash Book Balance Carried Forward (=A+B-C)				28,404.61
			Unity Balance	£28,404.61

Councillor report 29th September 2025, from Catherine Rowett

29/09/2025

Progress report

After the August lull I picked up a fair bit of work in the parishes at the start of September and did my best to make some progress before my trip away for an academic research meeting at Berkeley in California. Unfortunately, I then returned from that with covid, so the following week was a write-off too.

Flags

We have been engaged in a cross-party initiative to try to get the County Council to speak out against the abuse of British flags-- which should be reserved for honourable, patriotic and celebratory purposes and to support activities of which we could be proud; and also to remove the flags promptly, especially where they are being used to instigate violence, racism and intimidation against vulnerable groups. At the recent full council meeting a motion initiated jointly by Labour and Greens together with some independents was passed unanimously (after amendments from the Conservative group). My colleague Serene, Green Party councillor for Mancroft, who was rescued by her father from a warzone as a toddler, made a particularly moving speech. It's worth watching the recording (links and timings are on my facebook page).

Unfortunately there's no budget for the extra cost to Highways in responding at once to the presence of illegal flags on lampposts and bridges. The extra costs are likely to divert funds from highways maintenance. The current policy is to remove them when teams are in the area to do other work. The dark funding that provides the equipment and resources for putting the flags up is not (it seems) likely to run out. Investigative journalists are beginning to uncover some of the evidence of where the money laundering is happening, and who it's from. I recommend an internet search on the topic "Flag Force UK". It would be nice if that funding could go into delivering a better way of life for British people, and activities that promote wellbeing and road repairs, rather than directing it to acts of thuggery and hatred that are designed to make people afraid of speaking out to their neighbours.

Pylons and panels

The push for hideous and damaging energy projects all over South Norfolk continues. Norwich to Tilbury pylons report that their Development Consent Order (DCO) has now been passed to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. I will be registering as an interested party.

The Tasway Energy Park company have organised four local events later in October and November. I shall attend at least some of these.

Mayors and unitary councils

The County Council narrowly passed the Council administration's proposed business case for the new local government arrangements to be just one large Unitary Council for the whole of Norfolk. Most opposition councillors and some Conservatives voted against, preferring the idea of more smaller councils. I was absent on this occasion due to the covid.

We are expecting the first elections for a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk (to incorporate the job of police and crime commissioner as well as a range of strategic funds for the area) to take place along with County Council elections next May. Some parties have announced their candidates for the mayoral position.

Highways and paths

The BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) in Shimpling has now had the bollards removed and to restore the legal right for four wheeled vehicles to use it. We are now collecting information

about who is using it and with what kind of mode of transport. Eventually, I hope, we may find a way to change its legal status, but several previous attempts have been unsuccessful.

I took the Highways team to look at three places in the division where we need interventions to help with traffic management and parking. In Ugate Street in Carleton Rode we would eventually like a speed limit but I'm starting in the short term with some signage. In Ashwellthorpe, we are looking to fund physical interventions in the highway to force antisocial drivers to stick to the speed limit even in the wee small hours. We also visited Tacolneston to consider the place where parked cars create a kind of unmarked chicane system. This does force traffic to slow down at the bend, which is a virtue, and there is no easy solution, so maybe we should stick with it. There is a good footway which keeps pedestrians safe, and there have been no accidents.

I've also asked the Highways team to look at the dangerous chasm beside the road where the lorry fell over on Market Lane. No update on that so far.

A disastrous mix up about the resurfacing of the road from Shelfanger to Winfarthing means that the contractors have done top dressing (without any preparatory work), instead of the full resurfacing that had been approved. This is worse than useless and very irritating after all the effort put in by the Highways officer to secure the funding for resurfacing.

I'm close to feeling sure that I know all there is to know about the rights of way on Hundred Lane in Great Moulton. I'm now looking into some potential new rights of way over two ancient byways in Bunwell, that might provide a good route from the centre of the settlement to the school, church and village hall.

Updates from County Council

Councils launch package to support staff at Lotus Cars

The taskforce set up by Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council has launched a comprehensive support package designed to help employees and their families impacted by the recent announcement of redundancies at Lotus Cars.

The package is for Lotus employees and also those affected in its supply chain, focused around three pillars of support: hardship/financial stability, employment & skills, business start-ups.

Between now and the end of the financial year, when the redundancies are expected, the taskforce will work with Lotus and its staff to help them navigate next steps. More information can be found [here](#).

National Information

Investment in high streets and communities

Keir Starmer has unveiled a new 'Pride of Place' programme. Community groups will be given powers to block betting and vape shops from opening, and to save local pubs and libraries from closure. Councils will have powers to revitalise derelict buildings and boarded up shops under Community Right to Buy and compulsory purchase powers. The Government says that community groups, local organisations and social clubs must be included in decisions. The LGA said the funding would make a difference for communities receiving it but called on government to ensure it is allocated in a "fair, flexible manner".

Contact me

Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk. See also my Facebook page [here](#).

Catherine Rowett

29th September 2025

Bunwell District Councillor Report October 2025

Norwich to Tilbury Update

The Planning Inspectorate has now accepted the proposal and the next stage is the pre-examination. You are able to register as an interested party to have your say again on the project once the 30-day registration period opens. I called National Grid and was told that it hasn't opened yet. To be alerted when it does, you need to go here and click on 'get updates'. I tried this myself and it works!

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027>

Tasway Update

As I'm sure most of you know, Tasway has now published the details of their first round of public consultations. You can find them here <https://taswayenergypark.co.uk/events/>

There will be one held on Friday 14th November in Bunwell Village Hall from midday to 8pm but if you can't make that, there are various others in Fornsett, Tacolneston and Ashwellthorpe, as well as online webinars.

The NSIP manager at South Norfolk Council has asked the company if there will be a separate briefing for councillors, as is usually the case for these things, so I may know more on that soon.

FIELD Long Stratton Update

I have now been informed by the planning officer that they have granted an extension to the BESS application by FIELD in Great Moulton until the end of February 2026, as they are consulting with the Highways Boundaries team at NCC, who are already snowed under with all the various NSIPs in the area. I will keep you posted if and when I know more.

South Norfolk Police...coming to Tibenham soon

Why not go along and ask any questions or find out what they've been working on locally? From 10am to 11.30am on Sunday 19th October at Tibenham Community Hall or you can join online too

<https://orlo.uk/PVfvO>

Member Ward Allowance Update

Last month I allocated £500 from my yearly ward allowance towards the shiny new toilet facility at Bunwell Village Hall, meaning that groups using the playing field, such as the U7s football team, can now access a loo without needing to enter the village hall at weekends.

This month I have allocated £300 to the Aslacton and Great Moulton Coronation Hall towards a new range cooker, meaning they can greatly expand and improve the catering offering for their excellent programme of events for local residents in these parishes and beyond.

I now have £200 remaining so hit me up if you have any suggestions on how you might be able to make use of that money!

And finally...

All submissions are now in from all the councils - District, County and City - across Norfolk and Suffolk for their Local Government Reorganisation plans. We will now wait to hear from the government, which will possibly be towards the end of this year, or early 2026.

Cllr Suzanne Wateridge

Member for Bunwell Ward, South Norfolk Council

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