

SLOLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday 21st May 2025
Sloley Methodist Church, Frankfort, NR12 8HG**

Present: Rob Sadler, Council Chair

Also present: Anne Tandy, Clerk to the Council

Members of the public: 9 (including 5 Parish Councillors)

1. WELCOME

Chair welcomed residents of Sloley to their annual Parish Meeting

2. THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A short report of council's activities over the preceding 12 months was presented by Rob Sadler.

- Hedge cutting was undertaken within the Parish of Sloley.
- Norfolk Roadside Nature Reserve alongside Broad Lane – verges have been allowed to mature to create habitat and food sources for various forms of wildlife.
- Defibrillator has been purchased and just waiting for it to be installed in the red telephone box facing the Methodist Church in Frankfort.
- Sloley Church – it has been confirmed that the road is called Church Lane and signage will be erected in the near future.
- Sloley Church – Sloley Parish Council paid for a landscape gardener to undertake church ground maintenance over two days. It is now the responsibility of Sloley Church to continue with the upkeep of the church grounds.
- Highways filled in the holes and resurfaced Church Lane and various holes within the village.
- Highways unblocked the drain under the bridge on the way to Tunstead and in Frankfort.
- Flooding issues on Sloley Road were rectified.
- Sloley Parish Council have passed various planning permissions within the community.
- A new parish clerk and two new councillors have been elected.
- Sloley Parish Council have supported residents' concerns regarding the upcoming planning permission for Albert Bartlett.

3. REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The district and county councillor had given apologies and was not in attendance.

A report was received from the North Norfolk MP, Steff Aquarone

With the Easter break now firmly behind us, it was great to be able to get out and about in North Norfolk to meet with constituents and find out how I can help them with the issues that matter to them most. Last week, my team and I closed our 5000th case – a fantastic milestone that reminds us how important it is to be aware of the issues affecting our unique rural communities and to offer them support to make their lives easier.

Below are just some of the issues and campaigns that I am focused on – as always, if there are any pressing issues that you are aware of in your communities, please do get in touch and make me aware of them so that my team and I can offer our support.

Fighting for better rural transport

There is only one train line here in North Norfolk, but it's an important one. It connects our villages, communities and our towns not just to Norwich, but to the rest of the country. Not every train stops at every rural station – and I have urged Greater Anglia to reconsider their train schedules to include smaller stops where getting people to work, to school and to their appointments on time is crucial.

Support for my petition to improve rural bus services is going strong - I have met with Sanders Coaches to call for a more joined-up bus schedule that will allow people to get where they need to go. While I fight for a better-connected Norfolk, I am also happy to report some good news for our learner drivers who rely on vehicles to get around. The Secretary of State has promised to prioritise clearing the backlog of driving tests and I'll be making sure that North Norfolk gets its fair share.

Supporting our farmers

British farming is among the best in the world - and Norfolk's is among the best in the country. I have regularly met with farmers to discuss their ongoing challenges – including their concerns about the quality of imported food, the impact of climate change on their farms, the impact of hefty tariffs, bad trade deals and not to mention the devastating family farm tax. That's why I'm fighting their corner, amplifying their voice and backing British farming. I also recently met with young farmers who are concerned about the impact that the family farm tax will have on their futures. I am continuing to push the Government to give our farmers a fair deal before it's too late.

Committed to giving our children the education they deserve

I did not get into politics to oversee a managed decline in services, and I am shocked at how often I hear about a school that is set to close in a community that desperately needs access to it. I have been outspoken on the delay in building the new school in Holt and have raised the matter with the

Secretary of State for Education. I will keep putting pressure on the Council to complete the school with urgency and I won't stop until I see the first pupils walk through the gates. I also met with parents whose children attend East Ruston nursery after the Trust decided to consult on the facility closing down. I won't accept that our children don't deserve the best education possible, and that what I'll keep pushing for.

Demanding better SEND provision for our children

Every day, my team and I offer our support to families who are navigating Norfolk's broken SEND system and despite doing everything right, they're finding themselves endlessly butting heads with a broken system that seems to work against them. I have nothing but admiration for them and I am campaigning to build (and fund) a joined-up family-focused SEND system that works with compassion, urgency, and common sense and I will keep fighting for a joined-up system that puts our children first.

Securing early legal support for our residents

North Norfolk is a legal aid desert, and many residents have little access to family, criminal and housing legal assistance. This needs to change – and fast. Despite the great efforts of organisations like the Norfolk Community Law Service there are still barriers that prevent people from accessing the help that they desperately need. I raised this vital topic in Parliament and look forward to working with the Government to ensure North Norfolk residents get the early legal support and advice that makes the biggest difference.

