

SCOLE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026 at 7.15 pm at Scole Community Centre, Ransome Avenue, Scole.

Councillors Present: Cllr T McEwen (Acting Chair), Cllr C Brooks, Cllr G Fisher, Cllr D Ward, Cllr J Ward, Cllr G Blakelsey, Cllr K Prust, Cllr N Parkington(after Item 4)

In attendance: Alison Cowles (Clerk)
District Cllr C Hudson, District Cllr D Thomsom,

1. **To consider accepting apologies for absence**
Cllr P Jones, County Councillor M Wilby
2. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th November 2026:**
The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th November 2026 (pages 1-7) were proposed for approval by Cllr Brooks and seconded Cllr Blakesley and all agreed.
3. **To record declarations of interest and approve any requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests or other interests:**
Cllr J Ward – Scole Parish Hub
Cllr D Ward – Scole Parish Hub
Cllr C Brooks – SNTT
Cllr G Fisher – SNTT
Cllr Blakesley - C&G Trenching
4. **To Co opt a new member of the Parish Council**
Councillors unanimously voted to co opt Nicola Parkington onto the council.
Nicola then joined the meeting
5. **To receive the reports from the District & County Councillors:**
Cllr Thomson – Grants -CAF- I'm pleased to confirm that the CAF fund is now open, with a deadline of 22 February for applications. As ever, higher consideration will be given to projects that have a degree of match funding and can be delivered in the coming year. Full details are available, here: [Community Action Fund | Broadland and South Norfolk](#)
SNC Budget Consultation While the budget consultation for the 2026/7 budget has now closed (as of 16 January) Councillors can review an overview of the historic allocations and expenditure, here: [South Norfolk Council - Budget Consultation 2026/27 | Broadland and South Norfolk](#) South Norfolk Council has been advised that there will be significant reduction in central government funding in 2026/27 and future settlements, as the government looks to reallocate budgets to urban areas. As such a future funding gap is likely.

Cllr Wilby - Norfolk County Council's winter gritting is well underway, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. dedicated website for info, and recent campaigns even involved naming the gritters. Residents can also check this year's gritting routes using the online map on the council's website

www.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/maps/gritting.aspx

NCC has supported the introduction of Tap on, Tap off across all First and Konnect buses in Norfolk, making it quicker and easier for passengers to board the bus and pay for their journey. Tap on Tap off is now live on First and Konnect services, with all other bus operators in Norfolk expected to follow in 2026. This comes alongside the Government's £3 single fare cap, now extended until March 2027 helping keep bus travel affordable for residents.

Cllr Hudson – The refuse collectors did an amazing job over the festive period. Also any property that remains empty for five years is liable to pay double council tax,

6. To report any incidents of overflow, spillage and discharge into the river during the month

Cllr Fisher updated that even though there has been heavy rain all seems to be flowing well, with a minor amount of flooding on Lot 2. The drainage survey has now been received which is comprehensive and we now await the engineers report.

7. To adopt an IT policy - Deferred to the next meeting. Clerk to distribute policy to councillors

8. To receive the Clerks Report and an update on any correspondence received:

Clerk has received a quote from Cozens to replace the streetlight outside bottle cottages on the A1066.

Quote for the Bus Shelter in Bungay Road is £9987.60, and the potential grant available is 80% of this. As the deadline for applications is 31.01.26 and there isn't enough in our reserves to make up the shortfall this will be postponed.

9. To receive questions and comments from the parishioners

Non present

10. PLANNING

10.1. To Comment on and recommend for Approval/Refusal any Current planning applications – None received

To receive an update on any previous planning applications:

Amended Planning Application 2023/2961

Proposal: Erection of temporary marquee to provide additional seating area with concrete hardstanding.

Location: Scole Inn Hotel The Street Scole Norfolk IP21 4DR

Applicant: Charlie Yiasemis – **Noted**

Amended Planning Application 2025/1802

Application Type: Full Planning Permission

Proposal: Part conversion / part re-build of existing barn into 2 residential dwellings with additional cartshed for parking Location: Agricultural Building Frenze Scole Norfolk Applicant: Mrs Y Gilchrist-Mason Application Type: Full Planning Permission -

No further comments

2025/3959 Location: Scole Oaksmere House Norwich Road Scole Norfolk IP21 4DY

Proposal:

(T1) Palm - remove to ground level.

(T2) Monterey Cypress remove to ground level.

(G3) Juniper - remove to ground level.

(T4 and T5) Norway Maple - remove to ground level and treat the stump to prevent any regrowth.

(T6) Walnut - remove to ground level and treat the stump to prevent any regrowth.

(S8) Photinia - remove to ground level and treat the stump to prevent any regrowth.

