

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 2000, at 7 pm, IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL

In attendance: L Jordon (Chairman)
 J Pearson
 M Gerrard
 M Harrison
 S Sutton

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from R Rodgers and E Gambrill

2. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Due to other commitments, Mr Crowe was given the meeting to give his report – attached to these minutes is a resume of his report.

Mr Crowe then left the meeting following discussions on the various points raised.

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Proposed by Mr Pearson, seconded by Mr Sutton that minutes be adopted as a true record. This resolution was passed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Nil

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk presented the following:

1. Letter received from Stiffkey PCC thanking the Council for their donation.
2. Letter regarding Periodic Electoral Review for the North Norfolk area. The review will be undertaken during 2001/2002 – noted.

3. Letter received from Norfolk CC regarding Bus Stop enhancements on the A149. No effect on Stiffkey – noted.
4. Letter received from Coastal Communities Association regarding subscriptions and election of an Executive Committee – noted.
5. New Maintenance Agreement for Public Lighting presented for a three year period with Eastern Contracting. Agreed by Councillors to proceed with new agreement.
6. Norwich Cathedral Tours new dates given – noted.
7. Letter from North Norfolk Transport Group and Cycle Forum regarding Cycling Parish of the Year – noted.
8. Norfolk Coastal Project – future meetings to improve liaison between the Parish.
9. Letter from Norfolk CC regarding Norfolk Waste Local Plan amendments – noted.
10. Letter from Norfolk Police Authority regarding the re-organisation of boundaries – noted. The Clerk was asked to arrange a visit by the Police to one of our meetings.
11. Letter from the Editor of the local free paper Local Lynx asking for donations. After discussion, whilst agreeing, it was a cause worth considering. The Clerk was asked to check the level of donations made to date.
12. Land known as 'Big Hill' – two letters from the Land Registry regarding the registering of the land in the name of Mr and Mrs Grimes.

Discussion took place on the old right of way over the land. Forms regarding these rights had been received by some people in the village. This to be investigated by J Pearson.
13. Norfolk CC letter received regarding A149 speed limit review and extension of consultation period.

The Clerk and J Pearson had attended a meeting in Wells regarding the speed limit review and also J Pearson and R Rogers had attended a forum on speed management.
14. Letter received from the Norfolk Coast Path regarding the riding of motorcycles on Warham Greens. Parishioners asked to report any sightings with number plate.

6. PLANNING

1. Application received for the erection of double garage and garden store at Namadene, Hollow Lane.

The Council supported this application.

2. It was noted that the planning applications for the windpump at Morston Road and the application for renovations at 3 Warborough Place had been approved.

7. FINANCIAL

Bank balance stood at £1,518.27 in the deposit account and £107.97 in the current account.

8. NEXT MEETING

This will take place on Monday, 6th March.

Future meetings – every first Monday of the month except August, when there would be no meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.



2/2000

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2000/2001

MEETING	DAY	TIME	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MA
FULL COUNCIL	Wed	10.00		14			27			13		28	
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Mon	9.30	8	12	10	14	11	9	13	11	15	12	12
CONSULTATION COMMITTEE	Wed	10.00	24		26				22			7	
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Wed	10.00	17		19				15		31		28
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE (WEST)	Thurs	9.45	4	1/29	27	24	21	19	16	14	18	15	15
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE (EAST)	Thurs	9.30	11	8	6	3/31	28	26	23	21	25	22	22
Site Meetings**	Thurs	w-am	25	22	20	17	14	12	9	7	11	8	8
		e-pm											
NORTH NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE	Tues	2.15	16				26				9		13
Joint Staff Consultative Committee*	Wed	2.30	17		19				15		31		28

NOTES:

Committees marked * are occasional Committees and will not meet unless express notification is given.

Meetings marked ** are not formal meetings and are recorded here for convenience.

CODE OF PRACTICE - SITE VISITS BY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEES
(As amended 21 December 1999 to take account of new committee Structure)

This subject was discussed at the meeting of Development Committee on 23 May 1996, when the following guidelines were agreed:-

1) **Decision to visit site**

In deciding whether to visit a site, the Committee will be guided by the following principles:-

- a) The site or its immediate surroundings have particular physical characteristics which are likely to have a critical bearing on the decision which has to be made.
- b) The proposal has proved to be a source of such local or Highway Authority concern that it is considered that a better-informed decision is likely to be made, as a result of both seeing the physical characteristics of the site and hearing local views expressed through the Town or Parish Council's representative.

2) **Conduct of site visits**

The Member chairing the meeting will generally follow the procedure set out below:-

- a) Chairman to open meeting, explaining if necessary to members of the public the fact-finding nature of the meeting, that they are welcome to listen to the discussion but that they are not entitled to speak and explaining to the applicant and/or agent that they may be asked to clarify points of detail at the Chairman's invitation only, but that they will not be permitted to make representations in favour of the application.
- b) Planning Officer to give brief introduction to case, setting out background to the application and the principal issues involved, including any significant characteristics of the site or its surroundings. If appropriate, Highway Authority representative or other specialist officer be invited to speak.
- c) Chairman or other representative of Town or Parish Council invited to make representations on proposal.
- d) Local Member(s) be invited to give observations.
- e) Members of Committee be invited to make observations or ask questions concerning the proposal.
- f) Only if appropriate, and strictly at the Chairman's discretion, applicant or agent be invited to answer specific questions or clarify points raised by previous speakers, such answers to be directed to the Chairman only.
- g) Planning Officer be invited, if necessary, to clarify any outstanding issues.
- h) Chairman to close meeting, explaining, if necessary, procedure for further representations to be made by the applicant, agent or the public and when the matter is likely to be considered.

Guidance Note:

Pursuant to the meeting of Development Committee on 9 January 1997, substitute Members may attend site meetings with the proviso that they are able to give an undertaking that they intend to be present at the next meeting of the Committee, as appropriate, when the site is further considered by Members.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTEBOOK

Budget

The Executive Committee meets on 17 January 2000 to put forward its recommendations to the Full Council on 23 February 2000. These recommendations will be examined by the Scrutiny Committee on 26 January 2000. On 23 February 2000 the Council Tax and Budget will be set. These committee meetings are held at the North Norfolk District Council Offices at Cromer when members of the public are most welcome to attend. The timings of the meetings can be obtained by ringing reception on 01263 513811.

Norfolk County Structure Plan

The plan is being revised to reflect a stronger emphasis on sustainability. NNDC has supported the revisions. The most significant change is the integration of land use and transportation planning so as to reduce both the need to travel and reliance on the car.

Three key elements of the Structure Plan are:

- Fakenham and North Walsham are identified as 'rural centres' where housing, employment and commercial development should be provided on a scale which will support that role. The remaining towns in the District, e.g. Holt, are identified as 'rural market towns'. This role will be supported by the provision of employment and service development, with housing development limited to a level that will support the balance of jobs locally.
- The Plan includes a policy requiring local plans to include 'Whole Settlement Strategies' for their towns and to provide for strategic relationships between land use and transport.
- The Review Plan includes a new housing provision target for the years 1993-2011. For North Norfolk District, it requires that land will be provided for 7,300 dwellings. As at June 1999, 3,243 had been provided, 464 were under construction and planning permission had been granted for a further 1,590. That leaves sites to be found for 2,003 dwellings.
- A review of the North Norfolk Local Plan, which is being carried out now, will need to identify sites for the revised housing provision.

Once the County Council prints the new Structure Plan, I will be able to brief you further.

Norfolk Constabulary

The Norfolk Constabulary is currently in the process of reviewing its Service Delivery and is creating larger Divisions in the County to operate from April 2000.

The Northern Division, based in North Walsham, will cease to exist and a new Eastern Division is to be formed, comprising both North Norfolk and Yarmouth. We are not yet aware of where the Operational Divisional Headquarters will be based. I will keep you briefed on this and hope that presentations can be made to Parish Councils when the details are known.

Council Tax Direct Debit Campaign

During late January/early February 2000, the North Norfolk District Council will contact non direct debit payers to invite them to pay next year's Council Tax by Direct Debit.

Currently there are in the region of 20265 customers who pay by Direct Debit. A 10% increase in customers adopting this method of payment would meet the costs of the campaign in the first year with estimated savings of £6500 per annum. As an incentive to promote the campaign, a prize draw will take place in late May. The prize will be the equivalent of one year's Band 'C' Council Tax charge.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 6th MARCH, 2000, at 7 pm, IN THE VILLAGE HALL

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
3. MATTERS ARISING
4. CORRESPONDENCE
5. PLANNING
6. FINANCIAL REPORT
7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

By order of the Council
R V Bassingthwaighte
Clerk

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 6th MARCH, 2000, at 7 pm, IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL

In attendance: L Jordon (Chairman)
J Pearson
S Sutton
M Harrison
R Rogers
M Gerrard
E Gambrill

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 3

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from District Councillor B Crowe (Mr Crowe would attend the April meeting).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Proposed by Mr Harrison, seconded by Mr Pearson that minutes be duly adopted and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

1. Clerk reported on local Lynx Newsletter. They had the funding in place for this current year. After discussion it was decided not to make any donation in this current year but to review the situation towards the end of 2000.
2. FP 10 on Big Hill. Forms are in circulation in the village from Norfolk CC. The Parish Council will only be involved if a member of the public submits a form requesting re-instatement of FP10. Mr Sutton read various correspondence dated 1957 relating to FP 10.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk presented the following:


3/2000

1. North Norfolk Community Transport Partnership - letter re meeting on 21st March regarding feasibility study – noted no Councillor could attend.
2. North Norfolk Primary Care Group NHS Health Watch - letter and application for membership from Parish Councillors. No Councillor wished to have their name put forward.

