

**Minutes of the Salhouse Annual Parish Meeting
held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 30th April 2025
held in the Jubilee Hall, Lower Street, Salhouse.**

Present :

Chair – Bob Cooper (Chair Salhouse Parish Council)

Clerk - Sarah Martin

18 members of the public present including Councillors and District/County Councillors.

Apologies were received from Andrew Peachment (Parish Council), Al Jennings (Police Beat Manager) and District Councillor Martin Murrell.

1. Welcome to all

Bob Cooper welcomed all to the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting of Salhouse.

It was reiterated that this meeting is not a Parish Council meeting, and it will not be discussing Parish Council business, although it is hosted by the Council.

2. Minutes of previous meeting – 17th April 2024

These were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Chair's Report – presented by Bob Cooper

Welcome everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting is not a council meeting. It is a meeting of the parish electorate. It is usual for the meeting to be chaired by myself as Chair of the Parish Council and for the Parish Clerk to attend and record the minutes.

The meeting is for the Parish Council and local organisations to report back on their activities during the year and any items of general interest can be discussed.

In the last year the Parish Council has seen some changes in Councillors – Gemma Hampton and Ben Hazell joined the Council, however Lynn Yallop resigned and sadly our Vice Chair passed away unexpectedly. We have 2 vacancies for Councillors if anyone is interested in joining the Council.

So, what have we been doing over the last year? Well...

The Parish Council continues to regularly attend local Police Priority Settings Meetings where local issues of concern are raised. One of the issues which we have had over the last year, and is still ongoing, is parking along Lower Street. Unfortunately, the Parish Council do not have any power to deal with this issue ourselves, however we continue to raise this with and work with both the Police and Highways to try to resolve this issue. Speeding is also a regular occurrence and is evidenced from the SAM2 data we collect around the village. This data is available to view on the Parish Council website. Again, we are working with the Police and Highways to see what actions can be taken.

We were advised at the end of March that we had again been successful in a bid from Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnership Fund in which the County Council and Parish Council pay 50/50 for village projects – this year being a gateway on Norwich Road between Salhosue and Rackheath and some additional roundels and repainting of white lines around the Parish. Thanks to our County Councillor for supporting these initiatives with some member funding.

We are however still waiting for improvements to the Bell mouth on Station Road, gateways on Honeycombe Road, Bell Lane and Low Road, and also a bus clearway on Lower Street.

A new bus shelter has been installed on Thieves Lane, and we have received many positive comments so far.

We reported last year that the trod path that we had hoped to have installed along Honeycombe Road was not going ahead, and although we have still been fighting for this since then, unfortunately we had to request the return funds to Broadland District Council who had pledged money to support

this. We are still investigating other speed reduction options along this and other busy stretches of roads to keep parishioners safe - will keep you updated at the Parish Council meetings.

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where members of local communities join with the support and supervision of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices. We are lucky in Salhouse to have volunteers to carry this task which is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in their local community – thank you to all the volunteers!

Nutrient Neutrality is still an ongoing issue affecting many planning applications. The District and County Councils are still working with Natural England and developers to come up with solutions, however, many applications have still not been determined or being held up by this.

The North Rackheath Development (GT16) is still ongoing and although a revised ‘Masterplan’ has been submitted to the planning authority no decision has been reached yet, there is still a lot of information required. As we said last year, this will affect our Parish as over 600 new properties are proposed to be built in Salhouse, albeit North of the railway line where many may not realise is actually Salhouse!. We will keep you updated at meetings and in the SAGA magazine.

The two ponds (Bell and Shrubland) that the Parish Council are responsible for have had some well needed restoration works carried out. These works may take time to settle however will improve the wildlife and biodiversity and general look in the Parish. Thanks go out to the volunteers/residents/landowners who assisted in these projects who without we would not have been able to complete.

On Saturday 26th April we held a community litter pick. Ten volunteers attended and gave up their time to walk around the Parish and collect litter. A total of 9 bags was collected – which is good.....but also not so good that people drop their rubbish rather than put it in one of the bins provided or take it home.

