

Minutes of Brooke Annual Parish meeting held at Brooke Methodist Hall on Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Jonny Spinks welcomed the Clerk and 10 members of the public to the meeting.

1. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr Spinks gave his report, a copy of which is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

2. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs Mason-Billig was unable to attend and sent her apologies but had emailed her report which the Clerk read in her absence. A copy is attached as an addendum to the minutes.

3. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mr Fuller had sent his apologies for absence from the meeting but had forwarded a copy of his report, which is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

4. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS**BROOKE AND PORINGLAND SCOUT GROUP**

Ed Wright, trustee on the board of Brooke & Poringland Scout Group introduced himself and gave a report which is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

BROOKE CRICKET CLUB

Richard Hayman, representative from Brooke Cricket Club gave a report which is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

PLAYPARK COMMITTEE

There was no one available to attend the meeting but the Playpark Committee had emailed their annual report, which the Clerk read on their behalf and is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

BROOKE PTFA

There was no one available to attend the meeting but Brooke Primary School PTFA emailed their report, which the Clerk read in their absence and is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

BROOKE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

No one was available to attend the meeting but David Harrison, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee had emailed a report which is attached as an addendum to these minutes and was read out by the Clerk.

BROOKE TENNIS CLUB

No one was available to attend the meeting but Paul Barker, Tennis Club representative had emailed a report which was read by the Clerk and is attached as an addendum to the minutes.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Council meeting, which took place on 9th May 2022 were circulated and accepted as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman signed them as a true record accordingly.

6. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

7. OPEN FORUM

There were no items raised for discussion in the open forum.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

District Council
Annual Parish Council Meeting Report
April 2023

The Council has made big strides in the last year helping the District address a whole variety of challenges including the recovery from Covid, the cost of energy and general cost of living, the impact of Ukrainian Refugees on top of previous schemes from Hong Kong, Afghanistan, Syria and immigration across the channel.

But as we look to the future our ambition never been greater, our drive more intense or our financial strength so great.

Since 2007 council tax in South Norfolk has increased by a quarter LESS than inflation. So, for the last sixteen years our tax rise has been in aggregate 25% less than the ONS's RPI inflation measure. This year we have approved a capital budget of £113m, whilst freezing council tax for a ninth time. Ours is a balanced, affordable budget that does not draw from reserves.

There have been no cuts. No, we're doing more, much more. And doing it for less. for every family, in every street and place in our district

This year we're committing an extra £1.3million pounds for those in need so we can continue to help 500 households a month address the cost of living and the challenges life sends.

Our day to day work covers 86 different activities and includes

- Keeping people fit and healthy with new country parks in Costessey (Queens Hill) & Cringleford (Yare valley) whilst renewing our commitment to our heritage landscape at Venta Icenorum in the Landscape Protection Zone.
- Generating 50% of our council tax income again from trading activities – building homes including our share of the affordable homes that are so important and have meant that every home lost to the right to buy has been replaced.
- Providing commercial space for business to prosper & expand
- Teaching 3000 kids to swim each year in our swimming pools that will now be heated by renewable energy sources

We hope that we are trusted to deliver the best possible quality of life

- Trusted by residents –who know that during covid every bin collected, every fridge filled
- By business – who appreciated over £1m per week distributed in lockdown with targeted schemes that filled the gaps the national programs missed
- By government – Our capital program includes £30m in grants to make a bigger economy and a brighter future for our 140,000 residents in 60000 homes.

Here in Brooke we have delivered a number of local schemes and supported local volunteers including providing a modest grant for hedge planting in the village by the tree wardens, the purchase of a water carrier and assisted a large number local families with continuing and one-off payments for heating costs to offset high bills over the winter.

Last year Full Council authorised us to borrow £20m over 20 years at fixed rates in the low 2's. That was the deal of the century. It's allowed us to commit to this budget at the lowest possible landed cost. We are set up to make the really important and far-sighted generational investments which will pay dividends for residents for years to come.