Also copy of Primary Care Group Plan presented.

3. Letter from David Prior MP strongly opposing the abolition of Parish Councils as rumoured to be under consideration. Asking for views from Parish Councils on the subject. The Clerk to write.
4. Public Consultation on Norfolk Constabulary Review. Paper considered and questions answered.
5. Letter from Morston Parish Council asking if the Council were interested in joining with them. To produce a Design Statement for the two villages.

After discussion, Councillors did not see this as benefiting either Council and the Clerk was asked to convey this to Morston PC.

6. Letter from Blakeney Parish Council regarding Blakeney Harbour and its increased use. The Council were asked to attend future meetings and L Jordon agreed to be the Council's Representative.
7. North Norfolk Environmental Forum - letter regarding Future Outlook Two – noted.
8. Coastal Communities Association AGM - noted as being on the 13th March, members were invited to attend.

5. PLANNING

1. Noted that Application No. 01 2000 0009 PF for Mrs A Taylor has been approved by North Norfolk DC.

6. FINANCIAL

1. Current balance at Bank stood as follows:

Business Premium Account	£ 1,318.27
Current Account	£ 225.31

2. Bill received from Eastern Contracting for replacement of Perspex bowl in the sum of £44.65, agreed to pay.

(19)

3. Other bills received this month, Energy and Maintenance Charge from Eastern Electricity.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. E Gambrill raised the question of the condition of 3 seats in the Village. After discussion Mr V Firmage agreed to treat them and repair as necessary, the Council agreeing to meet the cost.
2. J Pearson raised the question of the BT hole at the bottom of Hollow Lane. Clerk to report to the Highway Authority.
3. Mr A Curtis (Member of the Public) raised the question of Regulation 33 regarding the Salt Marshes and upholding the rights of local people. Comments should be submitted by 10th April and Mr Curtis felt the Parish Council should write and support this. The Clerk to investigate and write as appropriate.
4. The Clerk reported that due to leaving the area he would be submitting his resignation in due course. It was decided to advertise the position as soon as possible.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will be on Monday, 3rd April, 2000, at 7 pm.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

L. C. Jordan

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 6th APRIL, 2000, at 7 pm,
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
3. MATTERS ARISING
4. CORRESPONDENCE
5. PLANNING
6. FINANCIAL REPORT
7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

By order of the Council
R V Bassingthwaighe
Clerk

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2000 at 7.00pm.

Present: L Jordan (Chairman), J Pearson, S Sutton, M Harrison, R Rogers, M Gerrard, and E Gambrell

In attendance: Cllr. B Crowe and the Clerk

No Apologies

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 6th March 2000 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Lynx Newsletter Received a donation of £300 from the District Council towards the purchase of a new printer. The editorship will be taken over by a couple in Langham.

New Clerk The Chairman introduced Patricia Crowe who will take over as Clerk from Mr Bassingthwaite.

3 Correspondence

The Clerk has received the following correspondence:

Cllr Bernard Crowe In response to a letter from David Prior concerning the threat to abolish local Councils.

North Norfolk District Council : Refuse Collection arrangements for the Bank Holiday period.

E D P Norfolk Village of the Year Competition : Entry forms were enclosed with literature and the Council agreed to enter this competition.

Parish and Town Councils : Training Opportunities for Spring 2000

Norfolk County Council Planning and Transportation : Questionnaire with regard to the future use of Norwich Bus Station

Licensing and Customer Services Officer : Acknowledgement that the renewal of an annual public entertainment licence for Stiffkey Village Hall has been received.

R S P B ; An invitation to 'Valuing Norfolk's Coast'

East Norfolk Rural Transport : Enclosing a copy of an Executive Summary of the East Norfolk RTP's Action Plan and invitation to attend at meeting on Thursday 13th April at 10.00am at Easton College.

Local Council Review : Notification of subscription charges for this magazine. The Council agreed not to purchase this subscription.

Common Land : Details of the Consultation Document and the proposal put forward to complement the statutory right of access on foot to all registered common land.

3/4

4 Finance

Mr Bassingthwaite supplied the following information:

Expenditure

Invoice paid during them month where as follows:

Eastern Energy	£ 28.19
Eastern Contracting	£ 13.14
Clerks 2 nd installment – salary	£152.60
Clerk expenses	£ 2.60

The Council approved the payment of £59.99 for the subscription due for the NCAPTC subscription.

Mr Bassingthwaite reported the projected surplus for the year amounted to £1,350 which would go towards the playing field playground

5 Planning

The Council had received the following planning application:

139 Camping Hill, Stiffkey Conservatory at the front of the house - *the Council had no objections to this application.*

8 A O B

Cllr Bernard Crowe – A copy of his District Council Notebook has been included in the Minute Book. Cllr Crowe went on to report that the crime rate is considerably reduced, there is now a 15 minute response time in rural areas.

Millanium Presentation A Presentation Millenium Book will be given to villages where Churches are open all year round. Stiffkey will qualify for one of these books.

Retrospective Planning Cllr Crowe suggested retrospective planning should be avoided whenever possible/.

Village Seats The Parish Council agreed they would take over the maintenance of the 3 village seats and that Mr Firmage should be reimbursed for the materials and his time.

Wells Area Advisory Group This group has produced a number of amendments and proposed inclusion into the Reg. 33 Document following the informal and formal consultation period. I considerable amount of input was provided by Stiffkey residents.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 8th May 2000 at 7.00pm



Executive Summary of The East Norfolk Rural Transport Partnership Action Plan

This document is a summary of the Action Plan and sets out the priorities that have been identified by the partnership and the initiatives proposed to address the priorities.

Given the large geographical area served by this Partnership, it was not possible to draw clear distinctions. It is the case that priority of need varies greatly according to the part of the area of this Partnership. For example in some areas such as North Norfolk the priority is for older people, yet in others, it is for access to employment and training opportunities. The priorities are also closely linked; for instance improved transport integration may lead to improved access to employment or medical services. Therefore, two equal main priorities have been chosen, with other priorities following on:

- 1a: Improve access to employment and training opportunities
- 1b: Reduction of mobility problems, caused by a concentration of older and disabled community members
- 2a: Improve access to medical, recreational and shopping services for all sectors of the community
- 2b: Improve transport integration and co-ordination
- 3a: Improve information facilities
- 3b: Improve recruitment and retention of volunteer drivers

The following projects have been identified as the means by which the priorities will be addressed:

Kickstart

Kickstart is a project which aims to increase employment and training opportunities to people in rural areas by providing them with a moped on 'loan' for a period of between six and twelve months.

Flexible Feeders

The Flexible Feeders project is designed to provide journey to work and shopping services, by feeding into existing main bus and rail services. The two vehicles used will operate a flexible route from rural areas into the towns and transport links. Norfolk County Council will provide the two vehicles used, as a result of the successful 1998 Rural Bus Challenge bid. Likely locations are Wymondham and North Walsham.

Brokerage

A project intended to make greater use of existing vehicles by the wider communities they serve. In this case, the areas concerned are North Walsham, Sheringham and Fakenham areas and in the future, Wymondham and surrounding area.

Information and Communication

This is a countywide project across the whole of Norfolk, in partnership with the WNBRT. It aims to improve and augment the information available to villages to increase awareness and use of existing and new services. This will not be restricted to community transport, but incorporate all available public transport.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTEBOOK

CITIZENS PANEL

The results of the first survey of the Norfolk Citizen's Panel have now been published. The overall findings are generally positive and encouraging although this should not give rise for complacency. I have arranged for Parish Councils to receive copies and will simply highlight a few areas of interest about life in North Norfolk.

The majority of respondents (87%) said that they were satisfied with the North Norfolk District area. The most important issues were identified as:

health care/hospitals

personal finance/increased cost of living

employment

education

Other issues considered to be important by more one in ten respondents were:

transport/traffic levels

crime/vandalism/level of policing

This information will be used by NNDC to help produce the service plans for 2000/01.

I was particularly interested in the view about North Norfolk District Council, and it would be useful to know whether you own views coincide or differ.

View on NNDC	%
I am not interested in what the council does, or whether they do their job	0
I am not interested in what the council does, as long as they do their job	4
I like to know what the council is doing, but	

I am happy to let them get on with their job	45
I don't know what the council does, but I would like to know more	14
I would like to have more of a say in what the council does and the services it provides	33
I already work for, or am involved with, the council and the services it provides	2
Don't know	2

[Number of respondents were 678]	100

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2000

A document entitled 'A Guide to North Norfolk incorporating our PERFORMANCE PLAN 2000' gives picture of what the Council is currently doing and what we will be doing over the next few years. It will be available at Parish Councils, Public Buildings and to members of the public on request. Contact Tony Ing on 01263 516080 if you want a copy.