What’s planned for 2025/2026:

We have a busy year ahead – firstly we are looking at making some improvements to the recreation ground by installing some new play equipment and renovations to the toilet block. There is a public consultation open until the end of July to hear residents’ views and suggestions, so please do complete it.

The Parish Council has been successful in obtaining a grant to support The Mardle in celebrating VE Day with an afternoon tea on Thursday 8th May 2-4pm in the Jubilee Hall – everyone is welcome.

Salhouse Neighbourhood Plan - what is this? Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. Salhouse’s expires in July 2026 and so we are busy starting a review of this existing plan and looking at what changes or improvements need to be made. This will be a long process but will benefit the Parish in future planning. We really do need some volunteers to work on this with us, so if you are interested then please do let us know.

Salhouse Parish Council is Trustee of The Reading Room Charity. This year we aim to spend time to review the Charity to ensure we are working in its best interest.

The District and County Councils are busy working on Devolution and Central Government Reorganisation – details can be found on their websites, and although this may affect Parish Councils we have little information on this at present, so again will keep you updated when we can.

So you can see that being a Parish Councillor is a varied and rewarding voluntary role representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs and striving to improve quality of life in the Parish.

With that in mind, I would like to thank all the Councillors, past and present, and all the volunteers such as Team Salhouse, Speedwatch, working group members, tree steward, defibrillator checkers and anyone else I may have missed for their hard work and support they give to this wonderful Community that we are fortunate to live in!

4. Police report – written by PC 855 Al Jennings – Local Police Neighbouring Team

Apologies were received from Al Jennings – no report was received.

5. District and County Councillor – report from Cllr Fran Whymark

The Rackheath Medical centre has progressed a lot over the last couple of months. The building should be finished by the end of May and handed over to the NHS. It is hoped to be open in August 2025. Hoveton and Wroxham medical practice will be providing the doctors and services at this centre. You can move to this centre should you wish, but currently there is no obligation if you live in Salhouse to change surgeries. There will be community nurses based here and additional space rented out ad hoc services such as chiropractor, chiropodist etc.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation –

Devolution - this will mean having a mayor in Norfolk and Suffolk who will be elected in May next year. It is not definite what powers for the mayor, or funding. Higher level strategic could come down, and the Police and Crime Commissioner will be under the mayor.

In Local Government Reorganisation there will be no District and County Councils - we will have a unitary council. A business case from the District Council and County Council is to be submitted by September 2026. The County Council currently want one unitary, whereas the District Councils want three unitaries. The difficulty will come when trying to split adult social care, children services and highways. Ultimately the Government will decide. There will be elections in 2027 with those elected to take over in 2028. NHS England has been scrapped and replaced with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) of which I am now a board member. There has been a 50% cut in funding. The commitment of this committee is that delivery of services will not disappear. This again has come from Central Government and it will evolve over the next few months.

6. Other contributions by Salhouse residents and representatives of Clubs and Organisations:

All Saints Church – report given by James Watts Churchwarden

Salhouse Church is 950 years old. We are pleased the church can remain open day to day. This is due to the small group of dedicated people. The church receives many visitors, and they all say the value the fact that the Church gives space for quiet reflection. Inside the church is a prayer tree and free copies of Mark and Luke's gospels. There is a small working group on Friday mornings to help cleaning gutters and general cleaning or preparing the Church for events such as baptisms and funerals. The ongoing challenge is the thatched roof which is now 70 years old. We are in the process of applying for grants for this project. Another plan is for improving the general accessibility, to allow disabled access and a kitchen. There are communal services on Sundays monthly. The community payback team have also carried out large areas of cutting and clearing during the months of July and August, and October when the wild flowers stop growing. We are currently with the working with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust as this church is part of the Churchyard Conservations Scheme. We do have to pay for services to maintain the churchyard in the newer part to keep tidy for those who come visiting graves, thanks go to the PC for a grant to support this. The churchyard is blossoming at the moment with lots of bluebells.

Salhouse Station Group – report given by James Watts

The station building dates back to 1894. The group have been very active recently and not long ago attended an event in Wymondham campaigning to save stations as part of a wider campaign. Britain's Heritage is interested in the station and what the building could be in the future. We held a public meeting on the 4th April showcasing our business case and had a good turn out at the meeting. There will be another 'Save Our Station' meeting held in Rackheath as with all the new housing proposed the station it will be in the centre of a lot of new houses. We are always keen to have more volunteers.