Some of that investment is in green infrastructure including significant improvements to Caistor Roman Town and the Wherrymans Way along the River Yare between Whitlingham and Loddon.

We're building and enhancing some of the successes from the last 16 years

- Norwich Science is a world leader in genetics and genomics. We did that 16 years on from an initial £250k grant to buy experimental; sequencers. Now we have £8m in the capital program to develop the future at the science park – proper jobs addressing the grand challenges of tomorrow
- South Norfolk has been growing at 1pc per year for 50 years. But publications like the Sunday Times rank us as one of the best places to live in the country. That's because quality of life is so good. We have matched housing growth with infrastructure investment. Harleston - £1m town centre improvements. Do the same again in Wymondham with the Town Council pooling their CIL. Working on the station
- A local plan that puts roofs over people's heads (Circa 45,000k new homes across Greater Norwich) whilst protecting our environment including some of the unsung work renewing our work on conservation area reviews and supporting neighbourhood planning.

We have a responsibility to tread more lightly on our shared environment. We are already the most energy efficient having saved more carbon than any other – 700 tonnes since we began measuring our carbon footprint.

We will be moving to our new low carbon building which has over 2,500 solar panels and will use 84% less energy than we have had before not only this we are going all the way by installing air source heat pumps.

It's the right thing for the world. And we recognise there has never been a more important moment to share the structurally lower cost base that arises, passed on as a dividend to residents as a council tax freeze.

Our job is to help everyone to go green and have committed to EV Charging points for everyone village that wants one whilst committing to leading the energy transition in our nation as a result of hosting the national grids connection point from the world's largest offshore array, the clean gas pipeline that passes through our district, the biggest brains at the UEA that call South Norfolk home and the global leadership in fuel-efficiency, lightweight structures at Lotus.

It's not just a green environment. It's a healthy one too

- Keeping people fit and healthy – investing over £2m in the Diss Swimming Pool with air source heating and actively pursuing other opportunities in Diss.
- A £1m investment Tennis at Wymondham with Sport England adding to 3G pitches in

Long Stratton & Wymondham.

But we're other local schemes including working with others too...

- The Long Stratton bypass has completed all the regulatory steps
- Easton Village Hall, needs us to do it but helping the Parish to do more with our co-investment fund
- Our voluntary groups 400 grants in 4 years including 40 larger CAF fund grants
- £1m invested to improve Harleston Town Centre and a similar £1m scheme to improve Wymondham next year
- Working with the doctors, NHS & CCG to deliver a new surgery for Hethersett
- Our pivotal role in District Direct that places our staff in the hospital so we can prepare recovering patients for timely discharge to an adapted home
- Working to welcome and sustain over 200 Ukrainian guests. We have built the financial strength and capacity to deal with the unexpected shocks without missing a beat.

I'm proud that we have built a team that

- Puts South Norfolk First
- The Strongest foundations to deliver the important things that residents and business value the most
- The ambition to build a bigger green economy that everyone can be proud of

John Fuller

Cllr Kay Mason Billig Norfolk County Council Annual Report 2023

Once again I have had a busy year as your County Councillor. I have been to many parish council meetings in the division and have been answering questions about local issues from residents.

We still have many problems with potholes. If you come across one, please report it on the Norfolk County Council website. This will give you an enquiry number. If it isn't fixed in reasonable time, then let me know. I will chase it up with my Highways Engineer to find out what is happening. Having an enquiry number makes this easier to do, as it has already been logged.

We still have issues with hedges and trees obstructing footpaths and causing visibility problems on some roads. Again, please report it and then let me know if things don't improve. Some foliage can be cut back by the Council team, where it is not on private property. Alternatively we can write to land owners asking for them to trim back any obstructions.

The new roundabout at Loddon on the A146 has made a massive difference to safety at this junction. I am aware that it is not looking its best though and I am pursuing this to get the dead trees removed and replanted and for some regular maintenance to take place.

The extension to the 50mph speed limit at the Hellington Bends is likely to happen later this year. I am awaiting the issue of the Road Traffic Order that will enable us to replace the signage and reduce the speed limit on this dangerous stretch of road.

