

SOUTHERY PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on

Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7.00pm in Southery Village Hall

In attendance: Cllr C Stabile-Barnett (Parish Council Chair), Neil Watson (Parish Clerk) and 24 members of the public.

1. Welcome, introduction and record of attendance and apologies.

There were no apologies.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly on 8th April 2025.

The minutes of the last Parish Assembly were approved and signed as a true record. Proposed Sue Welch, seconded Darren Smith, all in favour.

3. To receive reports from invited groups and individuals

a. Parish Council Chairman

Cllr Stabile-Barnett gave a report of the year's activities (copy appended to these minutes)

b. Borough Councillor

c. County Councillor

Cllr Martin Storey serves as both our Borough and County Councillor. He explained the process of Local Government Reorganisation, including boundary changes and the ultimate abolition of the Borough Council.

A new white-lining contract has been let by Highways and soon should be operating in the area.

Significant changes are imminent to the Borough Planning process, which will remove Councillors' ability to 'call in' applications and will mean that officers will make the vast majority of decisions.

d. Ouse Valley Benefice Vicar, Rev'd Nigel Moats

Rev'd Moats is indisposed.

A Church representative asked why the Parish Council no longer pay for servicing of the Church clock, which is the only public clock in the Parish, despite a considerable increase in the Parish Precept this year.

The Church were encouraged to submit an application to the Parish Council for funding, and to attend the next Parish Council meeting should they wish to do so.

There is no update on the future of the Church ruins.

..... ChairDate

e. Southery WI

A W.I. representative noted the lack of public transport to Ely, and to Downham Market railway station. Cllr Storey noted that Norfolk County Council has received considerable government funding under the Bus Service Improvement Plan, but also that Ely is outside our county so public transport to Ely poses cross-border issues. The W.I. proposed that the creation of a Community Café may be a way of raising funds for sustainable travel in the Parish, but added that its delivery would rely on all village groups and the Parish Council working together. The Chair said that both issues were worth due consideration by the Parish Council. Cllr Storey informed that he would take up the issue of the bus with the County Council.

4.

a. Southery Village Hall

The Hall has recovered well from the long closure caused by the oil leak. Income fell dramatically and many groups had to find other venues. The Church and The Old White Bell helped enormously with room provision.

Once the major works were complete, grant funding assisted with replacing the floor and heating system. The Hall is about to be redecorated. The building work damaged the car park and the trees surrounding the car park need lopping when funds permit.

The Hall Committee worked tirelessly to get the Hall back into operation, rental costs are very reasonable and have been kept low in the hope of gaining income via an increased number of bookings.

b. SWISH

No representative

c. Southery Stars

No representative

d. Southery Academy

No representative

e. Southery Bowls Club

Club membership is very low, and the Club is self-funding with no external income. League participation is down to one match a week as the lack of members means the Club doesn't qualify to enter some competitions.

The green reopens on 25th April 2026, with a new sign waiting to be erected.

f. Youth Club

No representative

g. Other local groups

..... ChairDate

The Goalkeeping Academy is going from strength to strength with around 20 active members. The group has ambitious plans for the future including upgrading their storage facility.

5. Public comments and discussion

A discussion ensued around village communication, using the Hilgay parish magazine as an exemplar. Darren Smith volunteered to take this suggestion forward to see what might be done either independently or in conjunction with Hilgay.

The obstruction of a public footpath in the parish by overgrown hedges was discussed, Sue Welch offered to contact the party responsible to arrange rectification as soon as possible.

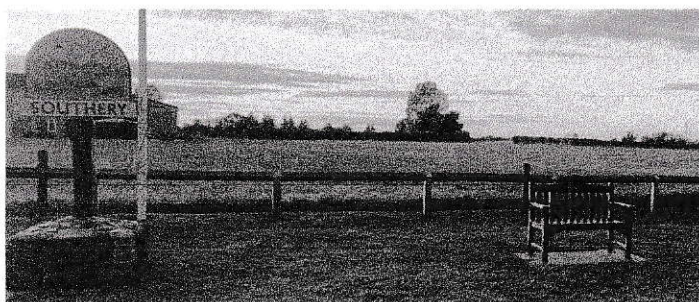
The Chair closed the meeting at 8.20pm, thanking everyone for their attendance and the lively good-humoured contributions. The various matters raised by the Parish will be taken forward by the Parish Council to see where they can be implemented.

..... ChairDate



Southery Parish Council

**Annual Meeting
April 7th 2026**



1



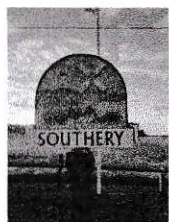
Why are we here ?

Southery Parish Council is responsible for many matters which contribute to enhancing the community and quality of life for the residents.

- Act as the voice of the local electorate, expressing views to higher authorities like borough or county councils.
- Ensuring financial responsibility, including managing the 'precept' (a small portion of council tax).
- Grounds maintenance: Cemetery, Playing Field, Play Area, Werehen, War Memorial
- Maintenance of Parish owned streetlights.
- Commenting on planning applications
- Burial Authority for Southery Cemetery
- Street furniture including bus shelters, benches, speed awareness units, dog bins
- Reporting issues to the Highways authority

We are not directly responsible for: Policing, Road maintenance, Planning enforcement

2



Who are the Councilors

CLlr Chris Stabile-Barnett (Chair)	cllr.c.stabile-barnett@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
CLlr Sue Welch (Vice Chair)	cllr.s.welch@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
CLlr Christopher Edwards	cllr.c.edwards@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
CLlr Di Edwards	cllr.d.edwards@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
CLlr Tina Feltwell	cllr.t.feltwell@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
CLlr Ian Goodwin	cllr.i.goodwin@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
CLlr Annette Osler	cllr.a.osler@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
CLlr Javey Osler	cllr.j.osler@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
CLlr Darren Smith	cllr.d.smith@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
CLlr Roger Whitehead	cllr.r.whitehead@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr Neil Watson	clerk@southeryparishcouncil.gov.uk

3

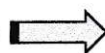


What did we do in 2025 ?

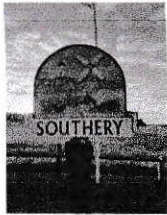
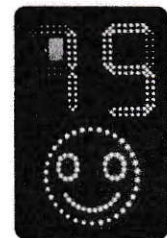
Community payback team –	Repaired and painted areas of the playground General building maintenance, litter picking, Village memorial maintenance, new bench installed, cemetery maintenance
Supported Community Events:	Charity events, SWISH, GA Academy, Remembrance and Christmas events
Highways	A10 junctions raised with highways and the local MP to make them safer for our residents - Ongoing
Speeding	Reported road issues to highways for repair Monitored speeds through the village
Village maintenance	Grass cutting, street lights etc



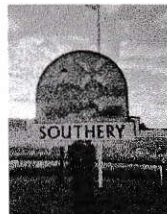
£8,000



4

	What are we doing in 2026 ?	
	Community payback team –	Continue to utilise their help with work around the village
	Recreation ground Pavilion-	£10,000 for first phase refurbishment to provide a kitchen and small meeting room. £ 2,780 grant to install new sensory and play
	Exercise equipment	£5255 grant/pledge to Install fixed physical equipment from Sport England https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/explorovate
	Recreation field car park	Refurbishment of the carpark
	Highways	Continue to request upgrading of A10 Southern junctions to increase safety Road safety outside the school Continue to report issues to Highways
	Speeding	New monitor for the village (£1722.50)

5

	How can you help ?	
	Precept	We increased the precept this year to give more funding for village enhancements.
	Recreation ground	Need some volunteers to help with the build refurbishment. We need a volunteer electrician, plumber and plasterer
	Exercise equipment	We are crowdfunding to help this initiative. Please help us raise £5255.00 so that we can install the equipment.
	Speeding	Do you want a SPEED WATCH team? We will need volunteers.

6