Community Events Team – report given by Colin McCormick

The events team have hosted a number of events over the last couple of years, and all very successful. On 12th July there will be a scaled down event held at Salhouse Broad - 'Sailfest'. This is a cooperation between The Broad and the Events Team.

Community Speedwatch and SAM2– report written by Malcolm Prestwood (Salhouse Speedwatch Coordinator) – read by Steve Piper

Community Speedwatch (CSW)

Community Speedwatch continues on a regular basis at various approved locations within the parish. This is carried out on behalf of the Safety Camera Partnership which is a joint venture between The Norfolk Constabulary and NCC. Monitoring reports are submitted back to The Safety Camera Partnership HQ in Norwich after each session for processing by them. Formal letters are then sent out to the owners of logged vehicles and for appropriate Police follow up in some cases.

The purpose of Speedwatch is to curtail excessive speeds within the parish thus hopefully making the roads safer for village residents, pedestrians and all other road users.

Norfolk currently operates around 100 Speedwatch teams

Within Salhouse Parish inward and outward traffic on Bell Lane continues to be to be a key area of concern for speeding vehicles although several other sites within the village are also monitored as a reminder to all drivers.

Regional Speedwatch annual meetings are usually held each year involving Norfolk Constabulary and other parties involved with the operation of the service. Statistical data is presented as well as a review of the service in general and new technologies becoming available.

As ever we are always looking for additional volunteers to assist which typically involves a 1 hour commitment about once per month. Anyone wishing to volunteer will need to complete an application form and afterwards receive appropriate local instruction.

Please contact either Malcolm Prestwood on 01603 721110 or Steve Piper on 01603 720993.

Speed Activated Messaging System (SAM)

Salhouse Parish Council owns two SAM units, one of which has been deployed at various approved locations around the village over several years. The second unit is mainly concentrated in the Norwich Rd/Station Rd area following the reduction of the speed limit to 40mph.

The purpose of these is to detect, warn and remind motorists when they exceed the speed limit for the road on which they are travelling. Also the recording of such data in order to indicate any 'hot spots' within the parish and provide statistics about vehicle volume and traffic flow within the parish. Data from these units is also forwarded to the police for their information.

Salhouse United Charities – read by Steve Piper

Salhouse United Charities Trust came about in 1962 when several small charities, some dating back hundreds of years, were encouraged by the Charities Commission to amalgamate as a single charity. The title "Salhouse United Charities" was suggested by the Commission and was formally adopted at a meeting of the Trustees on 8th October 1962. The original Charities were set up primarily to provide help to the "poor and needy" of the parish when, every year, there would a Christmas distribution in the form of bags of coal or cash to help in a hard winter. There would be a list of recipients kept by the secretary, which would number more than 90 names before the second world war and half that by 1962. As we entered the 21st century, the it was decided to provide grants to applicants from the village, rather than a general allocation, and this continues to this day with the addition of a Christmas hamper provided to people in the village who have had a bereavement or other personal problems in that year. In 2024 the Charity provided Christmas hampers to five villagers who had suffered a bereavement and, during the year, one off grants to three residents to fund university equipment, help with unexpected

moving costs and for help with starting a new job. The current Trustees are Pauline Garner (Secretary), Graham Johnston, Martin Murrell (Vice Chair), Stephen Piper (Chair), Rev Darleen Plattin. There were two full meetings since the last Annual Parish meeting and the Trustees keep in contact via email to agree on grants as required. Matters arising since the last report continue to be the promotion of the Charity's presence in the village with posters in the notice boards, articles in the Saga magazine and on social media sites.

