

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BROOKE METHODIST HALL ON
MONDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Mr Spinks, Mrs Beardsell, Mrs Hannah, and Mrs Jones.

In attendance: The Clerk and Mr Jinks.

Absent: Mrs Mason-Billig (County Councillor), Mr Fuller (District Councillor)

1. Apologies for absence:

Mr Pitelen, Mrs Brown, Mr Newman, Mr Wilson and Mr Tobin sent their apologies.

2. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of meeting on 25th July 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 25th July 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.

Mr Newman was not present at the meeting but had sent an email suggesting further sites for the speed sign to be mounted. Councillors however pointed out that the permission granted by Highways only allows for 6 sites which are already agreed and in place.

4.2 Meres

An extraordinary meeting was held on 6th September at which it was agreed to appoint contractors to dredge the east meres.

The work is due to start on Monday 19th September.

4.3 Benches

Mrs Beardsell reported that The Mens Shed are still in the process of moving premises. Permission for benches to be installed on the Norwich Road lay-by has yet to be granted by Highways.

Mrs Jones advised that the bench at far end of the East mere is in poor condition and needs either repair or replacement. Mr Spinks agreed to ask Mr Tobin to inspect it for his opinion on which option is more viable.

Mrs Brown was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report on the next agenda items as follows:-

4.4 Land registration

The Land Registry form to register the amenity land at Brecon Road has been completed, signed and submitted.

Triangle of land at Western end of mere – recent email from EG Law suggests the PC will not be able to upgrade our current ‘qualified title’ to ‘title absolute’ because exclusive possession would be difficult to prove. Further discussions with EG Law are needed for clarification.

4.5 Squash club

An email had been received from Edward Spinks and John Ash registering their concerns regarding the PC taking over ownership of the Squash Club. In their email, they point out that the Squash Club would only benefit a very small number of Brooke residents, is a building of no historic or architectural value and is in poor condition which would require substantial funds to rectify. They point out that there is no precedent for the PC owning sports buildings in Brooke and all current clubs have their own committees or trustees responsible for owning, maintaining and running them. They conclude to suggest that the existing squash players re-energise the club by forming an active committee and creating a business plan to include increasing membership, generating potential subscription income, acquiring the building and seeking funding for refurbishment.

Mr Jinks was present at the meeting and reiterated the points made in his email.

All Councillors present agreed that given the large financial commitment made to the meres dredging works, there were currently no funds available to take on the further financial responsibility of the squash club. However, given the number of Councillors unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed to defer a final decision until the next meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk will look in to what was agreed previously with regard to Solicitors fees.

4.6 Asset of Community Value

Registration of this triangle of land as an Asset of Community Value may well be possible following advice from South Norfolk Council. Mrs Brown is in the process of completing the necessary forms.

4.7 St Peters Road Play Area

This item was deferred.

4.8 Advertising sign

Mr Newman was not present at the meeting but had sent an email which made the suggestion that the PC could apply for signage at the cross roads to advertise businesses at the Spurgeons site, which would remove the need for the A boards currently in place. Councillors pointed out however that the land the current signs are on belongs to Highways. Furthermore, if the PC were to provide signage for the Spurgeons businesses, it would set a precedent for the need to advertise all businesses in Brooke.

4.9 Electric charging points

An email had been received from SNDC acknowledging the PC’s registration of interest in electric charging points in the village. The email points out that the location for ECP’s would have to be a public space. The only obvious place would be at the Village Hall. The email requests exact location details. The Clerk will respond accordingly.

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

There were no new or amended applications to consider.

7. Public Spaces:

8.1 Trees and hedges

Mr Spinks reported that the hedges on Brecon Road were particularly overgrown and encroaching into the footpaths at various locations. The Clerk will email the standard letter to all Councillors who will print and distribute where applicable.

8.2 Highways

Mr Wilson had put up a poll on Brooke Next Door asking residents to vote on their main concerns within the village. 210 people had responded with speeding and protection of greenfield sites coming out as the highest concerns. Mr Newman in his email mentioned earlier in the minutes has raised speeding as a concern.

Mr Tobin had been trying to arrange a meeting with Kay Mason -Billig (County Councillor) and Gary Overland (Highways engineer) to carry out a village walk around to identify all the highways issues needing to be addressed. Mr Spinks agreed to speak to him to find out what has been arranged. Speeding is clearly an issue so options for highways strategies need to be discussed at the village walk around.

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:

£20.00 Brooke Methodist Church Hall hire

9. Parish Council administration:

9.1 Councillor training

The Clerk liaised with the training officer from NALC who had offered training by zoom at the cost of £60 per councillor. He was going to look in to whether there was a cheaper option given that we have several councillors to train who would also prefer in person training. The Clerk will chase him up.

9.2 Future meeting dates

The following dates were agreed for future meetings:-

17th October 2022

28th November 2022

10. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to discuss not already covered previously in the meeting.

11. Items for agenda of next meeting

Speed signs

Meres

Benches

Land registration

Squash club

Asset of Community Value

St Peters Road play area

Electric charging points

Highways

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm

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.