

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:
Wildfowlers Cottage
High Street
Cley
NR25 7AP
Tel: 01263 740843
e-mail:
tcrowe@morstonassets.com

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 22nd JULY 2002** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the June Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2002**

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council
15th July 2002

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2002 at 7.00pm

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), John Pearson, Mark Harrison, Stanley Sutton, Roy Rogers, Mary Gerrard and Michael Jordan

In attendance: The Clerk, Councillor Derek Baxter, 1 parishioners and P C Durrant the Police Liaison Officer

Apologies: Councillor Bernard Crowe ~~and Councillor Derek Baxter~~

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 10th June 2002 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman

2 Matters Arising

EDP Village of the Year Competition Mary Gerrard was delighted to inform the members of the Parish Council that Stiffkey had won in their category for villages under a population of 300. It had come as a complete surprise, but was not be allowed to make it public until the official announcement in a few days time. A presentation for representative of the various Council's who had won an award will be held on Wednesday 4th September at 11.00am at Cringleford.

Land at Camping Hill, Stiffkey – Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe:

It remains on the NNDC asset register and the Council is seeking the best return from its potential sale. It remains unlikely that SPC will be able to lease or buy it at a peppercorn price as the Best Value Review has determined that NNDC should realise its assets when no longer required. I have asked for a report, which can be submitted at the next SPC meeting.

3 Correspondence

E-mail from Councillor Bernard Crowe Please give my apologies for Monday 22 July and explain that I did turn up last week. You might also mention that I spent a quarter of an hour with a lady out side the hall waiting for the key to arrive. I thought she was an interested member of the public and would attend the Council meeting; she thought I was the guest speaker for the WI !!

Norfolk Police Authority Annual Reports of the Police Authority and the Chief Constable

Norfolk County Council Planning and Transportation – Norfolk Bus Strategy – Consultative Draft.

North Norfolk District Council - Polling Station – Village Hall Stiffkey

North Norfolk District Council - Service Improvement Plans 2002 – 03

The Countryside Agency - New Countryside Agency Publication

Norfolk Matters - Issue No. 4 June/July 2002

4 Finance

The following invoices was approved for payment:

Cornhill Insurance - £184.13

Eastern Contracting - standing order £13.14

TXU Energi direct debit £28.19

The bank statements were available for inspection.

5 Reports

Councillor Bernard Crowe

Local Democracy

Voting at General and Local Elections has been disappointing for some years. A MORI poll was carried out in February 2002 and its findings showed that people would be more likely to vote if they had:

- More information about the candidates and their views
- More scope for councils to make decisions about what happens locally
- More information from the council about the election and how to vote
- More opportunity to participate in council decisions between local elections
- More scope for councils to set taxes and charges locally and decide on spending
- Scope for councils to hold referenda about important local issues on the same day as local elections
- Voting by Internet at home
- All postal voting

Top of the list are factors about having information and being involved. I believe that turnout is more likely to increase if we address why people should vote, as well as how. The powers of councils to make decisions, including financial decisions, were among the most highly rated in the survey. People will vote, I suggest, if there are genuine local choices at stake. The MORI poll related to District and County elections. You may feel that several of these points apply to Parish and Town elections also.

Local Government

The independent Commission on Local Government has called for councils to be given the same freedoms enjoyed by businesses. 'Local authorities are multi-million pound organisations and yet are not given the same freedom as the average sweet shop'. The Commissioner went on to state: 'Councils lag way behind the private sector in terms of controlling their own destiny. Most businesses wouldn't last a week if they had to jump through the number of hoops that councils face every day'.

As I have reported in earlier contributions, over regulation is stifling the ability of councils to deliver effective services. Councils are being forced into a kind of 'exam fever', continually rushing to meet central targets instead of being able to work for the real needs of local people. I believe that the introduction of the Comprehensive



5 Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe – Continued

Performance Assessment (CPA) must deliver freedoms and flexibilities to all councils, and that the Government's Spending Review must set out additional resources to help councils to improve. The CPA must focus on producing improvement plans rather than council league tables.

But all is not gloom. The Local Strategic Partnership with the private, public and voluntary sectors is taking shape, and the draft Community Strategy is being prepared for consultation with the residents of North Norfolk. We meet again with our partners in September to develop effective governance and accountability arrangements. This activity will recognise the inevitable diversity and possible tensions within the sectors, and take steps to resolve them. Research shows that local authorities are generally leading Local Strategic Partnerships, and that this role is accepted by partner organisations. I am pressing for this solution to be adopted in North Norfolk. Within the next five years, local authorities will expect to see more services to be provided by multi-agency partnerships. The Local Government Association believes that the successful local authority of the future could be the one playing a coordinating role across a wide range of services delivered by arms-length partnerships.

Telecommunications Masts

An Appeal decision in Harrow was allowed where a Planning Inspector dismissed a proposal for an 8 metre telecommunications pole for Orange PCS in a residential street. He took the view that 'the perceived risk on health grounds was a material planning consideration'. This is not in line with the guidance of the National Radiological Protection Board. A recent decision by another Planning Inspector to dismiss two telecommunications poles in Thurrock Borough Council on health grounds was overturned by the High Court on the ground that the Inspector had incorrectly applied government policy on health issues. The policy remains that provided that the base station meets the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure, it should not be necessary to consider further the health aspect and concerns about them. North Norfolk District Council takes this view and will continue to follow it unless the guidance from central government is changed.

Second Homes

It seems likely that the provision to allow councils to levy the full council tax on second homes will be at the discretion of local authorities. The decision will be published in the final version of the Local Government Bill. In the case of North Norfolk a figure of £2M per annum has been estimated as the sum which could be utilised by the District Council for the benefit of the community. Until the Bill is published, we will not know if local councils will have the freedom to count this as additional funding or whether the annual standard spending assessment from central government will be reduced accordingly. Watch this space.



5 Continued - Councillor Derek Baxter

As Vice Chairman of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee I have to assist in making major decisions on minerals, waste, schools and other planning matters.

Each year around 3 million tons of minerals are extracted from Norfolk. The bulk of this is sand and gravel for the building industry but it also includes some carstone used as a traditional building material in some parts of the County. A large sand quarry near King's Lynn supplies foundry and glass making sand on a nation-wide basis. Other materials such as chalk, clay and even peat are extracted on a smaller scale.

The Planning (Regulatory) Committee met today and debated a number of applications regarding sand and gravel extraction also a school extension and the development of land as a Park and Ride Site at Sprowston.

After a very lengthy debate, the Committee approved the Park and Ride development but this will be subject to the views of the Secretary of State and the resolution of drainage matters to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency.

Sitting in on the meeting was Norfolk County Council's new Director of Planning and Transportation, Tim Malyn. His appointment was announced in January, following the retirement of Martin Shaw.

Tim comes to us from the unitary Luton Borough Council where he was Corporate Director of Environment and regeneration. He is a Chartered Civil Engineer and a Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

More about footpaths

Norfolk has over 2300 miles of public rights of way and many of these cross or run alongside fields used for agriculture. The Rights of Way Act 1990 allows farmers to disturb the surface of some paths, for example by ploughing, as long as they are re-instated within 14 days and are kept free of crops.

Although farmers are regularly reminded of the need to comply with the law, about a quarter of access problems are a result of crop ploughing.

