

Minutes of the Sporle with Palgrave Annual Parish Meeting

held at the Community Centre, Sporle on
Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Parish Cllrs Janis BEVAN (Chair), Maggie COUSINS, Helen DYE, Calvin MCLEOD, Paul SMITH, Louise TAYLOR & Howard TAYLOR, 1 member of the public, District Councillor Peter Wilkinson & County Councillor William Nunn.

1. Parish Council Chair Janis Bevan welcomed all to the meeting, no apologies for absence were received.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11th April 2024 were APPROVED as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair, PROPOSED K Mcleod, seconded L Taylor.
3. Report by Chairman of the Parish Council.
The report is attached as appendix 1.
4. Report from the Parochial Church Council.
This report is attached as appendix 2.
5. Report by Councillor Peter Wilkinson BDC.
This report is attached as appendix 3.
6. Report by Councillor William Nunn Norfolk Co. Co.
This report is attached as appendix 4.
7. Report from Sporle Community Association.
This report is attached as appendix 5.
8. Report from the Monday Cafe
This report is attached as appendix 6.
9. Report from Sporle Pavillion, Playing Field and Children's Playpark.
This report is attached as appendix 7.
10. Report from Sporle Football Club
No report received.
11. Report from Sporle Gardening and Flower Group.
This report is attached as appendix 8.
12. Report from Sporle Stitch & Sew Group
This report is attached as appendix 9.
13. Report from Holesworthy Charity.
No report received.
14. Report from Sporle Town Farm Trust.
No report received.

15. Report from Sporle Bowls Club
No report received.
16. Any other reports not listed
None.
17. Public comments and discussion
None.

Appendix 1

Parish Council Chairs Report – Annual Parish Meeting - 8th May 2025

The Sporle Parish Council has experienced a productive and transformative year since May 2024. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our previous Parish Clerk, Sarah Hunt, for her exceptional service and knowledge, and warmly welcome Lolly Dawson who joined the Council in late 2024.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan has made significant progress thanks to the dedicated steering group of local residents working alongside Collective Community Planning consultants. We are pleased to report strong community engagement through the initial survey, careful consideration of green spaces and local views, completion of the Housing Needs Assessment and Design Code document, and most recently, the Call for Sites consultation which gathered valuable community feedback on potential development areas within the parish. This work will continue and updates are available on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council owns a number of assets within the village, including streetlights, bins, bus shelters, benches, and has continued to make improvements to these within the village.

We extend special appreciation to the Community Payback team for their consistent contributions—painting railings along The Street, conducting litter picks, painting benches, and enhancing the overall appearance of our village.

The Parish Council is sole managing trustee of the Sporle Children's Public Playing Field charity, the Council has provided ongoing support through grass-cutting and maintenance to ensure residents enjoy access to this exceptional community space.

Looking ahead, our priorities include clarifying ownership and responsibility for the stream along The Street, upgrading the village noticeboard outside the shop, replacing streetlights with solar alternatives, and supporting the Sporle Children's Public Playing Field charity with the installation of a new footpath to the churchyard.

Appendix 2

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SPORLE

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL - APRIL 2025

This has been another year without a Vicar and we have continued to be guided by Canon Stuart Nairn. We have had funerals, interments of ashes, baptisms and weddings which demonstrates what an integral part of the village the church is. We have three weddings and a baptism booked for 2025. Dog walkers and visitors continue to enjoy the peace of the churchyard.

Services have been maintained throughout the year and are listed monthly with events on the church notice board and in Sporle Parish Magazine.

Sporle PCC has monthly meetings and Mrs. Joyce Colclough continues as our Secretary.

Mrs. Philippa Weir was sworn in as our second Churchwarden in May 2024. Much of the Churchwarden's time this year has involved profiling and interviewing for a new Vicar.

Mrs. Denise Corsini remains our Safeguarding Officer for children and vulnerable adults.

Mr. Gino Corsini continues as our Treasurer.

Our Church Keyholders are listed on the notice board just inside the church gate.

We enjoy strong links with Sporle Church of England Primary Academy. It's a joy to have them use the church, their behaviour is a credit to the staff.

The memorial bench in the churchyard has been repaired and refixed to a concrete base. The installation of the gate between the playing field and the church is ongoing, but nearing fruition.

The Community Payback Service has undertaken an enormous amount of work in the churchyard, cutting down brambles and overgrowth, and clearing gullies. An area at the rear of the churchyard was roped off and designated for birds and pollinators.