PLANNING

Planning attempts to mediate between conflicting interests in the use and development of land. The Development Plan plays a key part. It consists of an adopted and up to date Structure Plan and a District Wide Local Plan. The Norfolk Structure Plan was prepared by the County Council and adopted in 1993. The North Norfolk District Plan was prepared by the council adopted by the Full Council on 2 April 1998. Government guidance insists that planning authorities, in our case the Development Control Committees at NNDC, base their decisions on the recommendations of the planning officers whose duty is to interpret government policies and the Development Plan. The elected councillors should have good reasons, based on land use planning grounds, if they choose to resist such advice. The Nolan Report on Standards in Local Government noted that there is nothing intrinsically wrong if planning committees do not invariably follow the advice of officers. Planning officers exist to advise planning committees, which are entitled to reach their own decisions by attaching different weight to the various planning criteria which are relevant to an application. If a decision is thought to

be perverse. A planning officer should so advise the committee, but respect the committee's conclusion.

Councillors exercise two roles in the planning system. They determine applications, arriving at a decision on granting or refusing permission using planning criteria and by excluding non planning considerations. They also act as representatives of public opinion in their communities.

As politicians, local councillors must listen and be responsive to the views of their constituents. As members of the planning committee, they must make a decision using only planning criteria. This may be a delicate balance to achieve!

NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL
WORKING ARRANGEMENTS (LABOUR AND LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUPS)

ASSUMPTION

This set of conventions is operable from the Annual General Meeting. It is intended to operate for the remainder of the four year term of the present Council.

OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this working arrangements is to facilitate the overall planning and prioritising of the Council's policies and the making of effective and agreed budgets for the Council. The arrangements will deliver stability in service policies and development.

DISCLAIMER

The working arrangement is not a formal coalition or pact between the two groups. Each group is free to vote as it wishes on any matter at any time and to promote or oppose any policies (subject to the conventions set out below).

POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION

Under this agreement the Groups will seek to ensure:

1. The positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council are held for terms of one year.
2. Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Executive and Consultation Committees, and also East and West Development Control Committees are taken on a basis agreed by the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups, by nominees of these two groups. The Chair and Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Committee will be taken by nominees from opposition parties.
3. The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council are taken on a basis agreed by the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups.
4. Executive Members (ie those who will hold portfolios) for the Council's Directorates are taken on a basis agreed by the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups.

CONSULTATION WITH OFFICERS

1. Each Group is free to pursue with Officers the analysis and review of any existing or proposed policies. Before seeking any papers, advice or meetings about any item on a confidential, one-party basis, the Member(s) concerned will make it clear to the Officer(s) that it is a one-party confidential item.
2. Officers may be asked to attend and advise at any Group meetings.
3. Pre-Agenda meetings of Committees will comprise the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee and the relevant Officers. Officers' reports will be seen and if it is possible agreed before or at pre-agenda meetings. Notwithstanding this, the rights of Chief Officers remain unchanged.

COMMITTEE PROCESS

1. Groups will be free to vote as they please but, as a matter of courtesy ~~and~~ in the interests of good administration:-
 - a) If one or other of the two Groups (or a substantial section of the Group) intends to vote contrary to the proposals of the other Group on an item on which there has been joint working and discussion, the other Group will be notified of the intended "opposition" by the spokespersons before the Committee begins.
 - b) If a Group intends to vote against Officer recommendations in a report, the Group will notify the other Group before the Committee begins, and out of courtesy will also notify the relevant Director.

DIRECTORATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

The role of the Executive Members for the three Directorates and Chief Executive's Department is recognised in ensuring that Council policy is delivered as agreed by Members, and also to ensure efficiency in delivering Best Value. Regular meetings will take place between the Executive Members and their Directorate Officers. As a form of protocol Executive Members will normally lead on their Directorate items at Executive meetings.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND LEADERS' MEETINGS

Executive Members will meet regularly on an agreed basis, with the Chief Executive, Directors and other relevant Officers. Leaders' meetings with Chief Executive and relevant Officers will take place on an agreed basis. If required, the Chief Executive and relevant Officers will have meetings with Leaders of other Groups of the Council.

MEDIA STATEMENTS

Media statements will normally be prepared by the Public Relations Section and be issued in line with the Council's Communication Statement of Intent. Statements dealing with policy and other matters of significant importance shall be issued jointly by the Labour and Liberal Democrat Leaders. This protocol shall also apply to publications produced in-house.

Mbrs/work arr

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Address:
Wildfowlers Cottage
High Street
Cley
NR25 7AP
Tel: 01263 740843

2nd May 2000

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 8th MAY 2000** following the Annual Parish Council Meeting in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL**. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Nomination of:
Chairman
Vice Chairman
Internal Auditor
- 3 Minutes of April Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Village Hall Report
- 9 Any Other Business
- 10 Parishioners Question Time
- 11 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5th June 2000


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Patricia Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

2nd May 2000

Minutes of Stiffkey Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th May 2000 at 7.00pm.

Present: L Jordan (Chairman), J Pearson, S Sutton, R Rogers, M Gerrard and E Gambrill

Apologies: M Harrison and Cllr Bernard Crowe

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr Bassingthwaite (retiring Clerk) and Mr Jordan

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 10th May 1999 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Annual Report

Mr L Jordan Chairman of the Council thanked the Councillors for their support during the past year for. He expressed his thanks and those of the Council to the retiring Clerk Mr Bassingthwaite.

The past year had been successful for the village who had won an award following the introduction of the highways traffic project. Lord Buxton and Mr Harrison ensured the village was kept in a neat and tidy order.

The homewatch scheme was working very well and an asset to the village as was the Shop and Post Office and the litter pick organised by the WI.

Under the leadership of Mr S Sutton the Village Hall Committee was run in it's usual very efficient manner.

3 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2000 which were unanimously approved and duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

There being no further business the Annual Parish Council Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
SUMMARY RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000

31 March 1999		£	31 March 2000		£
	RECEIPTS				
1500	Precept		1700		
	Agency Services Reimbursed		-		
26	Loans Taken Out <i>INVESTMENT STOCK</i>		-		
	Capital Receipts		-		
20	Interest on Investments (<i>BANK</i>)		15.98		
	Community Hall Lettings		-		
	Burial Ground Fees		-		
24	Allotment Rents		-		
	Recreation Ground Lettings		-		
185	VAT on Income and Repayments		53.19		
97	Miscellaneous		28.83		
50	<i>DONATIONS - STIFFKEY FETE</i>		-		
22	<i>ENERGY CREDITS</i>		-		
<u>1924</u>	TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>1798.00</u>		
	PAYMENTS				
240	General Administration		309.31		
300	Agency Services <i>SALARIES</i>		300.00		
-	S.137 Payments		-		
-	Capital Spending		-		
-	Loan Interest and Loan Repayments		-		
68	Loans Made <i>SUBSCRIPTIONS</i>		57.60		
	Running Costs:				
50	- Allotments <i>STREET SIGNS</i>		-		
	- Community Hall		-		
	- Burial Ground	50.00			
436	- Street Lighting	456.36			
9	- Recreation Grounds	55.44		561.80	
53	VAT on Payments		73.86		
90	Miscellaneous (<i>INC DONATIONS</i>)		95.00		
<u>1246</u>	TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>1397.57</u>		

£	RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SUMMARY		£
277.80	Balance at 1 April 1999	955.18	
1924.00	Total Receipts	1798.00	
<u>1246.62</u>	Less Total Payments	<u>1397.57</u>	
			<u>1355.61</u>
<u>955.18</u>	Balance at 31 March 2000		<u>1355.61</u>

These cumulative funds are represented by:

Current Account	31.51
Deposit Account	1324.10
Other Accounts/Investments:	
.....	<u> </u>
.....	<u>1355.61</u>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority at 31 March.... and reflects its receipts and payments during the year.

Signed: *J. C. Jones* Chairman Signed: *R. A. Jones* Responsible Financial Officer

Date: 8th May 2000 Date: 8th May 2000

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th May 2000 at 7.30pm following on from the Annual Report to Parishioners.

Present: L Jordan (Chairman), J Pearson, S Sutton, R Rogers, M Gerrard and E Gambrell

Apologies: M Harrison and Cllr Bernard Crowe

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr Bassingthwaite (retiring Clerk) and Mr Jordan

1 Nominations

Election of Chairman : Mr L Jordan was proposed by Mr S Sutton and seconded by Mrs E Gambrell as Chairman of the Parish Council for the 2000/2001 year.

This was carried unanimously and Mr Jordan thanked those present for the honour.

Election of Vice Chairman : Mr M Harrison was proposed by Mr J Pearson and seconded by Mrs M Gerrard.

This was carried unanimously. However Mr Harrison was unable to be in attendance at this meeting and therefore confirmation of his acceptance would be deferred until the next meeting.

Election of Internal Auditor : Mr R Rogers was appointed as the Internal Auditor.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2000 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3 Correspondence

The Clerk has received the following correspondence:

North Norfolk Management Partnership : Re Three Tier Working Invitation to attend a special forum to discuss Integrated Waste Management Strategy at the Pavilion Theatre, Cromer on Wednesday 4th July 2000.

Norfolk Elders Advocacy Alliance – First Annual General Meeting Wednesday 7th June 2000 2.30pm East Tuddenham Village Hall

Norfolk County Council : Enclosing a summary of the County Council's Performance Plan 2000/2001

3 Correspondence - Continued

Department of Planning and Transportation:

- Notification regarding the programme of vegetation cutting on public rights of way during the growing season which covers the area from the Greenway to Hollow Lane and through the Plantation.
- Norfolk Local Transport Plan - Summary Document
- Enclosing a copy of the 'Adopted Norfolk Structure Plan 1999'

Blakeney Parish Council : Re. Blakeney Harbour enclosing a draft letter to the Crown Estate Commissioners - The Council were in support of this letter.

Recycled Products Limited : Information regarding recycled products.

