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SEDFORD PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 17th JUNE 2026

1. Welcome by the Chair.
2. The Public Session: Two residents attended, specifically to join the discussion on speeding, which was the first item under Matters Arising.
3. Present: Cllr Crump, Cllr Ward, Cllr Clark, Cllr Wilce, Cllr Miller, NCC Cllr Costley and Borough Cllr Parish. Cllr Coleman arrived at 7.02pm and Cllr Maddox at 7.07pm.
 Apologies: None.
 Absent: None.
4. To receive declarations of interest on agenda items – None.
5. Confirmation of the minutes – Annual Parish Council Meeting May 2026 proposed by Cllr Ward, seconded by Cllr Miller and agreed by all. Parish Council Meeting May 20th 2026 proposed by Cllr Miller, seconded by Cllr Clark and agreed by all.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 Speeding – The Clerk had written to the Neighbourhood Policing Team asking them to attend the meeting – “We have tried all sorts of things to reduce this issue, including installing a VAS, two SAM2s and weekly Community Speedwatch sessions. Motor bikes are a regular issue at weekends, where Sedgeford seems to be on some sort of “racetrack” route! I have attended a number of the Neighbourhood Police Meetings in the past, where I know speeding is raised by many villages. It would be extremely helpful if a member of the local team could attend our meeting when the issue will be discussed.” PC Lynch responded – “Thank you for your email and for bringing these concerns to our attention. I want to reassure you that we take the issue of speeding through Sedgeford very seriously. From what you have described, it is clearly a significant concern for residents, particularly with the ongoing issues involving motorbikes and general traffic through the village. The work already undertaken by the parish, including the installation of VAS and SAM2 devices, as well as Community Speedwatch sessions, is very much noted and appreciated. I will be looking into this matter further to see what support we can provide and whether we are able to assist in addressing the problem more effectively. We will do our best to support the village and I appreciate you reaching out regarding this important issue”. Both residents advised the meeting of their daily experiences with speeding vehicles through the village and provided details of “close misses” they had both suffered. Cllr Clark provided details of the activities of the village Speedwatch Team, which is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers. This group was set up in 2014 and most of the original members are still active. We would like to recruit new members. This would involve one hour a month, depending on the rota, being out with a team of three monitoring traffic at one of the three dedicated sites in the village. Suitable training is given and we are covered by the Norfolk Police Crime Commission (NPCC) traffic policies. If you would like to join us please contact: Bernard on bernard.clark@sedgefordparishcouncil.co.uk The NPCC brings police forces across the country together to coordinate national priorities and campaigns that tackle key issues such as road safety. These campaigns are designed to create a visible, consistent message nationwide, helping to influence driver behaviour and ultimately reduce collisions and save lives. Operation Lifesaver is part of that wider national effort. By taking part, you are not only making a difference locally but contributing to a coordinated national picture that shows just how powerful Community Speed Watch can be. National Community Speed Watch Day is on 15th July, where CSW groups across the country will be out together. The Sedgeford Team hopes to cover as many hours as possible that day. Cllr Clark also advised that the police speed camera team visit the village on average every two weeks. Cllr Miller provided Data from the speed sign opposite the King William which showed 59,600 vehicles passing through between 6 March and 14 April. Of these, 1,832 were driving at over 40mph, (the maximum legal limit is 30mph); 411 over 45mph; 95 over 50mph; 19 over 55mph; 7 over 60mph; 2 over 65mph and 2 over 70mph. One vehicle was recorded at 9.30pm on 16 March driving at 75mph. NCC Cllr Costley said that she had shadowed one parish ‘s Speedwatch Team and planned to do more. All of the parishes she has had contact with experience similar speeding issues. She has held meetings with NCC Highways and made it clear that speeding is one of her top priorities. The Clerk will continue to try and make contact with PC Lynch to see what assistance the Neighbourhood Police Team can offer. As the meeting was discussing road/traffic issues it was agreed to move on to items 6.7 and 12.1.
 - 6.7 Snettisham Road Speed Limit – As requested the Clerk had contacted NCC Highways regarding alternative ways of slowing traffic at the SHARP bend on Snettisham Road. Highways have agreed to repaint the white lines, paint slow signs on the road and install warning signs regarding the bend. The Clerk will monitor progress.
 - 12.1 Heacham Road/Snettisham Road Junction – A resident wrote asking for a mirror to assist drivers at the Heacham Road/Snettisham Road junction. The resident says he remembers a mirror being at the junction in the past and had experienced a “near miss” recently. The Clerk responded to the resident- “I am so sorry that you had a near miss a few days ago. I know from personal experience how incidents like that can shake you up and I also know how dangerous this junction is. The law and policy are very strict regarding mirrors placed on streets to help motorists see around blind corners or hidden driveways: Public Roads: Road safety mirrors are largely illegal unless installed by the local Highways authority. Councils rarely permit them because they can create visual distortions (judging speed and distance), cause glare in wet weather, and give drivers a false sense of security. Private Land: If you want to place a mirror on a private driveway exit, it is entirely legal,

