

# HARPLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Harpley Parish Council website: <https://www.harpleypc.info/>

Email: [harpleypc@gmail.com](mailto:harpleypc@gmail.com)

Parish Clerk: Ms. Caroline Boyden. Chairman: Mr. Brian Chandler.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held, after due notice, on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2022  
from 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

**No questions or comments from members of the public**

- 053/22 Present:** Cllrs B Chandler (Chairman), N Steed, P Peak, S. Rose, J. Pocklington, and Clerk (C Boyden)  
No members of the public.
- 054/22 Apologies:** Cllrs Case, Cable, Alexandra-Kay, Chenery and Moriarty.
- 055/22 Declarations of Interest:** None
- 056/22 To approve the draft minutes** from the Parish Council Meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2022. Proposed by Cllr Steed and all in favour.
- 057/22** To receive report from County Councillor Chenery – see attached appendix 1 (website)
- 058/22** To receive report from the Borough Councillor Moriarty – see attached appendix 2 (website)
- 059/22 Matters outstanding:**
- a. Queens Jubilee Celebrations – it was agreed that all the events were a success and thanks were given to all concerned.
  - b. Playground – following the annual review, certain maintenance was required including the vandalism repairs. Cost is £652.30 ex VAT and it was agreed to go ahead with these repairs. Proposed by Cllr Peak and all in favour. Clerk to arrange.
  - c. Cllr Pocklington requested that the jubilee bench is moved to the playground asap and arrangements to be made.
- 060/22 Correspondence and communications received**
- a. Parish Partnership – SAM unit has been ordered and the locations sent to NCC. Cllr Rose to take on the SAM readings and relocations.
  - b. Rangers work request – the 30mph sign from the A148 into Nethergate Street needs clearing of overgrowth and cleaning.

- c. Request from Community Cars for this year's contribution and £200 was agreed, proposed by Cllr Rose and all in favour.
- d. Payback Team will not be on site during August.
- e. NCC orchard planting – for landowners to apply.
- f. Overgrown trees on the path between Church Lane and Cross Street have been reported via the NCC portal.

**061/22 Highways Matters:**

Work on the water issue on Nethergate Street has taken place with the potholes marked for filling in.

**062/22 Planning** – no new applications or decisions.

**063/22 Finance:**

- a. To approve the year bank statements, reconciliation and payments/receipts from May to June – proposed Cllr Peak and all in favour.
- b. To approve the payments made in May & June and to be made in July. Proposed Cllr Steed and all in favour.
- c. To approve the Qtr.1 financial review - £16579.41 against budget of £17757.80 with the donation of £2,500 from the Houghton Estate still to be received. Full details available on the website.

Proposed Cllr Steed and approved by those present.

**064/22 Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting:**

Request for a donation towards a frame for the crocheted Christmas Tree.

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **29<sup>th</sup> of September 2022**, in the Village Hall from 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 20.01 hrs.

## **£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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

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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\*\*](#)

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## **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](http://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.

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## 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

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- £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.

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REPORT FROM JIM MORIARTY

My constant moaning and complaining which will have put a target on my back when visiting the planning department, is paying off as changes to the sifting and consultation process and increased numbers of planning staff are finally being considered. The result should mean greater transparency, renewed consultation with Parish Councils if an planning application changes whilst going through the process and, most importantly, a better service for both applicant, supports and objectors under the new regime.

It is proposed to make amendments to the current planning scheme of delegation. The scheme of delegation includes the councillor call-in and sifting panel process. It is proposed to amend the scheme of delegation so councillors can have extra time to call-in an application to committee, and parish councils can also have their comments considered by sifting panel, in relation to reconsultation of amended/revised development proposals.

Other changes are also proposed, to bring the scheme more up to date, to clarify particular issues and to bring it into line with other policy/guidance.

Secondly, a comprehensive restructure of the planning department at the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk is set to be considered by Corporate Performance Panel (which I chair) this week and Cabinet later in the month which could lead to up to 15 new planning posts.

Planning officers here currently have a caseload of around 177 cases each, compared to between 99 and 110 in neighbouring councils.

The report is also seeking additions to the Planning enforcement team to deal with the 500+ enforcement caseload that the current team is working on, a figure which is higher than all other district councils in Norfolk. This will include a post to improve communication with complainants about the progress of their complaint.

An assistant arboriculture officer, and two technical support officers will also provide further support to the whole team. The new posts will be funded by the Government's proposed increase in planning fees recently announced.

On another matter, two schemes, that guarantee interviews for ex-armed forces personnel and care leavers, have been introduced for those applying to work for the borough council.

Candidates who meet the essential criteria set out in the personal specification for a job vacancy and who are either a veteran or care leaver will be guaranteed an interview for the role for which they are applying.

These schemes apply to all vacancies at the borough council, as long as the applicants can evidence that they meet the essential criteria for the role. Those who are unsuccessful in securing the role will be given detailed feedback to assist them with future applications and interviews.

More details about the schemes can be found by looking for the 'working for us' tab on the borough council website."

Jim Moriarty  
Massingham with Castle Acre Ward