The situation with Norfolk footpaths is somewhat different to that of Buckinghamshire where all the footpaths that I used to walk (I worked in Bucks for over 30 years) were kept scrupulously clear of vegetation and always had stiles in good condition. Mind you, a Norfolk County Councillor and farmer told me that they only "play at farming" in Buckinghamshire!

Pudding Norton

Pudding Norton is a small Parish to the South West of Fakenham. It is split into two communities, one part ribbons down the B1146 Fakenham to Dereham Road and the other part is off the A1065 Fakenham to Swaffham Road. The former road is very busy with much HGV traffic as well as normal car and public transport usage. To date there is no speed limit in the village despite petitions and representations from the Parish Council.



5 Report from Councillor Derek Baxter – Continued

However I am pleased to report that after a recent planning permission for a veterinary practice in the Parish, the North Norfolk District Council contacted the Council requesting that a 40mph speed limit be considered. This was backed up by the County Councillor, Roy Banham and by myself as District Councillor.

The response from County has been positive and there will be a Traffic Management Programme to investigate and promote a speed limit, hopefully with a view to implementation around October/November 2003.

6 A O B

The Chairman expressed his concern regarding the lack of wardens that are employed by the National Trust to look after this part of the North Norfolk Coast. Vehicles are an increasing problem on the marsh and he reported that he was constantly on the receiving end of complaints from visitors.

Mark Harrison offered to have a word with Simon Garnier of the National Trust to enquire if there was shortage of wardens and why it was that those that are employed by the Trust appear to rarely visit Stiffkey.

Vegetation overgrowth in Bangay Lane Again this problem was discussed by the Parish Council. If anything it had got worse over the past few months and despite informal approaches to Mr White at the Old Rectory the problem continued to be unresolved.

Councillor Bernard Crowe had also investigated this problem on behalf of the Parish Council, but because it is an unadopted Lane it was not the responsibility of the Highways Department, but of the individual property owners adjoining the Lane.

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr White to request that the vegetation growing from his property into Bangay Lane be removed.

Hazard Warning Signs The Chairman reported that the road markings of 'SLOW' have been removed and asked if anyone knew why. The Clerk explained that due to objections received by many Parish Councils the Highways Department no longer put hazard-warning sign on the surface of the road. The Chairman also asked if the Clerk would investigate if the hazard signed 'two people in a triangle' had been taken down by the Highways Department when A149 improvements were carried as they appear to have been removed.

The date of the next meeting would be on Monday 2nd September 2002.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm



STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage

High Street

Cley

NR25 7AP

Tel: 01263 740843

e-mail:

tcrowe@morstonassets.com

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2002** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the July Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: MONDAY 7th OCTOBER 2002

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council
26th August 2002

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2002 at 7.00pm

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), John Pearson, Stanley Sutton, Roy Rogers, Mary Gerrard and Michael Jordan

In attendance: The Clerk, Councillor Bernard Crowe, 1 parishioner and P C Durrant the Police Liaison Officer

Apologies: Mark Harrison and Councillor Derek Baxter

There were no declaration of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2002 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman

2 Matters Arising

Bangay Lane Following receipt of a letter from the Clerk to Mr White at The Old Rectory a site meeting was held between Mr White and the Clerk and the following was agreed:

- The Lyllandi trees would be cut back to his boundary fence
- The Ivy would be cut back to the Fence
- The Tree Preservation Officer would be invited to attend a site meeting with Mr White and the Clerk to discuss the Elm tree and other trees which overhang the Lane to obtain professional advice regarding the removal of any boughs which overhang the Lane.

Mr White made it clear he has no wish to cut back the Elm tree, but agreed that an independent professional opinion should be obtained. Mr White also offered to clear the verge on his side of the lane (which has considerable amounts of garden waste etc. dumped along his boundary by tenants and house owners on the other side of the Lane) if the tenants or the Parish Council is prepared to clear the opposite side of the Lane.

The Parish Council agreed the Clerk should instruct Norfolk County Services to inspect the Lane and tender for the clearance of the right hand verge. Once a price has been obtained and if it is within the budget for open spaces maintenance the work would be carried out and the tenants and home owners of the adjoining properties would be sent a letter to explain why the Parish Council has carried out the verge clearance and to ask that they refrain from depositing their garden waste in the Lane.

E D P Village Of The Year Competition The Councillors and guests had attended a very enjoyable presentation ceremony at Cringleford to collect the 1st Prize for the village under a population of 300 Competition. Councillor Bernard Crowe had conveyed his congratulation on Stiffkey's success.



2 Matters Arising - Continued

A149 Footpath Greenway to the Red Lion P.H. The Clerk has arranged a site meeting with Mr Philip Schramm and representatives of the Parish Council on Friday 6th September at 10.00am.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 54 North Norfolk County Council. Stiffkey CRFE2 (Damson Lane) CRF3 (Bangay Green Way) CRF6 (Stiffkey Greens) and CRF 9 (Greenway) Reclassification Order 1999 – Venue for the Public Inquiry.

Following receipt of correspondence from Denise Bale (it would appear until the 29th July all correspondence had been sent to Mr Bassingthwaite and it was not until they had some returned marked 'no longer at this address – return to sender' did they realise they had not amended their records).

It is anticipated the Inquiry will be held in the next few months, although to date this has not been confirmed.

Concerns were expressed regarding the use of Stiffkey Village Hall. An alternative suggestion for the use of Blakeney Village Hall had been put forward, but after consultation with the Lawrence Jordan the Clerk has informed Denise Bale that the only appropriate place to hold the Inquiry would be in Stiffkey. All necessary steps will be taken to facilitate the Inquiry in the village hall.

Brass Plaque The Clerk has obtained a suitably engraved brass plaque to be put on the memorial seat at the Knoll. Discussions would take place between the Council and the Church to agree an appropriate time to have a short ceremony for the seat and plaque to be formally handed over to the village.

3 Correspondence

E D P Village of the Year Ceremonies 2002 - This will be held at Cringleford on Wednesday 4th September at 11.00am at Patterson Parish Room and on the Village Green adjacent to the Parish Room.

Norman Lamb MP Letter of congratulations regarding the above competition.

Norfolk County Council - Legal Services - Venue for the Public Inquiry

Norfolk Coast - Review of the Management Strategy for the Norfolk Coast AONB

North Norfolk Community Transport Partnership - Dial-a-Ride

North Norfolk District Council

- What to do with Waste – Frequently Asked Questions
- Focus on Living
- Parish Newsletter Issue 62 August 2002



2 Correspondence – Continued

DEFRA - Parish and Town Councils to retain role in Planning

Environment Agency - The North Norfolk CAMS

Norfolk County Council - Street Lighting Policy – Environmental Lighting Zones
- Norfolk County Council Department of Planning and Transportation Partnership Brochure.

John Townsend, Clerk to Warham Parish Council – Letter of information he has resigned as Clerk due to failing eyesight and Mr Roger Muncey has undertaken his duties until a replacement can be found.

Norwich Cathedral - Major Development Programme - Dates for tour of project sites

The Boundary Committee – Periodic Electoral Review of North Norfolk Final Recommendations

North Norfolk District Council - Service Improvement Plans 2002 – 03
- Agenda Council Meeting 21 August 2002

Commission for Racial Equality – Statutory Code of Practice.