Team Salhouse – read by Steve Piper

Team Salhouse volunteers have maintained the look of the village with litter picking on an individual basis and flowerbed planting. As a result, the village continued to be relatively clear of litter and the few instances of fly tipping reported to Broadland District Council were dealt with quickly. The spring bulbs along Bell Lane, planted by Team Salhouse and village volunteers fifteen years ago, continue to give a colourful welcome into the village. The flowerbeds around the village are looking good again this year, where more perennials have been planted, and we receive many comments from residents and visitors. The bulbs in the bank opposite the old Post Office have, again, had a poor showing this spring but, hopefully, will improve next year; we repeat this every year. We continue to plant and maintain the various flowerbeds around the village and will shortly be starting the summer planting. Thanks go to all our volunteers and local residents who help with the planting and watering during the summer months. We have a current team of around 12 people but always welcome new members of all ages. We can promise an enjoyable time in good company whilst making a difference to the village. You would be welcome even if you can only give occasional help

Jubilee Hall – report from Martin Carney – Chair - read by Wendy Browne

Its great we have completed another year in charge of the village hall. The hall remains in good order and we still get really positive feedback about how nice the hall is. The first thing I would like to say is a big thank you to the committee in charge of running the hall. We grew in numbers last year which means that there are more people to share the jobs and gain new ideas from.

Events

We held our first quiz night in February last year and I am delighted to say that we had a full hall. We had really positive feedback and were asked to host another later in the year. We therefore held our second quiz night, in October 2024. Unfortunately this time although we had a good number and still had a great atmosphere numbers were down on the previous event and many tables were connected to committee members. How do we make sure we expand the awareness and attendance from new people? Our next quiz night will be held in March of this year

Towards the end of the year, we held our Christmas Fayre but in a slightly different format from previous years. There were a number of changes that included

- Bringing it forward a week
- Moving to the afternoon
- Inclusion of a licensed bar hosted by Salhouse Events Team
- Having a Christmas Tree outside of the hall for the entire festive period, kicking off with a short carol service.

Overall, we got really positive feedback about the changes. Moving to the afternoon really worked well, with a good number of people visiting, and more young families attending than previous years. It would be good to think about how we attract more teenage years. The bar was successful with the Events team happy with the turn out. It was a slow start but what we saw was more people visiting at the back end of the fayre so they could attend the carols. We got really good feedback about having a lit tree outside the hall and hosting carols. Perhaps the only one complaint was moving it forward by a week into November, something we can plan earlier for this year.

Maintenance

Following the previous years high expenditure with a new Kitchen and new cupboards in the store room, thankfully there was no big value maintenance outside of the normal wear and tear and repairs to keep the hall functioning.

Hall Hire and Funding

Hall hire never really recovered post Covid and while we seem to be OK with ad hoc bookings, the regular bookings never recovered fully which means we are significantly down vs a few years ago. Towards the back end of the year we did get three new regular bookings, but sadly two of these quickly dropped off. This means that our income is very tight to the extent that we are spending more each year than we are earning and something we need to monitor closely. We therefore need to look for other ways to raise much needed funds, whilst limiting any expenditure.

Other than that it was quite a quiet year. Again I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and I look forward to the rest of 2025.

Afternoon Tea and Mardle – report read by Julie Redburn

The team of Colin and Doreen McCormick, Jools Atkins and myself would like to thank all those that attend our monthly Mardle.

For those unaware a Mardle is to chat, and boy that is what we do. Although Jubilee Hall can be a little chilly when we arrive, once the kettles get boiling and the chat starts up, we have to turn the heating off!

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 2 until 4. Whilst we don't have guest speakers or slide shows we do have a quiz (or pitcher wits) a raffle and a generous selection of cakes and tea or coffee. The price for refreshments is £1.

On May 8th we have brought forward by six days the Mardle. As nothing else had been arranged in Salhouse to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day the team thought we could step up and make a bit of a do. We have been very lucky to have received a grant from Broadland District Council and would like to thank Sarah Martin, Salhouse Parish Clerk, for her help in getting the grant.

We would also like to thank Wendy Browne for her marketing of the VE Day Mardle. I think we will have to co-opt her onto the team.

Our thanks also go to the Raffle draw person, Keith, for his unstinting enthusiasm. To all the cake bakers and sausage roll makers and lastly the ladies that have donned their rubber gloves as currently my partner in the kitchen, Jools, has still not had her scheduled operation at Papworth, despite travelling down twice recently only to be turned down firstly due to over running scheduling and secondly lack of a critical care bed. Please keep her in your thoughts.

