

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2007

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), Cherry Martin and Eddie Proctor

Apologies: Stanley Sutton, Karen Pickles, Michael Jordan and Mark Harrison

In attendance: Councillor Jonathan Savory, Councillor Derek Baxter, the Clerk and 3 parishioners

Before the commencement of the Parish Council meeting the Chairman welcomed Fiona MacCullam who gave a presentation on the Wells Area Partnership initiative.

Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared an interest in the planning application for Stiffkey Old Hall - Erection of Flag Pole and Land Opposite Stiffkey Lamp Shop, Wells Road - Erection of two three-storey dwellings, change of use of workshop to dwelling and formation of vehicular access

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 4th December 2006 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Re: 46 Wells Road No further developments to report.

Notice Board Replacement Following concerns raised at the last meeting regarding the very poor dilapidated state of the notice board adjacent to Gracious Cottage, the Clerk had obtained some literature and brochures from appropriate suppliers. However due to the lack of Councillors in attendance at the meeting it was agreed this would be deferred until the next Parish Council meeting.

3 Correspondence

N.C.C.

- Norfolk Matters
- Mr Quinton Barker regarding The Old Forge in connection with the overgrown hedge along the boundary property up to the War Memorial. The Clerk has contacted Mr Barker again to stress that it is the hedge that needs to be cut back along the boundary of The Old Forge to the War Memorial and not just the vegetation on the corner of the property.
- Proposed changes to local government in Norfolk White Paper
- Proposed changes to local government in Norfolk – dates and times of Workshops
- Norfolk Matters
- Your Norfolk Issue

N N D C

- Area Forum Meeting
- North Norfolk Play Strategy

Quality Craftsmanship Details of notice boards

Greenbarnes Limited Details of notice boards



4 Expenditure

There were no outstanding financial matters.

5 Planning

The following planning application has been received:

Stiffkey Old Hall – Installation of a Flagpole - The Councillors had no objection to this application.

Re Planning Application 20061908 - Land Opposite Stiffkey Lamp Shop, Wells Road Stiffkey

The above planning application was not supported by the Councillors at the meeting and was circulated to the remaining Councillors who were unable to attend the meeting and the following report was sent to the NNDC:

Stiffkey Parish Council objects to the above application and the Councillors have made the following comments for your consideration:

There are many people who were born in Stiffkey and still live there that will confirm that the land for the proposed three storey building has flooded many times. It does not always flood if the river overflows, but it can flood if the water table rises. Storm water coming down from Hollow Labe (opposite this site), the high land in the village crossing the road and onto this land, has also been the cause of flooding.

It is felt that this development would destroy the heart of the village where the road is at its narrowest.

It is thought that the wall and possibly the workshop are listed building.

This development will also obstruct the view from the other properties and surrounding area.

The Parish Council strongly requests that the Environment Agency is invited to express their views regarding the waste water and effluent from the proposed holding tanks or processing plants overflowing into the River Stiffkey for the proposed development. This development would also be of considerable concern to the Morston & Blakeney Mussel Association whose mussel beds are at the mouth of the river.

The overall height of the proposed development should correspond with nearby dwellings. The plans indicate that this is considerably higher.

The proposed development is excessive for the site.

6 A O B

Street Light outside Village Hall It appears that the street light, although still working but with very limited light, has been damaged and the Clerk will contact the street lighting engineer to investigate the problem.

Power Failure Following a recent power in the village, although this was dealt with very efficiently by E.on Energy it was agreed that E.on Energy must ensure that there are no obstructions to the power cables throughout the village. It was felt that if this situation is ignored further power failure will occur.



7 Reports

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Councillor Baxter gave a report on the Grant Damping Down document, copies of which will be distributed to Councillors

Report from Councillor Jonathan Savory

Burglar Alarms

As of January 1st 2007 the whole North Norfolk District has become an alarm notification area, this has been implemented as part of Central Governments Cleaner Neighbourhoods Act.

Anyone who has an audible intruder alarm whether commercial or residential will have to notify the Environmental Health Department of key holder details, these details will be covered by the Data Protection Act. This will help the Council help to deal with any misfiring alarms in a more effective manner and help prevent annoyance to neighbours.

The Environmental Health Department advise failure to provide key holder information could result in a fixed penalty notice of £75, in the event of any alarm becoming faulty as they will be obliged to employ contactors to deal with it. For further information call Environmental Health Department 01263 513811

Forthcoming Smoke Free Law

Regulations which will come into force on 1 July 2007 under the Health Act 2006 will make most enclosed premises and vehicles smoke free, some exceptions will apply such as private accommodation, care homes and prisons.

These new regulations will be enforced by local authorities who will have the power to issue fixed penalty notices. For enquiries on this matter contact NNDC Commercial Team 01263 516008 or visit www.smokefreeengland.co.uk or www.smokefreenorfolk.org

Minutes of a meeting of 'PARISH CHAIRMEN', which was held on Wednesday 15th November 2006, at 7:00pm, in the Parish Office, Blakeney.

Present:- Mrs Ann Wootten (in the Chair).

Councillors:- Mr Graham Bean, Mr Tony Faulkner, Mr Barry Girling & Mrs Jenny Girling (*Blakeney Parish Council*), Mr Richard Kelham (*Cley Parish Council*), Mr C Sherriff (*Langham Parish Council*), Mr A Lewsis (*Letheringsett with Glandford*), Mrs Carol Bean & Mr Jim Temple (*Morston Parish Council*), Mr Laurence Jordan (*Stiffkey Parish Council*), Mr Godfrey Sayers & Mr Stephen Beal (*Wiveton Parish Council*).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs Jayne Banham (*prior family commitment*) & Mr Willie Weston (*work commitment*) – both members of Blakeney Parish Council.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were none.
3. '*Adjournment to allow for the Open Public Session & District & County Cllrs Reports, if present – maximum 15 minutes*'. No public present.



District Cllr Bernard Crowe commented as follows:- “Welcome to all parishes, especially those that are not within my ward. We are here to discuss consultation, sometimes I cannot help at a Parish Council meeting, as I would then be unable to speak at the District Council level, where I am able to take things further on your behalf, this enables me to have a degree of independence.

All files on planning are available to the public at District Council level. I always read the full contents of the planning applications, including the comments made by the Parish Councils. All applications can be classed into 2 areas. The first is where the local member feels that the application is of significant importance that it should be referred to the Development Committee, rather than be left to the decision making of one officer. This gives the local member the opportunity to speak. I am not a member of the Development Control Committee. I can only vote if I have been delegated to stand in for someone on this committee.

The second option is of course where the decision is made by one delegated officer. I accept that the Parish Councils want more consultation and greater feedback. I accept that I have not always provided enough feedback to satisfy the Parish Councils. We can change this and I can give you constant feedback if you want me to.

4. **PLANNING EXPERIENCES** – on items of concern/general comments.

CLEY – (*Richard Kelham – Chairman*) - Henry Cordeaux is our member, and is on the Development Control Committee West, and most applications within the parish are non contentious.

One major concern is the Old Barns at Newgate Farm. Planning permission was established back in 1988, however work has recently taken place, and yet no new planning notices whatsoever have been issued. *Q. *Can Parish*

Councils please be provided with a list of dormant planning consents, which may crop up in the near future? Members generally felt that this was a good idea, and Bernard agreed to take this back to the Planning Department.

*Q. *What triggers a referral to a Planning Committee?* BC – Rational to the District Councillor, although you don't win them all! The rationale provided by Blakeney Parish Council to NNDC (LDF) for a high number of market housing to support 50% affordable housing, may trigger a rethink on the number of units to be developed in 'service villages', particularly those with a high number of second homes.

