

9th June 2016

Ms Di Dann
Parish Clerk (Acting) and RFO
Fern Hollow
5 Balls Lane
Thurford
Fakenham
Norfolk

Dear Di

Many thanks for your letter dated 3rd, received in the office on the 6th June.

I am sorry that you have felt the need to write to me expressing the concerns of your Parish Council at the poor attendance of your two District Councilors.

I know that Councilors will prioritise their time in order to ensure that they properly carry out their responsibilities to the residents in their ward, together with other stakeholders such as Parish Councils.

I think that it is probably fair to say that the historic reason for District Councilors attending Parish Council meetings was to provide updates about what had recently happened at the District Council, receive the views of residents and give feedback on planning decisions, consultations and other matters. Now that so much information is available on the North Norfolk District Council's website giving details of decisions, as well as the opportunity for both Parishes and individual residents to make their views known directly, there is not the same need for Councilors to necessarily attend Parish meetings in order to carry out these aspects of their work. Some District Councilors are increasingly making use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook in order to keep in touch with residents. In addition, it is probably true to say that most residents now contact their Councilor directly (whether by email, telephone or post) rather than wait to raise the issue with them at a meeting of the Parish Council, particularly as this might be some time in the future. I do hope this addresses the Parish Council's concerns over this matter, but will share with Cllrs Hester and FitzPatrick your letter, although I am aware that Councilor Tom FitzPatrick, has an