



# OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Chair: Nick Eastwell

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## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> of NOVEMBER 2024 FROM 6.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs Jane Rimmer (JR), Paul Baisbrown (PB), Steven Rimmer (SR), and Jonathan Barber (JB) The Parish Clerk and Borough Councillor, Tom de Winton  
5 members of the public

- 1. WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE VICE CHAIR, JANE RIMMER** who is chairing the meeting in the absence of Cllr Eastwell.
- 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**  
Re planning situation at 19 Wodehouse Road – the planning committee meeting has been advised as the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. The frustrations continue with a large amount of objections and the Planning Department slow to respond. It was suggested that the applicants never intended to follow the 2 planning permissions and that the building does not match the applications which had led to the retrospective application for the 3 storey building. Enforcement has made site visits but not stopped the increase from 2 to 3 storey building. Cllr de Winton advised that he had inherited this and if any maladministration has taken place by the Borough Council, the Standards Officer should be contacted. Cllr de Winton will attend and speak at the planning committee meeting purely on planning terms and it is a very clear process of approval or referral or refusal.
- 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –** Cllrs Eastwell, Markillie, Roberts, and Wallace.
- 4. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –** None
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE CIRCULATED MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON THE 17<sup>th</sup> of OCTOBER** - proposed PB, seconded JB and all in favour who attended.
- 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:**
  - a. TRO parking update – The clerk has not received any update from NCC regarding the results of the consultation. To ask Cllr Jamieson to help.  
ACTION: Clerk

**7. Cllr de Winton** – advised that there is more planning in our ward which is taking up a lot of his time. The audit committee are now looking at how the Borough spend monies and he met the new CEO, Kate Blakemore yesterday at Brancaster. Fears that the 2<sup>nd</sup> home double council tax could have a detrimental effect on our villages.

**Cllr de Winton** also raised the deep dissatisfaction of the current situation with the 8 churches within our benefice not having any clergy in place. SR as a church warden, advised that the advertising for 2 clergy continues with the urgency to get one in place and the second to follow. The Bishops of Lynn and Norwich are aware of the situation.

Cllr de Winton has held meetings with Charles Meakin, and we could look at self-financing of our churches to include events and weddings to keep the churches going.

**8. Cllr Jamieson** – as per email, appendix 1

## **9. PLANNING**

- a. To resolve any new Planning Application submissions or resolve any Planning Applications received after the compilation of this agenda:
  - 24/01993/F** - Extensions and alterations as indicated. at Bridge House Waterworks Road Old Hunstanton Norfolk PE36 6JE
  - 24/01918/F** - Extension & Alterations to dwelling at Greenbank 12 Old Hunstanton Road Old Hunstanton Norfolk PE36 6HS
  - 24/01968/F** | Variation of condition 2 attached to planning permission 23/01695/F: Single Storey Extension to Provide Additional Office Space. | J & J Wilson (Shops) Ltd Driftwood Lodge 36A Hunstanton Road Old HunstantonThe above were reviewed and it was agreed to make “no observations”, by all.
- b. Decisions. FOR INFORMATION ONLY –  
24/01630/LB – The Barn Church Road Old Hunstanton - Withdrawn
- c. No appeals.
- d. Enforcements: FOR INFORMATION ONLY –
  - 23/00664/NIA** | Alleged Not in accordance with approved Plans. | White Cottage 19 Wodehouse Road Old Hunstanton – Application submitted.
  - 21/00509/UNTIDY** - 12 Wodehouse Road Old Hunstanton – Case Closed Direct Action under S219

## **10. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Clerks Report – Working on the first draft budget for 25/26. Attended an NDP update session via SSL which stressed the importance of reviewing current NDP’s at least every 2 years for any amendments/additions.
- b. Village Items – none reported.
- c. CPR/defib training to take place Jan or Feb 25 at the Village Hall on a Saturday – to be confirmed. ACTION: Clerk

- d. Village Hall looking at signage on the A149 – Highways need to approve on verges, and it was suggested to put a sign on the post office wall, and this may require planning permission.
- e. Email from Heacham Parish Council received regarding the recently introduced booking system for the recycling centres. It was agreed that we would support any petition.

