

Snape Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 7.00pm In Snape Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Paul Richards, Cllr Russ Rainger, Cllr Andrew McDonald,
Cllr Vicki Newstead, Cllr Edward King
and Cllr Maria Norman.

Attendance: 2 members of the public.

County Councillor Andrew Reid

Andrew Reid submitted a written report and his apologies.

District Councillor Katie Graham

Katie Graham commented that there has been an open floor hearing regarding the Sea Link proposal. A local impact report has been submitted from ESC. Some of the local PC's assisted with this response. Serious concerns and objections have been shared. The project is premature – Lion Link is not consented, Sizewell C is not ready yet, and Nautilus has moved. There is a National Policy Statement on electrical infrastructure but this does not mean that people are happy with this. National Grid Venture is using this location as its an easy option. The government has been asked to join everything together; Lion Link may be 18 months down the line. The Saxmundham site is suitable to hold both. They are not however using the same cable trenches. Tourism will be affected. There are no details on how deep the cables will be buried. The Scottish Power mitigation at Friston, there is only the bare minimum to be done. A mental health wellbeing survey was completed to assess the mental health of some of the residents discovered that 58% said that the power projects was affecting them. There is anxiety about the noise. There is further unacceptable harm coming here.

Cllr McDonald said that there is a lack of engagement at a technical level.

Katie said that the response had taken a lot of resources to complete.

Cllr McDonald wondered if there was anything in the ESC report that could be combined with the response from the PC.

Cllr Richards suggested that the PC can write to the Planning Inspectorate and endorse what has been said by SCC and ESC. Lion Link – there is a lot of reference to this but it is not mentioned in the community impact report.

Cllr McDonald said that there are a lot of Sizewell C workers, around 7,800, but this may be an additional 1,200 workers for this project.

Cllr Richards stated that it would be good to have some reports from Tom Daly, the PC does not have as much contact with him, which may be useful.

Katie said that she would send through a response from the other officers.

Cllr McDonald asked what the impact on the community will be when the new Local Government Reorganisation starts.

Katie said that the loss of community engagement is a concern, whether it is a single unitary Council or three Councils. The other worry is will it save any money.

Cllr Richards said that the consultation for the LGR goes on until January.

Katie Graham left the meeting at 7.15pm.

Contributions by Members of the Public

None

MINUTES

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

Cllr McKenna, The Clerk and Andrew Reid.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Member

Cllr Newstead – School crossing, children at school.

3 Applications for Dispensation

None

4 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on the 23rd September 2025.

Cllr M Norman proposed that the minutes are accepted as a true record of the meetings, this was seconded by Cllr McDonald and agreed by all who attended.

5 Matters arising from the meeting on the 23rd September 2025.

5.1 Power Projects – Cllr Richards reported that Cllr McDonald had circulated a very useful document about the local power projects. It did not include the Essex and Suffolk Water. Thank you for writing this and for the personal appearance at the Sea Link hearing.

Cllr McDonald said that he would add the water the next time. There are two more deadlines coming up, and a written report will be submitted. Some other PCs are joining together. There is a need to respond to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation for SCC and ESC. The draft responses will be circulated to all, and if no response is received then these will be submitted. There are no specific dates for traffic monitoring. There could be a good case for delaying these things for a couple of years.

Cllr Richards said that the newsletters state that everything is going to be wonderful.

Cllr D Norman stated that there is an increase in aggregate trucks through the village. Not all of them are advertising a Sizewell C sticker. Is there any policing about this, are they taking shortcuts to Sizewell C? The lorries are also parked in the laybys.

Cllr Rainger commented that at the Southern Transport Forum that the PC are involved in, there are many comments about the HGVs. Sizewell C claim that HGVs are not there's. There is HGV monitoring, if it is found that the HGV goes off route, it will be found. Scottish Power Renewables are putting stickers in their front windows, like Sizewell C. It was said that this was not happening. Steve Merry. SCC, was not happy about this. It is important to report the lorries. If drivers do not follow the rules, they must be reported.

Cllr D Norman asked if the trucks with stickers on are allowed on the main village road.

Cllr Rainger said yes, these trucks may be going home, as they are permitted to do that. Any lorry reported will be investigated. There is a permit for 600 vehicles, 300 in and 300 out, currently they are at 500ish, so near to the limit. This was agreed by the Secretary of State.

Cllr McDonald said that the Sizewell C managers try to manage the vehicles correctly, or their job is at risk.

Cllr Richards said that the traffic needs to be monitored carefully.

Cllr D Norman suggested that the information link to report the vehicles should be placed in the Ebb & Flow or on the website.

