



Syderstone Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held Thursday 21st May 2026 in Amy Robsart Hall

PRESENT: Cllr D Niemann (Chair), Cllr D Candy, Cllr A Knight, Cllr P Welland.
Clerk/RFO – Sarah Harvey
Borough Councillor C Morley
Members of the Public - 4

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1. The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and apologies were noted from Parish Councillor, S Wood and Jan Simkin (Arts & Crafts).
 2. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** None.
 3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 15th, 2025, copies of which had been circulated were approved and signed by the Chair.
 4. **To receive other reports from community representatives and organisations**
 - a. **County Councillor's Report:** no report was received from Michael Chenery of Horsburgh for 2025/26.
 - b. **Borough Councillor's Report:** it was noted that a report had been received on the annual activities of the Borough Council during 2025/26 from Chris Morley and the report in its entirety would be available to read on the Parish Council website.
 5. **To receive other reports from Parish organisations**
 - a. **Amy Robsart Village Hall:** Mr S Kidd (Chair) prepared a statement on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, which was presented by Cllr A Knight (Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee).

'The past year has seen this Committee rise to the challenges of running the ARVH and they have successfully carried out their new roles.

We have seen highs and lows within the year but have overcome all that has been thrown at us.

The lows include the temporary loss of the weekly Post Office service, but thankfully this has been rectified, and the Village once again has a postal Service. Sadly, the Village Cinema proved to not be financially viable and has had to close its doors. I would like to thank Jan Simkin and the other volunteers for their hard work over the years in running this function.

On a plus note the Pop-up pub continues to be popular with residents and visitors. The profits raised by the pub have helped both the village hall and local charities. We also continue to support all the keep fit organisations that use our facilities as well as the Carpet bowls. Private bookings for the hall have increased as well.

The ARVH has taken over the running of the 100 Money club which again this year has a full list of members. I thank Gerry and Anita Taylor who have stepped down from running this club after many years raising a lot of income for the ARVH.

Ongoing we are planning an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the ARVH being a Charitable Trust, details will be posted later. As well as this the Committee has proposed to refurbish the kitchen area and carry out some landscaping gardening in the old school playground.

We welcome any ideas and comments on these projects that you may have so we can deliver facilities within the ARVH that you the public want in your hall. We also have replaced some of the

seating with the more suitable fold up chairs and have donated 36 chairs to St Mary's at South Creake.

Onwards and upwards, the ARVH is in good shape, finances are strong, good facilities with proposed improvements and the future of ARVH looks extremely bright.

Thanks, you all for your continued support.'

Cllr A Knight added that he would also be representing St Mary's Church, Syderstone on the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr A Knight reported that Rev'd C Wylie had expressed his thanks to the Village Hall Committee for the donation of chairs, which are currently being used for the North Norfolk Music Festival and will subsequently be used within a chapel area at St Mary's Church, South Creake.

Rev'd C Wylie had also conveyed his appreciation to the Committee for the use of the Village Hall for the Spring Fair.

- b. **Community Arts & Crafts:** Jan Simkin (group leader) prepared a report on behalf of the Community Arts and Crafts group.

'During 2025/26 the group had an average membership of 30, with members coming from Syderstone as well as further afield, including Wicken Green, Blenheim Park, Bircham Newton, Tattersett, Swaffham, Fakenham, Helhoughton, Colkirk, Great Ryburgh, Brisley and Sculthorpe.

The average weekly attendance was 22 people. The group is self-financing, and due to the number of members it has been possible to maintain the weekly fee of £1.50 per session. This covers the hiring of the hall and refreshments.

The group provides a welcoming place for people to meet with friends and practise many crafts including knitting, crochet, painting, embroidery, card making, patchwork and tapestry. There is always someone on hand to share their expertise and help out if necessary. Unwanted craft items are brought in for members to make use of, and any that are left are donated to the Big C charity which has a large shop in Wymondham dedicated to craft items.

From 30 April 2025 onwards the group was led by Jan Simkin, supported by Jane Lemel and Jennifer Hennessy.'

- c. **Community Speed Watch:** Cllr P Welland presented a report on behalf of Community Speed Watch.

'The speed watch team has been constant this year, but we are still not able to conduct as many sessions as we would like. These are still normally conducted on Monday or Friday as several of the team are still in work.

I once again must commend the commitment of the team who on occasions come out in very cold unfavorable conditions to do a valuable task for our community.

We are still waiting for our local beat officer to attend but as the local constabulary has had a re organisation our local area team is currently down to just three officers so resources as you can imagine are stretched.

Again, over the last year during our sessions we have recorded several repeat offenders, the monthly reports published by the local constabulary show us that some of these have been issued warning letters.