Q. *Is there any law to oppose change of use of premises?* BC – With regard change of class ie. class 'A' to class 'B', the issue can be loss of business premises, for example the Ruberry Hill Boatyard in Blakeney and the Restaurant in Cley for example. *There also seems to be a conflict between eco friendly and conservation which needs addressing by the Planning Department.*

LEATHERINGSETT WITH GLANDFORD – (*Mr A Lewis – Chairman*) - My understanding is that there are suppose to be planning applications, for various cottages and dwellings. *Q. *What happens if someone increases the size of their property without having obtained planning permission?* BC – NNDC should go and make a site visit, looking at the new rooms etc. If the increase is one metre or less, then this is no substantial difference. If however, the extension etc. is very large, then the owner could actually be forced to pull it down.



LANGHAM – (Mr C Sherriff – Chairman) - We have no real problems, and find that the department itself is very good. BC – Thank you, I shall forward your comments on.

Q. Is Bernard happy with the members on the NNDC Planning Committee? BC – The Development Control Committee, is legal in that it consists of 12 members. The Parish Council representative should have a script and should leave one with the DC Clerk, so that their views and comments can correctly be recorded. You must make sure that all of this is done, and then follow this up. I am generally happy with the law side of things, the rules and regulations.

Q. So why do people outside of the parish make the final decision? BC – The recent ‘Government White Paper’, which is 171 pages long, talks of town area partnerships, these are areas/sections on planning, and for Parish Councils to be part of the decision makers, then they have to be a ‘Quality Parish Council’ and have fully elected members.

MORSTON – (Mr Jim Temple – Chairman) - We have had two planning applications, on which we feel more than let down on by the planning department at NNDC. The first is at ‘Coldblow Cottage’, Langham Road, where the Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to the application, and yet we were over ruled by Bernard Crowe, as he got the last say on the site meeting and did not support Morston Parish Council, in its comments.

The second incident is on a larger scale, and involves the planning application for Morston Hall. The proposed development was going to be away from the Hall, and the Parish Council fully supported the application. The Planning Department at NNDC, rejected it, again going totally against the recommendations of the Parish Council.

Morston Hall then prepared new plans, the contents of which horrified the Parish Council, and these were then objected to fully by the Parish Council. This time the Planning Department approved the plans which no one else liked. BC – The first application showed the access roadway going through the grounds of Morston Hall itself, and others, being the District Council Planners, and myself, did not like the road/track going through this site. I went out and met with the owner of Morston Hall, and subsequently, I with others, felt that the second planning application was better. My mistake was that I did not go back to Morston Parish Council, and I then had to write to their Clerk, Mrs Tricia Temple-Crowe, to explain.

**Q. What is the point in having a Parish Council, when we are not listened to?* BC – Parish Councils should say when they want a planning application to go to committee, if they feel very strongly about it. In the last 8 years have there been any other problems in Morston? *No, but these are 2 serious ones, in such a small village. Both of these incidents have left us feeling that we are not listened to, and that our comments are of no importance whatsoever.*

With regard the Village Design Statement a different application was thrown out by the Planning Department, and the applicant then used our Village Design Statement to assist his application. Morston Parish Council passed the application, but NNDC refused it. The VDS does not seem to have any weight. – Once adopted, Morstons’ isn’t at the moment, then they are supplementary planning guidelines.

Q. Who from NNDC polices holiday lets? BC – No one, basically they have to be occupied for a maximum of 11 months of the year, if it has been reported that this has been exceeded, then an Enforcement Officer is then sent out.

STIFFKEY – (Mr Laurence Jordan – Chairman) - I agree with Morston, in that when the Parish Council makes a decision, it feels that the decisions are not looked into carefully by the Planning Department.



A change of use has just been passed in Stiffkey, and the Parish Councils comments have yet again been totally disregarded, with regard the site by the Red Lion Pub. The highways access point is a real danger, the plans do not fit the site, and indeed work has now temporarily been stopped. Such issues are not taken seriously by the District Council, and the Parish Councils views seem to be worth nothing. They do not fully investigate how services are to be supplied. The locals are paying for outsiders and developers.

The Parish Council want more applications to go to committee and for them to be fully discussed in the open. BC – I am not the local member for Stiffkey, but did work with Laurence for 4 years before the boundaries changed. A decision devolved to a Planning Officer cannot be overruled but the applicant can appeal it. The Officer is required to take into account all comments made. If an application is controversial and goes to Committee, this is when the applicant, objector, and Parish Council can speak. The Officers' recommendation can be overruled/amended by the Committee.

WIVETON – (*Mr Godfrey Sayers – Chairman*) - After this evenings meeting, we would like to see a formal written response to the Planning Department at NNDC which they in turn reply to formally.

Firstly, I would like to know about planning rules for Eco friendly houses and if they take precedence over the existing Conservation regulations. When I contacted NNDC about this the Officer did not seem to know the answer.

My second point concerns non material amendments, where for example we had an application in Wiveton for a workshop/double garage and then had to watch helplessly as through a series of non-material amendments it became a bungalow! We tried to stop this happening again by covering it in our Village Design Statement, but were advised by NNDC that outlining the process in this way we would encourage others to do the same. So in spite of such a practice flying in the face of all the conservation area objectives NNDC were not prepared to do anything about it. The answer appears to be, *cheat and you can win!*

As well as having Conservation Area Design guides and it being an AONB, where one would expect planning design variance to be confined to quite a narrow band in terms of design acceptability outrageously out-of-keeping houses and structures still get built. WHY? One example (fortunately averted by somebody actually buying the site), was between the villages of Wiveton and Glandford just beside the river Glaven flood plain and had on it a very small bungalow, built before planning regulation would have excluded it. An application was then received for a large 3 storey dwelling, when I asked the applicant why they had applied for something so clearly unacceptable in such a location I was told they were advised by a planning officer, that this would be acceptable. WHY?

Planning Officers, do not seem to know the regulations they are suppose to be adhering to. In this instance, Wiveton Parish Council were so concerned, that we went along to the sub committee at NNDC, and found them to be very badly informed when it came to the planning law. Bernard has just told Jim Temple that to get more response, more pressure has to be applied to the planning sub-committee. We applied as much pressure as we could that day, only to have the Planning sub-committee Vice Chairman say that they very much resented Wiveton Parish Council trying to control them!

Needless to say, we came away very dissatisfied, with the decision and performance of the Planning Committee. They are paid and should be trained to have at least a basic understanding of Planning Law, and should undertake site visits to see the landscape context of out of settlement applications.

101

BC – The application you speak about is ‘The Haven’, and yes this has all changed. There was a site visit for the 3 storey application, because I referred it to Committee. The Planning Committee and substitutes have to be trained prior to appointment. They naturally gain more experience after a year or two. With regard ‘Eco friendly’ houses, these are a new subject area. In the AONB arena, some people favour these, whilst others find them to be totally horrendous. There will probably be a change in the new LDF, i.e. the Environment etc., but for the Conservation Area, there is planning guidance on what is acceptable, such as underfloor heating, solar power etc. GS – *We are concerned about the structure, not the inside workings, the house on Saxlingham Road in Blakeney, is an eyesore, but somehow won an award.*

BC – I stress that you must push the planning applications to committee, if you feel strongly. Q. *Where the application is contentious, representatives from the Parish Council should be allowed to attend and speak. 3 minutes is not enough time, in relation to the importance of the item being discussed.*

BLAKENEY – (Mrs Jenny Girling – Vice Chairman, Mr Graham Bean, Mr Tony Faulkner & Mr Barry Girling) – Q. *Why are Planning Notices erected? BC – To inform the neighbours of the application. Q. So how can a games room be advertised, and yet after erected, it magically turns into B&B accommodation, this was false consultation to the neighbours. Also, how can a garage turn into a permanent rentable housing accommodation? Again is this not cheating, and false consultation?*

Q. *I thought that if the Parish Council objected, then it had to go to committee, could this not be a rule? The vast majority of planning applications are not contentious, but those that are, should go to committee. Those we can think of right now are; South Granary, Saxlingham Road, Church Tower, Kingsway the bungalow built with yellow bricks, Spring Cottage, Highfield House & Queens Close. All of these have been contentious issues.*

GB – It is not Bernards fault, but the system which is at fault. The decisions are not made by local people, and they do not care about the locality. NNDC are frightened to go to appeal. I feel that having an adopted Village Design Statement does not make any difference. There are no local people in the role of a Planning Officer.