**11. HIGHWAY MATTERS:**

SAM2 unit(s) –JB advised that both units are working but he is looking for somewhere to store the batteries and, if possible, charge them. It was agreed to ask the Village Hall Committee.

ACTION: Village Hall

JB also looking at solar panels on both units to save on electricity to charge the batteries and Clerk advised that Westcotec will provide a quote. In the darker months, the batteries will still require a shorter charge.

ACTION: JB

**12. SAXON SHORE FORUM:** The next meeting at Thornham PC on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December.

**13. PLAYGROUND:** RM advised the clerk that, following the recent inspection, one of the swing chains required adjustment, the entrance gate hinge requires fixing, the 2 round seating tables will eventually have to be replaced, and the main equipment frames are being regularly filled with mastic to extend their lives. Pidgeon protectors are required along the top beam of the swings to prevent mess.

**14. FINANCES:**

- a. The bank statements, bank reconciliation and payments/receipts report for October 24 - were approved - proposed PB seconded JR and all in favour. £35,170,21 held in the bank accounts to 31.10.24 with increase due to Community Infrastructure Levy recently received of £13k.
- b. To agree payments for November(to date) proposed PB, seconded JR, and all in favour.
- c. To discuss the first draft of the 25/26 budget – all parish councillors to review for approval at the December meeting. Any questions to be sent to the clerk.

ACTION: ALL

**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:**

- Draft budget to approve
- TRO update

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 19th of December 2024, from 6.00pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 19.11 and the Chair thanked all for their attendance.

## **NOVEMBER PAYMENTS (to date)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
C Boyden	Salary	417.12
HMRC	PAYE	277.68
C Boyden	Expenses	41.30
Village Hall	November PC meeting	24.00

## **APPENDIX ONE - Parish Report - November 2024**

**FROM Andrew Jamieson, County Councillor**

### **Local Farmers to be hit with Family Farms Tax**

Changes to inheritance tax announced by the Labour Government in the recent budget, would scrap Agricultural Property Relief (APR). APR has been instrumental in allowing British family farms to remain intact across generations, supporting food security, sustaining rural communities, and aiding environmental stewardship.

According to the County Land and Business Association (CLA) this Family Farms tax is estimated to impact over 70,000 family farms, leaving the average farming family with a tax bill of at least £240,000 according to the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), which will force many to sell portions of their land or close entirely, paving the way for corporate ownership over family ownership.

### **VAT on private local Schools to impact Norfolk's SEND Children**

As part of the recent budget announcement by the Labour Government, Norfolk County Council could be negatively impacted heavily by the decision to impose VAT of private schools.

Where previously parents with children with special educational needs had opted to self-fund their children to attend private schools, the immediate 20% increase in cost could lead to a vast number now seeking the support of the Local Authority to apply for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), leading to additional burdens for the Council to process these in accordance with its statutory obligations to ensure each child's needs are met, along with meeting potential financial demands in paying towards the schooling fees themselves. Local private schools are a significant part of local nursery provision and this imposition will have a particularly pernicious effect. Smaller schools, that have not had the ability to spend capital significantly, but arguably are closer to their communities, will be hit harder than larger institutions able to off-set VAT due to their level of capital spend recently.

## **Norfolk County Council commits over £1m to keep people warm this winter**

Proposals to support some of Norfolk's most vulnerable people this winter have been set out today.

To lessen the effect of the Governments cut to Winter Fuel payments, Norfolk County Council is looking to use £1.15m of the £6.7m allocated to the county through the Household Support Fund to keep people warm and help them make ends meet.

We will do this partnering with local organisations, including Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau, to reach some of those most affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel Payments.

Residents can call the Your Norfolk Advice Network Helpline on 0333 996 8333 or email [helpline@ncan.co.uk](mailto:helpline@ncan.co.uk) rather than contacting the individual partners.

### [Contact Us - Norfolk Community Advice Network](#)

NCC will also put £400k into the 'warm spaces' scheme which provides vital respite in community spaces across the county.