Noted

11. FINANCE

11.1.To approve receipts & payments (Appendix A)

Payments list previously circulated to all councillors and available on the website is proposed by Cllr J Ward, seconded Cllr Blakesley and unanimously agreed-**Noted**

11.2.To receive the RFO report

Bank Reconciliation

Barclays Community	£11,411.14
Barclays Saver	£26,177.05
Total in Banks	37,588.19
<hr/>	
Cash	
<hr/>	
GRAND TOTAL (Banks and Cash)	£37,588.19
RESERVES	31,539.85
AVAILABLE TO SPEND	6,048.34

Noted

12. To approve the Budget for 2026/27

The Clerk presented the budget to the council. Expenses will increase by £644.00 this year to £37644.00, the predicted income is £3850.00, Proposed by Cllr Fisher and seconded by Cllr Prust

13. To approve and sign the Precept for 2026/27

The council require the precept of £33,794.00. A band D property will pay £65.48 per year Council Tax a £1.17 increase. Proposed Cllr Fisher and seconded by Cllr Prust

14. To receive reports from the current Working Groups:

14.1. Employment Group (GB, JW) – Nothing to report

14.2. Internal Control (PJ, JW, TM) – Nothing to report

- 14.3. Cycle Path Group (PJ)** - Nothing to report
- 14.4. Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan & Management Review Group (DDNPMRG)**
(DW) Councils are looking for more sites for development
- 14.5. Scole Nature Trails Trust Group (COB, GF)**
- 14.6. Community Centre (PJ)** – Nothing to report
- 14.7. Scole Parish Hub (DW, JW)** Nothing to report
- 14.8 Devolution Working Group (PJ,JW).** Nothing to report

15. To consider training for Parish Councillors: Cllr Parkington will be booked onto a new councillor's course – Clerk to action

16. To receive and discuss items from the Parish Council

The hedge on the corner of Bridge Road is still obstructing the pathway and visibility at the junction – Clerk to contact Highways after failed attempts to ask the resident to deal with this.

The telephone box near the school is in disrepair and Cllr Brooks is suggesting it is removed. – Add to next month's agenda

17. To receive items for the next Agenda:

Any other items for the next Agenda please contact the Clerk.

18. Next meeting of the Parish Council is on 23rd February 2026 at 19:15

Meeting closed at 21.05

APPENDICES A

Scale Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

24 January 2026 (2025-2026)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
77	NPower	19/12/2025		Barclays Community		Electricity	NPower Business Solutions	L	480.70	24.04	504.74
											504.74
78	PWLB Repayments	06/01/2026		Barclays Community		Loan Repayment	Public Works Loan Board	Z	970.12		970.12
											970.12
79	Clerk's Salary	31/12/2025		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Alison Cowles	Z	355.12		355.12
											355.12
80	RFO Salary	31/12/2025		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Sara Campbell	Z	219.70		219.70
											219.70
81	HMRC	31/12/2025		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	HMRC	E	82.20		82.20
											82.20
82	Website	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Sara Campbell	S	168.00	33.60	201.60
82	RFO Salary	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Sara Campbell	E	219.70		219.70
82	Expenses	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Sara Campbell	E	18.00		18.00
82	Hardware	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Sara Campbell	S	8.32	1.67	9.99
											449.29
83	Clerk's Training	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Training	Norfolk Parish Training & S	S	52.00	10.40	62.40
											62.40
84	Streetlight Maintenance Contra	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Streetlight	Cozens	S	55.00	11.00	66.00
											66.00
85	Streetlight Maintenance Contra	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Streetlight	Cozens	S	55.00	11.00	66.00
											66.00
86	Clerk's Salary	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Alison Cowles	E	328.92		328.92
86	Expenses	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Alison Cowles	E	14.40		14.40
86	WPH Allowance	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Alison Cowles	E	26.00		26.00
											369.32
87	HMRC	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	HMRC	E	82.40		82.40
											82.40
88	General Parish Maintenance	26/01/2026		Barclays Community		Village Maintenance Expenses	Christopher Brooks	E	165.56		165.56
											165.56
Total									3,301.14	91.71	3,392.85

tel: 01953 861138
email: clerk@scoleparish.org.uk

26 January 2026
Page 5 of 6

Signed
Chair

Scole Parish Council
RECEIPTS LIST

22 January 2026 (2025-2026)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
16	Grass Cutting	07/11/2025		Barclays Community		Grass Cutting	Saffron Housing	Z	665.00		665.00
17	Poppy Wreath	07/11/2025		Barclays Community		S137	Scole United Football Club	Z	22.20		22.20
18	Poppy Wreath	17/11/2025		Barclays Community		S137	Friends of Scole School	Z	22.30		22.30
19	Poppy Wreath	21/11/2025		Barclays Community		S137	Scole Community Centre (£	Z	22.30		22.30
20	Poppy Wreath	25/11/2025		Barclays Community		S137	Post Horn	Z	22.20		22.20
21	Interest	08/12/2025		Barclays Saver		Bank Interest	Barclays Bank	Z	76.16		76.16
									Total	830.16	830.16

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