Q. *How closely does the Planning Department work with the Highways Department? BC – Not very close at all.*

Q. *The reason I ask, is that the Barn Conversion which is currently taking place in Cley off Newgate Farm, has a terrible and most dangerous access point, and is in my opinion and that of many others, an accident waiting to happen. With regard the Planning Department and the Highways Department who has the final say? BC – The Planning Department has the final say, but is required to take the consultation from Highways into account.*

- 5. FEEDBACK TO NNDC** – The Clerk would circulate the draft copy of these minutes to all members who had attended, together with a draft copy of a letter to NNDC stating our concerns and requesting a written reply, which all representatives, would be invited to comment upon, before being sent. At the meeting, to meet with us, to explain the rationale behind some of the decisions on the applications, which have just been discussed.

Cllr Mr Tony Faulkner, thanked Bernard on behalf of the meeting, for attending, and praised the NNDC website.

Meeting closed at 8.09pm.



Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th March 2007

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), Cherry Martin, Mark Harrison, Michael Jordan and Eddy Proctor

Apologies: Stanley Sutton, Karen Pickles and Councillor Derek Baxter

In attendance: Councillor Jonathan Savory and the Clerk

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 12th February 2007 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Re: 46 Wells Road No further developments to report. The NNDC is still waiting for some plans for the minor amendments from the developer.

Notice Board Replacement The Councillors agreed that the purchase of a new notice board to be made from man-made material rather than wood at a cost of £336 would be deferred until Stanley Sutton was present to ensure he is involved in the final decision

The Old Forge - Overhanging Hedge The Clerk informed the Council that she had has contacted Mr Barker again to stress that it is the hedge that needs to be cut back along the boundary of The Old Forge to the War Memorial and not just the vegetation on the corner of the property, he had been to see the owners of the property and they have insisted that the hedge should not be cut back until June. Mr Barker has agreed to inspect the property again to ensure the hedge has been cut back as agreed.

Street Light outside Village Hall The Clerk informed the Councillors that the street light had been replaced. The damage indicates that the light was broken by a stone.

Village Hall Committee Some concerns were expressed regarding the lack of committee meetings for the village hall management committee. The Chairman informed the Parish Council that the Joint Chairmen Alison and Jamie Lawrence had resigned. As soon as the end of year accounts had been prepared a Village Hall meeting will be arranged.

Road Surface Following concerns raised at the last meeting regarding the road surface outside the bus shelter at Camping Hill. The tarmac appears to have subsided and is causing a problem with surface water drainage. The Clerk has contacted the N.C.C. Highways Department and request an inspection.

Tree Lopping at Warborough Following concerns raised at the last meeting regarding the proposed tree felling and lopping which has still not been carried out and would help to avoid future possible power failures Mark Harrison informed the Council that a further inspection had taken place and health and safety issues had been raised in connection with the original contractor who it appears did not have adequate insurance. Therefore a new contractor had to be appointed and it is hoped the work will commence in April.

Whirleygigg Mark Harrison has been to the site and cleared the vegetation.



3 Correspondence

N.C.C.

- Norfolk Matters

NNDC

- Area Forum Meeting
- Parish Elections – Nomination Papers
- Advertising for Parish and County Elections

NAP&TC Advertising the Parish Elections

4 Expenditure

T T Jones Electrical Ltd Repair to the street light £168.84

5 Planning

144 Camping Hill - Erection of Two-Storey side extension and extension to conservatory – The Parish Councillors had no objection to this application

Re Planning Application 20061908 - Land Opposite Stiffkey Lamp Shop, Wells Road Stiffkey –
Permission for development refused.

Mr and Mrs Taylor had expressed their concern that although the above application had been refused they felt that another application was due to be submitted.

6 A O B

Warborough Hill Following concerns raised regarding the road surface at Warborough Hill Mr Q Barker had informed Councillor Derek Baxter that there did not appear to be any problems with the road surface and that the routine maintenance schedule for Warborough Hill was included in the programmed of works for 2008/2009.

Greenway Road Surface Concerns had been raised by Karen Pickles regarding the road surface at the top of the Greenway at the junction to Wells Road, the Clerk will request Mr Barker to investigate.

8 Reports

Report from Councillor Jonathan Savory

Full Council Meeting At the Full Council meeting of NNDC held on Wednesday 31 January two presentations were given to Councillors before the formal business was conducted.

The first by Sheila Childerhouse, Chairman of Norfolk Primary Care Trust who gave an insight into the running of the Trust and its aspirations for the provision of health care in North Norfolk. The second presentation was by John Archibald Chief Executive of North Norfolk Housing Trust who have just completed their first year of ownership of the former local authority homes.

Notice of Motion This concerned the proposal of the College of West Anglia to close the learning centres in Fakenham and Sheringham.



This proposal is due to a massive reduction in funding from Central Government in the Adult Education Service. It is hoped the Principle of the College of West Anglia will attend a meeting arranged by NNDC with representatives of Easton and Paston Colleges to discuss a possible solution to the provision of post-19 education and training in North Norfolk.

Joint Surgery I shall be holding a joint surgery with County Councillor Derek Baxter on Saturday 24 February 10.00- 11.30 at The Sack House in Wells.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. J. C.', written in a cursive style.

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd April 2007

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), Cherry Martin, Mark Harrison, Michael Jordan, Stanley Sutton and Eddy Proctor

Apologies: Karen Pickles and Councillor Derek Baxter

In attendance: Councillor Jonathan Savory, Councillor Baxter and the Clerk

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 12th March 2007 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Re: 46 Wells Road Mark Harrison informed the Parish council that he has been approached by the developers to negotiate the provision of a ring main on Marks land this would therefore remove the requirement to go across Parish Land for the drainage. Before a final decision has been taken, percolation tests will be carried out.

Notice Board Replacement Michael Jordan was very pleased to report that Mr John Everitt, form Southside, Morston Road Blakeney has very kindly produced a new notice board to replace the very old dilapidated notice board at the top of the Greenway. Mr Everitt has indicated that he does not wish to be paid for the provision of the notice board but would like it to be dedicated to the memory of his father with a suitable worded plaque.

The Old Forge - Overhanging Hedge The Councillors agreed that the Clerk would contact Mr Quinton Barker again regarding the requirement to get the hedge cut back.

Road Surface Wells Road Junction at the top of the Greenway Following concerns raised at the last meeting regarding the tarmac which appears to have subsided and is causing a problem with surface water drainage. The Clerk will contact the N.C.C. Highways Department and request an inspection as soon as possible. Mark Harrison also kindly offered put some hogging on the damaged area.

3 Correspondence

N C A P T C - Newsletter by the East of England Association of Parish and Town Councils.

Norfolk Police – Update on the rational to the future of the Norfolk Mobile Police Station.

Norwich City Council – Regarding their bid for unlitary authority.

Department of Constitutional Affairs – Regarding memorial safety.

Countryside Voice publication.

N A P & T C – May Election brochure

4 Expenditure

E.on Energy £48.60

CPRE Annual subscription £25.00

5 Planning

Re Planning Application 20061908 - Land Opposite Stiffkey Lamp Shop, Wells Road Stiffkey – Permission for development refused.

The Clerk distributed copies of a letter from Mrs Paula Taylor regarding her concerns over the above development.

6 A O B

Appreciation The Chairman wished to record his thanks to Michael Jordan who has indicated that he will not be standing for re-election at the Parish Elections due to be held on the 3rd May.