We have tackled the problem of flooding in many different areas in the division including recent works in Ashby St Mary and Chedgrave. I am aware that this is an issue which affects many people and the flooding of residential property causes major distress and upset to residents. If you know of any particularly vulnerable places, let me know and I will ask my Highways engineer to take a look.

I have also been out with Officers from County to look at some new safety schemes in our villages. I am aware that speeding is a big issue in many places. I am trying to find solutions for the problems in Woodton, Chedgrave, Claxton, Rockland St Mary, Alington and also Loddon, which have been brought to my attention. I am sure there are many others. I can ask the Police to attend if you know of regular incidences, where we can give them intelligence about times and places. Please get in touch if I can help.

If I can help in any way, you can contact me at kay.masonbillig.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Brooke and Poringland Scout Group report to Brooke Parish Council 17th April 2023

Brooke and Poringland Scout Group comprises of three sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for boys and girls aged 6-14. There are currently 20 Beavers, 24 Cubs and 30 Scouts, with a waiting list of approximately 125. The Group was established in the early 1950s and the current Den was built in 1959. It has been extended over the years and also includes several storage sheds for all the equipment. The Group takes part in lots of activities, some locally here in the community, such as Remembrance Sunday at the church and singing Christmas carols at Brooke House. There is of course camping, including the Group Camp next month, where all the sections will attend. It has been great to resume these activities after the pandemic when most were severely limited and meetings were held online. Four Scouts from the Group were selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree which takes place every four years. This year it is being held in South Korea and 40,000 Scouts from around the world are expected to attend for 12 days in August. Each Scout has had to raise £4000 in funding. The Group helped with this, including having a very successful fete last Easter. All this is made possible by the very dedicated team of volunteer leaders who run the Group and its sections, we are always on the lookout for more volunteers. The Loddon group sadly closed 18 months ago, we have inherited some of their Scouts and leaders, but it has also increased our waiting list. We have a long term plan to find a new larger site so that we can have more facilities and enlarge the group

Brooke Play park Charity number 1050257

Brooke Play Park – Committee annual report

April 2023

The playpark committee continues to meet as required to maintain oversight of the park and its development. Since our last report we have successfully installed new equipment for young people, in the form of a hang out hut and additional equipment for pre-schoolers.

1. Committee Members

There have been no changes to the roles of trustees:

- Rebecca Hodges – Co-Chair
- Jo Angell – Secretary
- Donna Ashmole – Treasurer
- Clare Angell – Co-Chair
- Louise Long

2. Installation of new equipment

NGF were instructed to complete the works during August and September 2022. The equipment has been well received, and we look forward to our first full summer where it will be available to children and young people.

3. Park use

Regular checks to the play park by committee members have not highlighted any concerns. Park users continue to work together to maintain a safe site with minimal littering. Our Facebook page offers a valuable means for visitors to report any concerns and receive a quick response.

4. Conclusion

The committee wish to offer particular thanks to the Village Hall committee for their participation and support to identify a good location for the hang out hut. Local volunteers, family members and council members continue to do an incredible job to maintain our local park and we wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who continues to play a role in this.

Brooke Parish AGM - Monday 17th April 2023 PTFA report.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some information with the community about the work that is going on at Brooke Primary school by the PTFA.

The PTFA have been working together over the last 18 months to recover from the effect of COVID on the school, children and families and begin to start raising funds again to support the hard work of the school. The PTFA saw a change of 'leadership' in September and again October/November 2022 but the current committee is backed by an enthusiastic group of parents and carers at the school.

October 2021 saw the PTFA take on its first in person event since COVID and saw us joining forces with the community to put on a fantastic Halloween event. This allowed the community to come together through decorating houses and letting children be children and go on a Pumpkin trail around the village. We thank everyone who got involved in this and thank Robin Stamp for the initial idea (as he had done this the year before) and allowing us to take it on. This raised a nice amount of money for the school which is being used to provide suitable equipment for the children to attend forest schools and learn new skills outdoors. I know the children love the chance to leave the school and take part in these learning opportunities.