Cllr Newstead said that where the school children cross is very busy, this needs to be mentioned to Andrew Reid to see if the bus route can be changed.

Cllr Rainger said that there is a lot of fixed-point monitoring of the traffic, going on, this is on volume not on speed. The PC should push SCC to find out about the layby near the Church junction, with the lorries parked there is it impossible to see along the road when you are coming from Sternfield.

Cllr D Norman said that he is not sure if this area is a layby or whether it forms part of Church Common.

Cllr King said that the area always looks untidy,

Cllr M Norman commented that if a lorry parks there it blocks your view.

Cllr McDonald stated that the PC should strongly state that it is not a layby.

Cllr Rainger said that this area could be a prime location for fly parking. A sign could be erected stating no overnight parking.

Cllr Richards said that there have been cases of overnight parking there. HGV's Park in there on a break.

Cllr D Norman said that at Wickham Market is not only a Park And Ride, but a holding bay as well for lorries.

ACTION: To place the Infrastructure Bill on the agenda next time.

5.2 Website Accessibility – Cllr Richards commented that the website is ongoing.

ACTION: Continue to place on the agenda.

5.3 20's plenty – Cllr McKenna will give a report at the next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr McKenna to continue to monitor the information.

5.4 Allotments – Cllr M Norman stated that there is no further information regarding the allotment boundary.

ACTION: To continue to place on agenda.

5.5 Housing needs – Cllr Newstead reported that Hastoë are applying to SCC and ESC to fund the archaeology dig.

Cllr McDonald commented that the call for sites may encourage the PC to think about putting forward sites.

Not sure if the current site is the right one for the village.

Cllr M Norman said that many sites had been looked at, but that one was considered to be the most suitable.

Cllr Richards commented that the PC would not wish to have any site for development to be known as a development site. The PC stated that they would resist any further development or commercial development.

Cllr Rainger said that this could be a rural exception site.

Cllr King said that the housing needs survey will need to be updated.

Cllr Newstead said that this was mentioned, as the housing needs survey was completed sometime ago.

Cllr Richards said that if the archaeology shows the site to be viable, the PC will return to the housing needs survey.

ACTION: Cllr Newstead to continue to monitor this project.

5.6 Post Box – Cllr Richards commented that he had received a report from the Royal Mail. The letter stated that the Royal Mail contractors have decided to remove the post box on the village green.

Cllr Norman spoke with the Member of Parliament, she stated that a petition could be done, but received nothing from her. It was thought that this could not be removed as it is on PC land.

Cllr Richards said that the Royal Mail are seeking permission to go on the land to remove it. The post box was not commercially viable. The PC were prepared to do the work to make the post box safe, this may be a footpath.

Cllr M Norman said that this is wrong as the PC tries to do what is right for residents, this whole suggestion was for the safety of the residents.

Cllr Richards said that the removal of the post box should be raised at the PC meeting. He is not prepared to sign the consent for the removal until he has spoken with Royal Mail.

ACTION: Cllr M Norman to speak with the Member of Parliament about the Post Box.

5.7 Boardwalk – Cllr McDonald said that there has been no response from the action group. No one is perturbed; nothing has happened for 5 months. Not able to continue with this personally.

Cllr Richards commented that there is too much going on for the PC at the moment.

ACTION: Continue to place on the agenda.

5.8 Public transport to and from Snape – Cllr Richards said that there has been no more information from the residents who were undertaking the public transport survey.

ACTION: Continue to place on the agenda.

5.10 Defibrillator – Cllr M Norman commented that the new defib should be sited. To place the defib at the Church it will cost £709 for the parts, hopefully Curles will fit it for free.

Cllr Richards said that there is sufficient money in the PC account to undertake this.

Cllr M Norman said that it was agreed to increase the amount of funding for the defibs to double the original amount due to the second defib.

It was agreed by all to order the additional items for the second defib.

ACTION: Cllr M Norman to speak with the Clerk regarding the ordering of the second defib equipment.

5.11 Cycle Tour – Cllr Rainger reported that there was a grant for the cycle racks, one for the village hall and the other to be decided. There is to be a report from someone about the repair station, as this will need a survey on site before approval.

Cllr Richards will arrange the siting of the racks as Cllr D Norman is not around. This will be raised with the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr D Norman said that he will continue to support this project on his return.

ACTION: Cllr Richards to approve with the Village Hall Committee the siting of the bike rack.

6. Planning Application & Decision Notices

7. (a) Review and authorisation of payments

Cllr M Norman proposed that the PC authorises the payments, this was seconded by Cllr Rainger and approved by all.