North Norfolk District Council

- Budget 2000/2001
- Parish Newsletter Issue No. 54
- Agenda and Council Minutes
- A copy of 'A Guide to North Norfolk' incorporating NNDC Performance Plan 2000
- North Norfolk District Council Community Services Directorate :
Re. Refuse Collection
- European Objective 2 Status Opportunities for the Norfolk Norfolk Coast
- Norfolk Rural Community Council : Signpost Issue No. 57
- Re foreshore at Holkham Bay – a regulatory lease is being prepared for English Nature and they wished to know if there were two outfalls in this area. Mr Bassingthwaite had contacted them to inform them there was only one.

3 Finance:

Expenditure

The following direct debit notification has been received

Eastern Electricity	£ 28.19
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The following invoices were approved for payment:

Insurance	£ 130.08
Eastern Contracting	£ 44.65

Income

1 st Instalment for the Precept	£1,200.00
Interest on Surveyors Land	£ 16.75

A VAT refund is due to be claimed amounting to £73.86

3 Finance - Continued

New Bank Mandates were approved for signature by the Clerk and the Councillors.

The Internal Auditor Mr R Rogers approved the above transactions and carried out an inspection of the Bank Statements and Ledger.

4 Planning

139 Camping Hill Stiffkey for Miss B Jordan : Erection of conservatory

Report from the Development and Control Committee West – 4th May 2000 -
Recommendation : Refuse on the following grounds

The proposed development is contrary to the objectives of the above property by reason of its position, design and materials, which would not be well related to the existing dwelling. The roof pitch and use of uPVC, together with the conservatory's awkward relationship to the existing dwelling would result in an obtrusive feature which would not be compatible with the existing character of the village and would be significantly detrimental to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Mr Jordan expressed his concern following the decision to recommend refusal of the above planning application by the Development and Control Committee West. He informed the Council that his daughter Miss B Jordan would be attending a meeting with the Planning Officers and hopes to achieve a positive result. Cllr. Bernard Crowe has also agreed to look into the recommendation for refusal of the planning application.

5 P Q T

Mr Jordan reported that there was a tree obstruction opposite the Camping Hill Estate. A number of years ago this area was coppiced and now needs to be done again. It is understood that Lord Buxton on who's land the trees are situated, is not agreeable to the remove of the trees or for them to be coppiced. The Council agreed a nice letter should be sent to Lord Buxton to outline the concerns raised by the villagers and ask him if he would consider coppicing the trees again.

6 A O B

Speeding through the village - Concerns were raised at the December meeting regarding the speed of vehicles being driven through the village, it would appear the recent measures taken to help reduce the speed of vehicles does not appear to be having much effect. A speed survey was carried out last year, but the Council has received no report.

The Clerk will contact the Divisional Commander at Gt. Yarmouth to enquire if something more can be done.

6 **A O B - Continued**

Village Hall Report

Public Entertainment Licence : The Village Hall Committee is still waiting for the written report from King's and Barnhams and concerns were expressed at the length of time this is taking bearing in mind the inspection was carried out over 2 months ago.

During the 'testing' inspection the following problem areas were highlighted:

- The sink is not properly bonded
- The store socket outlet is illegally wired
- No light in the store
- The fridge failed the compliance test
- Two Emergency lights not working
- Two Fire Exit signs are illegal and need to be replaced
- No external lights at the back door

A verbal estimate of possibly £1,600 has been provided but there may hopefully be a reduction in this.

The Public Entertainment License will not be valid until the above faults have been rectified. King's and Barnhams would be contacted again to stress the urgency of the report.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage
High Street
Cley
NR25 7AP
Tel: 01263 740843

1st June 2000

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 5th June 2000** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm**. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of May Meeting
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Correspondence
- 5 Finance
- 6 Planning
- 7 Village Hall Report
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd July 2000


.....
Patricia Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

1st July 2000

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th June 2000 at 7.00pm.

Present: L Jordan (Chairman), J Pearson, S Sutton, M Harrison, M Gerrard and E Gambrill

Apologies: R Rogers

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Bernard Crowe and Mr Jordan

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 8th May 2000 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Village Hall Public Entertainment License : This has now been received by the Clerk from North Norfolk District Council.

Speeding through the village : The Clerk has written to the Divisional Commander at Gt. Yarmouth to enquire if anything more can be done.

Camping Hill Tree Obstruction : The Clerk has sent a letter to Lord Buxton outlining the concerns raised at the last meeting.

3 Correspondence

The Clerk has received the following:

Cllr. Bernard Crowe : Re. Land at Camping Hill This land to the North of Camping Hill is surplus to NNDC requirements and is for disposal. At the moment the area it is an area of shrubland. *The Council agreed this area might be of use to one or two parishioners to cultivate and therefore agreed to declare an interest. However, they would need to know how much the 'peppercorn rent' would be before making a firm decision.*

Parish and Town Councils :

Re. Appointment of new Clerk
Norfolk Link Issue NO. 119
N A L C AGM 2000 – Motions for Debate -

North Norfolk County Council Planning and Transportation : Local Bus Service Variation – Route Yarmouth – Cromer – Sheringham – Wells – Hunstanton – King's Lynn.

3 Correspondence - Continued

Open Spaces Society : Re. Introduction of new local correspondent Mr I M Witham

Norfolk Police Authority : Enclosing a copy of the Annual Policing Plan

North Norfolk District Council : Re. Stage 2 Air Quality Review and Assessment – Consultation Response

Wren Recycling Environment Enclosing a copy of the WREN Newsletter for information

Norfolk Coast Project : Partnership Information Appendix

Health Norfolk 2000 : Enclosing the Growing Healthy Information Pack

N A L C : Enclosing a copy of the Local Council Review

4 Finance

Income:

N N D C Recycling credit	£28.84
VAT Refund (applied for)	£73.86

Expenditure:

Eastern Contracting Public Lighting Maintenance (monthly payment) £13.14

Eastern Electricity Monthly Energy Charge £28.19

Clerk's Salary Mrs E Gambrill proposed that the Clerk should be paid for 21/2 hours per week on scale 16 at £6.62 per hour, this was seconded by Mr S Sutton and unanimously approved by the Council.

Playing field Mr Sutton gave a detailed report on the recent improvement work which has been carried out and the cost of the plastic chain link fencing which is due to be installed within the next few weeks. The total cost of the improvements amounted to £738 plus VAT. The Council agreed to pay both invoices for the improvements as had been agreed during the last financial year for the Millennium Project. Stiffkey Social Services Committee will be invited to make a donation of £300 towards these costs. This was unanimously approved by the Council.

Bank statements were unavailable for inspection and no payments could ~~not~~ be made until the next meeting due to the annual audit taking place.

5 Planning

The Clerk has received the following planning applications:

Mr A R Rogers, Riverside 31, Wells Road, Stiffkey : Conversion of outbuilding into ancillary residential accommodation – *the Council had no objection to this application.*

Mr K R Bindley, Harbour House 1, Greenway, Stiffkey : Demolition of Outbuildings – *The Council had no objection to this application subject to the agreement of the Conservation Officer and if the rendering is restored back to the flint wall inkeeping with the rest of the property*

139 Camping Hill, Stiffkey – Erection of Conservatory: Miss L Jordan Cllr Crowe reported that Miss Jordan will withdraw the planning application and re-submit them with amendments which will hopefully be acceptable to the Planning Office. The Council emphasised that they did not have any objection to the original application and would ensure that the Planning Office were aware of this when the plans were re-submitted.

6 A O B

Report from Cllr Crowe – attached.

Road Repairs in the village - Mrs Gerrard expressed concern that the recent repair to the road outside the village shop has been completed with tarmac instead of the new surface material.

Channel 4 Road Traffic Measures Mrs Gambrill reported Stiffkey would be included in a program to be screened later in the year.

20 m.p.h. Mr M Harrion asked if it would be possible for the 20 m.p.h. sign to be moved further back up Bridge Street. Cllr Crowe explained that resources were limited but hoped more money would be available after June. The Council agreed this would be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.



POLICING NORTH NORFOLK

This report Stems from a recent meeting with Inspector Terry Cuss who is the Sector Inspector for our Ward. The Norfolk Constabulary is now divided into three Areas which more truly reflect District Council boundaries. We are in the Eastern area which has five Sectors. The Headquarters of our Sector (C1) is at Fakenham with 16 police. Other C1 Sector police are based at Sheringham (12) and Holt (4). The Blakeney Ward is covered by the Wells 'beat' to use the police term.

Our new Police Liaison Officer is PC 736 Ken Durrant who we will welcome at Parish Council Meetings in future. He is based in Fakenham. We say good bye and thanks to PC David Bucky who has looked after us for so many years. (He will, of course, continue to live in Blakeney).

The establishment for the Norfolk Constabulary is 1400 officers of which 1384 are recruited. You will have read that the Chief Constable is seeking authority and finance to recruit 100 more officers. We wish him success. In the next issue, I hope to be able to provide details of the Sector Policing Plan which will touch on proactive and reactive policing. We will also look at the Parish Constable Scheme and the provision of Special Constables in future issues.

7/12

Planning decisions are sometimes controversial. Where there is conflict, the NNDC Officers will make recommendations to the Committee. As your District Councillor, I am able to attend the Committee and to speak on items within the Blakeney Ward. Decisions may be deferred until a site meeting is conducted so that a more informed decision can be made as a result of both seeing the physical characteristics of the site and hearing local views expressed through the Parish Council's representative.