Following this large event, we then ran a few in-house events such as the Christmas story nights and movie nights for the children of the school. The bigger community events allow us to focus some things on the children of the school at a lower cost. Many of the children at the school have been affected by COVID and the restrictions which were in place for so long, it is good to hold these smaller in-house events for them to enjoy.

Last summer (2022) saw us take on our biggest event to date and raised a staggering amount of money. We hired the village hall and field and held a summer fayre which many of the community attended. Some of the community came along and helped with drinks and food and without them, events like this just could not take place. Local businesses also contributed and donated prizes for our grand raffle. The children at the school created games as part of their learning and helped raise money too with both parents and teachers helping out on the day. Events on these scales are hard to pull off successfully by parents and carers, whom many of have full time jobs alongside parenting and volunteering within the PTFA so a big thank you to everyone who was involved in the lead up to and as part of

the event. Some of the money raised from this, will be used to help develop the school playground making the environment more user friendly on a daily basis.

Since the Summer, and change of leadership, we have had a couple of smaller 'in house' events such as Christmas Story nights hosted by the Reverend Lynne and movie nights for the older children. More recently we have just held, what for some of the children is their first ever, Easter discos. The children attended in 2 groups and had a fantastic time. We also held a small Easter raffle for the children and their immediate families.

The school and PTFA also hosted a 'clean up party' at the school site in February time which saw families from the school and community coming together to help spruce up the school grounds at the front. We are booking another of these in the coming months so anyone who thinks they have any skills which can be utilised are more than welcome to join us. It was a very productive day which included many tip runs but made the school grounds look more appealing.

Our next event sees us hosting a table top sale here at the village hall in May. This will hopefully raise a small amount for the PTFA. There had been discussions about hosting another Summer fete but felt that the work needed to go into this, to make it a success like last year, was just too much for us at the time. We are already talking about hosting the Halloween event again in October which will see the PTFA and local community working together to benefit the children. Due to the change over of committee members we are looking for plan events in advance for next year so that they can be as successful as possible and include the local community where possible.

We would like to take the opportunity again to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped the PTFA over the last 18 months and continues to do so in the future. The ideas we have are only as good as the support we receive and we look forward to building relationships with the wider community where possible.

Brooke Village Hall Committee

Over the past year footfall in the village hall has continued to increase following Covid.

The hall has continued to be well maintained with water pipes being moved inside and the hot water storage to the toilets being replaced.

Bonfire night was a success with many local people helping.

At present we are investigating a crack that has appeared in the lobby wall. The scouts have experienced problems in the past

with sewers and water leaks but whether this relates we've yet to ascertain. We are insured but you never

know how much the insurance company will pay for.

We look forward to new people joining the committee in the future.

David Harrison (Chairman)

Brooke Tennis Club Annual Report to the Parish Council 2023

Our village tennis club is punching above its weight. Not only are we the best value for money club to join in the area; we have one of the most qualified tennis coaches in Norfolk and we're on track to have our largest number of members ever, with approaching 140 individuals part of our club so far this membership year and growing daily! We have two men's and two ladies teams who compete all over Norfolk, with the season starting in a couple of weeks and around sixty juniors who are part of the junior tennis coaching programme. We also have a presence at Framingham Earl Sports Centre with Cardio Tennis sessions provided on a Sunday morning.

Our plans for this year are to create a culture of contributing from within the Membership, to create a more sustainable future where the running of the club is not just reliant on a few key members. We're also intending to change the legal framework of the club from being an Unincorporated Association to becoming either a Community Amateur Sports Club or a Charitable Incorporated Organisation - the outcome will be the result of legal advice currently being provided and this change will allow us to more easily source future external funding. A longer term objective is to consider increasing the size of our site and to be able to accommodate up to four courts instead of our current two.. This will be subject to funding and sourcing an appropriate location in and around our village.