4 Finance

Eastern Contracting direct debit	£13.14
Clerk Salary and Expenses	£380.70
TXU Energi direct debit	£28.19

Parish Precept request for 2003 – 2004. The Council discussed the previous financial transactions for the past 3 years and estimated expenditure for 2002-2003 and agreed that the precept for 2003 –2004 would be £2,650.

5 Planning

The following report had been received from the Development Control Committee (West) – 8th August 2002.

Scaup Cottage, Greenway - Erection of two-storey extension and conservatory and change of use of land to residential garden land – Recommendation – approve subject to conditions. A Notice of Decision received on the 2nd September 2002 – Approved.



6 Reports

Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe

1. Electoral Commission

The Boundary Committee of the Electoral Commission has agreed the changes to parish boundaries which were proposed by the North Norfolk District Council after consultation. The key recommendations are:

- NNDC should have 48 Councillors, two more than present.
- There should be 34 Wards, instead of 36 as present.
- The boundaries of all 36 existing Wards should be modified, resulting in net reduction of two.
- Elections should continue to take place every four years.

The Electoral Commission will make an order implementing the recommendations on 10 September 2002. The election for the District Council on May 2003 will be based on the re-warding of Parishes.

The new Wards in our area are:

Glaven Valley comprising Blakeney, Brinton, Field Dalling, Letheringsett with Glandford, Morston, Stody, Thornage and Wiveton. (Electorate 1889).

High Heath comprising Cley-next-the-Sea, High Kelling, Kelling, Salthouse and Weybourne. (Electorate 1695).

Priory (with 2 Councillors) comprising Binham, Hindringham, Holkham, Langham, Stiffkey, Warham and Wells-next-the-Sea. (Electorate 3553; per councillor 1777).

District Councillors will support their existing Wards until May 2003 so please keep in touch with matters of your concern.

Regional Government

Support for elected regional assemblies varies widely between England's eight regions. The white paper proposed that assemblies would only go ahead in areas with one tier of local government. Two-tier areas such as the East of England are less keen on the idea. The Government acknowledges that the process would involve 'some distraction for local authorities'. It appears unlikely that Norfolk and the rest of East of England will see early referendums. Nevertheless, the Government plans to have a referendum in at least one region before the next election. Once a region has agreed to hold a referendum, the Boundary Committee will carry out a local government review and draw up maps of new unitary structures.



6 Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe – Continued

Community Information Bus

You have heard about the Mobile Police Station and some residents visit the staff when the Station calls at Wells and Blakeney.

Last week, I visited the Community Information Bus which calls, (among other towns/villages) at Blakeney Village Hall, Wells, (Stearman's Yard), and Holt Police Station. It is a double-decker bus specifically designed to offer open or private consultation. The service is for people who find it difficult to travel outside their immediate area. It is staffed by three experts who advise on the Pensions Service, Norfolk Fire Service, Immigration Authorities, Norfolk Constabulary, Citizens Advice Bureau, Age Concern, Norfolk Volunteers Service, and the East of England Development Agency.

I was very impressed. The Bus will call every four weeks on the same day between 10.00-12.00:

Dates are: Wells Tuesday 10 September, Blakeney Wednesday 11 September, and Holt Friday 13 September. Do visit even only out of curiosity. You will meet Rick Noon, Paul Tyrrell and Adrian Hillier. Tel: 0781 0181 831 and 0781 0181 830.

Summer in North Norfolk

We are blest with a multitude of activities here in North Norfolk and these are wonderfully captured in the Glaven Valley Newsletter and in Local Lynx; a special thanks to all contributors and to our editors.

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Longham composting decision

At the meeting of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee on the 2nd August, the committee considered a proposal for in vessel composting on land at Longham Quarry. As part of Government targets, the County has to recycle larger percentages of waste materials and composting of clean garden waste is one of several options to accomplish this.

Many farms in Norfolk are keen to utilise composted materials as a soil improver. There is already a small in vessel composting facility at the Mayton Wood household waste site which works cleanly and efficiently.

After a comprehensive presentation by a county planning officer there was a long and detailed debate attended by two current MPs and one retired MP. All spoke against the proposal and, after much discussion, the proposal was rejected on a majority vote of the committee.



6 Report from Councillor Derek Baxter - Continued

It was interesting to note that nearly all speakers against the proposal prefaced their remarks by saying that they were not against composting and realised that the County had to meet Government targets!

The reasons for refusal will again be debated at the Planning Committee on the 6th September as some confusion arose at the last meeting when most of the objectors had left but the decision to refuse permission stands. It will be interesting to see if the applicants appeal against the decision and what the results of the appeal are.

Scrutinising the County Council's performance

As well as being a member of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee, I am also a member of the County's Cabinet Scrutiny Committee. Last week The Committee visited Norwich Airport to hear about proposed expansion and communications issues. I will report on this in due course but this week we started to have an in-depth look at the County's performance. Norfolk County Council. Like all other local authorities and major public sector organisations, has its performance measured against a plethora of indices. Some of these are national, imposed by the Government and others are agreed locally as being good measures of how well the authority is doing in delivering what it sets out to do.

Doing well against the indicators helps the authority know that it is performing efficiently for local people and, in some areas, it is also a critical factor in attracting Government cash rewards and new flexibilities for how it operates. As a consequence the whole area of performance indicators is to come under the watchful eye of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee. In particular the Committee want to examine those areas here the County's performance is in either the top or bottom quartiles (compared with other authorities). In this way it can better understand how that has come about and what needs to be done to improve things if necessary.

More Recycling

Norfolk County Council has underlined its commitment to recycling road materials by signing a new contract with Lafarge Contracting, a division of Lafarge Aggregates Ltd.

It means that another 30 roads in Norfolk will get the recycling treatment over the next 12 months.

Worn out asphalt and bitmac road surfaces and edges are repaired using materials recovered at the site, which are mixed with new binders and relaid.

Recycling is a cost-effective way of re-using materials which means the County doesn't have to haul away as much material or buy in such large quantities. It also means lower waste disposal costs and is better for the environment.



6 Report from Councillor Derek Baxter – Continued

News in brief

The next Planning, Transportation, Environment, Waste and Economic Review Panel will hear a report recommending an increase in Norwich Park and Ride charges. Peak hour charges at Park & Ride schemes could go up by 25p to £2.25 if the Review Panel agree. Charges did go up last December!

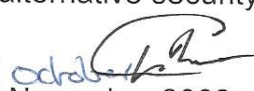
Norfolk County Council has appointed Lisa Christensen as its new Director of Social Services. Ms Christensen will take up her post in three months time and succeeds David Wright who retires as Director on October 31st.

Report form PC Ken Durrant

Telephone Box PC Durrant reported the telephone box had been severely damaged – the culprits had been apprehended and all the pieces, which had been removed from the telephone box, have been returned. BT has been informed and the necessary repairs will be carried out.

Village Hall PC Durrant also reported on the recent unauthorised removal of alcohol from the Village Hall of stock which had been placed there in readiness for the Fete. PC Durrant explained that due to the ongoing investigation this could not be discussed at the meeting and that once his investigation was complete he would be in a position to give a full report.

Appropriate action regarding the installation of a new security system should also be left in abeyance until the investigation has been completed. It was also anticipated that the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee Mrs E Gambrell would make a report at the next Village Hall Committee meeting and it would be appropriate for the Village Hall Committee to discuss alternative security arrangements.