Securing Support for our Coastal Communities

I recently had the great honour of securing this parliament's first debate on coastal communities and it gave me the opportunity to bring the challenges that we face daily here in North Norfolk to the attention of the Government, and to ask them for their support in the form of appointing a Coastal Minister.

Despite the incredible contribution that coastal communities like ours make to our country economically, culturally and environmentally, the system is not working for us. Our health and economic outcomes are poorer than those of our inland neighbours, our environment is battling the challenges of climate change, coastal erosion and the sewage dumping scandal and our communities are damaged by second homes that sit empty for six months of the year. This isn't about stopping second home ownership, instead, it is about finding ways to ensure that affected communities get something back to offset the impact. These are just some of the issues that land in my inbox daily that I am tackling to better the lives of people in North Norfolk.

Better banking that serves rural communities

Many residents have written to me about the new banking hub that I secured in Holt which has helped the community to access banking services where they live and work. I'm pleased to say that I have secured a second banking hub, this time in North Walsham, that will go a long way towards replacing services that will be lost when Santander closes their branch there, which is also the only bank left in the town. I will keep campaigning for more banking hubs across North Norfolk so that

more people can access the services they need and talk to a representative from their own bank in person when they need to.

Easing the healthcare burden with new appointments

With 21,500 new NHS dentist appointments secured for North Norfolk through my campaign for better dental care – it is clear that the Government is listening to our urgent call for better healthcare provision. I am calling for more services at Cromer Hospital to ensure that those who need urgent and specialist treatment can access first class healthcare without the additional struggle of travelling for hours to get there.

Standing with communities on the issues that really matter to them

Finally, I am delighted to say that the phone box in Sharrington has been given a reprieve, and BT have said that – due to overwhelming community support for it – they are no longer going to remove it. In fact, they have just been around to give it a spruce up – replacing the receiver, giving it a spring clean and readying it for a brand new coat of red currant paint. It just goes to show you what communities can achieve when we rally together to fight for the things we believe in.

As always, please get in touch if there is anything that my team and I can support you with, we're always here to help.

4. COMMUNITY REPORTS

A report was presented by Caroline Churchill on behalf of the Trustees of the Sloley Charities

Unfortunately, due to my work pattern, I am unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting this evening. In my absence, I have prepared this report to outline the activities and decisions made by the trustees over the past year.

Following confirmation of appointment in September 2024, the trustees have been able to move beyond their interim caretaker role of simply maintaining day-to-day operations. Our objectives being focussed on the long-term sustainability of the Charity, as well as the maintenance and enhancement of the ecological value of its assets. Trustees The current trustees are Matthew Stringer (Chairman), Ms Caroline Churchill, and Mrs Gillian Stringer (Administrator). At the Sloley Parish Council meeting held on 23rd May 2024, Mr Matthew Stringer, Mrs Leigh Rumsby, and Mrs Gillian Stringer were re-elected for a new four-year term, although formal notification of the trustees appointments was not received until September 2024. Subsequently Mrs Rumsby's sudden decision to step down as a trustee, left the Charity no longer quorate. This situation was resolved when Ms Caroline Churchill was proposed and appointed as a trustee by the Parish Council. At a meeting of the trustees on 27th December 2024.

Mr Stringer was elected Chairman and Mrs Stringer was confirmed as Administrator. Activity The trustees meeting held on 27th December 2024 discussed the objectives of the Charity after re-election, validate the accounts, assess received claims and establish the distribution rate. During this meeting, the trustees approved a total of 15 claims (one new claim), each amounting to £80.00 per claimant, therefore the total distribution amounted to £1200.00. The distribution was promptly actioned, with recipients receiving payment by cheque before the New Year.

At the trustees meeting held on 1st May 2025, quotations for remedial works to the vacant plots at Broad Road, Sloley were reviewed, following approaches to three contractors. A contractor was selected and awarded the contract, with the commencement of works expected in the coming weeks. With the closure of local bank branches, the trustees have been actively exploring options to update the Charity’s banking arrangements to allow for online transactions. Earlier this year, after numerous discussions with various departments at Lloyds Bank, an application was submitted to open a suitable account. Although an account was eventually opened enabling the transfer of funds and the migration of banking activities—Lloyds Bank later closed it, stating that they were unable to support an online account for a trust.

Matt Stringer

5. ELECTORS QUESTIONS

Resident’s questions were taken during the meeting on matters under discussion.

There were no additional questions.

Meeting closed at 19:02

It was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Signed **Dated.....**