

Nettlestead Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish

7.30 pm Tuesday 27th May 2025 at Nettlestead Church

Present: Nick Cooper (Chair), Fran Cooper (FC), Jeanna McCarthy (JM), Neil McCarthy (NM), John Pratt (JP), Anne Pratt (AP), Ken Southall (KS), Emma Evans (EE), Sarah Fournier (SF), Dan Fournier (DF), Pan Shephard (PS).

Clerk: Janet Gobey

District Cllr. Adrienne Marriott.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.33 pm.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Sue Southall.

2. Election of Chair.

The Clerk asked for nominations for the office of Chair of the Meeting. NM proposed Nick Cooper. This was seconded by JP and approved unanimously by the Meeting.

The Chair asked the Meeting to record their gratitude to the late Patricia Cullen for all the contributions she had made to the Meeting and to the community of Nettlestead. The Meeting unanimously agreed to this.

3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of 13th November 2024.

NM proposed that the Meeting approve the Draft Minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting. FC seconded this and it was agreed unanimously by the Meeting. The Chair signed the Minutes.

4. Matters Arising from the Meeting of 13th November 2024

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact county Councillor Kay Oakes to see if there had been any progress on the speed survey on Hall Lane. ACTION: Clerk.

5. Reports

a. To receive the Chair's Report.

Copy attached.

b. To receive the County Councillor's Report (if present)

Councillor Oakes was not present.

c. To receive the District Councillor's Report (if present)

Cllr. Marriott presented her report. There are changes coming to recycling as a national standard is being introduced. Rubbish collections will be changing from every two weeks to every three weeks. The planned local government reorganisation will mean the abolition of District Councils.

d. To receive the Church Report.

PS gave the Church Report. The work on the Church is nearly complete. On 6th September there will be a Rededication Service at 3.00pm, followed by a ceilidh and ukele band with refreshments at 6.00pm at Cottage Farm. She expressed thanks to the Little Blakenham

PCC for allowing Nettlestead services to be held at Little Blakenham Church while Nettlestead Church was closed.

Community use of the church is being encouraged, with a dog walking group and a quilting group already established. The Chair thanked Nettlestead PPC for continuing to allow the Meeting to use the Church.

6. To note the recent Request for a Scoping Opinion for the former Valley Ridge site and the recent invitation for the Chair to attend an informal meeting of local Parish Councils and Meetings.

The Chair outlined the current situation, reminding the Meeting that the Request for a Scoping Opinion is not the submission of a formal Planning Application. The Chair drew the attention of the Meeting to the proposal in the Request for one warehouse on land at Baylham Stone above the top of the site. The Meeting agreed that, in general, the proposal was better than those for SnOasis/Valley Ridge, but there were concerns about the potential problems that could be caused by any development above the top of the site. Concerns about the whole development and traffic, light pollution, noise etc. remain.

The Meeting agreed that the Chair should attend the informal meeting of local parish Councils and Meetings. ACTION: Chair.

ACTION: Clerk to send out the link to the documents on the BMSDC planning website again.

7. Finance

a. To approve the Meeting's 2024/2025 accounts.

JM proposed that the Meeting approve the 2024/2025 accounts. This was seconded by AP and approved unanimously.

b. To note the Internal Audit Report 2024/2025

The Meeting noted this.

c. To approve the Annual Governance and Audit Return for 2024/2025
Section 1: Annual Governance Statement for 2024/2025

NM proposed that the Meeting approve the 2024/2025 Annual Governance Statement. This was seconded by KS and approved unanimously.

d. To approve the Annual Governance and Audit Return for 2024/2025
Section 2: Accounting Statement 2024/2025

JM proposed that the Meeting approve the 2024/2025 Accounting Statement. This was seconded by KS and approved unanimously.

e. To approve the issuing of a Certificate of Exemption from External Audit for 2024/2025.
NM proposed that the Meeting issue a Certificate of Exemption from External Audit for 2024/2025. This was seconded by FC and approved unanimously.

f. To approve the reappointment of SALC as internal auditors for 2025/2026 and to approve the Letter of Engagement from SALC.

The Meeting agreed that SALC had given the Meeting a thorough and wide-ranging audit. JM proposed that SALC be reappointed as internal auditors for 2025/2026.

The Meeting agreed to approve the Letter of Engagement, while noting that the lower requirement for the number of meetings for a Meeting had made it impossible to approve the Letter in the timescale set by SALC.

ACTION: Clerk to draw the attention of SALC to this problem for Meetings.

g. To receive the Meeting's Financial Report and to approve any payments to be made.

The Meeting noted the Financial Report. EE signed the Financial Report to confirm that the balance stated in the Report matched the figure on the paper bank statement.

h. To note the Community Infrastructure Levy report.

The Meeting noted this and agreed that there were no projects identified that would cause an application to BMSDC for a drawdown of CIL money.

8. To receive a report from the Chair on any new communications between the Meeting and Barclays Bank.

The Chair informed the Meeting that there had been no further requests for information about the Meeting's cheque signatories, status of the organisation etc., although it was presumably only a matter of time before the process was repeated as part of the Bank's due diligence programme.

9. To consider the Meeting's future financial strategy.

The Chair summarised the situation and explained that soon, possibly at the next meeting, a decision would have to be made regarding the financial options for the Meeting in the future. If the payment agreed in the 2025/2026 Budget towards the cost of improving the churchyard path is approved, the Meeting's bank balance will be reduced to a level where it will be necessary to decide whether to start raising a precept again or to return the Meeting to non financially active status (as most Parish Meetings are). The Chair said that in the absence of any projects being put forward for the Meeting to be involved in, he felt that there was no justification for raising a Precept in the future unless the situation changed. The Meeting agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

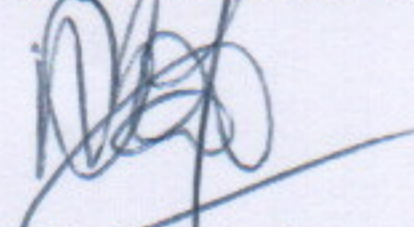
10. AOB.

KS raised concerns about flooding, drainage and roads being blocked.

NM thanked the Chair and the Clerk for all their efforts on behalf of the Meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.43 with thanks to all for attending and contributing.

Signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.



Chair Nettlestead Parish Meeting

Name: NICK COOPER

Date: 4/11/2025