The date of the next meeting would be on Monday 4th November 2002. ^{7th October} 

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm



STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage
High Street
Cley
NR25 7AP
Tel: 01263 740843
e-mail:
tcrowe@morstonassets.com

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 7th OCTOBER 2002** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** at **7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the September Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2002**

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council
1st October

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th October 2002 at 7.00pm

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), John Pearson, Stanley Sutton, Roy Rogers, Mary Gerrard, Mark Harrison and Michael Jordan

In attendance: The Clerk, Councillor Bernard Crowe and 1 parishioner.

Apologies: Councillor Derek Baxter

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2002 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman

2 Matters Arising

Bangay Lane A site inspection will be taking place this week and they will provide a formal quote for the work to be carried out.

The Chairman has had an informal meeting with Mr White and felt that all the issues of concern could be resolved.

Public Inquiry - A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 15th October at 11.00am between the Clerk and Norfolk County Council, Legal Services regarding the venue for the Public Inquiry, at the moment they are not convinced the facilities at the village hall are adequate. The N C C anticipate that the Inquiry will take at least 2 days. The Chairman expressed his concern that the venue for the Inquiry is being considered for either Blakeney or Wells and stressed that the only place this should be held is in the village of Stiffkey.

The Chairman felt this was such an important issue that if agreement was not reached by the N C C Legal Department that this is where it will be held he would resign as Chairman and Councillor of the Parish Council. Mr Stanley Sutton was in complete agreement with the Chairman and indicated he would also resign if the Public Inquiry was not held in Stiffkey. The Clerk would convey the concerns raised with the N.C.C. Legal Department at her meeting on the 15th October.

3 Correspondence

Information Commissioner - Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Publication Schemes.

Norfolk Coast Partnership - Norfolk Coast A N O B Community Conference 8th October 21002.

Tanya Arkle - Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) Outbreak in Seals.



3 Correspondence - Continued

North Norfolk District Council - Launch of their website.

Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Police Authority – Fair Funding for Norfolk

Norfolk Matters - Issue Number 5 = September/October

Norfolk County Association of Parish and Town Councils - Sundry publications.

Norfolk County Council - Public Inquiry - Venue

Norfolk Police Authority - Fakenham Sector Police Authority Community Consultation Meeting on Monday 14th October 7.30pm at the Burlington Hotel, Sheringham.

North Norfolk Disability Forum – Friday 18th October at 2.30pm at N N D C, Cromer

4 Finance

Income:

Parish Precept 2 nd instalment	£1325.00
E D P Village of the Year Competition	£ 100.00

Expenditure:

TXU Energi direct debit	£28.19
Eastern Contracting standing order	£13.14 (October)

Bank Statements were available for inspection:

Bank Balances:

Current Account	£901.73
Deposit Account	£853.58

5 Planning

The following Notice of Decision has been received.

Warborough House, 2 Wells Road, Stiffkey – Renovation works including internal alterations and revised door and window openings - Listed Building Consent



6 A O B - Continued

Signage

Concerns were raised regarding two unsightly large 'To Let' signs are displayed on Apple Tree Cottage, 24 Wells Road and the Clerk would make enquiries with the planning office to see if signs of this size and prominence were permitted.

Trees

Following the recent gales the Chairman expressed his concern regarding the trees that overhang the wall opposite the village Post Office Roy Rogers informed the Council that he had understood that the land owner has had an inspection of the trees carried out.

To ensure there was not a safety problem the Clerk would contact Mr John Sizer, the Tree Preservation Officer at N N D C to request an inspection of the trees

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Johnson', is written in a cursive style.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage

High Street

Cley

NR25 7AP

Tel: 01263 740843

e-mail:

tcrowe@morstonassets.com

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2002** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** at **7.00pm**. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the October Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2002**

Patricia Temple-Crowe

Clerk to the Parish Council

4th November 2002

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th November 2002 at 7.00pm

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), John Pearson, Stanley Sutton, Roy Rogers, Mary Gerrard, Mark Harrison and Michael Jordan

In attendance: Councillor ^{Bernard Crowe} ~~Derek Baxter~~, P C Ken Durrant, the Clerk and 1 parishioner.

Apologies: Councillor Derek Baxter

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 7th October 2002 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman

2 Matters Arising

Bangay Lane Following a site meeting with Mr Norman Woodhouse from Norfolk County Service, the clearance of the verge on the right hand side of Bangay Lane will cost £480. If this is acceptable to the Parish Council the work will be carried out in the next 2 months.

This area can be included on the yearly grounds maintenance contract for a cost of approximately £40 - £60 per year.

The Councillor felt that before a decision should be made regarding such a large expenditure for the clearance of the verge, they would all meet to inspect the area and consider if it would be possible to get the work done by a team of volunteers. Mark Harrison offered the use of a tractor and trailing. The loan of a strimmer from Michael Jordan was also available and would be of considerable assistance. Those Councillors that were available agreed to meet at 10.00am on the 8th November.

Once this clearance had been done it could then be added to the yearly maintenance contract.

Public Inquiry

Following concerns raised at the last meeting regarding the proposed venue for the Public Inquiry, the Clerk and Councillor Bernard Crowe held a site meeting with Denise Bales and her assistant from N C C Legal Services. It would appear this was a productive meeting and the concerns raised by the Parish Council were conveyed to Miss Bales. As long as satisfactory park facilities can be made available i.e. The Knoll, Bridge Street, the Car Park area outside the Village Hall for the legal team, she will recommend that the venue should be in Stiffkey.

Documentation - In order that there is no misunderstanding regarding this Public Inquiry and the length of time this was originally discussed (1992) the Clerk has obtained copies which were distributed, of correspondence from supporters and objectors to the proposed reclassification order which will ensure all Councillors are fully informed.



3 Correspondence

Norfolk County Council:

- Legal Services -- Venue for the Public Inquiry
- Public Inquiry – Supporting Documentation

Norman Lamb MP - Footpath: Church Street, Stiffkey

Norfolk Special Constabulary - Re: The Special Constabulary and the STEP Scheme

Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path - Re: Norfolk Coast Path Resigning

North Norfolk District Council:

- Development in designated flood risk area
- North Norfolk Joint Area Committees – West Area Committee Meeting – 13th November 2002
- Agenda – 30th October 2002

Countryside Agency – Publication

4 Finance

Income:

Precept - Second Instalment £1,325.00

Expenditure:

TXU Energi direct debit	£28.19
Clerk Salary and Expenses	£479.79
Refreshments for Dedication	£32.25
Polly Appeal - Wreath	£25.00
Local Lynx	£25.00

The District Auditor has completed their audit of the accounts for 2001 – 2001 for Stiffkey Parish Council everything is in order, no areas of concern have been highlighted and no action required.

5 Planning

The Clerk has received the following planning application:

The Old School, Church Street, Stiffkey - Construction of two dormer windows. *The Council had no objection to this application*



6 Reports

Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe

Funding Threat

Plans to change the way Government money is allocated to rural areas could hit local services in North Norfolk. Rural Authorities are worried that the new system will take money from hard pressed country communities in favour of cities. We feel that too little notice has been taken of rural deprivation and the extra costs of providing services in rural areas. The proposed changes are set to come in from April 2003 and Ministers are deciding on which range of options for the grant system they should adopt. We have written to the Minister, Nick Raynsford, to MEPs and to the local MP calling for changes to be made to the proposals currently on the table.

Budget Gap

The Financial Forecast for 2003-04 shows a short fall of £390,000 unless remedial action is taken when the budget is prepared. Options for council tax increases are being examined and range from 6.5% to 17%.