7 Reports

Report from Councillor Jonathan Savory

District and Parish Council elections are due to take place in North Norfolk on Thurs 3rd May its important that everyone uses their right to vote.

The District Council currently has 48 councillors made up as follows; Conservative & Independent Alliance 15, Liberal Democrat 30, Independants 3, I understand that around 20 current councillors are not seeking re election so there will be a massive change in District Councillors at this election and possibly the political composition of the Council. There are 34 Wards in North Norfolk, Priory is a two seat Ward and comprises of Binham, Hindringham, Holkham, Langham, Stiffkey, Warham, and Wells. Therefore all voters have the opportunity to cast two votes. The deadline for applications for postal votes is 5pm on the 18 April and for proxy votes is 5pm on 25 April.

Recycling centre at Wells Regular user of this facility will be aware that a new operator will be taking over in April. The big skips with steps will be replaced by more user friendly containers and trained advisors will be on hand to help with queries. North Norfolk achieved 29th place out of 393 local authorities in England in the table of household waste recycling. This District is almost recycling 40% of waste, a remarkable achievement in this rural area.

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Councillor Baxter informed the Councillors that Norwich has been short listed for consideration as a unitary Authority, they came second form the bottom of the last. If the Norwich bid is successful it will cost a considerable amount of money leading to an increase in Council Tax.

Community Police Liaison Officer Councillor Baxter informed the Councillors that Wells now has 3 CPLO. Two are already in place and a third is due to finishing his training shortly. It is anticipated that they will visit all of the Parish Councils in their area. For the moment however they are unable to carry out any traffic duties, but this will change once the necessary legislations is in place.

The Chairman wished to record his thanks to Councillor Jonathan Savory and to wish him well in the forthcoming District Council elections.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: L Jordan

Parish Clerk:

Tricia Temple-Crowe, Morning Flight, 42 High Street, Blakeney, Holt Norfolk, NR25 7AL
Tel: 01263 741576 (evenings/weekends) 01263 710345 (daytime)
Fax: 01263 741576 Email: stiffkey@glavenvalleycouncils.co.uk

8th May 2007

The Annual Report to Parishioners will be held on **MONDAY 14th MAY 2007** at 7.00pm in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

A G E N D A - ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISHIONERS

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Presentation of the Annual Report of the Council
- 3 Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007
- 4 Reports for information

Tricia Temple-Crowe

Clerk to Stiffkey Parish Council

1st May 2007

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th May 2007

Present: Cherry Martin, Mark Harrison, Michael Jordan, Stanley Sutton and Eddy Proctor

Apologies: Lawrence Jordan and Councillor Derek Baxter

In attendance: Councillor Jonathan Savory and the Clerk

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2nd April 2007 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Election of Officers

2:1 Lawrence Jordan was unanimously elected Chairman for 2007 – 2008 and Mark Harrison was unanimously elected Vice Chairman.

2:2 Acceptance of Office and declarations of interest were completed and signed by the Councillors present following the Parish Election on the 3rd May.

2:3 Parish Councillor Vacancies The Clerk would advertise the two vacancies to be filled by co-option on the Notice Board. It is understood there may be two people who may be interested in becoming Councillors and they will be asked to formally write the Clerk to express their interest.

3 Matters Arising

Re: 46 Wells Road Mark Harrison informed the Parish Council that following an approach from the developers to negotiate the provision of a ring main on Marks land this had been agreed which would therefore remove the requirement to go across Parish Land for the drainage. At the moment there was nothing further to report.

Notice Board Replacement Michael Jordan wished to clarify that Mr John Everitt who has very generously produced a new notice board to replace the very old dilapidated notice board at the top of the Greenway, did not wish to have an inscription or plaque put on the notice board. Mr Everitt just wished to dedicate the notice board in memory of his father who had served as a Stiffkey Parish Councillor between 1921 and 1928.

The Old Forge - Overhanging Hedge The Councillors agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr and Mrs Bennett at the Old Forge on behalf of the Parish Council to express their considerable disappointment at the lack of effort to trim back the overhanging hedge and that if no action was taken Mr Quinton Barker from the Highways Department would be instructed to carry out the necessary work.

3 Correspondence

N N D C Requesting an alternative site for the bottle bank presently situated at Stiffkey Store. Various options were considered by the Councillors including the Knoll but it was felt that due to the low income now derived from the bottle bank which has considerably reduced over the past 18 months it would not be worth finding an alternative site. A glass recycling facility continues to be available at the Red Lyon P. H. car park. It is understood that the Chairman has already contacted the NNDC to confirm removal of the bottle bank. Mark Harrison offered to speak to the owners of the Stiffkey Stores regarding the bottle bank. Michael Jordan informed the Councillors that Mr Adnitt had confirmed that although pleased with the request for the removal of the bottle bank, he had not instigated this action.

3 Correspondence – Continued

N C C:

- Norfolk Matters – May Issue
- Re: Possible changes to local government in Norfolk: Government consultation on Norwich City unitary

4 Expenditure

E.on Energy £48.60

Recycling credit for 2006 - £17.06

5 Planning

Re Planning Application 01 20070360 - 144 Camping Hill – Erection of two-storey side extension and extension to conservatory – *Permission for development.*

6 A O B

6:1 Village Seat - A parishioner raised concern regarding the apparent delay in response from the Council following the offer of a seat for the village. It would appear that there is some confusion as to the contact address for the donor of the seat Mr John Harcourt (?) and the Clerk agreed make further enquiries with the Chairman.

6:2 Village Hall Concerns were raised regarding the lack of a village hall committee A.G.M; the provision of a set of end of year accounts, the display of the relevant insurance certificate on the notice board in the hall and the current procedures for hall bookings. It was felt that as Trustees of the Village Hall the Parish Council needed to have a much clearer understanding as to the running of the village hall and the management committee.

6:3 Warborough Hill Tree Lopping It was reported that following receipt of formal notification that the proposed works were due to be carried out during the summer months and necessitate the closure of the road through the village for 4 days which would cause major disruption to businesses and residents during a very busy summer period, this had now been deferred until late November or early December.

6:4 Village Sign Following the donation of a village sign some time ago a request was received from a parishioner that the sign is erected as soon as possible. The Clerk agreed to make some enquiries with the Chairman regarding the sign.

7 Reports

Report from Councillor Jonathan Savory Following the recent Council elections the make up of the District Council has seen very little change with 30 Lib Dems, 17 Conservatives and 1 Independent. The first meeting of the new Council will take place on Wednesday 16th May.

Councillor Savory agreed to approach the NNDC to request that the surplus land at the rear of Camping Hill is cleared of overgrown vegetation.

Following a request for the provision of allotments in the village Councillors Savory would once again approach the NNDC with a request for this land to be used for allotment. A similar request was turned down a few years ago.

L. J. G.

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd July 2007

Present: Laurence Jordan, Cherry Martin, Mark Harrison, Mr Bashforth and Eddy Proctor

Apologies: Stanley Sutton and Councillor Derek Baxter

In attendance: Councillor Jonathan Savory, 1 parishioner and the Clerk

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 14th May 2007 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Co-option of Councillors

Parish Councillor Vacancies Following the recent Parish Elections the Clerk had advertised the two vacancies to be filled by co-option on the Notice Board. Mark Harrison informed the Council that a parishioner had indicated that if the co options could not be filled she would be willing to be co-opted. However two parishioners had written to the Clerk and expressed an interest in becoming Councillors.

The Council unanimously approved the nominations for Mr Steve Bashforth and Mr Andy Nolan. Mr Bashforth was in attendance at the meeting and was invited by the Chairman to join the Parish Council and Mr Nolan would be contacted and informed of his successful co-option to the Parish Council.