There is a right of appeal to the Secretary of State against most decisions made by Planning Authorities. Appeals are determined in the name of the Secretary of State but the vast majority are determined by a person appointed by the Secretary of State:- an Inspector. Appeals are dismissed (Council wins) or allowed (Appellant wins). There is no appeal available to neighbours against a decision to approve a planning application but that decision may lead to an Ombudsman complaint or to a legal challenge in the courts.

Development within a conservation area is required to 'preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area'. Recent cases have dealt with the interpretation of this section, and determined that the preservation case involves the absence of harm to the area rather than the need demonstrate positive preservation. Nevertheless, this test must always be applied.

Affordable Housing in Blakeney

When the Oddfellows Field development was agreed, it was on the basis of identification of local housing needs. In practice, 'local' is currently treated as the whole of North Norfolk. This means that local people could miss the chance of taking up a house in Oddfellows Field when one becomes vacant. I have now made arrangements with the District Council, supported by the Blakeney Parish Council, that a legal agreement will be introduced to regulate the occupation of the Oddfellows scheme to local people. When the scheme is introduced, the criteria for occupation will be:

- A resident of Blakeney or the surrounding civil parishes in Housing Need.
- A household in Housing Need with a family member resident in Blakeney or the surrounding civil parishes.
- A household in Housing Need who previously lived (on a permanent basis) or works in Blakeney or the surrounding civil parishes.
- A household in Housing Need requesting accommodation in the Blakeney area.

Rural Post Offices Under Threat

Post Offices in rural villages are very important, not only for the official services they provide, but also for the many additional benefits to the community. The Post Office White Paper of July 1999 proposed reforms of which the delivery of benefit via automatic credit transfer (called ACT) is proving contentious. In Norfolk most sub-post offices are part of a retail shop. ACT threatens the livelihood of sub-postmasters since around one third of income is derived from dealing with cash transactions. Around two hundred post offices per year are closing. This is serious because rural post offices underpin the sustainability of village life.

On the 12 April 2000, the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters lobbied Parliament and presented petitions to save rural post offices. You may have signed one. The good news is that the Government has recently announced that any benefit recipients who want to draw their benefit payment in cash across a post office counter will be able to do; and state pensions will still be paid weekly. So those who do not have bank accounts can carry on as now. The problem remains, however, that sub-postmasters will suffer a reduction in income from those who do have bank accounts and whose benefits will be paid directly into their bank account. Representations are being made alleviate this difficulty. It is possible that some form of subsidy may be considered. I will keep you informed.

David Prior is visiting Bakenham in July.

Opportunities for the North Norfolk Coast

It has now been confirmed that the North Norfolk Coast between Holme-next-the-Sea and Cromer has been designated for support under the European Objective 2 Programme up to December 2006. Seminars are being arranged for town and parish councils; and also for local businesses, environmental, voluntary and community organisations. These will advise the opportunities which will be available to the area through the programme. More information will be provided following the seminars.

Police Re-organisation

[This item will be supplied after my meeting with the Sector Commander on 17 May 2000]

Planning

[Sent to Local Gov.]

(5) 12

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage

High Street

Cley

NR25 7AP

Tel: 01263 740843

e-mail: triciatc@lineone.net

26th June 2000

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 3rd July 2000** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm**. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of June Meeting
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Correspondence
- 5 Finance
- 6 Planning
- 7 Village Hall Report
- 8 Any Other Business
Report from Cllr. Crowe
20 m.p.h. Extension along Bridge Street and Wells Road
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4th September 2000



Patricia Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

26th June 2000

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd July 2000 at 7.00pm.

Present: L Jordan (Chairman), J Pearson, S Sutton, M Harrison, M Gerrard, E Gambrill and R Rogers

No Apologies

In attendance: The Clerk and Cllr Bernard Crowe

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 5th June 2000 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Shrubland Area Cllr Crowe reported that N N D C had decided this small area of land will be not now be made available for the Council to purchase at a nominal price. They have decided to sell it without planning permission by auction or sealed bids.

The Council was very disappointed with this decision, it had been suggested that this area could be converted into a play area for the children of the village. Cllr Crowe agreed to approach the N N D C again to see if they would be prepared to reconsider their decision.

3 Correspondence

Norfolk County Council Planning and Transportation : A149 Speed Limit and Road Sign Reviews.

North Norfolk District Council : Agenda for Council Meeting on 14th June 2000

Councillor Bernard Crowe : Integrated Waster Management Strategy enclosed brief and details for the Norfolk Area Forum to which Parish representatives are invited to attend is at the Pier Pavilion, Cromer on 4th July 2000.

Keith McDougal : Copy of a letter sent to Mr Tim Venes, Norfolk Coast Project that has been forwarded to Stiffkey Parish Council : *Mr Tim Venes will be responding to this letter.*

Mrs J Doye : Enquiry regarding Art and Craft Exhibitions due to be held in the coming months in this area : *The Council thought the Primary School might wish to be come involved with this initiative.*

Bruno Peek : Information regarding the pageant in Great Yarmouth on Sunday 5th and 6th November 2000.

3 Correspondence – Continued

North Norfolk District Council : EU Objective 2 Status – Opportunities for the North Norfolk Coast. Information relating to the recent workshop held at Wells (this month's bedtime reading!).

Electoral Registration Officer : The Village Hall has been booked for 3rd May 2001 for the forthcoming General and County Council Elections. The Clerk will return the acknowledgement slip.

Fakenham Sports Centre : Appeal letter requesting sponsorship and support.

4 Finance Report

Expenditure

The Clerk has received the following invoices which were approved for payment:

Cornhill Insurance PLC £130.08

Heathmile Limited (8.00 play grade bark) £361.90

Mr Firmage £50.00 (Renovation of seats in the village)

Mr A Curtis £4.00 (Reimbursement for Petrol Expenses)

Income

VAT Reclaim £73.86

Bank Statement Balances

Account No. 00844292 £1,094.01

Account No. 20844322 £1,331.57

The Clerk proposed that only a minimum amount should be left in the current Account with the remainder being placed in a high interest account which would only require 14 days notice for a withdrawal. This would help the Council obtain optimum income from the interest

Audit

The Clerk has attended the recent Clerk's Day at Cromer following the Audit. The following points were raised:

Continued/...

- The balances brought forward did not agree to those noted as being carried forward from the previous set of audited accounts.
- A number of invoices / acknowledgements to support payments were not provided at audit. All supporting documentation should be provided at the time of audit.
- The Council needs to ensure that all assets included in the supporting notes to the accounts are shown at the insurance valuation at the year-end.
- Information on Trust funds has not been correctly disclosed in the supporting notes for all the Trust funds for which the Council is sole or custodian trustee.
- The Clerks salary must be approved and minuted.

Therefore the Council confirmed the Clerk would be paid for 21/2 hours per week at the recommended rate of £6.58 per hour and to be reimbursed for all expenses incurred on behalf of the Council.

The Clerk asked for clarification on the following:

- Does the Council have any assets?
- Does the Council own a strimmer which it would appear from the accounts they purchased some time ago. (this needs to be classed as an asset if one exists).

The Council confirmed they had purchased a strimmer a few years ago. The Clerk will investigate if it is covered under the insurance policy.

Assets:

The War Memorial valued at £1,342
The Street Furniture (lights) at £1,208

The Council confirmed they were classed as assets.

Following the Clerk's meeting with the Auditor the accounts for 1999 – 2000 were duly signed off.

5 Planning

The Clerk has received the following notices of decision:

Mr A R Rogers : Conversion of outbuilding into ancillary residential accommodation at Riverside 31 Wells Road, Stiffkey - *Permission for development*

Mr K R Bindley, Ranworth Hall, Ranworth, Norwich : Demolition of outbuildings at Harbour House 1 Greenway, Stiffkey - *Listed Building Consent*

5 Planning – Continued

Amended details:

Miss B Jordan Erection of Conservatory at 139 Camping Hill, Stiffkey : Report from Development Control Committee West for meeting on 29th June 2000 – *Approved*.

The Council requested a vote of thanks to be recorded to Cllr Bernard Crowe who had given considerable assistance and support to help get the above planning application approved.

6 Village Hall Report

A painting party will be organised at the next Village Hall Committee Meeting in September and a color chart has been obtained.

7 **Report from Cllr Bernard Crowe** (enclosed in the Minutes Book)

8 **A O B**

Greenway Maintenance The Council had no objection to the maintenance work of the Greenway being carried out by Mr Harrison.

Excessive Traffic Speeds Concerns were expressed regarding the speed of some traffic through the village despite the measures introduced to reduce the speed of vehicles.

M Harrison suggested a strategically placed ramp might have the desired effect. A Traffic Survey was carried out by no report has been received by the Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm



3 July 2000

Stiffkey

Integrated Waste Management

Notes from Glaven NewsLetter are attached

Waste Management Seminar 4 July Cromer 9.30 a.m. - 1230 p.m.

Tenant Compacts

Series of Area Meetings to explain Tenant Compacts and how tenants can participate. Wells 20 July; Fakenham 24 July. 7-9 p.m.

Tenants to determine how & when they want to be involved; need for elected representatives for NNDC to deal with.

Housing Green Paper "Choice for All"

Pensthorpe 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. to discuss how housing is developed and provided in N Norfolk; and to influence the formulation of N Norfolk's housing development strategy & housing investment programme.

