

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BROOKE METHODIST HALL ON
MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30PM**

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

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr Ash and Mr Jinks.

Absent: Mr Fuller (District Councillor)

1. Apologies for absence:

Mr Wilson and Mrs Mason-Billig (County Councillor) sent their apologies.

2. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of meetings on 6th and 12th September 2022:

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

4. Matters arising from meetings on 6th and 12th September 2022:

4.1 Flashing speed signs

An android device is still needed to retrieve the information from the flashing speed sign which is up and running. Mr Newman will see if he can get one. He had some suggestions regarding the locations the camera could be installed at. Mr Tobin explained that it could only be mounted on existing street furniture at locations approved by Highways. Mr Newman will email him with his suggestions.

One of the batteries is faulty but still under warranty. Mr Tobin is in the process of arranging replacement with Westotec.

4.2 Meres

Mr Pitelen reported that the East mere has now been dredged but there is not as much clay lining as he would have wanted to see. He suggested that ultimately, a bore hole would be the answer to ensuring a consistent water level. This would be expensive, likely around £14,000. There will be a meres working party next weekend (22nd October) which he has advertised on Brooke Chat. Going forward, Mr Pitelen suggested setting up a Meres Management Committee which he is willing to lead. Mr Spinks advised that there would always have to be at least one member of the Parish Council on the Committee as it is ultimately under Parish Council ownership and the relevant insurances would need to remain in place. No decisions concerning the meres could be made without full approval of the Parish Council. A donation of £684 made by Kathy Wick, landlady of the White Lion PH remains in cash with Mr Tobin which will need to be bagged up and paid in to the Parish Council bank account. In total, including this latest donation, £2395 has been given by The White Lion PH towards the meres project which is very generous. Mr Tobin will compose a thank you letter to Kathy Wick which can be displayed in the pub.

4.3 Benches

Mr Tobin will inspect the bench at the end of the east mere to consider whether it should be repaired or replaced.

The Clerk will chase Kay Mason-Billig for permission to install benches on the Norwich Road lay-by.

4.4 Land registration

Mrs Brown reported that she had spoken to Mr Greig of EG Law who confirmed that the paperwork for registration of the amenity land at Brecon Road had been submitted to Land Registry.

The meres triangles are currently unregistered to anybody but Highways have included them in their plan and as such, Mr Greig advises that the Parish Council would be unlikely to be able to prove ownership despite having maintained the land for many years.

4.5 Squash club

It was agreed by all present that there is no appetite or funds to take over the squash club. The building is not of historical interest and is in a poor state of repair. The usage of the building is limited to playing squash and the number of users is very low. The users themselves are not interested in taking over the building, nor are any of the other sports clubs in Brooke. It would not be responsible use of public money to restore and run a club which is only used by a very limited number of people. The question of what would happen to the building if no new trustees are found was raised but ultimately it was agreed that this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. Mrs Brown will write to Fosters Solicitors and ask them to take the matter no further. There will be some costs to pay for the work they have done thus far. The Clerk will write to the existing trustees, Ken Warman and John Sampson to advise. Mr Pitelen will forward her the contact details of Mr Sampson.

4.6 Asset of Community Value

Further to the discussion about registering the meres triangles, in particular the one at the West end of the mere, the option of registering them as assets of community value to protect them from being removed was considered again. It was suggested that if a TPO was placed on the Horse Chestnut tree at the West end (which used to serve as a noticeboard), then it would automatically create an exclusion zone for development around it to protect the roots. This would help to protect the triangle which would fall within the exclusion zone. Mrs Bearsell will liaise with Mrs Brown to make the application.

4.7 St Peters Road Play Area

There is currently no funding to purchase, install and maintain play equipment at the play area.

4.8 Electric charging points

The Clerk has asked Mr Harrison, Village Hall Committee Chairman to provide exact details of the location suitable for electric charging points at the Village Hall so that she can pass the on to South Norfolk Council.

5. County and District Councillor's reports:

Neither the County or District Councillor were present to give a report.

6. Planning:

6.1 New and amended planning applications

2022/1230 and 1323 – Addition of air source heat pumps to rear of existing building (retrospective) to Kings Head PH, Norwich Rd

These applications were received between meetings, considered by the PC and no objections were raised to the proposal.

2022/1740 – Proposed variation of condition 2 of 2022/1054 – design change to amend roof from gable to hip to 12, Old Hall Gardens

This application was received between meetings. There were no objections to the proposed variation of condition.

7. Public Spaces:

7.1 Trees and hedges

The Clerk forwarded all Councillors the standard letter regarding overhanging trees and hedges. Councillors will distribute as and when necessary.

The hedge by the bus stop opposite the Kings Head is overhanging. Mr Spinks will speak to the owners.

7.2 Highways

Mrs Mason-Billig has suggested 3rd November for the village walk-around. Mr Tobin and Mr Spinks are able to attend. The Clerk will accept the date and agree a meeting time and location. Councillors will send a list of things to look at to Mr Tobin.

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
£16,200.00	Murray Anderson Services	Meres dredging
£550.00	M Carpenter	Grass cutting (August)

Mr Spinks has completed the necessary forms to add him as a cheque signatory. He will take them to a Barclays branch.

9. Parish Council administration:

9.1 Councillor training

It was agreed that to start with, Mr Newman and Mrs Hannah will attend the Councillor training and feed back to other Councillors. The intention would be for all untrained Councillors to attend at some point but the cost will need to be staggered. The Clerk will organise with NALC.

9.2 Communication

The Clerk asked Councillors to keep an eye on their emails and respond accordingly when requested. It was agreed that Councillors would reply to the same thread to avoid messages being lost and to reply all.

10. Correspondence:

A resident had written asking whether any public recognition awards are available for community work. Mrs Brown will make enquiries with SNDC.

11. Items for agenda of next meeting

Speed signs

Meres

Benches

Land registration

Squash club costs

Asset of Community Value

Electric charging points

Highways

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm

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 (CYP SA) officially launched the [Flourishing in Norfolk Strategy](#) and the [Flourish Pledge](#) at an event attended by representatives of more than 25 county organisations.

CYP SA 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.