MINUTES OF NORMANTON ON SOAR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 30th JULY 2026 IN THE VILAGE HALL AT 7.00PM

Present: Cllrs Dave Smith (Chairman), Sue Ponting, Stuart Sleight, Nigel Hillier
The Clerk Sue Lewis and County Councillor Andy Brown was also present

26/PC/27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs Alison Hall, Matt Barney & Stuart Matthews were also present.

26/PC/28 TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4th June 2026 – PAGES 5-7

Proposed Cllr D Smith **Seconded Cllr S Sleight**
Agreed Unanimously

26/PC/29 CLERKS REPORT

The tenant of Allotment 8 has surrendered their tenancy. As there is currently no waiting list, the vacant allotment will be advertised. Letters have also been sent to allotment holders whose plots require attention, reminding them of their responsibilities.

A Planning Seminar will be held on 16th September, covering the new planning reforms that are due to come into force. Councillors wishing to attend, either in person or online, are asked to notify the Clerk.

A letter of thanks has been received from Sutton Bonington Playscheme in appreciation of the Parish Council's grant. The Playscheme has also invited councillors to its 60th Anniversary Celebrations on 7th August, from 11.00 am onwards. All councillors are welcome to attend.

26/PC/30 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Andy Brown reported that, at the last Full County Council meeting, he proposed a motion to extend concessionary bus pass travel to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The motion was carried unanimously and will now be submitted to the East Midlands Mayor for approval. If adopted, the scheme is expected to cost each county approximately £200,000.

As a member of the Children and Families Select Committee, Cllr Brown advised that, at its most recent meeting, five schools were identified as being unsustainable within the county.

The Communities Scrutiny Committee recently agreed to recommend the removal of the Council Tax premium on second homes. The Committee has also requested that Nottinghamshire County Council work with Rushcliffe Borough Council to promote foster caring and consider offering Council Tax relief to foster carers to encourage more people to come forward.

Cllr Brown also reported that East Midlands Airport is involved in the national programme to modernise UK airspace, with a public consultation expected to begin shortly. He noted that the Airport's Community Fund awards, on average, around £37,000 in grants each year.

Together with Cllr Stuart Matthews, Cllr Brown has requested a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss the recent increase in crime across the area.

DRAFT

Providing an update **on** Local Government Reorganisation, Cllr Brown explained that the Local Government Boundary Commission has proposed that new electoral wards should, where possible, have an electorate within **±10%** of the average number of electors per councillor. Under the current proposals, representation across the area would reduce from 44 councillors to 22, comprising 5 councillors for the new Nottinghamshire Council and 17 councillors for the Greater Nottingham area**.** These numbers have been fixed by Government and cannot be altered. Locally, this would result in changes affecting the Bunny and Ruddington and Gotham, Leake and Soar Valley divisions, with the latter reducing to three councillors. Cllr Brown added that the proposed name **"**Greater Nottingham Council" is currently being challenged.

26/PC/31 TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON POLICING, FLOODING, HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS INCLUDING UPDATE ON KIRKHILL BRIDGE

The Chair, Cllr Dave Smith, reported that Kirk Hill Bridge and Zouch Bridge are now open.

He advised that Moor Lane will be closed for two days between 27th August and 1st September, and Stanford Lane will be closed for three days between 2nd and 7th September, to enable preventative maintenance works to be carried out.

The Chair also reported that, after a number of years, the Environment Agency we understand have confirmed that the drain beneath Zouch Farm is blocked. The site has now been surveyed and, although the drain is not the responsibility of the Environment Agency, funding has been secured for remedial works to be undertaken during the current financial year. This work should improve the flow of water; however, the dyke along the A6006 still requires clearing

The Chair has arranged a meeting with the landowner and agents to discuss the possibly of a balancing pond above the railway in Far Lane to reduce flooding in the village. A further meeting will be arranged with the land owner and the Parish Council to discuss proposed developments in the village.

The temporary speed camera has now been removed. The Clerk was asked to request the survey results and to follow up with PC Kelly Carlisle regarding the results from the speed enforcement van.