The proposals include a continuation of £3.6m scheme to continue providing cost-of- living vouchers for families eligible for means tested free school meals. This is in addition to:

- £1.00m to Norfolk Assistance Scheme. Delivered by the Norfolk County Council, the scheme includes direct award of assistance, the provision of household items and emergency help, alongside a range of support and guidance
- £0.70m to local councils across Norfolk to provide proactive and crisis support
- £0.25m to Adult Learning to continue free access to a range of courses to help with cooking at home, budgeting, and digital skills.

## **Update on devolution talks with the Government**

Following the new Government's decision to halt the £600 million devolution deal that Norfolk County Council had agreed with the previous administration, county council leader Kay Mason Billig has had talks with Local Government Minister Jim McMahon on a new way forward.

However, it is clear that no new money is on the table: a huge kick in the teeth to Norfolk residents, particularly those in Hunstanton, where investment funds had been earmarked as seed funding for the Oasis and the Prom. We will continue to work with other stake holders to bring funds to Norfolk but we are back to bidding for a diminishing pot. For example, the Shared Prosperity Fund, originally set at £1.6bn to replace European Structural Funds, has been reduced nationally to £900m. Norfolk County Council will use this diminished allocation to fund continuing economic growth initiatives, (see economic strategy, below) or Market Town initiative (see below).

### **Whole Burn River Strategy update**

The Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance, NCC, Burnham Thorpe Parish Council and Burnham Market Parish Council are holding a meeting to discuss progress on the Burn River Working Group specifically and flood management actions generally.

The meeting will be at Burnham Market Village Hall on Wednesday 27th November at 7pm and we are currently co-ordinating with other agencies, including Anglian Water and the Environment Agency so that a comprehensive discussion might be had on the long term solutions being proposed.

### **New strategy puts Norfolk at the forefront of the UK economy**

Ambitious plans for Norfolk's economy have been unveiled in a new strategy to be presented to the county council's cabinet in November.

The strategy seeks to build on Norfolk's influence in key sectors, including clean energy, agri-tech and cutting-edge research.

Norfolk's Economic Strategy, also known as a Local Growth Plan, sets out an overview of the local economy and key priority areas for economic growth.

Norfolk is already at the forefront of some of the UK's most strategically important sectors.

Norfolk is a global leader for offshore wind with £39bn of clean energy investment forecasted over the next 20 years. In Great Yarmouth, the new Operations and Maintenance Campus is expected to create 650 new jobs and new commercial space for the offshore renewable energy sector. This £24.8m partnership project is a collaboration with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, with enabling works well underway.

Work is also underway to examine how to decarbonise the gas supply through the development of a 'Bacton Energy Hub', reusing existing North Sea assets for carbon storage, and blue/green hydrogen production.

The local Agri-Food and Agri-Tech economy puts Norfolk at the epicentre of addressing challenges around food security and climate change. Norwich Research Park is a world-leading research base at the forefront of global food and health research. It is Europe's largest single site hub of research, training, education, and enterprise in food and health.

Norfolk is already well known for a visitor economy which accounts for nearly 20% of all employment. The county was recently successful in bidding to become a Local Visitor Economy Partnership, alongside Visit East of England and Suffolk County Council. This put them on an even footing with the likes of Cornwall, the Peak District, and the Cotswolds who have the same level of Visit England accreditation.

Major infrastructure projects continue to transform how residents and businesses get around. The completion of the Herring Bridge and the start of construction on the long-awaited Long Stratton Bypass will bring a major boost for the local economy. Norfolk has also seen year-on-year growth in bus passenger numbers and the introduction of a major electric bus fleet.

The county council continues to push for improvements along the A47, with an ongoing campaign to improve connectivity and safety through further dualling in key areas.

Norfolk has built an increasingly enterprising culture, supporting residents to start up their own business, and for new start-ups to survive and thrive. Norfolk has a better than



UK average for survival of new businesses at 63% after 3 years, compared to the UK average of 56%.

New Anglia Growth Hub acts as the 'front door' for local businesses looking for support. Over the past 10 years, the Growth Hub has supported over 14,000 businesses with free, impartial support and advice.