provided you have the landowner's permission. However, if the mirror faces or protrudes onto the public highway, you may need permission from your County Council Highways Department

The Parish Council has discussed the matter a number of times with Norfolk County Council Highways Department and they refuse to permit a mirror in this location. Their view is that if they authorise such a mirror it would leave them liable to claims for compensation should there be an accident." Cllr. Ward advised the meeting that there has never been a mirror at this junction, for the reasons mentioned above.

6.2 Former School (S106 Agreement awaited) – The Planning Officer has advised that discussions are continuing on the S106 following a delay early in the process and a draft is currently circulating between the main parties. The Assistant Director of Planning is happy for this process to continue. The Clerk has asked for the Parish Council to be kept updated.

6.3 River Heacham –Anglian Water have carried out their walkover of the River in the village and will provide us with their findings shortly. A review meeting will be arranged.

6.4 Broadland – The Clerk has been advised by Broadland that they will not be progressing the project further at this time but will keep us updated. Meanwhile, Cllrs Crump and Maddox have reviewed the Housing Needs Survey questionnaire and covering letter in consultation with the Rural Housing Enabler. The questionnaire will be circulated online and on paper to all residents over the next few weeks.

6.5 Churchyard liabilities – Carried forward.

6.6 Internal Audit – The Clerk had been asked to seek comparative fees from other local parish councils. The average fee is £75-100. A number of local councils also use the same auditor as us. Cllrs discussed the situation and Cllr Ward proposed that the Council continue to use Jo Raby to carry out the internal audits. This motion was seconded by Cllr Crump and agreed unanimously.

6.8 Borough Council Local Plan – Potential sites have been submitted. Cllr Crump attended a Parish Update Meeting, on Teams, organised by the Borough Planning Department on 16 June 2026. The meeting was chaired by Borough Cllr Jim Moriarty, attended mostly in person, with a few on-line. Present were reps from parishes across the Borough (including Docking and Holme) and Planning Officers. Hannah Wood-Handy, Borough Planning Control Manager, gave a Development Management update and explained the new National Scheme of Delegation, to be introduced by 31 October 2026.

In future, most applications will be dealt with by officers. This includes nearly all applications for smaller developments, e.g. for a single extra dwelling, extensions etc. Committee members and PCs will no longer be able to 'call in' applications.

Planning Committee meetings will focus on major development proposals and those with significant economic, social and environmental impact on the Borough. Councils must publish records of applications and decisions, including reasons for decisions. There is no 'transitional stage': applications still unresolved will either be decided before October or go straight into the new system.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). As already announced, 20% available for local projects, 80% for larger scale projects, designed to benefit the larger community. Application process for local projects similar to the current one. Next 'round' likely to be spring 2027.

Parish Infrastructure Investment Plans – newly introduced, not mandatory. A document PCs can prepare to identify infrastructure needs.

Creating a new Local Plan (LP). The Borough's new Local Plan is due to replace the existing one by 2029 and will then run till 2044. New target: about 1,000 homes per year (instead of 550). The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is radically different, requiring greater consistency between Local Plans across the country, so less scope for local variations in approach. A 'scoping' consultation will be held between 1-31 September this year, with simple questions giving individuals a chance to advise about themes, topics and priorities for the new LP. Very soon the LP Team will contact PCs asking them to check the map of all open spaces in the Borough, which has to be updated.

In the recent 'call for sites', 750 potential sites were identified. Officers have to visit all of them. There will be an interactive on-line map, allowing people to comment on these sites.

There is a timetable for 9 stages in the development of this new Local Plan. Within this are 2 stages of public consultation. The first of these is scheduled for March/April 2027 and the second is likely to be March / April 2028.

Impact on Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) Existing NPs should be reviewed to ensure they are up to date. They should not repeat or contradict anything in the NPPF. Wording should be reviewed to ensure consistency with NPPF and LP. A 'light touch' review is possible – this might not need to go to referendum.