During 2024 we held events to share the village church with everyone. Plant Swap, Extravaganza, Lazy Sunday Afternoon, Harvest Supper, Sporle Sing, Pet's Service, Norfolk Reeds Concert and more, plus the church festivals, Christmas, Easter, etc.

We have events planned for 2025 and aim to work closely with Sporle Community Centre to make events an opportunity to eat and drink afterwards.

Sporle PCC would like to thank everyone who supported our Church throughout the year.

To finish this report with good news, on 10th December 2024 a new Vicar was chosen, Reverend Canon Nigel Tuffnell, who joined us on 24th March 2025. WELCOME.

June Palmer, Churchwarden.

Appendix 3

Breckland Councillor Annual Report 2024/25

Supported over 45 enterprises which created 65 new jobs with the successful start up program.

Secured £1.6 m of National funding in Supporting Swaffham business.

£100,000 for domestic abuse survivors supporting the Daisy program.

Promoted the importance of Mental health and well-being, training with Breckland partners. Mental

health first aid, trained over 300 Breckland residents to be Mental help champions.

Breckland Helped link residents to support groups, like the Swaffham and Litcham home hospice

through Breckland social care prescribers, easing pressure on the NHS.

Awarded over £150,000 to local community projects, funding for historical anniversary events.

Working smart program, reducing the Council carbon footprint, supplying E.V. charging helping

businesses and residents, to reduce their carbon footprint, on the proposed journey to net zero.

All this, alongside Breckland councils statutory services.

Cllr Peter Wilkinson

Nar Valley Ward.

Appendix 4

Norfolk County Council has Increased grass-cutting schedule for 2025, including additional weed spraying, please inform Councillor William Nunn if it has not been cut or weed sprayed and other areas have.

There is an additional Grant fund this year for “environmental” and “highway” works, along with a new grant funding for £5000 for all community groups, as part of the Councillor fund, this is a maximum of £250.00 per group. Please contact the Clerk or Councillor Nunn for additional information.

There is a current National Grid project which is proposing Solar Farms in the local area, Norfolk County Council is fighting solar farms on agricultural land and supporting mediative action.

The Mayoral election is scheduled for 2026 for Norfolk and Suffolk, as part of the Local Government Reform, further updates will continue to be published.

County Councillors William Nunn

Appendix 5

SPORLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION **ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

The Community Association, with the responsibility for the running and upkeep of the Community Hall, had a reasonably successful year.

Although the hall had lost two of its regular bookings recently, with both the W.I and the Scrabble club ceasing. The main income from the hall hire was maintained through the continued support by the Monday Café, Carpet Bowls Club and the Stitch and Sew group.

We have been pleased to welcome a new Yoga/Pilates Group which meets every Tuesday and Wednesday and has been successful enough to include an extension to Thursdays as well.

There has also been a number of random private functions and of course the annual entertainments evening organised by St Mary's Church which continues to be a popular function.

We are in the process of organising a Book Club, where villagers will be welcome to browse through a collection of books with a view to take away a book for a small donation or simply swap a book for another.

We would obviously like to increase the use of the hall as a source of entertainment for the village and a number of suggestions have been considered in the form of a table tennis club and games night. Our problem is getting people prepared to organise and run these events. We will certainly endeavour to get something organised in the coming months and if proved popular, make them regular events.

Unfortunately, as has been the case with other such organisations, the Hall has fallen foul to increases in running costs, with general rises in the cost of heating, insurances and utilities.

We therefore had to increase the Hall hire cost this year, the first increase in a number of years, but managed to keep the increase as minimal as possible.

Maintenance costs this year were considerably less than the previous year, when the Hall required re-decoration. Our major requirement this year is to replace the storage shed in the back yard, which is suffering from dampness and timber degeneration beyond repair. We have obtained prices on a new metal shed but, unfortunately at the moment, do not have the funds to

purchase one. We will certainly give this our priority and may even look into a method of funding a replacement. All donations will be gratefully received. The Hall lease is due for renewal this year and negotiations have taken place between the Trustees and the Owners, St Mary's Church, to extend the original lease for a further 5 years under the same, if not updated agreement, which has been agreed.

John Corley
Sporle Community Trustees Chairman,
6th May 2025

Appendix 6

MONDAY CAFE **ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

As I am sure you are aware the Monday Café is a hub where local villagers can come together to chat, catch up, discuss local and national and sometimes world events news. Also to look after each other if required.

The Monday Café is run entirely by volunteers, those who serve refreshments and make the teas, along with setting up the tables and at special times decorate the tables. The other group of volunteers are the bakers, who freely bake at their own expense to ensure that those who attend the Monday Café are supplied with a variety of Savouries and cakes. Without this volunteers the Monday Café would not be able to run.