### **£2m boost to Apprenticeships in Norfolk funded by levy transfer scheme**

More than 200 apprentices have been able to start at businesses and organisations across Norfolk thanks to a scheme that has transferred £2.2 million to where it is most needed.

Apprenticeships Norfolk's Levy Support Scheme enables unspent funds, which would otherwise be returned to HM Treasury, to be transferred to employers that can use them to fund apprenticeships, for new or existing staff.

Aviva, BBC and the University of East Anglia (UEA) are just some of the organisations to transfer their unspent levy to the Apprenticeships Norfolk programme, which, in its second financial year has reached its £2 million milestone in transfers.

To find out more about the Levy Support Scheme, you can [visit the Apprenticeships Norfolk website](#) or contact the team at [apprenticeships@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@norfolk.gov.uk) or on 0344 800 8024.

### **Conference explores how to boost visitor numbers in Norfolk's market towns**

'Love Your Market Town' was an NCC initiative initially promoted by the Hunstanton Advisory Group. The Hunstanton Food Market is now enthusiastically copied by other towns in the County.

Reimagining Norfolk's market towns to attract more visitors was subsequently the theme of a conference which brought together more than 100 people from businesses and organisations across the county.

Taking place at the Swaffham Assembly Rooms, the event was organised by Norfolk County Council and sponsored by Lovell, with representatives from 22 market towns in attendance to hear success stories celebrated and challenges explored.

Separate panel discussions explored sharing best practice on the regeneration and placemaking of Norfolk's market towns as well as opportunities for business and skills support.

Breckland Council highlighted the successful placemaking projects that had taken place in Swaffham town centre where shopfronts and prominent buildings, including the Georgian Assembly Rooms, have been regenerated thanks to the High Street Heritage Action Zone.

Delegates also heard about how the historic market town of Melton Mowbray took advantage of its vibrant food and drink sector to promote itself as a 'rural capital of food' to reverse declining town centre and falling visitor numbers.

### **New stage of the Norfolk Coastal Path completed**

The new 2km Brancaster boardwalk recently hosted a grand opening, following its completion earlier this year.

The £1m+ project saw the construction of a new boardwalk, providing inclusive access to a popular part of Norfolk's coast.

The boardwalk, which forms part of The Norfolk Coast Path, was designed with equity of access and durability at its heart.

The new design offers a 75+ year life expectancy with an emphasis on longevity and ease of maintenance. The materials used in the boards are reinforced with glass, with a core made of recycled bottles.

To make the boardwalk accessible to as many people as possible, it includes:

- A width to accommodate both wheelchair users and pushchairs
- Frequent passing places to help boardwalk users safely pass by each other

- High contrast bumper strips to improve accessibility for people living with dementia
- Viewing points and rest spots – providing better access to nature and relaxation for all abilities
- Handrails for safety at specific points along the route
- Non-slip surface providing extra grip compared to traditional wooden boardwalks.

This new structure replaces the previous boardwalk which had deteriorated in the harsh coastal conditions.

The boardwalk required careful design and installation as it sits amongst a number of environmentally protected locations. The structure's longer lifespan will help to minimise the disturbance to the landscape and wildlife through reduced maintenance visits and many more years until it will need to be replaced.

The overall cost of the project came in at £1,260,000 with funding coming from a variety of project supporters. This included Norfolk County Council, Natural England, The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, and Norfolk Coast National Landscape's Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) scheme.

The completion of this scheme is the latest part of an upgrade to our end of the path. The Brancaster stretch follows on from renewal of the route from Brancaster Staithe to Burnham Deepdale and from Thornham to Holme. Once Natural England has confirmed the route, we will move on to the Brancaster to Titchwell stretch.

### **Tis (almost) the season... for a high-tech winter**

As the colder days draw near, Norfolk County Council's highways maintenance teams are getting ready to help keep Norfolk residents moving safely around the county as we launch our annual #NorfolkWinter campaign.

2024 will witness the most technologically advanced gritting operation Norfolk has ever seen. With 45 brand new gritting vehicles joining the fleet over the last 2 years and all 58 of our vehicles now operating at the highest specifications available.