Issues will include affordable homes & RTB

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage

High Street

Cley

NR25 7AP

Tel: 01263 740843

e-mail: triciatc@lineone.net

16th August 2000

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 4th September 2000** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of July Meeting
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Correspondence
- 5 Finance
- 6 Planning
- 7 Village Hall Report
- 8 Any Other Business
Report from Cllr. Crowe
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 2nd October 2000

.....
Patricia Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

18th August 2000

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2000 at 7.00pm.

Present: L Jordan (Chairman), J Pearson, S Sutton, M Gerrard and E Gambrill

No Apologies: R Rogers and M Harrison

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Bernard Crowe and 3 parishioners

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 4th July 2000 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Shrubland Area Cllr Crowe reported that N N D C has an obligation to obtain the best possible price for this area of shrubland which will go towards local affordable housing. The Clerk read out the contents of an excellent letter by A Curtis which had been printed in the E D P. During the past month the Councillors had considered various options which had been suggested for this area of land and although initially a children's play area appeared to be a good idea the Council felt that this was not the most suitable place.

They agreed that the first suggestion put forward for it to be used for allotments was the most appropriate. Therefore after further careful consideration the Council agreed they would like to purchase the land for allotment use if it is an affordable price. Three families have already indicated that should the Council be successful they would like to be considered as allotment tenants.

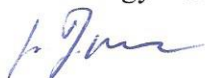
Police Report The Clerk would invite PC Durrent to attend the next meeting in October and to also give him the dates of the Parish Meetings over the next few months. The Clerk will compile a list of dates for the Council Meetings which will be advertised in the notice boards.

3 Correspondence

Councillor Bernard Crowe: Re. Surplus Land Camping Hill
Copy of correspondence sent to Inspector Terry Cuss - raising queries raised at Parish Council Meeting in response to the Eastern Area Policing Plan 2000-01.

Mr Peter Thomas: Request for the implementation of speed restriction signs at the Greenway if resources are available.

Norfolk County Council: Re. Norfolk Coast Transport Strategy – Parking study



11

3 Correspondence - Continued

North Norfolk District Council: Parish Newsletter July 2000 Issue No. 55
Agenda for a Council Meeting on 26th July 2000

Parish and Town Councils: Details of the A G M on Sat. 14th October at County Hall,
Norwich and nomination papers
Reminder re the retirement of the Executive Officer
Norfolk Link Issue No. 120

Norwich and district Community Health Council: Annual Report 1999/2000

North Norfolk Environment forum: Details of meeting to be held on 7th September to
consider the Waste Scenarios.

4 Finance Report

Expenditure:

P K Fencing Services £517.00

Clerks Salary and Expenditure £393.35

The following correspondence has been received:

WRVS: Request for a voluntary donation – not approved.

Norfolk Rural Community Council: Subscription 2000/2001 due £8.50

CPRE: Invitation for the Parish Council to join the CPRE – subscription £8.50 per
Year. – not approved.

Income

Parish Precept 2001/2002 The amount to be approved by the Council and the return
form to be signed as appropriate. The Clerk will provide a
report on the income and expenditure to ensure the correct
Precept is set.

Bank Statement Balances:

Current Account No. 00844292 £81.03

Deposit Account No. 20844322 £1,331.57



5 Planning

The Clerk had not received any planning issues.

6 A O B

Report from Cllr Bernard Crowe - (attached)

7 P Q T

Traffic controls through the village Mr Eddie Proctor suggested that the best deterrent for speeding motorist is the light that flashes on when drivers are approaching above the speed limit. Unfortunately these lights are over £20,000 each. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had asked for this type of speed deterrent but unfortunately as is often the case this was refused and the two of the reasons given were as follows:

- Lack of a power supply
- Stiffkey is in an area of ANOB.

20-mph sign on the west side of the village in Church Street has received some assistance and needs repositioning on the post near the war memorial.

Direction Sign at Bridge Street the sign that indicates the direction of Wells has been removed.

Cllr Bernard Crowe gave his apologies for the October meeting as he would be away on holiday.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm



Dates of Parish Council Meetings in Stiffkey Village Hall at 7.00pm

Monday 2nd October 2000

Monday 6th November 2000

Monday 4th December 2000

2001

Monday 8th January 2001 (this is the second Monday in January instead of the first Monday in January due to New Year)

Monday 5th February 2001

Monday 5th March 2001

Monday 2nd April 2001

Monday 7th May 2001

Monday 4th June 2001

Monday 2nd July 2001

No Meeting in August 2001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTEBOOK

Comprehensive Spending Review

On 18 July 2000, the Chancellor announced the Government's spending plans for the next three years. This is known as the Comprehensive Spending Review or CSR.

The Standard Spending Assessments (SSA) have been announced as part of the CSR. The Government's target inflation for this three year period is 2.5%. The block from which North Norfolk District Council receives the major part of its SSA is worth 4.4% over three years. Therefore the actual increase will be 1.9% when inflation is taken into account. During this period, The District Council has to make overall annual improvements of 2% or more by efficiency savings.

The impact of the CSR will be fully considered within the Financial Plan to be presented to Councillors on 11 September 2000. I will report again when the Plan is available.

Consultation and Community Planning

In addition to the usual methods of finding out what people think about local issues, namely: face-to-face discussion, telephone, FAX, e-mail and letter, we are now moving towards a much wider consultation. The first of the Area Committees run by the County Council took place in Fakenham on 31 July. This addressed a number of cross cutting issues such as life long learning. County, District and Parish Councillors attended and the meeting was open to the public. Further meetings are planned for 3 October and 6 December 2000. Agendas and location of the meetings will be available via clerks to the Parish Councils.

At District level, 3-Tier Area Meetings will be held in each of the Eastern, Central and Western areas of the District twice a year. Representatives from County, District, Town and Parish Councils whose Wards or Parishes fall within each area will be invited. (In our case that is the Western Area meeting). An agenda will be sent to all invitees at least one month before the meeting. Invitees will be asked to submit items for discussion which should be of general interest. These consultations will also be open to the public. Details will be available via clerks to Parish Councils and in this newsletter.

You may well think that there could be a degree of duplication between the County run meetings and those sponsored by District. I share those concerns. A solution might mean 'nesting' District level strategies within a broader vision and framework established at County level. Whatever approach is adopted, a degree of integration seems vital.

Finally, everyone is reminded that Parish and District Council meetings are all open to the public. We hope to see you there.

Citizens' Panel

The Citizens' Panel seeks views on a variety of local issues. North Norfolk consults 1000 people whose views help to brief the District Council. Among the topics selected for the next questionnaire are:

- building a quality environment-environmental issues, including protection and waste
- building prosperity-work status, job seeking, job creation
- building communities-new housing, access to police, community participation
- getting around-travel to work
- building skills education and knowledge-developing skills, adult education
- North Norfolk's first Best Value Performance Plan

Valuing Norfolk's Coast

The North Norfolk Coast falls within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast candidate Special Area of Conservation. Such sites are designated because they support certain natural habitats and species of European importance. English Nature has been given the duty to advise relevant authorities, including the North Norfolk District Council, as to :

- The conservation objectives for a European Site and,
- Any operations which may cause deterioration of natural habitats or disturbances of species for which the site has been designated.

I will report again on this topic which has management implications. These are currently under review.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:
Wildfowlers Cottage
High Street
Cley
NR25 7AP
Tel: 01263 740843
e-mail: triciatc@lineone.net

26th September 2000

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 2nd October 2000** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm**. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

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- 7 Village Hall Report
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Report from Cllr Ashworth
Report from PC Durrant (if duty allows)
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th November 2000

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Patricia Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

25th September 2000

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Patricia Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

25th September 2000

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2000 at 7.00pm.

Present: L Jordan (Chairman), J Pearson, S Sutton, M Harrison, M Gerrard, E Gambrill and R Rogers

Apologies Cllr Bernard Crowe

In attendance: The Clerk and 3 parishioners.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 4th September 2000 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Shrubland Area The Clerk is still waiting to hear of any further developments from North Norfolk District Council regarding this small piece of land.

3 Correspondence

C R Jarvis, 13 Church Street: Requesting permission to gain access for parking in the garden behind the Village Hall (this is a Village Hall Committee matter and will be dealt with at the end of the meeting).

Norfolk County Council:

Democratic Services: Notice of the North Norfolk Area Committee Meeting on 31st October 2000.

Planning and Transportation: A149 Stiffkey – Parking Issues. *Illegal parking on the imprinted strip. This issue was discussed in considerable depth by the Council and it was agreed that the Council fully supported any necessary action that is required to stop cars parking on the strip. The Clerk would also write to Mr Mann and Mr Bilston at the Lamp Shop to point out the safety concerns raised at the meeting and request that they refrain from parking on the imprinted strip.*

Norfolk Coast Transport Strategy – A149 Coastliner Route – Bus Stop Enhancements. *The Council had no objection to the bus stop sign. However, did not wish to have 'bus stop' markings on the road surface. The Clerk will inform the Planning and Transportation Department of the Council's views.*

Local Bus Service Variation

Wells Town Council Re. Planning Application for the erection of a Budgens Food Store at 84 Freeman Street. *The Council had no objection to this development, particularly if a petrol station was to be included within the development.*

3 Correspondence - Continued

L. Jordan

Norfolk Local Agenda 21 UK: Quality of Life - enclosing a copy of the draft document.