On 9 December 2002, the recommendations of the Corporate Review will be presented to Members in the form of short and medium term options. It is my view that if the short-term options are implemented, we will be able to reduce the Budget gap and limit the increase in council tax to 6.5%.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

The CPA will commence in January and conclude in late April 2003. County Councils have been assessed and the results should be notified in December 2002. District Councils in Norfolk are in the first raft of the national performance assessment of this tier of local government.

There are four elements:

- Self-assessment by NNDC. To consider our priorities and how these help to drive service improvements for local people. This is to be a balanced strengths and weaknesses assessment and not a promotional document.
- Peer challenge. NNDC is to be assessed by a team from other councils.
- Cross cutting inspections. NNDC is to be inspected on 'Balancing housing markets', (we are not sure what this means yet), and on 'Clean, green and safe public space' in order to assess local service performance and corporate capacity.
- Corporate assessment. This will take information from the self-assessment and the cross cutting inspections to provide evidence about the council's corporate capacity.

The Team will make a judgment to provide an overall score. This will range from Excellent to Unsatisfactory. The Team will then work with councils to agree improvement activity based on local priorities and a package of audit, inspection and improvement work.



5 Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Local Planning & Transportation News

Work began on Thursday 31st October to strengthen the carriageway of the B1105 in West Barsham. The road will be closed during the work, except for access. A diversion route is in place via the B1355 and A149. The work will take 5 weeks.

Work started in Mid-October to reconstruct the footway on Kettlestone Road and Oaklands in Little Snoring. The work is estimated to take about 5 weeks with a 'give and take' system in place during progress.

I have also informed Planning & Transportation about the poor state of the footway on The Croft at Little Snoring. They have said that it will be patched this Financial Year and slurry sealed next year.

After a meeting of local County Councillors with the Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation, he reported to County Council Cabinet that during 2001, the amount of heavy goods vehicles travelling through Thornage on a daily basis was not particularly high at 40 vehicles per day two way flow. He felt it would be inappropriate for the B1110 to finish at Piggs Grave as this would mean less maintenance for this stretch of road, it would not be gritted during the winter and it would be unhelpful for tourists making their way to North Norfolk. Proper signing was also important for the economy of North Norfolk. The Cabinet Member thus proposed at the last Cabinet Meeting that the B1110 be retained and included as main distributor route between the B1146 at Dereham and the A148 at Holt and gave an undertaking that the possibility of a restriction on the length of heavy goods vehicles at Broome Green would be considered.

The Cabinet resolved that the B1110 be retained and included as main distributor route between Dereham and Holt; that approval be given to the completion of the route hierarchy signing; that all Parish Councils and local members be consulted again in those areas already signed.

Vital reconstruction work to Blakeney Quay means that it will be closed to vehicles from Monday 28th October right through to next Spring. This major improvement scheme is being carried out by Norfolk County Council to secure the future of the Quay, which is in the Blakeney Conservation Area and an important feature of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Although it will not be possible to moor boats to the Quay or walk along the top, there will still be pedestrian access between the bottom of the High Street and Westgate Street. Vehicle access will be maintained for the Blakeney Hotel and all other properties along the Quay.

A 130 metre long section of the Quay, built in the 1930s has reached the end of its useful life. Parts of the road and pedestrian promenade have suffered from settlement, while the reinforced concrete wall has cracked and moved forward in places. The reconstruction work will include a new sheet steel pile wall, concrete capping and cladding to give the Quay a secure future and an attractive appearance.



5 Report from Councillor Derek Baxter - Continued

The work includes:-

a new anchored steel sheet pile wall, about 1.5 metres in front of the existing wall - the gap filled with a draining granular material and surfaced a concrete capping beam along the full length, replacement landing steps, cladding on the front face of the wall to improve its appearance and allow the mooring of small vessels, new mooring bollards, a resurfaced promenade and new attractive post and rail fencing between the carriageway and the footway, a new ramped access at the western end of the promenade, bollards at the eastern end to prevent unauthorised vehicular access.

Some maintenance for the coming year

B1156 at Field Dalling - Holt Road to be haunched due to edge deterioration.

B1105 at Wells - Fakenham Road - install gullies and pipe to new open ditch to improve drainage (wayleave required from landowner).

Waveney Close at Wells - patch existing footway surface, replace damaged kerbs and slurry seal.

Northfield Avenue at Wells - rekerb and resurface footway.

Mill Court at Wells - reconstruct footway.

Traffic Management Program

the B1146 at Pudding Norton has now been placed on the priority 1 pending list 2003 for a 40mph speed limit.

Local School Bus

After receiving complaints from parents about overcrowding on the service 58 school bus between Sheringham and Fakenham, I asked the County Council Passenger Transport Unit to see if they could put on a double decked vehicle.

The County have now discussed the problem with Sanders Coaches and where possible operationally, they will deploy a double decked vehicle over the route. Hopefully this will mean a far more comfortable journey for schoolchildren, particularly over the last 8/9 miles when up to 14 have been left standing.

Rogue Firework Traders

Rogue traders in Norfolk who flout the law by selling fireworks to children have been warned that they face a crackdown by County Council Trading Standards Officers.

The Trading Standards department will be carrying out spot inspections of outlets selling fireworks in the coming days to check that traders are complying with the under-age law.



5 Report from Councillor Derek Baxter - Continued

Officials have already inspected a number of local outlets and found that, whilst most traders are acting responsibly, others are putting the public at risk. The service will be taking tough action on those who fail to comply with Firework Safety Regulations; they face prosecution and a fine of up to £5000, a prison sentence of up to 6 months, or both.

Report from PC Ken Durrant

PC Ken Durrant reported there had been one incident since his last report. An attempted burglary at a private residence had been made by someone who had recently been released from prison, the person had been apprehended and is now back in prison once more. He asked everyone in the village to be vigilant and reminded everyone that if they see anything that raises cause for concern to please report it to the Police immediately.

Mark Harrison explained that the attempted burglary had taken place at his house and he had made a citizens arrest. The man had parked his car at the pub car park and had been seen walking through the village.

The investigation regarding the removal of the alcohol that had been stored in the village hall has been completed. The alcohol was in the ownership of the Fete Committee and this will be dealt with by them and the removal of the alcohol from the village hall will be dealt with by the Village Hall Committee.

6 A O B

Village Hall Security for the Public Inquiry

The Clerk reminded the Councillors that a complete review of the security for the village hall will be required to be undertaken in the new year to comply with the requirements to enable the Public Inquiry to take place in Feb/March 2003. The Clerk explained that it is anticipated that the Inquiry will be of 2 days duration and the Village Hall will have to pass stringent security measures because the documents etc. will be left on the premises overnight and no access whatsoever will be allowed into the hall unless the Inquiry Officers are present.

As soon as a date for the Inquiry has been agreed a firm booking will be entered into the hall-booking diary. A minimum of 2 ½ days will need to be booked to ensure the setting up of the furniture is in place and the hall is warm ready for the start of the Inquiry. The bonus side to the Inquiry will be the income for the village hall from the hire charges, which must reflect the need for the additional heating to be on.

Speed Signs

30 m p h speed sign has been removed from the post on the Greenway - The Clerk will make a report to the Highways Department to request a replacement.