Each vehicle will run with brand new auto-salting technology. Aided by satellite navigation, it will allow teams to salt the road with limited manual intervention, making the operation more accurate, saving time and reducing waste.

On average, the technology reduces the amount of salt used by between 10% and 15% and saves salt being distributed onto grass verges and other areas that do not require gritting. The technology was trialled in some vehicles last year ahead of full implementation across all depots.

Using mapping data, information from the Norfolk network, along with input from our highly skilled drivers, vehicles can track pre-programmed routes making treating Norfolk roads easier and more precise.

Because route data is uploaded into the vehicles, any driver can select any route, set the required spread rate and drive - improving safety and ensuring more effective use of resources and drivers. This means that the network will be treated appropriately and consistently throughout this winter helping to keep Norfolk's roads moving.

Alongside this technology we are also upgrading the Roadside Weather Stations across the County as they come to the end of their serviceable life. Recent upgrades include Smallburgh, Cromer and Barn Road Norwich, with Wells programmed for replacement within the next few months. These stations collect roadside data, such as road surface temperatures, which enables the Highways Team to decide on gritting actions over the forthcoming 36 hour period.

Throughout the winter season updates will be posted to the county council's social media channels to let people know when gritting will be taking place. As well as tips and advice for travelling safely through the winter. Look for the #NorfolkWinter hashtag on Facebook.

People can check which roads are on the council's gritting routes at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting). On the same map people can find the locations of

around 2000 grit bins in the county that are filled by the County Council and which people can use on public pavements, cycle paths and roads to help everyone get around safely.

Find more information on our website: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/winter](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/winter).

### **Consider adoption this Adoption Week - whatever your family make-up**

Following the recent Adoption week Norfolk County Council is calling on people from all different backgrounds and family make-ups to consider becoming adoptive parents.

A survey by You Can Adopt revealed that 68% of people in the East of England believe there is no such thing as a "normal" family.

The survey revealed that the vast majority of the public (89%) feel it's important to teach children that families come in all shapes and sizes, and that this promotes acceptance of children from non-traditional family units (54%). However, 50% of the public surveyed were not taught this themselves when growing up.

Norfolk County Council is a proud partner of Adopt East, and this adoption week is looking for parents for 18 children in care waiting for their forever home.

The council needs adopters for children of all ages and is particularly looking for adopters for brothers and sisters, toddlers and young children aged four and older, and children with disabilities.

If you are interested in adopting visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/adoption) or call [01603 638343](tel:01603638343).

### **New weight management service launches**

Norfolk County Council has launched a new service to support children and young people (CYP) aged 4-18 and their families to make long-term, sustainable changes to their health, weight and wellbeing.

In collaboration with DDM Health's Gro Health platform, the Tier 2 weight management service offers a mix of face-to-face and digital resources to better support CYP and families maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle.

This new programme is part of a broader effort to tackle these issues and ensure that local families have the support they need to make better healthy lifestyle choices.

Gro Health offers a holistic, 12-month programme that blends face-to-face interactions with state-of-the-art digital tools to provide a flexible and accessible service for families in Norfolk.

Designed by NHS clinical experts, the service is rooted in evidence-based practices and tailored to meet the individual needs of every family and young person.

The digital app is NHS certified and NICE accredited. Residents can access the service through primary care referrals or by self-referral. To check eligibility and register, please visit: [www.grohealth.com/norfolk](http://www.grohealth.com/norfolk)

### **Ukrainian visit strengthens ties with Norfolk**

A delegation from Lviv in Ukraine have celebrated their growing connection with Norfolk on a recent visit to the county.

The group was in Norfolk to build on cultural, economic and scientific ties between the two regions.

Among the group was Maksym Kozytskyy, Head of Lviv Regional Military (State) Administration, who was appointed to the role in 2020 by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The visit follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Norfolk and Lviv in May this year.

Both regions continue to explore areas of cooperation in key sectors and cultural exchange. As part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, Norfolk has hosted over 600 people.

End of Report.

Signature

Date