

Southorpe Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Southorpe Parish Council on Thursday 5th March 2026 at 7.00 pm at Barnack Village Hall, Barnack.

Present: Cllr Peter Corder (Chair), Cllr Corinna Blackmore (CB), Cllr Gareth Brown (GB), Cllr Archie Dennis (AD)

Clerk: Alison Hurford (AH)

Two members of the public

MINUTES

- 26/15 Apologies for Absence**
To receive and note apologies for absence received by the Clerk
Apologies received from Cllrs Kevin Tighe and Clare Peacock
- 26/16 Declaration of Interest**
To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda – AD declared an interest in 26/19/04 and will not take part in that discussion
- 26/17 Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated)**
To agree the minutes of the last ordinary council meeting on 12th January 2026 – these were agreed and signed by the Chair
- 26/18 Matters Arising from Minutes dated 12th January 2026**
18.1 Website Accessibility and Update – AH presented some figures on potentially changing the website to a new provider, HugoFox. This would be a cheaper option and would be a website designed specifically for Parish Councils. It would require a rebuild cost. AH to look at other website providers for comparison and a decision would be made at the next meeting,
- 26/19 Planning - To receive details of planning applications and note or resolve council responses**
19.01 25/01451/HHFUL Proposed alterations and renovation of outbuilding – Grange Farm, Main Street, Southorpe – permitted
19.02 25/01633/PRIOR Change of use to Class E(g)(iii) 'industrial process' at Building A Mill House, Wittering Ford Road, Barnack - Accepted
19.03 25/01634/PRIOR Change of use to Class E(g)(iii) 'industrial process' at Building B Mill House, Wittering Ford Road, Barnack – Accepted
19.04 26/001988/CTR for The Old Woodyard, Main Street, Southorpe, Stamford, PE9 3BX. Removal of Cherry Tree – No comment
- 26/20 Ward Update**
20.1 Ward Meeting
PC attended the recent Ward Meeting where the following topics were discussed:
Fly tipping – getting worse in the whole Ward. Signage is being trialed in certain areas to try and stop this problem.
Ward Speed Initiative – all councils have given the details of speed limits within their parish to Cllr Tighe. There is a proposal to get all main roads in

the Ward reduced to 50 mph. It was also suggested that a reduction in speed to 40 mph along the Avenue in Southorpe might be a good idea, so drivers are already slowing down before they hit the 20 mph zone. There are plans to schedule a visit from the Police with speed gun around the Ward but availability is limited.

Footpaths – Cllr Tighe suggested walks around the parishes to see what needs doing and report to PCC. It was suggested that maybe this could happen within Southorpe anyway. Maybe a village event like the Litter Pick. GB has a list of potential jobs to be done and will email to Clerk to coordinate.

West Wittering site was discussed.

20.2 Police Briefing

PC attended the joint Police/Ward briefing at Burghley House. Main topic of discussion was crime across the Ward. Police encouraged everyone to always report anything suspicious to 101. The information may be the final piece they are looking for, so however trivial it may seem; report it.

There is a Rural Crime Group in place in the local area. If anything suspicious is seen this can be logged on the village WhatsApp group and a member of the Rural Crime Group will pick it up off there.

The Police are very supportive of the Ward initiative to reduce speed.

The date of the next meeting is 28th April at Bainton Reading Rooms, 7-8 pm. All welcome to attend.

26/21

Finance

21.1 To receive and discuss finance report with bank reconciliation

CP has reviewed the bank reconciliation and the bank statements and confirmed this is a true record.

Current Account £1780.30

Savings Account £1495.76

Total £3276.06

21.2 To discuss a decrease in Clerks' hours to 3 hours a week.

AH reported that she felt there was not enough work to warrant 4 hours a week at present. Her hours to be reduced to 3 and if needed overtime would be claimed. Clerk to inform the Payroll provider and to monitor the workload.

26/22

Payments – the following payments were authorised:

Clerk's wages for March and April (may differ due to 26/21/2)	£337.36
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Clerk mileage for March 18 miles @ .45p a mile	£ 8.10
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PCVS Payroll Provider Invoice Jan-March	£ 36.00
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26/23

Environmental

23.1 To discuss Multi Agency Meeting (MAG) on 21st January – CB confirmed that there were still two outstanding actions; to confirm whether we have had a recent camera survey of the sewer and to provide some capacity modelling for interest. There have been some problems at The Meadows due to the recent rain. CB contacted the MAG about this. They have had a meeting about how they can help in the short term but need a long term situation. The situation in the village has improved as a whole with the recent high rainfall.

23.2 Village Field Update – visit from Wildlife Trust on 25th January
CB met with the Wildlife representative. They are going to complete a plant survey in June to update the previous survey and to think about the practicalities of strewing green hay from the paddock to introduce seed and ensure the species are local provenance. They are making enquiries about grazing and will report back. They will also report back on pollarding some of the trees when they do the survey in June.

The Council will monitor the grey squirrel situation at the village field.

23.3 Free Trees and Shrubs from Woodland Trust – It was decided to apply for a hedge pack from the Woodland Trust. Clerk to order.

23.4 John Clare Countryside Update – In February John Clare Countryside launched the next phase of their landscape scale initiative, highlighting plans to extend nature recovery, strengthen community access and deepen the project's cultural reach. They plan to create new nature reserves, restore more of the rare habitats that define the area and extend the network of guided and self guided health and well being walks. Full details and a full brochure to download can be found here:

[What's Next for John Clare Countryside | John Clare Countryside](#)

23.5 Flytipping – see previous item 26/20.1

26/24

Traffic

24.1 To discuss Ward Initiative to slow traffic – see 26/20.1

24.2 To discuss A47 safety meeting – suggestions are with National Highways to see if funding is available. Hopefully a decision will be made soon.

26/25

Community Matters

25.1 Community Engagement – leaflet for new residents has been created and will be delivered to new residents. This will also be placed on the noticeboard.

25.2 Barnack Poors Society – AD has volunteered to be the Council's representative on this. Clerk to let them know.

26/26

Local Plan update – West Wittering Site

After discussion the final draft was agreed on and submitted by Clerk.

26/27

Local Government Reorganisation – the public consultation is now open and residents are encouraged to file their response by 26th March. Full details of this reorganisation can be found on the PCC website:

[Have your say on the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough | Peterborough City Council](#)

26/28

Objectives of the SPC – Agreed and Clerk to place on the website.

26/29

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 13th May 2026 at Barnack Village Hall.

This will include the following meetings:

7.00 pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

7.15 pm Annual Meeting of the Parish

7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting