

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BROOKE METHODIST HALL ON
MONDAY 25TH JULY 2022 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Mr Spinks, Mrs Beardsell, Mrs Hannah, Mrs Brown, Mr Tobin, Mr Wilson, Dr Newman and Mrs Jones.

In attendance: The Clerk.

Absent: Mrs Mason-Billig (County Councillor)

1. Apologies for absence:

Mr Pitelen and Mr Fuller (District Councillor) sent their apologies.

2. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of meeting on 20th June 2022:

The minutes had been previously circulated and were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman accordingly.

4. Matters arising from meeting on 20th June 2022:

4.1 Flashing speed signs

Mr Spinks has checked to see if he has a spare android device to retrieve the information from the flashing speed sign which is up and running. He could not find one but will look into the cost of purchasing one.

4.2 Meres path

This item was deferred as Mr Pitelen was not in attendance.

4.3 Benches

No update as The Mens Shed are in the process of moving premises.

4.4 Land registration

EG Law are awaiting the signed amended form for application via adverse possession of the Brecon Road amenity area. The Clerk will check when it was sent.

Mr Greig of EG Law believes that as the meres triangles are subject to Highway rights, the PC would struggle to gain possessory title. Mrs Brown will meet with him to discuss in detail.

4.5 Squash club

Mrs Brown raised some points for consideration prior to completing the process of taking over the squash club. She suggested that the PC considers whether there is demonstration of appetite for the club to continue considering the initial and ongoing cost of doing so. There is no water supply to the building and no toilet facilities. Mr Wilson agreed that there are many aspects to consider such as health and safety and insurance. Mr Tobin stated that the building is currently not in bad condition but is yet to cost out the necessary repairs. Mrs Brown will contact Fosters Solicitors to get advice about what would happen to it should the PC not take it over and the surviving trustees pass away. Mr Wilson suggested that South Norfolk Council could take it over

as they already run sports facilities. Mr Newman advised that he attended the Community Action Fund meeting at South Norfolk Council and the squash club would tick all the boxes for grant funding.

4.6 Asset of Community Value

Mrs Brown has spoken informally to SNDC regarding the meres triangle and cannot see how it could be registered as an Asset of Community Value as the PC already owns it. The ACV status protects properties or land from being sold. She will get advice from NALC.

4.7 St Peters Road Play Area

Mr Spinks has spoken to Jo Angel, Brooke Play Park Committee Chair to get advice regarding installing play equipment at St Peters Road play area. He has asked whether they would be prepared to include it as part of Brooke Play Park when it comes to inspections, insurance etc. They will consider it at their next meeting.

Mr Newman is aware that there are some grants currently available from SNDC Environment and Community Department for play parks. St Peters Road play area is currently leased by the PC from SNDC on a long term lease.

4.8 Advertising sign

The Clerk reported that she had written to the member of the public who had initially complained about the advertising sign at Brooke Lodge who had also followed up the complaint with SNDC's planning enforcement officer, Andy Baines. Mr Baines agreed to look into it.

4.9 Electric charging points

Mr Newman attended a meeting at SNDC and reported that Parish Councils can lodge an expression of interest in having electric charging points installed free of charge in public spaces in the village. All present agreed that the Clerk would do so advising that Brooke would like up to 6 charging points.

5. County and District Councillor's reports:

Neither the County or District Councillor were present, however Kay Mason-Billig had emailed her report which is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

6. Planning:

6.1 New and amended planning applications

2022/1323 and 2022/1230 – Addition of air source heat pump to rear of existing building and air source heat pump within the grounds of The Kings Head PH, Norwich Road (retrospective)

These applications were recommended for approval.

2022/2044 – Proposed re-modelling, extension and associated alterations to existing bungalow to create 2 storey dwelling at 103, The Street

The application was recommended for refusal with the following comments:

The proposal would be overdevelopment of the plot

The proposal would adversely affect the amenity of the neighbouring properties

The proposal would dominate the street scene

7. Public Spaces:

8.1 Trees and hedges

There are several overhanging hedges on Brecon Road which need cutting back.

8.2 Highways

The footpaths on Brecon Road are in a particularly poor state of repair, along with the road surface on The Street. The footpath from Brooke to Kirstead is overgrown and needs siding out and overhanging foliage cut back. The Clerk will report them to Kay Mason-Billig.

8. Finance:

8.1 Clerk's financial statement

The Clerk's financial statement had been circulated prior to the meeting and was accepted as a true representation of the current financial position of the Parish Council.

8.2 Cheques to be authorised

The following cheques were approved for signature:

£10.00	Brooke Methodist Church	Hall hire
££975.00	M Carpenter	Grass cutting May/June
£50.00	J Andrews	Petty cash

8.3 Village Hall Committee grant request

The Village Hall Committee has requested the balance of their grant. Mr Spinks had requested a breakdown of their accounts and predicted expenses as the grant request process should be the same for everyone. The VHC were unable to provide this as they have not yet got the quotes for the works which are required in the near future. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council holds their account for them in to which the grant is transferred each year. As works are carried out, invoices are sent to the Parish Council for payment out of that account. The VHC carried £543.38 over from the previous financial year. The PC paid a grant of £1000 in the 2021-22 financial year and £1597.22 so far in the current financial year (2022-23). All present agreed that the balance of the usual £3500 grant, nett of £1597.22 already paid should be transferred in to the VH account.

9. Parish Council administration:

9.1 Councillor training

The Clerk is waiting for the new training officer at NALC to get back to her with training options.

10. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence received.

11. Items for agenda of next meeting 12th September 2022:

Speed signs
Meres path

Benches
Land registration
Squash club
Asset of Community Value
St Peters Road play area
Councillor training

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm

County Council report July 22

£1 million Social Infrastructure Fund improvements agreed at cabinet

A third round of funding for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations who are helping Norfolk's communities during the pandemic recovery and the cost-of-living crisis was agreed by the county council.

The council's cabinet considered a report that will see another £1 million of capital funding for major voluntary sector projects from the Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund - the same level of funding as in 2021.

This year's proposal sees £775k made available to community organisations to bid for, with £225k already committed to continue the successful partnership with Norfolk Community Foundation in expanding their Nourishing Norfolk food hubs across the county, with an ambitious aim of 15 being open by the end of 2022.

The Social Infrastructure Fund provides funding for voluntary and non-profit making groups and organisations to support community initiatives that benefit Norfolk residents.

Norwich Western Link a step closer

The Cabinet received a report on the work undertaken between June 2021 and March 2022 on the Norwich Western Link, including the scheme design. They recommended to Full Council to include and increased amount of £52.7m in the future year forward capital programme (of which £7.9m is the increase in local contribution), based on the overall project budget being funded from £213.4m of DfT Grant and £37.7m local contribution, underwritten by the County Council (which would be funded through additional prudential borrowing if necessary).

This was duly passed at Full Council earlier this week.

The NWL will bring crucial benefits to the county, including:

1. Significantly reduce many journey times to the west of Norwich, with some more than halving, and shortening response times for many ambulances travelling to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital;
2. Leading to a reduction in carbon emissions from vehicles by making many journeys more efficient, which supports local and national carbon reduction targets;
3. Boosting Norfolk's economy and support its businesses by reducing transport costs, opening up new markets and increasing productivity through quicker and more reliable journeys;
4. Improving road safety with over 500 fewer accidents involving a motor vehicle over the next 60 years;
5. Taking traffic off unsuitable local roads through communities including Weston Longville, which will see a reduction of approximately 80% in through traffic.
6. Creating new habitats and improve existing ones across a wide area to the west of Norwich to support a range of wildlife.
7. Strengthening network resilience

New Local Transport Plan for Norfolk agreed

Full Council has agreed to adopt the Local Transport Plan, a policy framework document for the county council. Once adopted LTP4 will replace LTP3.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the council's strategy and policy framework for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport and is used as a guide for investment priorities as well as being taken into account by other agencies when determining their planning or delivery decisions.

The Local Transport Plan Strategy sets out the county council's overall approach to transport, showing how transport can deliver our wider ambitions including a growing economy, strong communities and reducing our impact on the environment.

LTP4 will have significant longer-term impacts on shaping the future of the county including on its residents and economy, and the impact that transport has across a range of social, environmental and economic indicators. It will impact how the council develops and delivers interventions that affect transport across Norfolk.

Campaign launched to encourage people in Norfolk to 'Choose the bus'

Norfolk County Council and local bus operators have joined forces to create a campaign to encourage more people to 'Choose the bus' in Norfolk.

The campaign which launched on Thursday 14th July, showcases the many reasons that people choose to get the bus. Whether it is making the day more fun for the kids, saving money as fuel prices continue to increase, wanting to reduce your carbon footprint or being able to have a drink with friends after work – the campaign shows that the list of reasons to choose the bus is long.

To find out more about buses in Norfolk, plan your bus journey or find your nearest bus stop visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/choosethebus

Norfolk libraries announce record year for supporting local businesses

In the past year, the Business & IP Centre (BIPC) Norfolk, managed by Norfolk Library & Information Service, had a strong track record of supporting local entrepreneurs to start, manage and expand successful small businesses.

From April 2021 to March 2022, over 700 attendees received free business support from the Centre. 36% of these attendees were aspiring entrepreneurs seeking to start their own business and 27% were looking to grow an existing business. Additionally, there was a 180% increase in people receiving support from the Centre during this period.

More than 600 supported as Chances Project marks first year

More than 600 residents supported back to work as Chances project celebrates its first anniversary.

More than 600 Norfolk residents have been supported by the Chances project since it launched in April 2021. The project offers free employment support to individuals who are looking for work but face challenges.

A total of 627 residents have been given one to one support tailored to their needs including help with job and training searches, CV writing and practice interviews. Of those, 158 have actually started a new job.

The project offers one to one sessions to help boost confidence, improve wellbeing and increase motivation. People can also benefit from taking part in sport and physical activities through the Street Life Soccer Programme delivered by the Community Sports Foundation.

Jubilee Trees for Norfolk - 40,000 cut price trees up for grabs in Norfolk

More than 40,000 trees are available at a discount for everyone across Norfolk, thanks to the launch of a new scheme in the county.

The Jubilee Trees for Norfolk are supporting the Queen's Green Canopy – a scheme to coincide with the celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – where people from across the UK are invited to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee'.

Half-price tree packs will be available at seven tree collection points including Norwich (County Hall and Broadland Country Park), Acle, Long Stratton, Watton, Fakenham and King's Lynn). Applications opened from 30 May 2022 and the packs will be ready for collection in the planting season between December 2022-February 2023.

The Jubilee Trees for Norfolk scheme is being funded to a total of £50,000 Norfolk County Council and the Government through the Trees Outside Woodland project.

[Apply for Jubilee Trees for Norfolk](#)

Rooting for Nature Composting campaign launches with a chance to win a free compost bin

Rooting for Nature, Norfolk County Council's popular composting campaign is back to encourage more people to switch to composting at home and help reduce and recycle more of their waste. Find more information about composting and how to buy a compost bin at Norfolk Recycles www.norfolkrecycles.com/home-compost.

Care farm among six new tenancies for Norfolk's County Farms

Norfolk County Council is set to welcome six new tenants to its county farms estate later this year.

Among the new tenants are two families who are joining forces to create a new care farm in west Norfolk. NHS workers Alex and Ed Webster will be working with business owner, farmer and firefighter Ben Human and fitness guru Gemma Human to set up Ingleborough Care Farm. In total, six new tenants will take on just under 750 acres of county farms land from October this year. This follows a thorough application process that began at the end of last year and concluded with an interview in front of a panel of experts.

Census 2021 first results published

Did you know that there were around 916,200 people living in Norfolk on Census Day, 21 March 2021?

That's an increase of around 58,300 people, or an increase of 6.8% compared with Census Day 2011. This compares with an 8.3% increase for the East of England and a 6.3% increase for England and Wales.

Within Norfolk, South Norfolk had the highest percentage increase (14.4% increase), with Great Yarmouth having the lowest increase (2.6% increase), compared with the last census.

The first results from Census 2021 were released on 28 June 2022.

The census is a survey that happens every ten years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The last census was run in March 2021.

Norfolk's Carers invited to apply for free Wellbeing Packs

Norfolk County Council is delighted to provide a further 3,000 free Wellbeing Packs to unpaid carers over the coming months, after previous packs were taken up enthusiastically across Norfolk.

The packs, which are provided through Covid funding from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), are designed to support unpaid carers and include Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to support recipients in their role as a carer, as well as a range of pick-me-up items for the carer including chocolates, toiletries, and other treats to bring a little joy in these difficult times.

Invitation to make a pledge to help every child in Norfolk to flourish

Organisations and businesses from all over Norfolk are being invited to pledge to make at least one new promise or commitment this year to help change things for the better for children and young people.

The invitation has come as the Norfolk Children and Young People Strategic Alliance (CYPSA) officially launched the [Flourishing in Norfolk Strategy](#) and the [Flourish Pledge](#) at an event attended by representatives of more than 25 county organisations.

CYPSA is a Norfolk partnership of organisations working with children and young people and their families including councils, health services, police, and the voluntary sector.

For more information please see [Children and Young People's Strategic Alliance](#)

£13 million savings proposals considered

Proposals to save £13m were considered this month, as the first step towards meeting next year's £60m target.

Norfolk County Council's cabinet will discuss the first batch of proposals, with a further £47m due to be considered in October.

Cabinet considered proposals to save:

- £6.45m from adult social services, including use of reserves and more savings from existing programmes
- £3m from children's services, including withdrawing from the Professional Development Centre in Woodside
- £2.1m from community and environmental services, including a review of the mobile library service, Wednesday closures of recycling centres and reduction of weedkilling on highways to one treatment per year
- £200,000 from strategy and transformation, through professional leads
- £50,000 from governance, by increasing income from the registration service
- £1m from finance and commercial services, through annual income from the council's company, Repton Property Developments Ltd

The public will be consulted over the summer to inform a redesign of the mobile library service, to save £200,000 from its £422,000 per year budget. Further consultations on other budget proposals will take place in the autumn.

The Council will propose a Council Tax level for 2023/24 later this year, once it has received guidance from the Government. Until then, the Council's planning assumption is 2.99 per cent, including a one per cent adult social care precept.

Finalised budget proposals will be considered by cabinet, early next year, before the full council takes a final decision in February 2023.