3 Matters Arising

Re: 46 Wells Road It is understood that all outstanding issues have been resolved and the building work will recommence shortly. The Chairman had noted that the developer has been carrying out some surface water drainage testing. The Councillors felt it would be appropriate for a meeting to be held with the developer and builder to ensure everyone is aware as to how the development will be progressing.

Re the seat Laurence Jordan like the rest of the Council did not initially know where the provider of the seat lived and had no way of contacting him, however the details have now been obtained and are as follows: John Hannant, 42 Dodds Hill, Dersingham. Once the seat has been obtained the Councillors agreed this would be located on the left hand side of Bridge Street.

Re the sign Laurence Jordan confirmed that he does have the sign, but the reason why it had not been put up is because there was nothing on it other than the design of a bird. Laurence explained to the Council that he had now made an additional sign with the wording Stiffkey to go underneath.

The Councillors agreed that the sign would be put up on the verge bank approaching the entrance to the village from Cockthorpe.

Re: Village Hall Committee Alison Lawrence is still Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and confirmed that the Village Hall Committee were due to have a meeting last month but the Treasurer had been extremely busy with work and could not finish the accounts in time. At the Parish Chairman's request they had hoped to have a meeting last Friday, unfortunately there had been insufficient time to get the notices to advertise the meeting distributed. Alison Lawrence has confirmed a meeting of the Village Hall Committee and representatives from the other village organisations would be held as soon as possible.

Alison confirmed that insurance is in place, they have just not got round to putting the notice up.

A

7 **Reports**

Report from Councillors Jonathan Savory

Development at 46 Wells Road Councillor Savory has recently spoken with Jo Medler at the NNDC and she has confirmed that all outstanding issues have been resolved and it is anticipated that the work will recommence very shortly.

Land at Camping Hill Councillor Savory informed the Council that he had once again asked the NNDC to cut back the overgrown vegetation on this land. Councillor Savory had also approached the Asset Manager at the NNDC on behalf of Stiffkey Parish Council and asked for consideration to be given to this land being used for allotments but was sorry to report that this request had been declined.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Savory', is written in a cursive style.

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd September 2007

Present: Laurence Jordan, Cherry Martin, ^{Stanley Sutton} ~~Mark Harrison~~, Steve Bashforth, Andy Nolan and Eddy Proctor

Apologies: Mark Harrison

In attendance: Councillor Jonathan Savory, Councillor Derek Baxter, 18 parishioners and the Clerk

Before the commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Mr Andy Nolan following his co-option to the Parish Council.

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2nd July 2007 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Re the seat Laurence Jordan informed the Parish Council that he had been in contact with Mr Hannant who had indicated that he would like the seat to be located by the river which is near to the area where he was born.

Re: Village Hall Committee The Chairman informed the Councillors that the accounts have now been prepared and a date for the AGM will now be finalised.

Village Sign The Chairman informed the Councilors that the sign is now being painted.

Re: Bottle Bank Laurence Jordan confirmed that the suggestion put forward to relocate the bottle bank on the gable end of the village hall at the entrance to the car park was not viable due to insufficient space.

3 Correspondence

N C C - Norfolk Matters – July Issue

R T Allen Objections to the possible proposal for a Wind Farm at Langham Airfield

Lord Buxton Objections to the possible proposal for a Wind Farm at Langham Airfield

Keith McDougall Objections to the possible proposal for a Wind Farm at Langham Airfield

N N D C Flood Sirens in Norfolk – The Way Forward

4 Expenditure

E.on Energy £48.60



5 Planning

Re: 46 Wells Road No building progress to report.

6 A O B

Village Sign The Stiffkey sign adjacent to Bridge Street has been defaced yet again. The Councillors agreed that a request would be made to the Highways Department for the provision of a metal village sign which were used in the past and cannot be so easily vandalised.

Rubbish Bin Eddy Proctor confirmed that although the accumulation of rubbish has been cleared the rubbish bin will now be removed in order to stop the depositing of more rubbish.

Land at Camping Hill The Chairman informed the Councillors that he understood that this piece of land has been earmarked for future development by the NNDC. However the Chairman reminded the Councillors that access is via the bridle path which has no vehicle access and clarification is required regarding the proposed access for any building development.

Councillors Contact Details The Councillors did not feel it was necessary to display their contact details on the village notice boards.

Copy of Minutes Stephen Bashforth suggested that a file copy of the Council Minutes should be kept in a file in the Post Office Stores as well as the ones put up on the notice board. The Clerk to provide him with two copies of the minutes to enable this to be actioned.

Wind Farm at Langham Airfield

The Parish Council Meeting was suspended to allow the public to speak. Mr Curtis of Langham to give a comprehensive review of the objectors main points which are as follows:

Position statement

We are not against renewable energy projects where they are appropriate however we believe that the environmental argument in favour of the Langham wind farm has been oversold and the argument against have been ignored.

• The Plan

- 3 turbines, each 130 metres / 426 feet high.
- Higher than the highest Swaffham turbine.
- 4.25 times higher than the church or the Cockthorpe radio mast.
- Formerly even the building of more turkey sheds has been a contentious issue.

• Environmental - amenity

This area is recognised as an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** and close to a Heritage Coast. This designation was not given easily but recognises the landscape and wildlife importance of this area and the importance of conserving this environment for future generations and for the economic welfare of the north Norfolk coast. The turbines will be only 700 metres from the nearest homes, they will dominate our village and surroundings. They will be visible for at least 6 miles in all directions and from every house in Langham and transform a rural area into an industrialised site.

Aspects of Langham says "The outstanding building in Langham and by far the oldest is the church. Its great west tower can be seen for miles, especially to the south." This mantle will pass to the turbines.



The domino effect. Once the AONB is breached then every landowner on the north coast will become a target for wind power companies.

Friends of the Earth believe that the visual appearance of wind farms cannot be ignored and have concluded that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) or National Parks are unlikely to be appropriate sites for large wind farms. The CPRE map for Norfolk shows that we will be just about the only part of the county not to be visually affected by actual or proposed wind farms.

- **Environmental - wildlife**

Every winter the site is used and flown over by night and day by internationally important numbers of geese – 2,000 Dark-breasted Brent and 2 – 4,000 Pink-footed Geese feeding close by in 2006/7. Up to a third of the world population of PF Geese winter here, they roost at Holkham and disperse along the ridge where the turbines will be sited.

FOE state that there is no conclusive evidence that wind turbines present more of a danger to birds than other structures, such as pylons or roads, when properly sited. Years of overseas experience have highlighted some problems arising where wind farms have been sited prominently where high concentrations of migrant birds are feeding or roosting nearby.

The EU Wild Bird Directive, Article 4 requires that member states "strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats of all wild birds, including important concentrations of regularly occurring migratory species. To minimise adverse effects, wind farm developers should be made aware of known bird-migration routes and upland sites of high ornithological importance, particularly those supporting large populations of migratory waterfowl.

- **Economic factors**

BM have promised £70,000 to be shared by the local villages. We have not been told on what basis this was calculated. About 3,000 to 14,000 for Langham but balance this against:

The fall in property values, greatest for those closest to the turbines more than matches this. Ref the report by Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

The potentially catastrophic negative effect on the North Norfolk economy. The large numbers of visitors to North Norfolk bring valuable income and jobs to the area.

- **The role of Langham Parish Council.**

This is not solely a Langham issue. The turbines would be sited in Langham, Binham and/or Morston.

BM personnel led to believe that the community was in favour of the proposal when there had been no consultation.

There has been a petition signed by everyone in Cockthorpe opposing the proposal.

There could be no progress without an inquiry at District Council Level. More expense and increased Community Charges no doubt for no advantage.

The Councillors were in agreement that they did not wish to see a wind farm established at Langham and agreed that if following the public meeting due to take place in Langham within the next few weeks, the residents of Langham were in favour of a wind farm, Stiffkey Parish Council would call a public meeting to enable the residents of Stiffkey to express their views. It was emphasised that not only Langham but all the affected adjoining villages which included Stiffkey would have to give their support for the project to be progressed.

