



GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

20th May 2022, 7.00 PM

At Geldeston Village Hall

Parish Councillors present: I. Ansell (chairman), J. Ashfield, J. Hayward, and D. Shave.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

- 1. Welcome.**
- 2. To receive an update from chairperson on what we have achieved last year.** There was no report from the Chairman
- 3. To approve the minutes from last meeting May 2021.** Minutes were approved (Prop: JA; Sec: DS) all agreed
- 4. To receive an update from Let's Play 2021** - Report attached at end of minutes
- 5. Receive an update from Revd David Smith** – No report given
- 6. To receive reports from District and County Councillors** – reports attached at end of minutes
- 7. Questions and answers**

Meeting closed 7.10pm

Item 4 – report from Let's Play 2021

Sub Committee Geldeston Let's Play 2021

Project Position Statement

The sub-committee is currently working on the following work streams.

Sensory Garden.

We are working on a design for the sensory area with the help of Rosemary Villiers and her gardening group.

Workout and fitness area

We are researching the best equipment suitable for general fitness and seeking quotations from appropriate suppliers and hope to make our recommendations before the end of June.

The whole site layout and environmental improvements

We are currently working with Saffron Housing and South Norfolk DC, who share responsibilities for the public and residential needs surrounding the main Playing field. Their help will enable us to complete our layout design for approval which is safe, secure, attractive, easy to find and practical in its use and maintenance.

The whole area layout, at present, is in line with the lottery submission as far as providing the following facilities;

A children's play area.

A workout and fitness area.

Table Tennis.

Boule drome.

Five a side Football pitch.

Sensory garden.

Barry Stone – County Councillor for the Clavering Division

Annual Parish Report – Spring 2022



Norfolk County Council highlights for 2021/22

- 70% of Norfolk streetlights converted, or work underway to convert to LED
- 96.7% of highways inspections completed within timescale
- 99.6% of dangerous highway defects dealt with within timescales set out in the Transport Asset Management Plan
- 94% of Looked after Children (LAC) with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan
- Completed 51,000 Adult Social Care Assessments for 20,700 people.

The 2022/23 Budget

A **£464 million** net revenue budget, a **£25m increase** from last year, with increased spending across key service areas and capital programmes, along with a 2.99 per cent Council Tax rise has been agreed to enable Norfolk to build back better after the pandemic.

Adult Social Services will see an additional **£35.4m** of investment, against savings of £10.5m, **Children's Services** will receive **£23.2m** of further investment. Within Community and Environmental Services there will be the **£10m pothole fund** to draw upon, **new recycling centres** across the County, **£5m on library upkeep** and extension of services and **£12m on the Better Broadband project**.

Highways

Pavements, cycleways and roads all benefited from the county's £29m maintenance programme taking place right across Norfolk this year.

The crucial upkeep work is a key part of the £42 million budget for roads and infrastructure that was agreed in February 2021.

This year £4.5m is being spent on maintaining pavements and paths, for example a £167,000 scheme to remove the existing worn and uneven pavement surface on Kennedy Avenue in Gorleston and replace it with a new smooth asphalt surface will be getting underway in late July.

Fire and Rescue staff presented with awards

The achievements of staff across Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service have been recognised through employee awards.

A ceremony to present the awards was cancelled due to the pandemic, so senior leaders have visited some of the recipients of the 2021 awards individually and will continue to do so when Covid-19 restrictions allow.

As well as honouring staff with long service awards, categories also included fundraiser of the year, making a difference awards and leadership accolades.

Investing in care Services

Adult Social Services received 20,279 calls for support between April and October this year – an increase of 9,400 over four years.

Action being taken by the Council includes:

- Expanding action to support people at home or, where appropriate, in short term residential settings
- Stepping up the council's care recruitment campaign, to tackle staff shortages
- Providing wrap-around support for care settings
- Providing assistive technology, with 100 video phones sent out to homes
- Improving capacity in the Norfolk First Response service
- Supporting mental health services, with three new step down services

Strengthening community Resilience

A new single point of contact for flooding in Norfolk has been launched, allowing residents to report any sort of flooding quickly and efficiently

In the event of flooding residents can call 0344 800 8013 to report it.

Alternatively, residents can continue to report flooding online via [our flooding pages](#).

The new number gives residents a single point of contact and allows reports to be made swiftly.

Different agencies respond to different types of flooding, which has historically made reporting a flood by telephone more complicated when and where it is not possible to ascertain the source of floodwaters. The new number provides a single point of contact making the reporting of flooding quicker and easier.

Where there is a potential risk to life from flooding people should still call 999 immediately.

Flood Reserve Fund spending agreed

Norfolk's Cabinet considered the allocation of the council's £1.5m Flood Reserve Fund to support urgent works, repairs and to enable recommendations from flood investigation reports.

The Reserve Fund was set up in the annual budget for 2021/22 agreed by the County Council in their budget meeting in February.

The Cabinet meeting, held on 6th September, discussed the proposed allocation of the funding, including £695k for additional highway and ditch maintenance and £365k for drainage asset improvements.

