

ASHWELLTHORPE AND FUNDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 20th January 2026 7:30pm
at Thorpe Hall, Ashwellthorpe

Present: S Allen (Chair)
J Ives (JI)
S Tyree (ST)
H Edwards (HE)
R Burrige (RB)
C Eastwood (CE)
District Cllr B McClenning
T Higlett Clerk

The chair asked if the P.C. were happy that JI took the minutes as we are currently without a clerk.
This was agreed.

Chair went on to say he had a statement to make before the official start of the meeting.

He was sadly having to resign at the end of the meeting due to health issues.

Obviously, this was a shock to all present and it was agreed that JI as the vice chair would resume the position of chair at the next meeting as per protocol.

The monitoring office at South Norfolk District Council would be informed.

1) To consider apologies for absence

None

District Councillor I Spratt sent apologies.

2) Declarations of interest for items on the Agenda and Dispensations for Councillors with a Pecuniary Interest.

None

3) Public Open Forum

a) Public in attendance advised they would like to add a comment regarding item 9a on the agenda. Standing Orders would be stood down to allow this.

b) Report from County Councillor available on parish council website. Cllr Rowett concluded that her report could all change as everything is in a state of flux including the date of elections and nobody is sure what is happening.

Cllr Rowett added that she was having a meeting with the bus company as there was a new initiative that there may be a possibility of getting a regular bus to Wymondham from Ashwellthorpe.

The parish council put to Cllr Rowett their concerns around the safety of the Battery storage plants. Cllr Rowett responded by saying she had met with the fire service who assured her that there was virtually no risk and that it was also in the interest of the relevant insurance companies to confirm this and it was in the interest of all the relevant companies to do so. Unsure if this effected home insurance risks of properties close by but would find out.

c) Report from District Councillor available on parish council website.

Cllr McClenning wanted to dispel rumours regarding the change of usage of the Cheshire Home that it was in fact to become a care home not as rumoured to house asylum seekers. Cllr McClenning was also unsure if the proposed roundabout at Hethel would materialise as he has been unable to receive no clarity from SNDC.

- 4) To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November and 16th December 2025.
These were approved.
- 5) To receive a report on matters arising from previous Minutes.
- a) Pond Maintenance -This was discussed however, Omache Gardens could not supply a quote until they visit in the spring when the grass needs attention. JI said she would try to source further quotations as council will be required to obtain three for comparison.
 - b) War memorial survey - JI reported she had made contact with a company and sent photos. They would hopefully be able to come to the site next week to look at the situation.
- 6) Administration
- a) To discuss appointing a locum clerk.
It is hoped that next week the P.C. will be interviewing candidates to replace Tina.
Tina has confirmed until a new clerk is in place she would handle the admin and charge the P.C. her overtime rate
- 7) Finance
- a) councils current financial standing
Payments - These were approved.
T Higlett – January 2026 Salary £313.70
HMRC – period 10 £75.80
Omache Gardens - £357.50
South Norfolk Council - £216.00
Upper Tas Valley All Saints – £250.00
Fundenhall PC - £250.00
Npower - £98.02
- 8) Village Issues
- a) Highways
 - i) To discuss preferred speed control measure location.
There was a lengthy discussion which ST fronted regarding the location of the possible traffic calming issue as advised by Highways. It was decided option 5 was the best of the ‘council’s traffic calming measures’ presented at the November meeting and that ST would report this to highways.
- 9) Asset Management
- a) Wildlife survey on parish owned land.
Standing Orders stood down to enable a member of the public to speak at this point.
Local landowner stated she had been approached by Mr Dring advising that he would like to include the Parish Council owned land that he currently rents from the Parish Council when having a wild life survey carried out.
It was agreed that he should apply in writing to the Parish Council to enable the council to formally discuss. This will be relayed to Mr Dring.
Formal meeting continued.
 - b) Defibrillator battery and critical injury packs
Defibrillator battery and critical injury packs possibly need replacing the cost was £480 for a battery and £70 for each pack.
JI said she would look into this matter and report back at the next meeting.
Date of next meeting- 17th February 2026 at Thorpe Hall
Meeting closed at 20:55