NPs must not require less housing than the LP proposes. NPs are still worth having as they offer certain protections and will still be taken into account by officers. Also, they receive a higher percentage of CIL funds.

Details of submitted sites will be available in September 2026.

6.9 Parish Council Objectives – Councillors discussed progress on the objectives agreed in January:

Short-term

Discuss development of an overall engagement strategy to improve communication with residents, which would incorporate actions already in progress and further proposals to be explored at January's meeting; Continue to explore different ways to communicate with residents, re-consider the suggestion of an open forum on a quarterly basis so people can come and air their views; Cllr Coleman suggested a leaflet be designed and printed for residents to keep, which would advise who to contact in different circumstances. This would be delivered to each house in the village with the newsletter - Cllr Coleman

advised that the leaflet is in the final stages of design and will be circulated to Councillors for approval prior to July's meeting. The suggestion of an open forum will be discussed at the next review in January.

Provide a more detailed report each month to say what the parish council is doing, including the outcomes of major planning applications and in each monthly Newsletter article, signpost readers to the PC website and remind them that agendas and minutes of our meetings are published there - The Chair and Clerk continue this work.

Find more ways to help residents understand the limited role of the PC – This was explained in more detail in the March 6 monthly report.

Continue to take appropriate action to protect the Sedgeford section of the Heacham River – The Clerk will continue to liaise with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and other interested parties.

Prepare 6-monthly reports for March and September. The March report included photographs of the Councillors and Clerk, together with . gov email addresses and clarification of what the Parish Council is responsible for and an explanation of the precept. There will be another report in September which will be undertaken by Cllrs Crump, Maddox & Wilce.

Encourage more residents to volunteer, either for specific projects or for committees – This is ongoing. Recent examples of residents volunteering were the litter pick and sapling planting.

Engage with the King William, encouraging them to publicise events more extensively in the village, so residents are aware of activities and more likely to support them- Cllr Ward has been in discussion with the King William management team and they now advertise events via a regular item in the village newsletter.

Medium-term

Publicise support available to residents, e.g. by KLBC – The Chair and Clerk continue to update residents via the newsletter, Facebook and website.

Encourage residents and businesses to participate in consultations - The Chair and Clerk continue to update residents via the newsletter and Facebook page.

Progress towards the provision of genuinely affordable housing in Sedgeford – Ongoing. A Housing Needs Survey will be circulated to residents in the next few weeks.

Update the Neighbourhood Plan – re-check the best timeframe for this – To be discussed at the July meeting, with a light touch review to be carried out as soon as possible to ensure it ties in with the new Local Plan.

Continue to liaise with current and possible future providers of mobile services to the village – The Clerk continues to liaise with suppliers and will seek clarification regarding recent absences of the post office van.

Set up a car scheme, a directory of drivers willing to do shopping, take neighbours to appointments – as during lockdown, aim to find volunteers to co-ordinate the scheme and be the telephone contact – Cllr Miller continues to volunteer for the Heacham Community Car Scheme which helps residents attend doctor/hospital appointments. This service is available to Sedgeford residents and more volunteer drivers are welcome.

Welcome new residents and encourage them to participate in village activities – Cllr Wilce continues to liaise with the Women's Friendship Group to ensure all material provided to new residents is up to date.

Consider a contingency plan for the Village Hall – Cllr Ward continues to develop this plan.

Long-term

Continue to support Speedwatch – Ongoing.

Continue to liaise with footpath wardens, monitoring the condition of paths, publicising circular walks, receive monthly reports and action work required - The Clerk continues to liaise with the Footpath Warden Team.

Consider facilitating provision of amenities for teenagers, e.g. a multi-activity centre – This will be revisited in the future. Objectives will be reviewed in January 2027.

6.10 Local Government Reorganisation – The Clerk reminded Councillors that he had received an email from the Borough Councillor for Brancaster, Tom de Winton, advising that under the LGR, Sedgeford, along with Docking and Fring, is likely to move into a new Brancaster and Docking Ward. This Ward also includes, Brancaster, Brancaster Staithe, Titchwell, Ringstead, Holme, Thornham, Choseley and Old Hunstanton. Borough Cllr Parish advised that there will be "ghost" elections held in May 2027 for Councillors for the new Unitary Council to be elected. The elected Councillors will then shadow Borough Councillors for 12 months.

7. Standing Agenda Items:

7.1 Police Report – circulated by the Clerk as and when received. The Clerk confirmed he had invited the local police to this meeting.