Expenditure – CDC Blowers (allotment work) - £600.00, DB IT Support (assistance to set up emails) - £14.00, Zurich Insurance (insurance renewal) – £363.00 M Backhouse (Salary) - £611.56, Unity Trust Bank (bank charges) - £12, Gary Whiting (grass cutting) - £440.00, SALC (payroll fee) - £54.00, Community Action Suffolk (website hosting) - £48.00, Birketts (allotment boundary) - £1457.70, Snape Church (annual donation) - £200, Priory Wood (annual donation) - £200, Snape Village Hall (annual donation) - £200, Cllr Richards (reimbursement for poppy wreath) - £28.50. Total £4228.76.

Income – Unity Trust Bank (interest) - £219.59, East Suffolk Council (2nd precept payment) – £7519.00. East Suffolk Council (CIL payment) - £1044.64, HMRC (VAT refund) – 2843.40. Total £11626.63.

(b) To note the quarterly accounts and the bank reconciliation.

The quarterly accounts and the bank reconciliation was noted by the Councillors.

(c) To note and approve the budget.

Cllr M Norman reported that the allotment figure is less than expected. There was a meeting with Cllr M Norman, Cllr McKenna and the Clerk to discuss the budget. It was suggested to move the S137 donations to the contingency pot. Add an additional 5% increase to the precept request.

Cllr McDonald suggested that the increase should consider the cost-of-living crisis, and keep the increase to the government level.

Cllr M Norman said that 5% is not a massive increase.

Cllr Richards said that there should be a small increase, as there is a small amount of second homes the number of additional payments from them is small.

The budget figures were agreed by all present at the meeting.

(d) Precept request

The precept of £15,986 was agreed by all, as recommended in the approved budget.

(e) Use of cycle tour funding

This item was discussed earlier.

8. Parish Council Business

(a) Alde & Ore

Cllr McDonald reported that there was a meeting, the plan appears to have fallen apart. This was chaired by Tim Beach. Would it be possible to ask him to represent Snape? 10 years have gone past and there has been no work, the cost has increased by 530%.

Cllr M Norman asked if the Emergency Planning Group could come and assist should there be an incident.

Cllr Rainger said that he is the member representative of the Emergency Plan for the PC. Anything that affects the village, power cut, flood, storms etc, the group can assist with.

(b) Snape Village Hall

Cllr McKenna will update the PC on her return.

(c) Meeting dates 2026

The dates have been circulated to all.

(d) Resignation of a Councillor

(e) Infrastructure Bill

Cllr McDonald circulated some information.

(f) Snape Common

Cllr Richards reported that correspondence had come to the PC regarding a local residents attempt to create a footpath from the Terrace to Priory Road near Sandpit Cottage, across the common. The undergrowth was cut through. The neighbours wished to know what was happening. The resident had cut through someone's hedge at the Terrace End. It was said it was dangerous. The hedge owner has mentioned some criminal damage.

(g) Church Green Flooding

Cllr Richards commented that Highways had said that there were unable to do the drainage at the area near the Church, but could the PC undertake the work as part of the Community Self Help Group. A conversation was held with Friends of Snape Church to see how the work maybe done, they developed a scheme to resolve the drainage issue. Talks took place with Suffolk Highways, and

funding was sourced from Sizewell C. Just before the work took place, Suffolk Highways was asked to sign it off, but they said no as the work required a Street Works Licence. There needs to be a conversation with Andrew Reid about this. The money has been approved but they are unable to spend it.

(d) Cllr Richards said that the PC has had a couple of resignations from Cllr D Norman and Cllr M Norman. Thank you for all that you have done for the Parish Council and the village. Cllr M Norman said that she would be happy to do the allotments and the defib as a volunteer. Cllr D Norman said that he would continue to be involved with the Community Self Help Group. Cllr Richards thanked them both for the offer and accepted their support. Cllr M Norman said that a safeguarding representative needed to be found, and also there are a lot of the welcome packs.

Cllr Rainger commented that the PC needs to have two questions to be presented at the Southern Transport Forum, could everyone think about this. The questions must fit around the Sizewell C impact.

Cllr King reported that the roads are wearing out quickly, there are ruts on the A14.

Cllr Rainger said that the edges of the roads are being pushed back. There is a mitigation fund for most things. The layby could be mentioned, we don't need fly parking although it has not happened yet.

9. Correspondence

10. Matters for consideration at the next meeting.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

27th January 2026

24th February 2026 (urgent items only)

24th March 2026

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk

clerk@snapc.gov.uk

25th November 2025