L. A. C.

Reports

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Local Government Structures in Norfolk

The Department for Communities and Local Government published its White Paper on Local Government "Strong and Prosperous Communities" at the end of October 2006. It was the result of considerable dialogue with local authorities and brought together much of what was already in development into a new vision for local government to create better services and better places for residents.

Councils were invited, as part of the White Paper, to bid to become unitary authorities. Norwich City Council submitted a bid on its existing boundaries (at that time a change of boundaries would not be contemplated) and was one of 16 proposals which subsequently went forward for consultation with stakeholders.

On July 25th 2007 the Secretary of State decided against implementing Norwich City Council's bid for unitary status, as she did not believe that the proposals based on the current city boundaries would achieve the outcomes specified by the criteria laid down, particularly the one relating to affordability.

However the Government said that there was a strong case for a unitary authority and they have decided to ask the Boundary Committee to advise, when they are able to use their new powers in the LGPIH Bill once enacted, whether an alternative proposal for Norwich based on revised council boundaries could deliver the required improvements.

No decision has yet been made and the Government will not do so until the Boundary Committee has completed its work in Norfolk and the Secretary of State has considered any recommendations and come to a view. This is unlikely to come before the end of 2008.

After due process, it may be appropriate to assume that new unitary council(s) if agreed would start from 1 April 2010.

The County Council opposed the Norwich unitary bid on the grounds that:
Norfolk and Norwich go hand in hand; piecemeal change of this nature was not in the best interests of city or county

It would disrupt services, many of which are currently high performing

It did not represent value for money to local taxpayers and that any benefits to be gained by unitary status for Norwich were outweighed by the cost of making those changes and their impact on services and service users.

Wells Children Centre

A planning application was submitted by NPS Property Consultants Ltd on behalf of Children's Services Department for full planning permission consent for:

Siting a seven bay modular accommodation at Wells Children Centre, Polka Road.

As there were no objections to the application, planning consent was granted under delegated powers on 14th August.

Household hazardous waste amnesty events

1 A 1

This summer Norfolk County Council has helped residents safely dispose of more than 37 tons of old and unwanted hazardous waste items which included paint, solvents, garden chemicals, cleaners and pesticides.

The weekend events at 7 recycling centres attracted hundreds of visitors. As in previous years paint was the most common item and the county has established permanent facilities for left-over paint at 6 centres including Hempton.

All 19 N Norfolk County Council recycling centres will accept dry empty paint cans, household and car batteries, used engine oil and gas canisters, throughout the year.

Wells recycling centre

The centre is being inspected on a regular basis, around twice per week, to monitor the site and any problems that may be occurring.

In the last few weeks site staff have been trained in NCC policy and customer service. The latest inspections have confirmed that the site is in very good condition.

Stibbard Crossroads

The completion of safety improvements on the A11067 Norwich to Fakenham Road at Stibbard was marked by an opening ceremony on 22nd August.

The £700,000 scheme provides improved visibility, with a realigned section of Ryburgh Road providing right-turn lanes for both Stibbard and Great Ryburgh bound traffic as well as new bus stops and cycle provision.

By targeting road investment where it will provide safety benefits, the county have almost halved the number of fatalities and serious injuries on Norfolk's roads in the last ten years. The county has been awarded Beacon Status by the Government for this achievement and are committed to continuing the work.



Stage three - early July to late August - consultation on draft recommendations and boundary issues

Stage four - late August to early December - produce final recommendations and present to Secretary of State.

Report from Steve Bashforth

Parish Plans: Guidance for Parish Councils considering taking this step

Setting the process in motion

The Parish Plan is usually initiated by the Parish Council, but the consultation and report writing will be carried out by a volunteer steering group. Normally, two or three Parish Councillors will join the steering group, or will attend on a rota basis, so that they are kept in touch with developments throughout.

Support from Norfolk Rural Community Council

Our role at NRCC is to encourage the undertaking of Parish Plans and to be available to offer guidance at any stage of the process, based on our experience of working with other Parishes as they undertake this type of project, and also taking into consideration the guidance documents originally produced by the Countryside Agency and still recommended by the Department of Food and Rural Affairs and by Action with Communities in Rural England at www.acre.org.uk. You may wish to explore the Parish Planning section of their website for further guidance.

As the Field Officer for North Norfolk, I would be available to support the Parish Plan throughout the process. The first step would be for me to attend a Parish Council meeting, bringing along some examples of Parish Plans and other literature, and to explain the benefits and the process of producing a Parish Plan for your community.

Parish Councils usually provide me with a slot at the very start of the meeting, before their main agenda. I give an informal talk for about 10 minutes, followed by answering questions. I normally find that the whole item takes about 30 minutes, depending on the level of interest. I would then leave and you would be able to move on to your Council business. I would recommend though, that you also put the Parish Plan onto your main agenda, so that a decision can be made on the same evening as to whether the Council wishes to go ahead with the next step.

Depending on the level of interest from the Parish Council, I usually follow up my first visit with a more detailed, illustrated presentation at a special public meeting, with refreshments provided by the Parish Council and the opportunity for volunteers to come forward to form a steering group. There is no commitment, at that stage, for the Parish Council to go ahead with a Parish Plan, if there is a lack of volunteers.

Consultation

Our experience with other Parishes indicates that, in order to achieve a full consultation involving all groups of people in the community, and to ensure a high response rate, it has been essential to get as many people as possible 'on board' with the Parish Plan project right from the outset. There are ways and means of getting people actively involved over a period of time, leading up to the paper questionnaire.

For example, a letter can be delivered to all households, explaining the idea and asking for an indication of two or three key issues of interest or concern. This can be followed by a 'drop-in' event – on a Saturday morning, perhaps.

A number of 'hands-on' consultation activities can be arranged around the room. The freedom to come and go and to chat over coffee during the event may be more attractive to some people than a formal meeting. In practice, Parish Plan steering groups employing these methods of consultation, even in small Parishes, have discovered issues of concern to members of their community which their Parish Councils hadn't been aware of before. Based on the findings of the initial letter survey and the open event, it is then possible to create a questionnaire that is tailor-made for your own community.

Once the final questionnaire has been distributed, Parishes have found it necessary to allow plenty of time for volunteers to collect completed surveys and where necessary, to return to homes at more convenient times for householders and even to offer to assist people with completion of the forms, where difficulties have been expressed. As a result of this patient and personal approach, we are currently seeing returns of completed questionnaires frequently in excess of 80% and in some case over 90%.

The final Parish Plan

The great benefit of this approach to you on the Parish Council and to all of the community, is that you have a tool in your hands which will be effective for the next five years or more, in order to influence people (such as Highways Department over speeding concerns, for example, or the Planning Department over certain planning issues) and as essential evidence of need to accompany applications for the funding of projects identified in your Action Plan. In addition, all households in the community would normally receive a report (either the full version or a simplified summary, if preferred) as feedback following their responses in the consultation.

Funding and Timescale

The total Parish Plan process normally takes about a year to complete and on average, costs £1000 per Parish. There is funding available from us at NRCC, through the Rural Projects Fund, for 75% of the total costs, up to a maximum grant of £1500, to enable the Parish Plan consultation and printing costs to be met. We can also advise on other funding streams, to support the project.