Salhouse Reading Group – report read by Julie Redburn

With my Reading Group hat on I would like to report that yes we are still getting together on the first Thursday of the month at the Jubilee Hall at 7.00 p.m.

We meet in the smaller of the two rooms and discuss our thoughts on the book we have selected. The books are chosen by recommendations from the group. We do try to have a list in advance in order to give readers a chance to access the book from a range of mediums, good old Norfolk Library Service, hardback, paperback, Kindle or Audible, charity shops or second hand bookshops or dear old Jarrolds! There is no compulsion to read the choice, not every book will appeal. Our aim is to enjoy reading as a peaceful pastime and share our views with other readers.

It can be amusing to hear the excuses that come forward, hated it, couldn't get past the first chapter, too similar to a previous choice (which surprisingly does happen).

We would enjoy meeting new readers and hope to see you soon.

Salhouse Rovers Football Club – read by Steve Jarvis – Secretary

Salhouse Rovers FC is an Accredited football club affiliated to the Norfolk Football Association, the County Association of the National FA.

Season 2024/25 has seen a number of changes at the Club, not least that Jim Blyth stepped down from the role of Chairman at the end of Season 2023/24 after many years of dedicated service to the Club. The current SRFC committee wish to place on record our thanks for Jim's service over the years as well as his ongoing support as we found our way in our new roles.

This season, the Club has fielded teams across six age groups from Under 8's to Veterans (>35's) The (adult) First Team play in the 99kits.com Norfolk Sunday League Division 3 where (at time of writing) the team are guaranteed a top-half finish, and could finish 2nd if other results go their way).

We have fielded teams in four youth-football age groups in the Norfolk Combined Youth Football League (providing boys/ mixed-sex football) at U8, U10, U15 and U16, and for the first time in the Club's history have established a Girls' team playing this season at Under-10 age in the Norfolk Women and Girls Football League. This season we had 68 registered youth players.

U8 & U10 football does not record results, but these teams have played 40 games combined throughout the season providing numerous benefits including physical and mental development, social skills and a sense of belonging, communication and teamwork.

The U15s and U16s have had a mixed season with several close results not going their way; with all their games played, final league positions now rest on the outcome of other fixtures.

The Committee now must turn our attention to planning for Season 2025/26, and we would welcome any players (and/or parents) who would be interested in joining us next season. In particular we would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in setting up any additional age-group teams with us. You can find us on Facebook and through the England Football Club Finder (or chat to us this evening!)

Salhouse Tree Steward – read by James Cleaver

The nursery had a stock of around 800 trees & shrubs available last winter and gave out around half to local and surrounding residents. The remainder are growing on for next year.

The nursery is continuing to grow stock to give out over winter 2025/26 with the help of dedicated volunteers Matt and his daughter Chloe.

Notable tree plantings last winter were 17 oak trees along the Salhouse to Panxworth Road, about 1/3 acre woodland plantation on private grounds within the Parish area.

We are now seeing the reward from previous years efforts, with the trees on the Recreation looking super and growing taller than me now.

We really must strive to increase tree canopy cover within the Parish area to grow a greener, more beautiful and ecologically sustainable future Salhouse. There are funding and grant opportunities available and we have willing volunteers. But the limiting factor is land. Please ask friends and colleagues if they know of anyone who would be interested. The real work on tree planting happens the summer before.

I would be very happy to work with landowners to help design woodland, seek grant funding and organise volunteers.

Thanks to the Salhouse Parish Council for supporting our endeavours over the recent years.

Salhouse C of E Primary School – read by Bob Cooper

Our school has 5 classes and an onsite nursery Fledglings. The school has not yet academised and is part of Norfolk County Council. The school is a church school and is well supported by the Diocese of Norwich. Rev Darleen Plattin leads Collective Worship each week.

Salhouse had Ofsted in the autumn term and we were pleased that Early Years and Personal Development came out as strengths in our report.