6 Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe

Draft Local Government Bill 2002

The District Council has commented on the Bill. Many of the changes proposed have the potential to be positive in their impact provided they are implemented effectively and without unnecessary prescription by central government. I will raise now some of the concerns that the Council has about the Bill.

- The effect of the Bill could permit an increase rather than a reduction in central government intervention in local affairs.
- We believe that the central/local government relationship should be subject to an independent and on-going scrutiny.
- As part of the process of defining the spheres of responsibility, central government, the Local Government Association and stakeholders should negotiate a framework of minimum service delivery standards; beyond that framework, government should accept diversity
- The Council views discretion over council tax levels for second homes and empty properties as an opportunity for action on some key local issues. To permit this, it is essential that additional tax proceeds be retained locally.
- The Bill would enable the Secretary of State to require local authority capital receipts to be paid into the Government for redistribution. The Council opposes such transfers in principle. It believes that resources generated locally should be used locally.
- The Council is concerned that the proposals for the new standard spending assessment and formula grant distribution may not have sufficient regard to the issues of sparsity and rurality as we have in North Norfolk.
- On the issue of housing, the overall impression gained from the proposed changes on housing finance is that the Government views housing as national service and that money from one authority can be readily moved to others. We do not agree this concept. Local decision-making in the light of local knowledge is important but is becoming more and more difficult.

We await the response from Government

Norfolk Citizens Panel

The latest survey was completed on 5 July 2002 and was based on a statistical sample of 529 North Norfolk residents. I thought you might be interested in some of the results.



6 Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe – Continued

- There is majority support for introducing Community Support Officers who will free up police officers to concentrate on more serious crime. There was some concern that the Community Support Officer will not receive enough powers to be effective in dealing with anti-social behavior. Nevertheless, the majority stated that they would feel much safer in their communities if they had a Community Support Officer.
- Around 65% of those who last contacted the Police were satisfied with the way the Police handled their problem. Those who were dissatisfied felt that the matter they reported was trivialised; and they were not kept informed about the outcome or progress of enquiries.
- We have regular consultation with the Police at meetings within North Norfolk chaired by a member of the Police Authority, in our case Mrs Paddy Seligman. All are welcome and the timings are published in the 'Parish Newsletter' sent out by NNDC. Do attend if you a point to make.
- The key items that would be most effective in making people feel this neighbourhood is a safer place to live in are: better access to the police; better street lighting; more CCTV; and Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- The survey asked about voting in local elections. There was a high response for alternatives to the polling station. The question asked which option would you most like to use if was available. The order of preference was: voting by post, voting at weekends, voting from home using the telephone, ditto using the Internet.

It is likely that one urban and one rural Ward will be selected to test postal voting in the local election on 1 May 2003.

Settlement for Council Workers

A pay proposal for council workers has been hammered out by ACAS and is currently being considered by councils and the unions. The two-year deal would see council workers receiving 3.58% this year and 3.6% in 2003. It would ensure that all workers receive a £5-an-hour minimum wage. Unions had originally asked for pay increases averaging 12%, but accepted during the talks that councils did not have limitless resources. The District Council had allowed 3.5 % for this year, and 3.5% plus inflation for 2003; so we can accept these figures and hope that our negotiators come to a successful conclusion.

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee under review

As a member of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee I will be very interested to see it open up its own track record for public review.



6 Report from Councillor Derek Baxter – Continued

The Council's Cabinet Scrutiny Committee examines issues of concern in detail and can offer recommendations on how things can be done differently in future.

It can turn the spotlight on decisions taken by Norfolk County Council. Any two members of the Committee can "call in" items decided by the Cabinet for discussion - with relevant Cabinet members and senior officers called to account for why a particular decision or policy was reached. Obviously this is mainly done by the opposition groups who use the committee to query decisions made by the ruling Cabinet. It is thus a very important part of the local democratic process.

The Cabinet Scrutiny Committee also looks at a range of important issues. Recently I chaired a small sub group looking at the Council's relationship with Capita (who run many of the Council's IT and Treasury functions) and the performance statistics by which aspects of the relationship are managed.

During its first year in operation many issues have been looked into and debated such as School Admission Arrangements, the working of the Passenger Transport Unit and of Norwich Airport. There has been seven Cabinet decisions "called in" for Scrutiny.

Celia Cameron, leader of the main opposition group and Chairman of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee, said that after a year in existence, the time had come for the Committee to consider what progress had been made. She believes that Scrutiny has made a very useful start and whilst there is always room for improvement she is generally pleased with the way in which it is developing and with the positive suggestions that it has made.

She went on to say that the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee has vital role to play in making the Council accountable for the decisions it takes whilst carrying out the Scrutinising role in a constructive and non-threatening manner.

County Truancy Sweep

Norfolk County Council education social workers have teamed up with local police officers to tackle truancy in King's Lynn in the county's first ever truancy sweep.

Police officers and education social workers patrolled the streets of King's Lynn on 27th September and challenged children who should have been in school.

This is the first time that truancy patrols have been used in Norfolk. King's Lynn was chosen because of concerns about the levels of school attendance there. It has an average secondary school unauthorised absence rate of 2.86% compared with a county average of 1.00%.



6 Report from Councillor Derek Baxter – Continued

More building at County Hall

On October 7th work begins at County Hall on a new building to contain both a new housing scheme for frail older people and a 50 place nursery for children of those who work for the County Council.

The loss of some 200 car parking spaces at County Hall site will be offset by the recent move by Norfolk Police to their new headquarters, which freed 270 spaces, and the move of around 70 NPS staff to other office locations around the County.

Road Closure at West Barsham

Norfolk County Council has made a Temporary Traffic Order affecting the B1105 Wells Road from the junction with the C586 Fakenham Road westward for a distance of approximately 1000 metres in the Parish of Barsham because of carriage edge strengthening. The road will be temporarily closed, except for access, from 28th October 2002 to 20th December 2002 for the duration of the works, expected to be about 8 weeks.

7 A O B

Memorial Seat and Village of the Year Award The Councillor agreed the memorial seat would be dedicated after the next family service or after a service to be agreed with the Church Wardens. The plaque for the Village of the Year Award would also be put up at the same time and it was suggested the most appropriate place would be the gable end of the village hall. The Councillors also felt this would be a good opportunity to invite everyone from the village to attend the dedication of the seat and plaque and to be provided with some light refreshments in the Village Hall. The Clerk would produce some invitation as soon as a date and time has been agreed.

Village Hall The Village Hall Sub Committee held a meeting to discuss the issue of the removal of alcohol which had been stored in the bar area that had been purchased by the Fete Committee. The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee had read out a statement on the incident. The Police investigate is ongoing and a report will be issued by P C Ken Durrant once his investigations have been completed. The Chairman reminded the Councillors that the alcohol had not been the property of the Village Hall or the Parish Council in their capacity as Trustees. It was of course in the ownership of the Fete Committee and it would be for them to decide what action needs to be taken once the investigation is complete.

However an issue that would need to be thoroughly investigated would be a full review of the security measures in place for the village hall by the Village Hall Sub Committee.



7 AOB

Access for Cottages Eddie Procter expressed his disappointment to the Council that the Village Hall Committee had felt it necessary that the access through the car park and round the back of the hall to the Cottages would be closed for one day per year.

Although he did understand that this would be done to ensure the access did not become a right of way in years to come, he had personally given his word that the privilege of being given this facility, which is renewed on an annual basis, would not be abused by him and was sad that the Committee had felt this was not sufficient.