Carolyn Heydon

Field Officer for North Norfolk

Norfolk Rural Community Council

01362 698216

carolyn@norfolkrc.org.uk

Parish Plans

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a printed report, based on detailed consultation within a community, carried out by community members. It describes features which are valued by members of the village; it identifies economic, social and environmental issues affecting the community and sets out the hopes and aims for the parish for the next five years or more. For example, the Plan may identify actions in relation to: -

a possible affordable housing site
improvements to village hall
local newsletter
a local environment working group
activities for young people
sports activities

traffic calming
social enterprise e.g. village shop
community events and festivals
provision of doggie bins
a Neighbourhood Watch scheme
services for older people

Why do a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan allows the experts to say what's needed in a community. The experts are the local people who live, work, learn and play there! So the completed Plan will reflect the unique characteristics of a parish. A Parish Plan *provides the community with essential evidence of needs, when applying for grants or when lobbying authorities and agencies with issues of concern* (E.g. County Council Highways Department over road and traffic safety; District Council Planning Policy Department over suggested sites for affordable housing.) The Parish Plan is available for any community group to use for such purposes; it is not limited to being the exclusive tool of the Parish Council.

How will community members be involved?

Everyone in the community can be involved in preparing a Parish Plan. Open meetings provide the opportunity for people to give their opinions and ideas – often by participating in hands-on activities, such as mapping with flags and prioritisation of actions with coloured stickers. Those willing to help with the production of the Parish Plan can join a steering group and help to organise events; deliver leaflets or questionnaires; or offer specialist help, such as design or computer skills.

What are the spin-off benefits to the community of being involved?

By taking part in the consultation and receiving feed-back, community members often become aware of services which are already in place – but whose publicity hadn't reached all residents previously. This has actually occurred on several occasions in Norfolk, in relation to dial-a-ride bus services for example. Through forming working groups, community members widen their local friendship and support network and also learn new skills from one other. By seeking the appropriate guidance and support offered by outside agencies such as the Rural Community Council, the total skill base of the community is strengthened, enabling new projects to be undertaken with greater confidence in the future.

*For more information, contact Carolyn Heydon, 01362 698216, carolyn@norfolkkrcc.org.uk
Norfolk Rural Community Council*

Meeting held in Langham Church 18/9/07 re Wind Turbines

77 attendees

The meeting was introduced by John Hope as an informal meeting to give more people a chance to express their opinion, and gather opinions for the Parish Council. JH stated that we are running out of North Sea oil, and bringing in oil from as far away as Russia. Electricity prices continue to rise as does our demand. We need to look at alternatives, wave & tidal, nuclear & wind. BM is proposing to install 3 wind turbines on the airfield site. Do we want to be involved or not?

The turbines are huge and extremely obvious. They will be there for some 25 yrs. The benefits are that they will generate cheap electricity, they will be a statement of our efforts to benefit the community & offer cash benefit to the local area. Nothing will happen unless we want it. There are issues in this particular part of North Norfolk because of the AONB, heritage coast, etc so there must be a voice for it in order for it to go ahead.

Views of the audience

- Many pitfalls to installing these turbines, noise effect on the population & drop in property values.
- Turbines do not mean cheaper energy. All power will go into the national grid & it is estimated will put 6-9% on elec. Bills from 2010.
- Once the AONB is breached, there will be a proliferation of wind turbines, the area will no longer qualify as an AONB, and many jobs in tourism (estimated at 14018), will be at threat.
- Wind farms were never designed to be built on conservation areas. Bordering on the bizarre to even consider it.
- Very big risk to the attraction of the coast and migrating birds for a very modest return.
- We are all conscious of the necessity for renewable energy, but the answer is nuclear with a national/international plan. This proposal would destroy peace & quiet and a good living for all, which is what this village is all about.
- Total output of all WTs erected produces less than half a per cent of our elec. We should be more grateful that this is a designated AONB and thus should do everything in our power to protect it as now, for us and future generations.
- Very much in favour of WTs. Alternatives are not how we would be headed.
- Has to be on an appropriate scale and benefit the local community.
- Very strongly in favour of WTs. Next generation have to live in a world we created. Every single house uses a lot of power. I believe climate change already beginning. A nuclear plant could be a terrorist target. Wind power not the only answer, but we would be doing something for our grandchildren. Not all birds are disturbed by turbines. They die in other ways. Some residents would not mind if houses were cheaper.

- I like Patrick Allen's idea of one small turbine. We can have 1, 2 or 3. There is a second hand market but they are only 5% efficient. I have contacted Government web site to check on my carbon footprint, (action on CO2/gov) & subsequently signed up for green power with Eon. If we look into ways of saving energy, we could save more than through installation of wind turbines.
- Wind power is a very inefficient way of providing a tiny part of our energy needs. Many people come to the area because of bird life which will be affected by WTs. The airfield will not longer be active if WTs erected.
- There is an enormous carbon footprint generated by the manufacture & installation of WTs.
- The world is running out of oil and gas with suppliers mainly in unstable countries, whilst demand grows. Where do the people of North Norfolk think their power will come from in years to come? There are high numbers of geese in the area, but no one stops them being shot.
- Better to put WFs off shore than spoil the countryside.
- Would rather see turbines the size of the one in Cley and the use of more solar energy.
- It is amazing how much money could be saved by not turning on the heating, but wearing more clothes.
- Once we have 1 turbine here the flood gates will open. This is an unspoilt area. AONB should be preserved – that is doing something for the future generations.
- We are fighting our own Parish Council as much as BM. I believe you (JH) have received letters from people who couldn't be present at this meeting. I am holding copies from approx. 35 people. Please let us know how many people have written in, wanting to express their views against this proposal.
- JH: They will be taken into account on top of the vote tonight to give a true reflection.
- JH: It is my view that BM were not given the impression that this village would welcome WTs. They were asked to give a presentation.
- The money offered to villages is a bribe. This is not just a Langham issue, but for all our neighbours as well. We have attended other PC meetings, and can advise that the residents of Cockthorpe have all signed a petition against it.
- I too have grandchildren. We should use other means of saving energy. We should teach our children & grandchildren to have less reliance on electrical gadgets. These savings will amount to more that WT can produce and will avoid spoiling an AONB.
- There is an article in the EDP re proposals in Kessingland to install wind turbines, where a landscape character assessment is being called for. Ours is only a hypothetical situation here at present. How far are we going to take it?

JH: If it was decided to take this proposal forward, a referendum would have to be made in surrounding villages, followed by wind & bird surveys. The process could take over 5 yrs.

A vote was taken at this point with 5 in favour of progressing the proposal, and 55 against + letters received.

Will this be the end of the matter now? Will the Parish Council now write to BM and say that it should go no further?

JH: We will report back to the PC, we will take the views here and report back. Until we have a meeting with all the PC there I cannot say what the outcome will be.

Further comment from the audience: "This is not democracy."

The meeting closed.

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th November 2007

Present: Laurence Jordan, Steven Bashforth, Cherry Martin, Mark Harrison, Stanley Sutton, Andy Nolan and Eddy Proctor

Apologies: Councillor Jonathan Savory

In attendance: Councillor Derek Baxter, 3 parishioners and the Clerk

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 1st October 2007 were read, approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman following an amendment to item 6 Land at Camping Hill – the land has been given a registered asset value of £135,000 not £135.00 as stated in the minutes .

2 Matters Arising

Re the seat The Chairman informed the Parish Council that the seat has arrived and will be delivered to Mark Harrison's woodshed ready to be put in place once the concrete base has been prepared. Eddy Proctor offered to assist with the concrete base. The seat will be included in the Council's insurance cover.

Re: Village Hall Committee The Chairman informed the Councillors that he is waiting to be notified of the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Village Sign The Chairman informed the Councillors that he is waiting to be informed by Keith McDougal when the sign is ready for collection.

Re: Disposal of Land at Camping Hill - The Clerk informed the Councillors that she had investigated the matter further on behalf of the Parish Council and had been informed by the NNDC that they had obtained guidance from the N C C re the use of the bridleway for access to the proposed dwelling(s) and it would be dealt with at the planning application stage. The NNDC had however indicated that they were of the opinion there would not be a problem with access permission. Councillor Jonathan Savory had also agreed to investigate the intentions of the NNDC to use the bridlepath.