7.2 Footpath Warden Report – circulated.

7.3 Village Hall Rep Report – Cllr Ward advised that the hall will host the upcoming elections for the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner. The open-air play, Pickwick Papers, will be held on Saturday 18th July, with pizzas and a bar available.

7.4 Meetings Attended written/verbal – Please see 6.8 above.

7.5 Clerks training written/verbal – None.

7.6 Councillors training written/verbal – None.

8. Planning matters:

8.1 applications – applications – 26/00083/TREECA - T1: Laburnum tree - remove dead portion; T2: Golden Honey Locust tree, reduce by up to 2.5 metres in height, and sides up to 1 metre to reshape the canopy – Slipstream, Washpit

26/00678/F - Proposed dropped kerb - 3 Hillside, Ringstead Road – Councillors discussed this application. Cllr Coleman proposed that the application be supported. This motion was seconded by Cllr Miller and carried unanimously.

8.2 Planning outcomes –

To consider plans since publication: None.

9. County Councillor update: New Norfolk County Councillor Julie Costley introduced herself and detailed what she has been doing in the first month in the role:

I have been appointed Chair of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee. I will also represent the County Council on the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority; Liaising with village Speedwatch teams to understand where/how I can help with initiatives that the teams and/or Parish Councils are interested in; Attended Heacham Parish Council & Snettisham Village Assembly meetings; Visited Highways in King's Lynn for an introduction meeting and initial discussions on a number of topical matters around the villages that residents are raising with me; meeting the Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council team on 8th June and to learn about their strategic plan and service areas; I will continue making my way to more Parish Council meetings and responding to emails from residents.

The County Council AGM was held on 28th May. Cllr Julian Kirk was elected as Chair of the County Council and Cllr Mike Westman as vice-chair. Councillors from all parties paid tribute to the outgoing chair, Tom FitzPatrick. Cllr David Bick was elected as Leader of the Council and Robin Hunter-Clarke as Deputy Leader. Details of the appointments to Cabinet and Committees are on the Norfolk County Council (NCC) website. Cabinet are meeting on 29th June to set the priorities. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). On 3rd June 2026 the Reform UK deputy leader of Norfolk County Council, Cllr Robin Hunter-Clarke, wrote to the Secretary of State formally stating the administration's position on LGR. This follows the issuing of a pre-action protocol letter in May 2026 setting out our concerns that the decision is unlawful: 1. There is no public mandate for this change – in the Government's consultation only 1,737 out of 940,000 Norfolk residents participated. 2. The costs are unaffordable and the savings uncertain. 3. The timetable is unrealistic and creates unnecessary and unprecedented risk. NCC intend to pursue all lawful and appropriate avenues to challenge these proposals and to preserve the existing two-tier system. Accordingly, the administration will not support work to implement LGR in Norfolk in advance of any Structural Changes Order being enacted, nor will we participate in voluntary implementation arrangements, including voluntary Joint Committees.

Cllr Costley will keep the Parish Council updated on this matter. Cllr Ward asked Cllr Costley how much the appeal to overturn LGR will cost and who will pay the bill. Cllr Costley was unable to provide a response at the meeting. Cllr Ward also asked Cllr Costley to speak to Highways about replacing/repairing the damaged road sign at the Norfolk Lavender junction. Cllr Costley agreed to speak to Highways regarding this matter.

10. Borough Councillors update: Borough Cllr Parish discussed the following issues:

McDonalds - The proposed location is on the corner of the lavender traffic lights, opposite Norfolk Lavender and on their current overflow carpark - not a location for anything which will generate 500 -1000+ vehicle movements per day. On the 11th February 2026, well before the leaflet drops and consultation, McDonalds received pre-application advice from the Borough Environment and Planning Department, that should a planning application be submitted it would likely be refused (The word 'likely' is used as an application has yet to be made). Volumes of traffic, litter and light pollution are key concerns for local people.

Scrutiny Panels - The practice of acting as a critical friend to the executive but also holding them to account for policy decisions and service performance, is undergoing a review.

Local government reorganisation (LGR) continues to proceed. The West Norfolk Economic Strategy Action Plan 2026 -2028 is being considered by Cabinet. This brings the long-term economic vision down to a practical set of interventions over the next two years whilst laying the foundations for delivery post 2028.

Wash East Coast Management Strategy (WECMS) Review Workshop - This provided a full picture of what is known about the coastal shore between Hunstanton cliffs and Wolvorton Creek and what has still to be determined. The current strategy for managing the shore ends in 2030 so a review is intended to be published in 2028 for public consultation.