Norfolk Coast Project: Norfolk Coast ANOB Community Conference - 'The Norfolk coast Landscape' October 24th at 3.00pm at Gresham's School, Holt

Coastal Communities Association The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th October. *The Council agreed to make a donation of £10 towards the administration costs for this Association.*

Norfolk Health Authority Re. formal Public Consultation on a Proposed Primary Care Trust.

Shelagh Crafer *Re. Visitor Safety on Stiffkey Salt Marshes suggesting notice are put in place to warn people of the tide times i.e. A tide table to be enlarged, photocopied, laminated and put on the posts at the access points. The Chairman felt that visitor did not take any notice of signs that have been put up in the past and explained that the warning signs were frequently removed by visitors.*

The Clerk will write to the National Trust and English Nature to ask if they would provide some "Tide Warning signs.

4 Finance

Expenditure:

District Audit Office £130.35

Holt and District Citizens Advice Bureau Request for a donation

Precept for 2001 - 2002

After careful consideration the Council agreed that no increase would be necessary for 2001 - 2002 and it would therefore remain at £2,400.

5 A O B

The Greenway The Council expressed their thanks to Mr M Harrison for the improvements he has kindly carried out to this area.

Warborough House Concerns were raised regarding the field gate belonging to Mr and Mrs Hollis at Warborough House that opens out onto the public footpath. The Clerk will contact them, and suggest on safety grounds, that the gate be altered to open inwards onto the property instead.



5 **A O B – Continued**

Village Hall

Vehicle Access:

Following a request and approval at the last meeting by Mr E Procter to be given permission to gain access to his property via the back of the Village Hall the Clerk has received a similar request from Mr and Mrs Jarvis.

Mr M Harrison (the owner of the properties) declared an interest in this request.

Again after lengthy and careful discussion the Council agreed (as they did at the previous meeting for Mr Procter) that Mr and Mrs Jarvis would be allowed to have access to their property via the Village Hall. The permission granted would be for a term of 1 year to be renewed each year and would be granted to the individuals who live in the properties not the properties themselves and not the general public.. A decision on the third Cottage, which is vacant at the moment, would be considered as and when necessary.

Bonfire Evening

Due to safety issues raised at this meeting the planned bonfire and firework evening due to be held on the area adjacent to the Village Hall would not now take place.

King's and Barnham This work will be completed in the next few weeks and everything will then comply with the safety certificate.

A complaint has been received regarding the state of the kitchen and it was therefore agreed the cleaner should be paid for some additional hours to thoroughly clean the kitchen and toilets on a more regular basis.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 6th November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

J. C. Jordan

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2000 at 7.00pm.

Present: L Jordan (Chairman), J Pearson, S Sutton, M Harrison, M Gerrard, E Gambrill and R Rogers

In attendance: Cllr Bernard Crowe, the Clerk and 1 parishioner.

Apologies: P C Ken Durrant was on night duty

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2000 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Shrubland Area The Clerk had received a letter from Cllr Bernard Crowe in response to the Council's letter to the NNDC. The Countryside Officer had asked if part of the land could be used as set aside for the encouragement of wild life. In particular, the retention of some shrubland where larks nest. However the Parish Council still did not know how much the area would cost in either rent from the NNDC or purchase and until this information was forthcoming it was difficult for the Council to make a decision. Mrs Gambrill reported she had received two requests from parishioners who live in close vicinity to the shrubland area for the right of way to the coastal path to be preserved.

20 m p h This sign has been put back up by the Chairman

Village Parking Issues on the A149 In response to concerns raised at the last meeting the Clerk has sent a letter of support to the N C C Planning and Transportation Office. Mr D Mann and Mr R Bilston from the Lamp Shop have also received correspondence from the Clerk highlighting the concerns raised at the meeting regarding the parking issues and a request that they refrain from parking their vehicles in the marked area.

Budgens Store In response to a letter received from Wells Town Council the Clerk has sent a letter on behalf of the Council informing them that Stiffkey Parish Council has no objection to the proposed planning application, particularly if this was to include a Petrol Station.

Bus Stop Enhancements The Clerk has sent a letter of objection to the proposed road markings for bus stop enhancements within the village.

Visitor Safety at Stiffkey Salt Marshes Following concerns raised by Shelagh Crafer the Clerk has sent a letter to the National Trust and English Nature to ask if they are prepared to put up more prominent signs indicating the tide ^mties to warn visitors of the dangers in this area. However, the Chairman explained to the Council there already are notices up, but these are continually taken down by people (it's not known who they are). He is not sure why they are continually being removed or why. He felt that whatever notices were put up someone would soon take them down.



3 Correspondence:

Mulbarton Parish Council: Re. Travellers (non-intervention) – The Council would send a letter of support.

Norfolk County Council Planning and Transportation

- Re. Norfolk Minerals Local Plan Review Deposit Version (September 2000)
- Re. The City Centre Transport Plan and Parking Enforcement in Norwich.

North Norfolk District Council: Re. Conference and meeting room facilities questionnaire – *to be completed by Mrs Gambrill.*

Norfolk Health Authority Re. The Norfolk Joint Mental Health Strategy for Adults aged 16-65.

Norwich City Council : Christmas Parking in Norwich – Information for Parish Newsletters and Notice Boards.

Countryside Agency: Re National Rural Services Survey 2000 – Stiffkey Parish.

4 Finance

Expenditure

Clerks Salary	£258.17
Eastern Contracting (payment by Bankers Order)	£13.14
Eastern Energy (Direct Debit)	£28.19

The Bank balances were as follows:

Current Account £1,533.83

Business Premium Account £837.97

5 Planning

The Clerk has received the following planning application:

Valley Cottage, 19 Bridge Street, Stiffkey : Alteration to rear dormer windows and widening of internal doorway.

The Council had no objection to this application.



6 Village Hall Report

A Bingo and Supper Evening will be held on 11th November 2000 to raise funds for the Children's Christmas Party.

7 A O B

Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe – attached.

War Memorial - Mr Pearson reported the shingle round the war memorial needed replacing to help keep the weeds down - *The Council agreed a ton of shingle at a cost of approximately £25 should be ordered as soon as possible.*

River Stiffkey - Concerns were raised regarding potential flooding. No dredging has taken place for at least 15 years, which has resulted in the river becoming deeper and more narrow, therefore due to the heavy rainfall of recent weeks the river appears to be higher now than it has been for many years. Over the past few years a number of requests for dredging to be done have been put to Lord Buxton but he prefers to keep the river as it is, but has promised to commission a report to prove that his methods are doing no harm. The Clerk would contact the Environment Agency to enquire if they can help in any way.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTEBOOK

Housing Strategy

In the Spring, I told you about the new housing strategy whereby the majority of new builds would be in the growth towns of North Walsham and Fakenham plus some additions in market towns. In this edition, I can tell you about the larger villages which have been selected to accommodate residential growth.

In the following villages significant new residential allocations, (around 30), are proposed:

Bacton, Hoveton and Sculthorpe Airbase.

Limited residential allocations (around 15) are proposed for:

Aldborough
Ludham
Great Ryburgh

Happisburgh
Corpusty/Saxthorpe

Catfield
Little Walsingham

No allocations have been made for Blakeney, Langham, Morston, Stiffkey and Wiveton up to 2010. This will clearly disappoint some but others will be pleased that new developments are not envisaged.

Oddfellows Field Blakeney

Readers will recall that I have arranged for the twelve bungalows at Oddfellows Field to be reserved for Blakeney and District applicants under the new Local Lettings Agreement. I am pleased to tell you that the first letting under this agreement took place in October 2000.

Concessionary Bus Fare Scheme

From 1 April 2001, the North Norfolk District Council will make changes to the concessionary bus fare scheme for which the over sixty five's are eligible for half fares. The £5 fee for issue of bus passes will be cancelled. Those who buy passes from now on will pay a reduced charge until the fee is cancelled altogether. NNDC will issue full details in the next publication of 'Outlook'.

Register of Electors 2001

The Register of Electors was finalised on 25 October 2000. The draft Register will be published on 28 November 2000. Voters will then have until 16 December 2000 to check that their names have been included. The draft Registers are available at the District Council Office, post offices and libraries. If you discover that your name has been omitted you may apply to be added by completing a 'Claim' form. These are available from the North Norfolk District Council from Martin Austin (Tel: 01263 516012). You must submit your claim or objection during the statutory 'Claims & Objections' period which is 28 November until 16 December 2000.

Voting in Local Government Elections

The number of people who vote on local elections is generally low although North Norfolk's figures are higher than average. A range of initiatives including postal voting, early opening hours, mobile and electronic voting (e-voting) compared to see how effective they were in raising turn-out.

The key findings were:

Only postal voting made a significant increase

Voting by post did not help or hinder a particular party

Early or extended voting did little to increase turnout

E-voting has the potential to provide a faster and more accurate count

Reduced Fares for Disabled

The concessionary bus fare scheme provided for elderly people, (which I announced in the last edition), will now also apply to people with disabilities and will not be limited to the elderly.

Tenant Compact Group

The election has taken place and the following were elected for the Western Area in which the Blakeney & District is a part:

Philip Rounce. Mrs Brierly, Arthur Kirby and Mr Callby.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage

High Street

Cley

NR25 7AP

Tel: 01263 740843

e-mail: triciatc@lineone.net

28th November 2000

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 4th December 2000** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm**. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

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- 8 Any Other Business**
 - Report from Cllr. Crowe**
 - Report from Cllr Ashworth**
 - Report from PC Durrant (if duty allows)**
- 9 Parishioners Question Time**
- 10 Date of Next Meeting: Monday January 8th 2001**

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Patricia Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

26th December 2000

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th December 2000 at 7.00pm.