This funding will be used for work on the 285,864 metres of drainage grips and 31,037 metres of kerb drains on Norfolk's highways, as well as operations to clear some of the county's 145,305 gullies that help drain rain water.

Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance formally adopts Strategy

The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) has formally adopted an overall Strategy, designed to enable county wide responses to flooding across all agencies involved.

The Strategy, which lays out the NSFA's vision, objectives, approach and structure, is a major milestone in the development of the Alliance, which was founded earlier this year to bring together all agencies and partners involved in planning for and responding to flooding in Norfolk.

Norfolk to get faster broadband thanks to new Government funding

Hard to reach premises in Norfolk are to receive between £115m and £195m of funding as part of the Government's Project Gigabit to provide 1GB per second broadband to up to 119,000 premises. Contracts will be awarded from February 2022.

Rural homes and businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk will get next-generation gigabit broadband brought to them under a £5 billion plan to level up internet access across the UK.

It means families no longer having to battle over bandwidth and will give people in rural areas the freedom to live and work more flexibly, with the speed and reliability needed to start and run businesses.

Free online business summer school for 16-25-year-olds in Norfolk

There are so many options to choose from when leaving school - like apprenticeships, university, work experience, getting a job...

Or how about starting a business? It may seem a daunting idea at first, but there's lots of free help on offer.

Started in August 2021, the Business & IP Centre (BIPC) Norfolk, managed by Norfolk County Council's Library and Information Service, ran a free online Summer School for 16-25-year-olds to help them decide whether starting their own business might be right for them.

Plans for thousands of new school places in Norfolk

More than a dozen new primary schools could be needed in Norfolk in the next decade, to cater for growing pupil numbers in areas of development.

A report to Norfolk County Council's Cabinet highlighted the scale of school development that is likely to be needed to support Norfolk's growing communities. It addresses both demographic changes and population growth from new housing.

The report, discussed by members on 31st January, provided a snapshot of the council's plans to ensure there are sufficient school places for Norfolk children aged four to 16.

Alongside district councils, the County Council expects to secure nearly £100m in developer contributions for the proposed new and extended schools but if all of the places are needed, a further £191m would need to be found.

Some of this will be met by Community Infrastructure Levy and government grant contributions.

Caring for our environment

Carbon cutting commitment central to new county transport plan

A plan set to drive the county's transport policy for the next 15 years was discussed by County Councillors in August.

The ambitious Local Transport Plan has at its heart the aim to support a growing economy, strengthen communities and reduce our impact on the environment.

A carbon cutting commitment is central to the transport plan which supports the county council's pledge to achieve net zero carbon by 2030, which Councillors adopted as part of the authority's Environmental Policy in November 2019.

Buzz created as pollinator paradises set for Norfolk roadsides

Tripling the number of Roadside Nature Reserves in Norfolk were among a range of green measures considered by County Councillors last July.

Fewer cuts for rural roadsides, a pollinator action plan, and 188 more roadside nature reserves are all on the cards as part of plans to boost biodiversity along roads and paths across the county.

Also on the agenda were plans to help boost cycling and walking across the county, and development of a new verge management policy which will include information for parish and town councils wishing to take on responsibility for verge cutting in their local area. The aim is to help involve local communities more in decisions about verge management near them.

As always, I am here to help in any way I can and will always respond to email and telephone requests for assistance.

Email: barry.stone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Phone: Home: 01508 499389

Mobile: 07434 905963

Kind regards

Barry

Brendon Bernard
District Councillor for Ditchingham and Earsham Ward.

Review of year

The District Council has been dealing with covid issues, supporting business and families, financially and through the District Council Support Hub.

There has been further benefit from the cooperation between the District council and Broadlands due to savings in personnel and consultants.

Proposal to amalgamate the operational offices of the District Council and Broadlands in a new central location - proposal to buy the Horizon Building at Broadlands business park, refurbish it along eco lines. Present buildings would be demolished and replaced by housing. However there is opposition, although such a move could result in savings of £700,000 pa.

Of Course the Ukrainian war has been on everyone's minds. The District Council is trying to coordinate refugees placement and support. There is further information available on the District Council web site. They have recruited 3 translators to help refugees find their way. Diss and Wymondham are the main centres outside Norwich.

Annual Budget has been agreed for 22/23- which will include an increase in rates by 3 pct or £5.00. Budget for next 4 years has been established, which will also include £5.00 increase each year. District Council local grants fund has been increase to £150,000 pa.

Climate issues have been promoted over the year and the District Council has finally agreed to support initiatives to reduce South Norfolk carbon footprint

The District Council has voted to support the proposal to link the North and south link - Norwich Western Link - despite cost and funding issues, as the only sensible solution in the long term.

Brendon Bernard
District Councillor For Ditchingham and Earsham Ward.

T. 01986 893240

E. brendonbernard@me.com

E.Brendon.bernard@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

<http://southnorfolk4villages.co.uk>

www.libdemswaveneyvalley.org