Unfortunately, at one of our afternoon sessions earlier this year members of the team were verbally abused in a very hostile manner by a driver with young children in the car. This was reported to the police but in this case as the vehicle was hired no further action could be taken, which is a shame.

The team will not tolerate any abuse, and all incidents will from now on be reported, I was assured by the local detective who looked into the last incident that all reports filled are strenuously looked into and actioned accordingly.

We are also in the process of securing funding for the purchase of a new SAM2 camera to replace one of the existing which developed a major fault earlier this year. The updated camera will have the facility to record speeds and times, which will help us to focus our efforts at certain locations and times.'

- d. **Local History Group:** Michael Parker (Chair) presented a report on behalf of the Local History Group.

'Background

- The Group started in March 2023
- Committee comprises five volunteers

What have we done in the last year?

- Continued to collect, record, save and share matters concerning the history of Syderstone and surrounding areas, and the people who have lived here.
- Held program of monthly meetings held in the Amy Robsart Village Hall
- Meetings have been well attended and have included monthly talks covering history and natural history, a guided walk on Syderstone Common, a visit to RAF Bircham Newton, a historical walk along Mill Lane and a Christmas quiz.
- We have continued our "Syderstone Voices" project using a digital recorder kindly donated by Sheila and Norman
 - Recordings made by Sheila, Hilary and Norman
 - Special thanks to Sheila, Rose and Dinah (the Daykin sisters) for their fascinating and very funny stories
- We have bought a group laptop with a grant obtained from the Windfarm.
- Application form submitted by Sheila and Norman Riches.

Our plans for 2026 - 2027

- Continue our series of monthly meetings, visits and walks.
- Hold an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Amy Robsart Village Hall.
- Continue the Syderstone Voices activities
 - Volunteers to be interviewed, to interview or to edit recordings most welcome
- Set up an SLHG website, as part of Syderstone Parish Council website
 - Training and permissions now completed
- Create several illustrated posters showing different sides of village history, e.g. Shops in the village or the old school.'

- e. **FRISC:** Mr M Niemann presented a report on behalf of the Committee.

'Our main activity continues to be the running of the Pop-Up Pub, mainly in the Amy Robsart Village Hall. This is a joint effort between FRISC and the ARVH committee together with our large team of volunteers and helpers. Over the past year 8 PUP's and a New Year disco were held, 8 at the ARVH and one at the Green Park Centre in Wicken Green. All were very well attended and seem to be greatly appreciated by the residents of Syderstone and the wider community including holidaymakers.

In the year to 31 March 2026 the PUPs raised well over £2,000 for ARVH funds. In addition, we have had several collections and an auction which have raised in excess of £1,000 for Tapping House, East Anglia Air Ambulance and the King's Lynn based Shelter. We helped with the Christmas Tree Lights switch on ably assisted by Gerry Taylor with the blessing by Father Clive and a generous collection raised funds for his Discretionary Fund to help less fortunate people over the Festive period. FRISC has been able to top up the donations to these charities by several hundred pounds.

The Wicken Green PUP is intended to be an annual event as a way of thanking Wicken for all their support at the events held in the ARVH and especially for the help they gave us during the transition between the old village hall committee and the current one.

FRISC is able to retain sufficient funds to pay for one of the Syderstone dog bins and we are pleased to be able to continue to help out the PC with this funding.

Thanks to all who come to our events and support us with their valuable help.'

- f. **Any other reports:** Jan Simkin (Village Cinema Administrator) prepared a report on behalf of the Village Cinema.

'From June to November 2025 a total of 5 films were screened, with licences obtained through Moviola and Creative Arts East. A variety of films were shown, with our most popular film being A Complete Unknown, charting the career of Bob Dylan.

Our ticket prices remained the same, with season tickets priced at £3.50 per film and reserved tickets at £4.00. However, despite widespread publicity using posters, social media, local newsletters and an email list of 93 people, our audience numbers declined and Village Cinema was no longer viable due to lack of support. The last screening was The Penguin Lessons on 22 November 2025. For twenty years Syderstone Village Cinema had provided a valuable opportunity for the residents of Syderstone and the local community to come together and enjoy a wide variety of films. Our small but loyal following were sad to see it close.

I'd like to thank Fiona Coyle and Jennifer Hennessy for their help selling raffle tickets and ice creams, and Martin Bateman, John Coyle, Norman Riches and Lyndon Scourfield for their projectionist skills. Without their assistance the screenings wouldn't have been possible.'

6. **Parishioners Questions:** A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for everything they had done over the previous 12 months.

With no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.20 pm.

..... Dawn Niemann (Parish Council Chair)