3 Correspondence

N C C - Norfolk Matters – October Issue

N N D C – Agenda of Meetings

North Norfolk Environment Forum - Re Carbon Neutral Communities

4 Expenditure

E-on Energy – Monthly street lighting maintenance cost £48.60.

NNDC Parish Elections - £35.80



5 Planning

Re: 46 Wells Road No building progress to report, however Mark Harrison confirmed that he had granted permission for the developer to pump the surface water onto the top field.

Notices of Decision:

30 Bridge Street – Erection of two storey rear extension – Permission for development

Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street - Alterations to roof structures, cellars and chimney stacks – Permission for development

7 **Parish Plan** Steven Bashforth gave a brief report regarding a Parish Plan which had been circulated to the Councillors at the last meeting. Steven Bashforth explained to the Councillors that a Parish Plan is not an initiative to be put forward by a Parish Council, although they would have representation, it is primarily for representatives of the various organisations in the village to produce their Village Plan. Funding is available from the N R C C and one of their representatives would be willing to attending a meeting to explain how this can be progressed.

The Councillors were in agreement that a Parish Plan should be investigated by Steven Bashforth. The first step being to ascertain if there was sufficient interest in the village for representatives to form a Parish Plan Steering Group. Cherry Martin and Steven Bashforth agreed to be the Council representatives on the Steering Group. An advertisement would be placed in the Local Links and Steven Bashforth would make enquiries in the village to see how much interest there might be. *lynx*

8 A O B

Bottle Bank Site Michael Jordan asked the Council why a new site for the relocation of a bottle bank has not been considered by the Parish Council. The area of land on the gable end of the village hall at the entrance to the car park had been suggested at a previous meeting, but it appeared that this suggestion had not been considered. The Chairman assured Mr Jordan that the site has been considered but it had been agreed that there was insufficient room to locate a bottle bank. Other sites had also been considered i.e. The Knoll, but it had also been agreed that this perhaps was not an appropriate site, however if an alternative site could be located a further bottle bank would be requested.

War Memorial The Councillors gave permission for John Pearson and Alan Curtis to use a mild detergent for the cleaning of the War Memorial.

Village Seat The Councillors agreed that the Fete Committee would be approached to request the provision of a seat to be located halfway along the Greenway.

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Teleshopping & escorted shopping trips

Older people in Norfolk who use Norfolk County Council's teleshopping service are getting the opportunity to take part in 'escorted' shopping trips.

Teleshopping, which is a county-wide service for older people, was set up as part of the At Home, Not Alone project. Teleshopping is a grocery shopping and delivery service from the comfort of your own home and does not require a computer - all that is needed is a phone.

The service can be very flexible, so if people need extra help with placing an order, or unpacking

1 A.1

shopping, or simply want to place an order then Teleshopping can help. It also offers people the option of local shops in their area, as well as the big supermarkets.

Now the service is about to host the first 'escorted' shopping trip which offers older people the opportunity to take a trip to the shops with the hassle of getting there taken away.

The first trip will see the teleshopping team taking eight of their members from Norwich and Broadland areas on an 'escorted' shopping trip to Tesco's at Harford Bridge in early November.

Teleshopping is already proving to be very popular with over 60 shops signed up to the scheme and about 100 happy shoppers around the county. It costs £10 per quarter and staff will ring people once a fortnight to take a shopping order and then arrange for an accredited shop to deliver groceries at a time to suit. The service can also arrange for someone to come and unpack the shopping.

Teleshopping is going from strength to strength and offers older people a valuable service which helps them to remain as independent as possible in their own home.

For more information, contact Norfolk County Council on 0844 800 8014.

More help for older people

Older people in Norfolk County Council's care homes are being encouraged to think 'out of the box' as part of a new creative activities project from Creative Arts East in collaboration with Norfolk Arts Partnership.

The 'out of the box' project is aimed at encouraging older people to be more creative and follows on from the consultation which suggested that carers in residential care homes and day care centres wanted to offer regular creative activities, but wanted ideas and resources to help them do so.

It is hoped that the activities will encourage people to be more active, improve their communication skills, build confidence and think in a more creative and imaginative way.

Four artists have created 'arts boxes' packed with resources for creative activities. Each box enables carers to run months worth of weekly arts sessions, with or without further input from the artists.

The boxes are based on different themes; stories, celebrity, rainforests, oceans and the world. They include equipment for story telling, story writing, poetry crib sheets, song sheets and CDs, materials and instructions for craft activities including puppetry, collage, competitions, quizzes and simple movement and exercises.

A pilot for the scheme has already been held in Benjamin Court Day Centre and will now be extended. It is then hoped to extend the project and make it available to private care homes for a small fee.

Recycling business waste

Norfolk County Council's waste reduction team is urging businesses to manage their waste in a more environmentally responsible way. New rules, on the disposal of waste to landfill, will soon force many local businesses to change the way they manage their rubbish and businesses that don't recycle could have to pay more.

From 30th October, landfill sites in the UK will no longer be able to accept rubbish that has not been treated or had some recyclable materials removed. The new rules are intended to increase the recycling and recovery of waste, and reduce the potentially polluting emissions from landfill.



Although Norfolk's residents are now regular recyclers at home, these excellent habits do not yet extend to all workplaces. The new requirement, in addition to escalating landfill tax (currently £24 per tonne), will make waste much more expensive to landfill. The good news for Norfolk businesses is that recycling is, in most cases, now a much cheaper option and in some cases by as much as half the price. Recycling services used to be considered expensive for businesses but the economics are changing. Businesses that recycle and reduce more rubbish can cut their waste disposal costs and save money by managing their resources more efficiently.

For further help and information, please contact Alder Tye at Norfolk County Council, on 01603 223002 or email 'environmental.advice@norfolk.gov.uk'.

Buy back recycled compost

Visitors to Norfolk County Council's six main recycling centres (plus Wells-next-the-sea) will be able to boost their green gardening credentials by buying back compost that has been made from their own garden waste. Each year, householders bring more than 27,000 tonnes of green garden waste to Norfolk's recycling centres. The waste is taken away to be shredded and within 12 weeks is transformed into compost. Selling compost back to the public is just one of many improvements to the recycling centre. Norfolk residents have an impressive record of sending their green waste for composting. Many environmental charities including the RSPB promote the use of compost made from garden waste as an alternative to peat. It will be for sale in 40 litre bags priced at £3 per bag. Payment can be by cash or debit/credit card.

Wells-next-the-sea zebra pedestrian crossing

Is going through due legal process and details have now gone out to advertisement. A copy of the plan may be inspected at Norfolk County Council and at the offices of North Norfolk District Council during normal working hours.

Boundary Committee meeting on 17th October

The Boundary Committee met with leaders of the County Council and District Councils to present and discuss the position based on the statement from the Secretary of State regarding Unitary Council solutions for Norfolk. They have asked for full cooperation and before they start the process they wish to receive options for unitary solutions from the councils, with indicative evidence, to be investigated further during the review process. The process will take account of the following. Unitary solutions are required for the whole of Norfolk Two tier or part two tier will not be considered Must be fully contained within Norfolk - no links with Suffolk May be 1, 2, 3 or more unitary solutions (county unitary not ruled out) Will be completely new councils

Should meet the original criteria- Affordability - Broad cross section of support - Strategic leadership - Neighbourhood empowerment - Value for money services.

Public opinion will be considered but will only be one factor, not a stopper. There will be no referendum and the Committee will only consider evidence not assertions. They want to receive the councils' proposals by the end of November and then to have meetings to discuss options and to collect initial data before the start of the business proper.

Probable timetable;

Stage one - early Jan to late March - receive evidence for the options proposed

Stage two - early April to early July - produce draft recommendations

Stage three - early July to late August - consultation on draft recommendations and boundary issues

Stage four - late August to early December - produce final recommendations and present to Secretary of State.

L. A. T.