

TACOLNESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tacolneston Parish Council held at Tacolneston Village Hall on Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs P Butcher (Vice-Chairman), K Darrell, D Hayward, S Langley,
J Pyle and B Spratt.
County Cllr C Rowett and District Cllr K Carsok.
Parish Clerk/RFO: D Wickham
7 members of the public.

- | | Minute
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| 1. To consider approving any apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Cllr Pincher. These were approved by the Council. | 25/034 |
| 2. To receive any declarations of interest and dispensation requests on any items to be discussed.
Cllr Darrell declared an interest in items 10 and 12. | 25/035 |
| 3. Public Participation.
a) It was noted that the ropes on four of the church bells needed to be replaced at a cost of £200.00 each. The Tas Bells group had raised £600.00 but asked for any financial support that may be available in respect of the remaining £200.00. The County and District Cllrs both had funds available, and it was suggested that they donate £100.00 each.
District Cllr Carsok reported that South Norfolk Council (SNC) owns properties to house people requiring emergency accommodation, rather than using hotels for this purpose, and this had resulted in financial savings. The public consultation regarding the devolution of local councils was currently under way. Cllr Spratt expressed his disappointment that SNC had moved to The Horizon Centre in Broadland Business Park, as it would make their offices less accessible to local residents. Cllr Carsok responded by stating that very few people had attended their previous premises in Long Stratton, and that that building was only more accessible to those South Norfolk residents who lived closer to it than the new building, not to the district as a whole. The sale of the old building was still ongoing.
County Cllr Rowett had circulated a report to the Council prior to the meeting. The influx of energy infrastructure applications and proposals was taking up a great deal of her time at present. She had recently tabled a motion encouraging Norfolk County Council (NCC) to adopt a more strategic approach to the large number of applications being submitted.
Each County Councillor had been given a Norfolk Community Fund allowance totalling £5,000.00 to distribute to local community groups seeking grants.

b) A group of local residents from Fornsett who opposed the Tasway Energy Park proposals introduced themselves to the Council and suggested local villages worked together to fight the plans. | 25/036 |

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4. **To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 14th May 2025.** 25/037
Having been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, it was agreed by all that the minutes were approved as a correct record.
5. **To receive any updates from the Media and Communication Working Group.** 25/038
There were none.
6. **To receive any updates from the Pylons Working Group.** 25/039
There were none.
7. **To adopt the 2025 Risk Management Policy and Footpath Warden Risk Assessment.** 25/040
The Council unanimously **Resolved** to adopt these two documents. It was noted that the role of Footpath Warden was currently vacant, despite having been advertised locally.
8. **Financial matters.** 25/041
a) The bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved.
b) The Council Resolved not to award a grant to the PCC towards the cost of church insurance, following advice from NPTS on the legality of the proposal.
c) Following receipt of the relevant invoices these payments were approved:

Payee	Detail	Net	Vat	Gross
D Wickham	Clerk's Expenses May and June	£81.00		£81.00
D Wickham	Clerk's Salary July	£345.65		£345.65
HMRC	Clerk's PAYE and NI July	£88.89		£88.89
D Wickham	Clerk's Salary August	£345.85		£345.85
HMRC	Clerk's PAYE and NI August	£88.69		£88.69
Community Heartbeat*	Defibrillator	£1,020.00	£204.00	£1,224.00
TAFRA	Village Hall Hire 14 th May 2025	£17.00		£17.00
Ribbonsdale Nurseries	Grounds Maintenance	£453.92	£90.78	£544.70
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*Paid on 29th May 2025.

9. **To receive an update in relation to the Parish Council's defibrillator.** 25/042
A new defibrillator had been purchased to replace the previous one, which had been condemned. This was now fully-installed and operational.
10. **To discuss the 'Tasway Energy Park' proposals.** 25/043
(This item was discussed following item 3 above.) A letter had been received by local residents outlining these proposals for a large solar park. Whilst Cllr Spratt did not believe that local farmers would engage with the proposals, Cllr

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Darrell proposed that the Media and Communication Working Group write to oppose the proposals. This was seconded by Cllr Spratt and unanimously **Resolved** by the Council.

11. ³
~~2~~ **To receive an update on the refurbishment of the adopted telephone box.** 25/044
Cllr Hayward had requested ~~four~~ quotes for the work required to refurbish the telephone box, and had received two. Following a discussion of the quotes, Cllr Spratt proposed appointing Josh Comerford as the contractor. This was seconded by Cllr Langley and unanimously **Resolved** by the Council.
12. **Planning Application:** 25/045
• 2025/1812 - Manor Farm, Norwich Road, Tacolneston: Change of use from agricultural to equestrian use. To build a menage to create stables inside existing structure.
The Council had no comments to make in relation to this application.
13. **To discuss the requirement for the Parish Council to use a '.gov.uk' email address in the future.** 25/046
The Clerk advised the Council that from the current year onwards there was a requirement for a Parish Council-owned email address to be used by the Clerk. It was best practice for this to be a '.gov.uk' email address. Parish Online and Norfolk Parish Training and Support (NPTS), both of whose services the Council subscribes to, had collaborated to provide a free service. After a brief discussion, the Council unanimously **Resolved** to sign-up for this free service, and agreed to accept up to £200.00 in add-on costs if necessary.
14. **Public Participation.** 25/047
There was none.
15. **To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting as 10th September 2025 at 7pm.** 25/048
Agreed

The meeting ended at 7.55pm

Signed:



Date:

10/9/25