11. To approve accounts and payments this month:

11.1 Approval and payment of invoices: Proposed by Cllr Ward seconded by Cllr Maddox and agreed by all.

Name	Business	Net	VAT	Gross	Recoverable VAT
K and M Lighting (STO)	Street Lighting Maintenance June	18.70	3.74	22.44	All
Npower (DDR)	Street Lighting Electricity June	49.33	2.47	51.80	All
Currys (DDR)	Laptop Cover	8.60	0.00	8.60	None
Stuart Large (STO)	War Memorial Maintenance	72.00	0.00	72.00	None
Nurture Landscapes	Grounds Maintenance May	386.66	77.33	463.99	All
Parish Clerk	Payment June (See Log)	0.00	0.00	0.00	None
HMRC	June (See Log)	0.00	0.00	0.00	None
Parish Clerk	HP Ink	5.41	1.08	6.49	All

Parish Clerk	Expenses	54.25	0.00	54.25	None
K & M Lighting	Streetlight Repair	448.76	89.75	538.51	All

11.2 Financial Statements for May 2026 – noted.

12. Correspondence, to consider any correspondence/communication received:

12.2 Public consultation on new McDonalds restaurant on A149 Heacham – This consultation was placed on the Facebook page for residents to respond to individually.

12.3 Water Issues – Parts of the village were without water for a number of days and most other residents suffered reduced pressure. Anglian Water was contacted immediately and their teams were on site a number of times. Anglian Water blamed the issue on a leak in Church Road and heavy demand due to the very hot weather. Thankfully the issue appears to have been resolved. However, the Parish Council will write to Anglian Water to ask why residents, some very vulnerable, had to endure this inconvenience for days and without bottled water being made available despite numerous requests.

12.4 Mobile Phone Issues – Most residents encountered signal issues for a number of days. The mast company were contacted and carried out an investigation. They could find no issue and blamed the problem on the mobile providers. A number of residents contacted their providers who said the issue was mast related. The problem was eventually resolved. It may be of interest that the mast engineers were on site the day before the issue arose!

13. To consider any Correspondence received after publication:

13.1 Docking Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Crump drafted the following response which was circulated to the other Councillors prior to the meeting - Sedgeford Parish Council supports the policies in the Docking Neighbourhood Plan which relate to Objective A: “Protect and enhance Docking’s Natural Environment including locally important green spaces and views, trees, hedgerows and areas which play a role for the local wildlife.” These include: Policy 1, Biodiversity and Green Ecological Corridors and associated Community Action 1; Policy 2, Trees; Policy 3, Local Green Spaces; Policy 4, Local Views and Policy 5, Dark Skies. Sedgeford Parish Council also supports policies relating to Objective C: “Ensure future housing development, including the tenure, mix and number of bedrooms, meets the needs of the local population to help retain residents in Docking.” These include: Policy 8, Affordable Housing and 9, Principal Residence Requirement. Reviewing the Basic Conditions Statement prepared in July 2025 and the Addendum, it appears that policies in the Docking Plan are consistent with the legal changes which recently came into force. Councillors discussed the proposed response. Cllr Maddox seconded the proposal, which was agreed by all. The Clerk will submit the response.

13.2 Nurture Grass Cutting – The Clerk has had to regularly chase the contractors due to a number of areas not being adequately cut. These issues now appear to have been resolved. The Clerk will closely monitor the situation.

13.3 Telegraph Pole Issues – The Clerk has reported a telegraph pole on Snettisham Road by the SHARP bend that has broken in two with the wires being held up by the adjacent trees. Openreach hope to fix this issue on the 19/20 June.

13.4 Possible bus shelter – The Clerk has a site meeting on June 25th with Lynx Buses Director and Norfolk County Council Public Transport Development Officer to discuss this possibility further.

13.5 Overgrown Hedges on Church Lane– The Clerk has received two complaints of overgrown hedges on Church Lane and will speak to Highways.

14. Any other business (for information only) and any items to carry forward to next month for the decision of the council: None.

15. Any further public contributions to the meeting – One of the residents said that where he used to live the issue of speeding, particularly motorbikes, had been solved by the installation of multiple speed cameras. The Clerk explained that unfortunately, the harsh reality is that the Police/Highways will not consider installing speed cameras until at least one fatal accident has occurred.

16. Proposed Date of Next Meeting –15th July 2026 at 7.00pm.

17. Close – 8.41pm