

Minutes of South Pickenham Parish Council – Meeting & AGM – Wednesday, 8th April 2026 at 6pm at the Hub

Present: Cllrs J Blackburne (Chair), S Bloomfield and C & S Chalkley. In attendance: Mr Mark Mayhew (South Pickenham Estate) and Mrs M Cousins (Clerk). Absent: NCC/BDC Cllr Eagle.

- 1. Election of Chair** – The Clerk nominated Cllr J Blackburne and there was unanimous agreement and approval for this.
- 2. Minutes of the last Meeting** (held on 11th February 2026) – These were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 3. Matters Arising** – None.
- 4. Chair's Report** – The Chairman noted that the former Cllr, Simon Kroon, had moved out of the area after many years. Cllr Kroon had organised the planting of trees along Cherry Tree Avenue and the cutting of grass alongside pavements and on corners. The Cllrs all wished Simon Kroon the very best for the future. The Chairman noted that the Council continued to ask for road signs to be repaired and had ensured the replacement of one faulty lamp. Potholes were also reported and it was noted that verge rubbish can be reported on the Breckland District Council site. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and the Councillors for their support. He noted that the Council was one Cllr short and hoped that the vacancy would soon be filled. As our Clerk Melanie Cousins is busy with her moving house, she is just taking our minutes, while I am for the present taking on the accounts etc. I would like to thank her for looking after the Council's business over so many years.
- 5. Receive Reports from NCC & Breckland Council** – It was noted that Cllr Eagle was absent and it was likely that he was busy with the forthcoming elections.
- 6. Website** – The Chairman has started uploading minutes etc onto the Council website.
- 7. Accounts & Certificate of Exemption** – The Chairman had prepared the annual accounts and certificate of exemption and handed them to members to review. It was noted that the Bank statement currently stood at £435.13, plus £1k received from Breckland Council, for the new year. The Chairman had liaised with Rachel Joachim about the End of Year Accounts. Once these were signed off they would be put on the website.

The Certificate of Exemption was completed and signed and a copy sent to the external auditor. Cllr C Chalkley said that he had attended the North Pickenham PC meeting and believed that the Council there paid less for street lighting (£30) than the South Pickenham Council . The Clerk would check out the number of street lights, the cost, the frequency of reporting and report back.

- 8. Grove Solar Farm** – The Chairman advised that Cllr S Chalkley had attended a North Pickenham PC meeting , to learn more about possible traffic on local roads, while the new solar farm is being constructed. At present it seems that construction traffic will not be routed through the village. Though there may be some increase caused by those working on the solar farm.
- 9. Bus Changes** – The Chairman advised that the Flexi Bus was not going to continue and he would send the information to the Clerk. Cllr Bloomfield would follow this up and forward it to all the Cllrs and the Clerk. It was noted that the Estate Office owned the bus shelter and Mark Mayhew said that he would arrange for it to be given a clean-up, as well as the old village pump.
- 10. Insurance** – The Chairman had received a quote of £220.00 from Zurich and been advised that if this was organised on-line, the cost would reduce to £196.00. A cheque was signed and will be posted.
- 11. AOB:** **a)** The Chairman said he was very grateful for the help given by the SPE for several years. **b)** He welcomed the arrival of Mr Mayhew and hoped he would continue to attend the meetings. Mr Mayhew confirmed that the meetings could be held at the Estate Office, as in previous years. **c)** It was noted that some damage to the wall on the corner of the entry to the Estate needed to be repaired and there would be traffic lights put up. **d)** Mr Mayhew also said that the Estate Office will organise a litter pick.
- 12. Date of next PC meeting** – Wed 24-June-2026 at 6.00 pm at the Estate Office.