

SCOLE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd February 2026 at 7.15 pm at Scole Community Centre, Ransome Avenue, Scole.

Councillors Present: Cllr P Jones (Chair), Cllr C Brooks, Cllr D Ward,
Cllr J Ward, Cllr T McEwen, Cllr G Blakelsey, Cllr K Prust,
Cllr N Parkington

In attendance: Alison Cowles (Clerk)
Sara Campbell (RFO)
County Cllr M Wilby
District Cllr C Hudson

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

Cllr G Fisher sent his apologies - noted

2. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th January 2026:

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th January 2026 (pages 1-7) were proposed for approval by Cllr McEwen and seconded Cllr D Ward 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 Jones – Scole Community Centre
Cllr C Brooks – SNTT
Cllr G Fisher – SNTT

4. To receive the reports from the District & County Councillors:

Cllr Wilby:

On 22nd January the Government announced that it had decided that this May's county council elections would not go ahead, so that the council can focus on local government reorganisation and devolution. This accompanies their decision to cancel the Mayoral Elections scheduled for May as well. The council agreed to delay the 2025 elections in order to secure the Government's devolution deal, based on the promise that a Mayor would be elected in 2026. On February the 16th the government announced another U turn by saying that the County Council elections will now go ahead on May 7th so all 84 seats across the county will be contested.

Research shows that children thrive best in family environments. More foster carers are needed to make family homes a reality for the five children a week who come into care in Norfolk. Residents are encouraged to consider fostering – to find out more visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/fostering

Cllr Hudson – The new budget for the Council Tax has been approved by SNDC.

Cllr Thomson - Fraud Prevention. Fraud affects thousands of people across Norfolk and leads to losses of over £16 million each year. The exploitative methods used by criminals to manipulate people are sophisticated and often target the most vulnerable in society, but anyone can be a victim of fraud. The Norfolk Community Safety Partnership provides resource and support to the Norfolk Against Scams Partnership commitment to taking a stand against fraud. The partnership's ambition is to make Norfolk a scam free county. I would ask the council to share the link to these resources with Parishioners. > Visit our dedicated fraud webpage to find out more about what the partnership does to tackle fraud in our county

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

No real issues with Lot 2.

Chris Brooks reported that raw sewage is currently being discharged for many hours into Frenze Beck which eventually flows into the Waveney and this had been reported to Adrian Ramsey MP

6. Consider quotes for replacement streetlights –

Quotes have been received to replace three lights in Scole that are beyond repair. Between 7-9 Ransome Avenue, outside 1-4 Diss Road on the A1066 and the light near Bottle Cottages – All in favour for this to happen in the spring – Clerk to action

7. Adopt the following policies -

7.1. FOI publication scheme – Proposed Cllr Blakesley, Seconded T McEwen all in favour

7.2. Data Protection Policy – Proposed Cllr Parkington, seconded Cllr J Ward all in favour

7.3. IT policy - Proposed Cllr Prust, seconded Cllr J Ward all in favour

Adopting these policies are to make us compliant with the AGAR for the upcoming audit

8. To Appoint an Internal Auditor – To appoint Robin Goreham Proposed Cllr Brooks seconded Cllr Orford – all in favour

9. To discuss a domain and setting up email accounts for Scole Councillors – SPC is compliant with the current regulations so no need to action this at this time

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

Clerk has confirmed that Highways have contacted the houseowner on the corner of Bridge Road and Diss Road to request them to cut back their hedge which is obstructing the visibility of the junction.

11. To receive questions and comments from the parishioners

Non present

12. PLANNING

12.1. To Comment on and recommend for Approval/Refusal any Current planning

applications: Non received

12.2.To receive an update on any previous planning applications:

2025/2842 Removal/Variation of Condition Scole Warehouse At Waveney View Waterloo Lane Scole Norfolk IP21 4DJ Variation of condition (10) relating to the removal of the specific company name of permission 2015/0309 (which gave consent to an additional extension to approved scheme 2013/1954 to form a covered Loading/Unloading Bay) decision date 16/04/2015 Approval with Conditions (Delegated) 28 January 2026 - Noted

2026/0118 Works to trees in Conservation Area The Stables Low Road Scole Norfolk IP21 4DS T1 Poplar - reduce height from 30ft to 25ft and spread from 20ft to 14ft. Decision : No objection

13. FINANCE

13.1.To approve receipts & payments (Appendix A)

13.2.To Approve Receipts – Noted

13.3.To receive the Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Bank Reconciliation

Barclays Community	£9,241.72
Barclays Saver	£26,177.05
Total in Banks	35,418.77
<hr/>	
Cash	
<hr/>	
GRAND TOTAL (Banks and Cash)	£35,418.77
RESERVES	31,539.85
AVAILABLE TO SPEND	3,878.92

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,) - Path between Dark Lane and Frenze Beck on the A1066 is very overgrown – Clerk to contact Highways

14.4. Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan & Management Review Group (DDNPMRG) (DW) At a recent meeting Cllr D Ward has said that deviation from the original plans to increase housing has been mentioned. Diss Town Council wish to apply for funding to review the DDNP.

At this time Scole PC do not feel it is appropriate to seek a review until we have a clearer understanding regarding the Greater Norwich Development Plan – Proposed Cllr D Ward Seconded Cllr Blakesley – all in favour

14.5. Scole Nature Trails Trust Group (COB, GF)

14.6. Community Centre (PJ) – Cllr Jones is pursuing a variation of the original plan to divert funds for a Village Hall to improve the existing Community Centre. PAT testing and Fire Extinguisher testing has been completed and insurance is due.

Diss and Harleston Dog training wish to thank the village hall for their recent support when holding an event in lending of crockery

14.7. Scole Parish Hub (DW, JW) Nothing to report

14.8 Devolution Working Group (PJ,JW) Nothing to report other than some decisions are expected late spring

15. To consider training for Parish Councillors:
None

16. To receive and discuss items from the Parish Council
There is consideration of installing accessible play equipment at the Community Centre which will need to be fenced in – Ongoing
New Road Thelveton, overgrown hedges have been cut by SNTT – thank them for doing this and all their hard work in the village.
Concerns about the unappealing advertising boards on the A140/A143 BP roundabout and unkempt grounds – Clerk to contact MSDC

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 March 2026 at 19:15

Meeting closed at 20.59

APPENDIX A

Payment List

Scale Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

24 February 2026 (2025-2026)

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
89	22/01/2026		Barclays Community		Electricity	NPower Business Solutions		614.17	30.71	644.88
										644.88
90	23/02/2026		Barclays Community		Electricity	NPower Business Solutions		512.52	25.63	538.15
										538.15
91	23/02/2026		Barclays Community		Chairmans Allowance	Peter Jones		16.75		16.75
										16.75
92	23/02/2026		Barclays Community		Village Maintenance Expenses	Gill Blakesley		25.98		25.98
										25.98
93	23/02/2026		Barclays Community		Training	Norfolk Parish Training & S		52.00	10.40	62.40
										62.40
94	23/02/2026		Barclays Community		Admin Charges	Eurooffice		122.87	24.57	147.44
										147.44
95	23/02/2026		Barclays Community		Streetlight	Cozens		55.00	11.00	66.00
										66.00
96	23/02/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Alison Cowles		358.72		358.72
										358.72
97	23/02/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	Sara Campbell		226.90		226.90
										226.90
98	23/02/2026		Barclays Community		Salary & Expenses	HMRC		82.20		82.20
										82.20
							Total	2,067.11	102.31	2,169.42

Receipts - None

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Signed
Chair