Unfortunately, volunteers are very thin on the ground which is a shame as these hubs like the Monday Café are popular.

Recently we had to change from a weekly Café to fortnightly, lack of volunteers, and also we very reluctantly we have had to increase our prices to cover costs of Hall hire and general tea, coffee and sugar.

Overall, on a positive note, I am pleased to say that we have a reasonable number attending and they all seem to enjoy chatting over a cup of tea and a slice of cake. A lovely way to spend a couple of hours with their friends.

Ann Corley, Monday Café, 6th May 2025

Appendix 7

Sporle Children's Public playing field Charity Report - Charity No. 304071

Charity History

The charity was set up 1963, it owns the recreation ground, pavilion, playground and all property on the land, Sporle Parish Council is the sole managing trustee.



This financial year a full investigation of the administration has been carried out by the Parish Clerk and Council. Advice was sought from Community Action Norfolk, charity specialists and the Charity Commission.

There was an amendment passed and recorded with the Charity Commission dated 1st January 2020. This document very simply stated *“Resolution to change the main name of the charity. In order to support projects across the entire village it is proposed to change the charity name to “Sporle Village Improvement Fund”*”

This means the name of the charity was changed but nothing else i.e. such as what the charity was set out to do, meaning its purposes.

In 2024, the name was changed back to its original *“Sporle Children's Public playing field”*.

There was a separate charity, the Sporle Pavilion Committee, name changed to Sporle Pavilion, Playing Field and Children's Playpark. charity no. 1051446 this has been dissolved.

Sporle Children's Public playing field Charity Financial Report

CHARITY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Income	£ 2,720.43	£ 15,237.23	£ 1,763.75	£ 406.75	£ 6,969.93
Expenditure	£ 10,004.93	£ 1,717.61	£ 17,834.85	£ 105.39	£ 8,267.40
	Expenditure this year was mostly pavilion improvements		Expenditure this year was mostly on playground equipment		
Bank Balance @ 1.04.2020	£ 19,414.75				
Income	£ 27,098.09				
Expenditure	£ 37,930.18				
Cashbook Balance	£ 8,582.66				
Instant Access Account	£ 5,492.72				
T1 Account	£ 3,090.21				
Bank Balance @ 31.3.2025	£ 8,582.93				
	-£ 0.27				

As you can see the charity has supported improvements for the pavilion and playground over the last 4 years. It has no income other than grants and donations.

The Parish Council supports the charity with all on-going maintenance costs relating to the pavilion, grass-cutting, playground maintenance and inspections, bin emptying and improvements.

The charity is looking into fundraising opportunities starting with a Car Boot sale on 4th May 2025, and has ideas for other events.

All accounts are also available on the Charity Commission Website.

Appendix 8

GARDEN GROUP REPORT FOR PARISH AGM - 8Th May 2025 - 2024 report

We have been maintaining beds and barrels throughout the year.

The Open Gardens event was very successful. We were lucky with the weather and had lots of good follow up comments. The Church and Community Centre were also involved selling refreshments and plants so a lovely village event.

As we had then topped up our funds, the Community Centre corner was cleared, new weed membrane put down and plenty of bark dressed on top on it. This has kept down the need for weeding considerably.

Village gates appeared and these will be planted up to enhance the village entrances.

The Pay Back team planted more bulbs on the green.

One of our members, Avril, moved away from the village and donated her pot grown Christmas tree to us. This was planted on the green by the Pay Back team. This meant that

we had 3 trees (Queen's tree included) to decorate with lights and baubles as the original planted one survived!

This display looked lovely, we reused the lights successfully and it really brightened up the green in the lead up to Christmas.

We invited school children to come and decorate the trees and this was a lovely event. The school really appreciated being asked. We provided refreshments for them.

We would like to involve them in other events as the opportunity arises.

A start was made by the Pay Back team on the path from the car park to the church. They moved some of our shrubs to make way for it.

Sporle Garden Group

Appendix 9

Stitch & Sew Group Annual Report 2025

The Group remains small in number. We increased our subscriptions but, as it was still not enough to cover our costs, we decided to hold a raffle of a quilt and other handmade items. The money raised is making up the shortfall and keeping us afloat.

The "All things Norfolk" project is at the putting together stage.

At present we are mainly working on individual projects which include knitting, crochet, applique, embroidery and patchwork. Two of our members are responsible for the wonderful post box toppers.