The Councillors assured him that this measure had been taken purely to protect the Village Hall if an access problem should arise from future tenants in the Cottages.

The date of the next meeting would be on Monday 2nd December 2002.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Procter', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage
High Street
Cley
NR25 7AP
Tel: 01263 740843
e-mail:
tcrowe@morstonassets.com

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2002** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** at **7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the November Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2003**

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2002 at 7.00pm

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), John Pearson, Stanley Sutton, Roy Rogers, and Michael Jordan

In attendance: Councillor Bernard Crowe and the Clerk

Apologies: Councillor Derek Baxter, *Mary Gerrard*

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 4th November 2002 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman

2 Matters Arising

Bangay Lane At the last meeting due to the considerable cost quoted for the clearance of this area the Councillors agreed that those who could, would meet to inspect the area and consider if it would be possible to get the work done by a team of volunteers. Following this site inspection John Pearson, Michael Jordan and Stephen Wright (on behalf of Mark Harrison) cleared the verge. The Chairman asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded in the Minutes for their hard work, which had saved the Parish Council a considerable sum of money.

Once Mr White has had the opportunity to clear his side of the Lane it was hoped the area would continue in a clean and tidy state.

Mark Harrison offered to carry out *once or twice a year*
The verge clearance would be included on the ~~yearly maintenance contract~~, which will hopefully ensure that this situation does ~~not~~ arise again in the future. *h.g.w.*

Public Inquiry Documentation

In order that there are no misunderstandings regarding this Public Inquiry and the length of time this was originally discussed (1992) the Clerk had obtained copies which were distributed, of correspondence from supporters and objectors to the proposed reclassification order which will ensure all Councillors are fully informed ready for the Public Inquiry which is due to be held in the Spring of 2003. The Clerk reminded the Councillors to ensure that the documents were returned to her when everyone on the Council had been given the opportunity to study them.

Land at Camping Hill

Still no news to report on this piece of land. Michael Jordan expressed his concern that the vegetation on this land needs to be cleared. It has become a plot of overgrown wasteland.

3 Correspondence

Parish and Town Council - Norfolk Link Issue December 2002

Norfolk County Council:

- Norfolk Matters Issue Number 6 for November and December
- Norfolk Structure Plan Review Report
- Norfolk Local Transport Plan 2001 / 2005 Annual Progress Report 2002

3 Correspondence - Continued

North Norfolk District Council

- East Area Committee Meeting 5th December 2002
- Christmas and New Year Refuse Collection Arrangements

East of England Development Agency - £3 million competition to provide broadband Internet access for communities.

4 Finance

The Clerk had received the following invoice which was approved for payment:
District Audit - £58.75

Precept for 2003 2004 - After careful consideration of the actual income and expenditure for the year ending 2001 and 2002 and the anticipated income and expenditure for 2003 and the anticipated reserve the Parish Council agreed that no increase would be necessary to the precept for 2003 – 2004.

5 Planning

The Clerk has received the following report from the Planning Committee:
The Old School, Church Street, Stiffkey - Construction of two dormer windows.
Recommend approval.

6 AOB

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - The Clerk gave a detailed report on this new legislation and went through the documents from the Information Commission. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to adopt the Parish Council Model Scheme and the Clerk's details would be provided as a point of contact.

Sign at Muckledyke During the road surface improvements the 'walking' sign at Muckledyke and the Knoll where removed – the Clerk will make a request to the Highways Department that these are replaced.

Street Lighting Street Light Number 1 is not working. The Clerk would inform Eastern Contracting.

Keys for the Village Hall - The Chairman of the Village Hall had produced a list of key holders which detailed 9 names but 12 keys have been issued, and the Council was asked if they knew who's names were missing from the list. Unfortunately the Council could not help.

Due to the Public Inquiry in the Spring 2003 and the security requirements by the Inspector, the Parish Council agreed that the issue of security for the village hall would have to be considered early in the New Year.

In the meantime the Clerk asked the Council to give some thought to the type of security that they would like to see installed.

The Chairman closed the Parish Council Meeting to enable the following reports to be made.



Reports from Councillor Bernard Crowe

Funding Threat

Plans to change the way Government money is allocated to rural areas could hit local services in North Norfolk. Rural Authorities are worried that the new system will take money from hard pressed country communities in favour of cities. We feel that too little notice has been taken of rural deprivation and the extra costs of providing services in rural areas. The proposed changes are set to come in from April 2003 and Ministers are deciding on which range of options for the grant system they should adopt. We have written to the Minister, Nick Raynsford, to MEPs and to the local MP calling for changes to be made to the proposals currently on the table.

Budget Gap

The Financial Forecast for 2003-04 shows a short fall of £390,000 unless remedial action is taken when the budget is prepared. Options for council tax increases are being examined and range from 6.5% to 17%.

On 9 December 2002, the recommendations of the Corporate Review will be presented to Members in the form of short and medium term options. It is my view that if the short-term options are implemented, we will be able to reduce the Budget gap and limit the increase in council tax to 6.5%.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

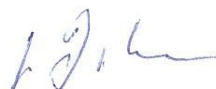
The CPA will commence in January and conclude in late April 2003. County Councils have been assessed and the results should be notified in December 2002. District Councils in Norfolk are in the first raft of the national performance assessment of this tier of local government.

There are four elements:

- Self-assessment by NNDC. To consider our priorities and how these help to drive service improvements for local people. This is to be a balanced strengths and weaknesses assessment and not a promotional document.
- Peer challenge. NNDC is to be assessed by a team from other councils.
- Cross cutting inspections. NNDC is to be inspected on 'Balancing housing markets', (we are not sure what this means yet), and on 'Clean, green and safe public space' in order to assess local service performance and corporate capacity.
- Corporate assessment. This will take information from the self-assessment and the cross cutting inspections to provide evidence about the council's corporate capacity.

The Team will make a judgment to provide an overall score. This will range from Excellent to Unsatisfactory. The Team will then work with councils to agree improvement activity based on local priorities and a package of audit, inspection and improvement work.

In our case the work already undertaken by the Corporate Review, the formation of the Local Strategic Partnership and development of the draft Community Strategy will assist. Nevertheless, Members and Staff will be heavily engaged during the run up to the local elections on 1 May 2003. Some staff will have to work full time on the CPA at the expense of their normal duties. The incoming Council will be required to action any improvement activity required.



5 Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe - Continued

In our case the work already undertaken by the Corporate Review, the formation of the Local Strategic Partnership and development of the draft Community Strategy will assist. Nevertheless, Members and Staff will be heavily engaged during the run up to the local elections on 1 May 2003. Some staff will have to work full time on the CPA at the expense of their normal duties. The incoming Council will be required to action any improvement activity required.

Project Reach Out

As Chairman of the Project Reach Out Board, I plan to sign-off the project as meeting the requirements of delivery on time, on cost, and to specification this month. The Project is a community based, interactive website, (Northnorfolk.org). You can buy car park season tickets, make online payments for council tax, business rates, NNDC housing rents and sundry services, view planning applications, find refuse collection dates and so on. Visitors can find accommodation and details of what is going on. Business people should make sure they are listed in our business directory, and everyone can find out about grants and funding opportunities.

You can access the website from your home computer or from a variety of access points such as libraries or more locally. For example, the Bluebell pub at Langham has an Internet access point, and Langham Glass will have an Internet kiosk.