Present: L Jordan (Chairman), J Pearson, S Sutton, M Harrison, M Gerrard, E Gambrill and R Rogers

In attendance: The Clerk and 1 parishioner.

Apologies: P C Ken Durrant was on night duty and Cllr Bernard Crowe

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 6th November 2000 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Shrubland Area – No further news to report.

Village Parking Issues on the A149 The Clerk had sent a letter to Mr R Belsten and Mr D Mann from the Lamp Shop highlighting the concerns raised at the meeting regarding the parking issues and a request that they refrain from parking their vehicles in the marked area. In response to the Council's letter the Clerk had received a reply from them informing the Council that they parked their vehicle in the Lamp Shop car park as did their employees and suggested that the Council's concerns should be raised with the users of the Chapel, and general visitors and workmen to the houses within this area. Although they own the chapel, they stated that they do not have any authority over these people or where they choose to park. Messrs. Belsten and Mann also requested that residents in the vicinity of Hollow Lane not to allow their dogs to use it purely as a lavatory, this also to apply to the new pedestrian path as well as the main part of the street.

Bus Stop Enhancements Following concerns raised at the last meeting the Clerk had sent a letter of objection to the proposed road markings for bus stop enhancements within the village. In response to this letter the Clerk had received a reply informing the Council that following complaints a review of the road-marking scheme had taken place and these would not now be implemented.

3 Correspondence

P C Ken Durrant Police Liaison Officer – Unable to attend this meeting.

Norfolk County Council, Planning and Transportation:

Driving in Winter Leaflet – It was agreed the Clerk would ask the Highways Department if they would 'sand and salt' Bridge Street up to Cockthorpe Hill which becomes treacherous in bad weather.

Council Car Parking – Have your say.



3 Correspondence – Continued

Norfolk County Council Chief Executive Democratic Services – Re Planning and Highways (Regulatory) Committee – Public Speaking.

North Norfolk District Council – Best Value Service Review Consultation.

Norfolk County Association of Parish and Town Council :

- Norfolk Link Issue No.122.
- Details of interest free loans or grant application of where appropriate up to £1,000. Grants must be with 50% funding.
- Government Green Paper on Local Government Finance.
- Norwich City Council – Parking in Norwich this Christmas.
- Children’s Playground Annual Inspection 2001.

Fakenham and District Crossroad Ltd. Literature

North Norfolk District Council :

Changes to the Development Control Service including Speaking Rights at Committee.

County Council Election 3rd May 2001 – Reminder to register to vote.

Draft Register of Electors 2001 / 2002

4 Finance

Expenditure

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Clerks Salary and Expenses	£189.00
Eastern Electricity Direct Debit Payment	£28.19
Eastern Contracting - Paid by Standing Order	£13.14
Balance from the Bank Statement	£1,103.98

5 Planning

The Clerk has received the following planning application:

64 Wells Road, Stiffkey - Conversion of former butchers shop to dwelling. *The Council had no objections to this application*

6 A O B

Inspection Chamber in the bank on Cockthorpe Hill The concrete surrounding the inspection chamber is protruding from the Bank and could cause serious damage to traffic. The Clerk will make a report to the Highways Department.

Daffodil Bulbs Mrs Gambrill reported that she had some bulbs to be distributed to people in the village to be planted in various appropriate open spaces and hoped the Council did not have any objection to this scheme - The Council was very pleased to give their full support.

River Stiffkey - Following concerns raised at the last meeting the Clerk will contact Lord Buxton to convey the concerns raised regarding the river level. The Clerk would also pass on the request to have the trees opposite Camping Hill coppiced.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm

L. C. Jones

Stiffkey River

I have read the Minute, and it might be helpful to make some notes for Council.

1. I would be very concerned if anything we did caused flooding or damage above our stretch

Long ago we took steps to ensure that Stiffkey cannot be flooded. We have two low places in the river bank, so that before any housing is threatened all our meadows take the water.

I am bound to say that in the recent period, with rainfall and flooding exceeding anything in living memory, I had a few sleepless nights. But amazingly the system proved effective.

2. Weed

For several years there was practically no weed in the river at all, and during 1996-8 Dr. Phillips and his team from the Environment Agency were trying to discover the cause (probably very cold water in spring).

Then in 1999 the weed started to come back, and this year from August to October everyone was taken by surprise by rampant weed growth (following two warm winters) The same was experienced with lawns and grazing.

I immediately agreed to have the weed cut, but the contractor did not get around to it before the heavy rains and floods (which were a separate matter)

It has now been arranged that weed-cutting will take place every year as required, and the Agency have provided for this in their budget.

3. Dredging

It is true that there has been no dredging for 15 years, and this is because it has been proved twice, by surveys and measurements, that dredging would bring no improvement above or below Stiffkey.

For the sake of good relations I have removed two groins or weirs (and one near the Heritage Walk was removed several years ago by a third party), but all this has made no difference at all upstream. This proves that in normal circumstances our stretch does not affect the river at all above the road bridge.

Mark Harrison told me recently (before the heavy rains) that when mechanical clearing was undertaken this year on his stretch, the water level dropped significantly. This is further proof that the levels above and below Stiffkey are not inter-dependent, or the water would have flowed upstream and countered the drop above the village.

4. Environment Agency

The statutory body is responsible nationally for rivers, flooding, and sea defence, and it would be quite impossible for any individual to influence their judgement or operations. This would cause a political scandal. They have the legal right to enter and do what they believe to be necessary, but I don't think they act on opinion, only on factual evidence and data.

5. Drainage Policy

It is quite true that there are different approaches to river management. Understandably many farmers regard a river simply as a means of getting rid of water. The other view is that a river is a vital component of a healthy landscape, and should retain moisture in the valley "sponge", to avoid the effects of summer drought. This is the case historically and is why old maps showed them as "water meadows".

If the Council wishes I would be very happy to come and discuss this complex subject.

6. Change

We can all remember when things were different, 20 or 50 years ago. But unfortunately changes are inevitable.

There is at least twice as much concrete now in most conurbations or villages: car parks, supermarkets, new rooves and buildings, wider roads and pavements, and so on and so forth. All these, and hundreds of other things, provide hugely increased catchment areas.

Then the authorities became drainage mad after the war with new equipment, like JCBs, and dug out every ditch, tributary, stream and river. The result is that even a small rain storm causes a raging torrent within minutes. Even roads turn into rivers.

The remarkable thing to my mind is that recently when other parts of the county endured terrible suffering from repeating floods and damage, in Stiffkey we have been spared almost entirely, which proves how well our system is working, in spite of the road bridge.

7. Of course I sympathise if there is a problem with the grazing upstream above Stiffkey, because we have similar experiences downstream. Our meadows are not flooded by the river (except very rarely after very heavy rainfall if the river overflows the "low points"), but are usually flooded by rain, and this can only be solved by drainage.

I notice that the meadows opposite the village are always flooded before our meadows (after heavy rain) and they hold the water longer. Could filling in the ditches by the previous generation explain the problem.

It must be remembered that there has been no local concern during long dry spells; it only arises when the climate changes and there is a long wet spell. I believe the problem is caused by rainfall, not by the river.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTEBOOK

Planning Applications

On 14 November 2000, we ran the first trial whereby representatives of Town and Parish Councils, objectors and applicants had the right to speak at committee meetings when planning and related applications were being determined. The Development Control Committee (West) took a dozen applications under this system. I have to say that the outcome was favourable, in fact, I wish we had tried it before; especially in the case of controversial issues. It lengthened the proceedings but everyone had the opportunity to speak for up to three minutes, and to set out their case.

Please assured that you do not have to speak unless you want to. About twenty applications were dealt with without the applicants or objectors present, and dealt with under the present rules.

Details about speaking at Planning Meetings have been passed to Parish Clerks. You can find out more by obtaining the brochure 'Have Your Say On Planning Applications' from NNDC Tel: 01263 516150/516161.

Waste Management

I sense we are running into delays . The original timetable for a county strategy for Integrated Waste Management has slipped. North Norfolk District Council, and other Local Authorities, are seeking more time for consultation. One of the main problems is that the need for even more capital-intensive disposal options has strained the ability of the Waste Disposal Authority to such a point that private sector involvement is now most certainly required. More on this after the extended consultation now envisaged.

Community Strategy

Every local authority is required to prepare a strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being in its area. The main issues we have to consider are:

- How we will work with Norfolk County Council in delivering services.
- Negotiation and agreement on themes with our potential partners (Police, Health, Education, Business, etc)

- Development of partnerships and relationships.
- Involvement of the wider community; probably via Area Meetings.
- When the Community Strategy is in place, effective monitoring and review.

I have argued that we should adopt an approach which provides a top level, thematic view supported by local input from the grass roots; i.e. the town or village. We must take account of the of the rural circumstances in relevant areas and the part that effective town and village councils can play. In this respect, it is possible that funds will be available from the Countryside Agency to help 1000 rural communities prepare their own town or village plan.

Become a District Councillor

NNDC is investigating how it can provide allowances and support for councillors with family responsibilities, and so encourage people from a wide section of the community to stand for election to the Council. In addition, councillors will be given a minimum of five days training and development per year. Resources will be provided to meet both the needs of individual members and the requirements of those with the newly established community, executive and scrutiny roles.

Cllr Bernard Crowe OBE

File: Magazine