At Salhouse we try and give pupils lots of different opportunities during their time with us. In the spring term, our Coots had a trip to Thrigby Wildlife Park. Our Bitterns class had a puppet making workshop led by Norwich Puppet Theatre. We have also taken our oldest children to Hilltop in Sheringham for 3 days. The children got to experience lots of outdoor activities as well develop skills in perseverance and independence. The school has decorated a giraffe for the Safari trail which will be in Norwich this summer in the dining area in Chantry Place. Our girls football team have done incredibly well this year and we also achieved Outstanding at the Norfolk Music Festival. As part of our curriculum we celebrate different cultures and religions.

The school has 22 children due to join Reception in September which means we are full. This academic year the children has welcomed several new families throughout the year. There are currently 142 children on roll.

There is a proactive Friends committee (FOSS) who raise money for the school. Like all schools, lack of funding is a huge issue which we face. FOSS donated money so we were able to refresh our library earlier in the year.

The school has strong links with the other schools in the federation but also has links with other schools. We are always striving to improve and we are fortunate to have a dedicated staff team who are willing to go over and above for the children in our care.

In September Mr Emmens joined the school as our Head of School. He also teaches our Herons class. This has been a really positive move for the school. We have also welcomed a new teacher into our Coots class who is an experienced EYFS teacher.

If any members of the council would like a tour of the school please contact the school office and we would be very happy to show you around.

Salhouse Saga Magazine – read by Colin McCormick

I took over the editorship of the magazine in Spring 2021, and have so far edited 13 issues.

During that time we have managed to maintain the magazine in good health, with around 70-80 pages per issue. The magazine is well supported by regular reports from village groups, and numerous occasional contributors.

We maintain a level of advertising which reflects services available in and around the village, without overpowering the editorial content, thereby covering printing costs and allowing the magazine to continue to be distributed to every home in the parish free of charge, as always. This is our unique selling point, in that we get to every household without the need for a digital connection, in a way that online newsletters cannot. We are also available online via the Parish Council's website, although the magazine is entirely independent.

The magazine is published three times per year in March, July and November, and we can now record 41 years of continuous publication. Since 2022 we have expanded the number of colour pages and introduced two-tier advertising rates in order to be able to offer colour ads. This has been well received by our advertisers. Our slogan is "please support our advertisers because they support us", and judged by the feedback we receive, this appears to be working.

Some local businesses, when approached for advertising, have replied that they don't need to advertise as they have enough business already. I respect that view, but would emphasise that advertising in the village magazine is also about being recognised as being part of the community, which is a benefit without price.

Articles on any local topic, whether regular or one-off, from new or existing contributors can be considered for publication, and in particular, I would welcome topical colour photos of village activities for inclusion in our centre spread, which to be honest, I do not receive as many of as I would like.

Finally, I must thank the rest of the Saga team, without whom it would not be possible to produce the magazine: Richard Flatters who handles advertising and accounts, Pauline Garner who manages distribution, and our team of deliverers who actually deliver door to door.

7. Open Session

John Fielder thanked James Watts (Church Warden) for keeping the Church open.

John Fielder asked what areas of Norfolk and Suffolk the Mayor will cover. Fran Whymark replied that all of Norfolk and Suffolk will be covered by the Mayor, and they will have powers to spend money and push forward projects. Ceremonial Mayors will remain in place. There is a video available on NCC website with a further explanation.

John Fielder pleased that residents wont be pushed to move to the new medical centre in Rackheath, and raised that the £4.50 delivery charge for prescriptions has now been cut.

Fran Whymark commented that in the future there will be a pharmacy on the site and possibly dentist and optician services. Regarding devolution – some further powers may be passed down to parishes.

Steve Piper commented that it appears that devolution has already been agreed.

Fran Whymark responded that technically it has not been agreed yet and that Norfolk and Suffolk will consider the devolution offer from Central Government, however it may be pushed down anyway.

James Watts raised the 130th anniversary of the founding of Salhouse PC in 1895 and thanked all the Councillors and predecessors.

Bob Cooper (Chair of PC) commented that there are 2 vacancies on the Council and if anyone is interested to contact the Parish Clerk.

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Everyone was thanked for attending and presenting their reports.

Refreshments were served.

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Meeting closed 20:11pm