This supplements face to face contact and does not replace it. The project costing £450,000 was result of an Invest to Save bid and funding from the East of England Development Authority. NNDC put up £50,000 and gained £400,000 match funding. Government requires all services to be offered online by 2005. This is an area where NNDC is succeeding.

Royal British Legion Blakeney, Blakeney, Cley & District Branch

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Blakeney Parish Council and the Chairman of the Royal British Legion Blakeney, Cley & District Branch for their public speaking at the NNDC Planning Committee on 31 October 2002. This assisted us in gaining unanimous support for demolition of the old hall, and the erection of a replacement hall and three terraced dwellings. I drew attention to the willingness of the RBL Branch Committee to pass on one of the terraced properties to Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society Limited. I would also like to thank Richard Kelham, Chairman BNHS, for his letter of advocacy. The next stage is to raise the funds to build!

Christmas 2002

May I wish all readers and their families a happy and holy Christmas.



Project Reach Out

As chairman of the Project Reach Out Board, I plan to sign-off the project as meeting the requirements of delivery on time, on cost, and to specification this month. The Project is a community based, interactive website, (Northnorfolk.org). You can buy car park season tickets, make online payments for council tax, business rates, NNDC housing rents and sundry services, view planning applications, find refuse collection dates and so on. Visitors can find accommodation and details of what is going on. Business people should make sure they are listed in our business directory, and everyone can find out about grants and funding opportunities.

You can access the website from your home computer or from a variety of access points such as libraries or more locally. For example, the Bluebell pub at Langham has an Internet access point, and Langham Glass will have an Internet kiosk.

This supplements face to face contact and does not replace it. The project costing £450,000 was result of an Invest to Save bid and funding from the East of England Development Authority. NNDC put up £50,000 and gained £400,000 match funding. Government requires all services to be offered online by 2005. This is an area where NNDC is succeeding.

Royal British Legion Blakeney, Cley & District Branch

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Blakeney Parish Council and the Chairman of the Royal British Legion Blakeney, Cley & District Branch for their public speaking at the NNDC Planning Committee on 31 October 2002. This assisted us in gaining unanimous support for demolition of the old hall, and the erection of a replacement hall and three terraced dwellings. I drew attention to the willingness of the RBL Branch Committee to pass on one of the terraced properties to Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society Limited. I would also like to thank Richard Kelham, Chairman BNHS, for his letter of advocacy. The next stage is to raise the funds to build!

Christmas 2002

May I wish all readers and their families a happy and holy Christmas.

Response from the Chairman

The Chairman thanked Councillor Bernard Crowe for his report and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, but wished to clarify one misunderstanding relating to the planning application for the new hall and houses at Blakeney, Cley and District Royal British Legion. The Club Chairman had attended the planning meeting at NNDC not the Chairman of the Branch. The planning application was submitted on behalf of the Branch who are the owners of the Club. The Club Committee are the tenants.

Although it is the wish of members to sell one of the plots of land to Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society for social housing, due to the requirements laid down by the Charity Commission this may not be possible and permission will have to be obtained from Headquarters. The Branch is therefore required to ensure that best value is obtained through the sale of the plots of land and negotiations on proceeding with Headquarters.



Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Planning Decisions

Since May of this year I have been a member of the County's Planning (Regulatory) Committee. Up until November the only development applications in North Norfolk had been for school extensions but this month there were three applications relating to local gravel pits.

Permission was granted for the Glaven Pits in Walls Lane, Glandford to continue with mineral extraction for six years; to infill part of the pit with inert waste as part of the restoration plan; and to recycle brick, block, concrete and other inert building materials not suitable for restoration purposes.

Permission was also granted for RMC (Eastern Counties) Ltd (subject to being re-advertised as a departure from the adopted Waste Local Plan) to use part of the existing quarry in Hunworth Road, Holt for inert waste recycling.

Finally, it was resolved that permission be granted for NEWS Ltd to continue landfill operations at the Edgefield Landfill site until the end of 2013. This permission only was granted subject to certain conditions; that progressive restoration of the whole quarry and progressive landscaping takes place; that noise minimisation including the provision of an appropriate bund be carried out; and that there is a discontinuance of sand and gravel processing and that the washing and screening plant be removed.

Sticking with planning, a planning code of conduct member/officer working party has been set up to consider a draft Code of Best Practice and to raise any other matter relating to the practice of the County Council in dealing with planning applications. As well as this, it is intended to modernise the County's approach to planning by improving the quality of the reports and presentations.

Environmental Issues

Intrusive street lighting, energy and water conservation and the future of the tidal River Glaven will be discussed by members of the Planning, Transportation, Environment, Waste and Economic Development Review Panel (affectionately known as TWERP) on the 5th December.

The majority of parish councils have given their support to proposals aimed at limiting the amount of light pollution caused by street lighting and other lights in public areas.

The County Council has been working with district councils to produce a new policy which would see more orange low pressure sodium lights replaced with white high pressure sodium lights when they are due for renewal. These lights are less intrusive but more expensive.

64% of the parishes who responded to the consultation were in favour of the policy but some have raised concerns about cost and energy consumption.

The Review Panel will also be asked for its views on Environment Agency proposals to try to solve the problem of blockage of the tidal River Glaven at Blakeney. The outfall of the river into the North Sea is under threat because Blakeney Spit (which includes Blakeney Point) is moving landward. If the channel became permanently blocked, the important freshwater marshes could be lost as the Glaven forced another channel into the sea.

A presentation on the Environment Agency's proposals to prevent this will be given at the meeting.

Finally, a draft strategy to ensure that the County Council minimises its use of energy and water will be discussed by the Panel before being forwarded to the Cabinet for approval.

It is hoped that the strategy will be an example of good practice to other organisations within the county and beyond. It also aims to raise the profile of energy and water conservation amongst staff and County Councillors, challenge existing practices and encourage change where necessary.

Passenger Transport Unit

Norfolk County Council's Passenger Transport Unit has a wide range of services, responsibilities and activities. They include home to school transport arrangements, transporting social services clients, publicising bus routes and timetables, park and ride arrangements and public transport. It waste up in 1999 and brought together the transport units from Education, Social Services and Planning and Transportation to improve and co-ordinate the County Council's transport, purchasing and commissioning arrangements.

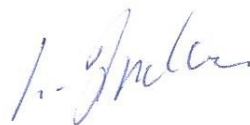
The work of the unit is the subject of examination and discussion next week by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee when it meets on 3rd December.

Cabinet Scrutiny Members will receive a report from a working group set up to look into a number of aspects of the PTU's work and formulate conclusions and recommendations for further discussion.

As part of their review, the working group interviewed and took evidence from a number of people and organisations who work with or commission services from the Unit.

The working Group notes that despite some tensions between the Unit and other departments, it has come a long way since it was formed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. J. Melton', is located at the bottom right of the page.

Stiffkey Parish Council

Meetings for 2003 would be as follows:

Monday 6th January

Monday 3rd February

Monday 3rd March

Monday 7th April

Monday 12th May

Monday 2nd June

Monday 7th July

Monday 18th August

Monday 6th October

Monday 3rd November

Monday 1st December

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage

High Street

Cley

NR25 7AP

Tel: 01263 740843

e-mail:

tcrowe@morstonassets.com

2nd January 2002

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2003** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** at **7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the December Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2003**

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council