26/PC/32 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM NOSPS PARENTS WITH REGARD TO THE SCHOOLS 150TH CELEBRATIONS

A representative of the NOSPS Parents' Group addressed the Council regarding plans to celebrate the school's 150th anniversary. A number of ideas are currently being considered, and the group requested the Parish Council's support.

Resolved: That the Parish Council provide financial support towards the celebrations. It was further agreed that Cllr Nigel Hillier would act as the liaison between the Parish Council and the school.

DRAFT

26/PC/33 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION

- 26/01074/SCOEIA - Land West Of Trowell Lane Trowell Lane Sutton Bonington: Scoping request for development for the Sutton Bonington Solar Farm

As this is a scoping activity and so far no detailed plans are available, we have no objections to the scoping request but would like to comment on detailed plans when appropriate

26/PC/34 TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND UPDATES AND ANY ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Ferry – Solar Panel/Generator Cllr Stuart Sleight referred to the details of the solar panel and generator that had been circulated previously. Members agreed to proceed with the purchase at a cost of approx £850**.**

The Clerk reported that Cllr Matt Barney had awarded £300 from his Community Support Fund towards the cost of the equipment.

Ferry takings are currently lower than last year, due in part to the hot weather and difficulty finding volunteers to fill the shifts.

Jubilee Field - The tree survey report has been received. However, the Council has been advised not to undertake any pruning at this time due to the dry weather. Any necessary works will be deferred until the winter.

It was also reported that the water tank at the rear of the field is not refilling. Until there is sufficient rainfall, water is being supplied from the Village Hall.

VILLAGE NEWS ITEMS – Nothing to report

PLAY AREA UPDATE – No update

ALLOTMENTS – The size of the allotments was raised and should consideration be given to reducing the size to make them more manageable. – Clerk to gauge opinion

26/PC/35 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS, FOR JUNE 2026 AND AGREE CLERK TO PAY REGULAR PAYMENTS

Payment Method	**Payee**	**Details**	**Amount**
BACS	Susan Lewis	Salary	317.98
BACS	HMRC	PAYE	79.60
BACS	Vertas	Landscaping Contract	184.08
BACS	Ladybug Garden Services	Mowing of verges	282.00
BACS	Ladybug Garden Services	Strim around Trees	60.00
BACS	Ladybug Garden Services	Mowing of VH Play Equipt	27.00
BACS	AT2 Trees	Tree Survey	345.00
Receipts			
		Details	**Amount**
24/07/26	Mike Stanley	Ferry Takings	204.20

Proposed Cllr Dave Smith Seconded Cllr Stuart Sleight
Agreed Unanimously

26/PC/36 TO REPORT CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING – INFORMATION ONLY

All correspondence previously circulated.

26/PC/37 ANY OTHER MATTERS ON WHICH THE CLERK OR MEMBERS WISH TO REPORT. INFORMATION ONLY

The grass at the Ferry Field requires cutting as it is currently considered to present a significant fire risk. The Clerk to report the matter to Mather Jamie.

It was reported that pennywort is beginning to spread across the River Soar, hindering the operation of the ferry. Resolved: The Clerk to report the issue to the Canal & River Trust.

Concerns were raised that some river users are ignoring the warning signs at the ferry crossing. It was agreed to write to all local marinas enclosing a warning notice. Members also agreed to purchase red warning flags to alert approaching boats when the ferry is in operation.

It was reported that the Public Right of Way adjacent to the school is overgrown. The Clerk to report the matter to the Rights of Way Officer.

Concerns were raised about vehicles parking on the grass verges along Main Street. It was agreed to purchase and install 'No Parking' signs.

It was noted that three horse warning signs have been turned the wrong way. These are located outside the Village Hall, on the double bend, and on Stanford Lane. The Clerk to report the matter for correction.

Complaints have been received from residents regarding works undertaken on Village Road. The Clerk was requested to write to the owner advising that the land is common land owned by the Parish Council and is also a public bridleway. Any works affecting the land require the prior permission of the Parish Council

DRAFT