

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th January 2008

Present: Laurence Jordan, Steven Bashforth, Stanley Sutton, Andy Nolan and Eddy Proctor

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

Apologies: M. Hamson and Cherry Martin
The Chairman declared an interest in the planning application for 84 Wells Road.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3rd December 2007 were read, approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman with the following amendment:

Item 6 Parish Plan Cherry Martin, Andy Griffin and Jamie Lawrence have already indicated they would be happy to serve on a steering committee.

2 Matters Arising

Re the seat Concerns were raised at the meeting that vehicles were being parked in front of the recently donated seat preventing its use. It was agreed an article would be included in the Local Lynx to explain why the seat has been located in this part of the village and to ask people not to park their vehicles in front of it.

Re: Village Hall Committee The Clerk informed the Councillors that she had today spoken to the Treasurer Karen Pickles who had sent her apologies as she would be unable to attend this meeting. Karen Pickles had confirmed that she would be in attendance at the next Parish Council Meeting and although the account were prepared the bank statements for the end of the financial year were due to be received by the middle of the month which would also enable an up to date financial report to be made available at the next Parish Council in February. The Treasurer also confirmed that she would be able to explain to the Council how the management of the Village Hall is carried out.

Village Sign The Chairman informed the Councillors that there was no further progress to report.

Bottle Bank Further discussion took place regarding a new location for the bottle bank and it was agreed that Stephen Bashforth would include an article in the Local Lynx to enquire if anyone in the village could suggest an alternative site for the provision of the bottle bank.

Re: Disposal of Land at Camping Hill - Nothing further to report.

Road Surface The Chairman was pleased to report that a site meeting had taken place with Quinton Barker from the Highways Department who had agreed to carry out the essential repairs to the road surface at the top of the Greenway as soon as possible. Mr Barker had also indicated that there would be enough material to enable the holes to be filled in which are located a little further along the greenway.

Quinton Barker also agreed that the blocked drains along Big Hill will be cleared and the large hole located in the road at the entrance to Warborough House will be attended to as soon as finances were available.

The excess surface water adjacent to the bus stop is not so easily solved as the problem is actually located on the verge and not on the highway and therefore not the responsibility of the Highways Department. However Mr Barker agreed to look into the problem and see if there was anything that could be done.

2 Matters Arising - Continued

Speed Gun Training It was confirmed that the following had agreed to take part in the speed gun training initiative which is being co-ordinated by John Hope from Langham Parish Council:

Eddy Proctor, John Pearson and Allan Curtis

Car Park Charges Following a suggestion to generate additional income for the village at a recent Parish Council Meeting the Chairman had met with John Sizer from the National Trust regarding the possible introduction of car park charges for visitors, however John Sizer confirmed that there is no possibility of introducing car park charges at Stiffkey, he felt that such an initiative would not be workable. John Sizer did confirm that a new information board is due to be erected on the marsh but that the National Trust did not have any funds to assist with the road surface repairs of the Greenway.

3 Correspondence

N C C - Emergency Planning Flood Siren Questionnaire for distribution to parishioners in 'at risk' areas
N N D C - Agenda of Meetings
N N D C - Norfolk Matters
Bernard Matthews Limited - Confirmation that the proposed wind farm at Langham Airfield would not be progressed.

4 Expenditure

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

5 Planning

5:1 North Side Bungalow, 84 Wells Road - Erection of a single storey rear extension - The Councillors had no objection to this application.

5:3 River House, 1 Bridge Street - Retention of re-instated first floor partition wall - The Councillors had no objection to this application.

6 Parish Plan Steven Bashforth gave a brief report regarding the progress on a Parish Plan. An article will be included in the next issue of the Local Lynx. It was anticipated that a public consultation meeting will be held in March 2008.

7 A O B

Night Owl (night care)/Swift (day care) Eddy Proctor stressed the need to ensure that the elderly parishioners of the village are aware of these services which helps the elderly and infirm.

Reports

Adult Social Services - Night Owls

Norfolk County Council's new Night Owl service has been kept busy throughout the festive period providing much-needed support for older people in their own homes.

The team of nine Night Owls have been running for just over a year now as part of the At Home, Not Alone project and this is the first Christmas that they have been up and running to full capacity.



Over the past year they have received almost 1,500 calls with the majority of people who benefit from their service being women in the 81 to 90 age group.

The service they provide includes helping people who have fallen but do not need an ambulance, providing reassurance and support, helping people when carers are not available, attending floods and electrical problems and making medicine deliveries for GPs.

Throughout Christmas and New Year the Night Owls received 75 calls, this work sits alongside that of the council's emergency duty team who dealt with 603 calls during one of the busiest times of the year.

New Year recycling resolution.

With twelfth night upon us, Norfolk residents are being encouraged to recycle their Christmas cards and support the Woodland Trust's annual Christmas card recycling scheme. Special collection bins will be in place until January 31st at participating WH Smith high street stores, Tesco stores (including selected Express), TK Maxx and all Marks and Spencer stores throughout the county. The initiative is supported by Norfolk County Council and Recycle Now, the national recycling campaign.

All the cards collected during the campaign are taken to paper mills where they are recycled into brand new paper products, with the money raised helping the Woodland Trust plant thousands of new trees throughout the UK. An impressive national collection target of 100 million cards has been set by the Woodland Trust and Recycle Now, which will enable 24,000 trees to be planted and save 2,600 tonnes of CO2 equivalent greenhouse gasses - the same as taking 800 cars off the road for a year!

Real Christmas trees and Christmas cards along with a wide range of household waste including glass bottles and jars, batteries and catalogues, can be recycled at Norfolk County Council's 19 Recycling centres.

Council Tax

The Government announced a three year settlement on December 6th. The grant for the following year is £25.8 m short of need (i.e. short of what the Government says we need to meet our targets)- known as the damping adjustment .

Nevertheless, Norfolk will be receiving an increase in formula grant of 9.3% - a settlement generally above expectations.

This settlement will, of course, be taken into account when setting the level of next year's council tax, which should be made public towards the end of January. The Full Council due to sit on February 18 will then have to approve the level.



Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th February 2008

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

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

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 7th January 2007 were read, approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman

2 Matters Arising

Re the seat The Chairman was pleased to report that following the article in the Local Lynx, vehicles are no longer being parked in front of the seat.

Village Sign Mark Harrison offered to contact Keith McDougal re the village sign.

Re: Disposal of Land at Camping Hill - Nothing further to report at the moment it is anticipated that no more will be heard from the NNDC until they wish to proceed with the possible sale of the land.

Speed Gun Training It was confirmed that the following had agreed to take part in the speed gun training initiative which is being co-ordinated by John Hope from Langham Parish Council:

Eddy Proctor, John Pearson and Allan Curtis

Road Surface Repairs The Chairman was pleased to report that the repairs to the road surface at the entrance to the Greenway have been carried out following the recent site meeting.

3 Correspondence

NNDC – Agenda of Meetings

NNDC – Norfolk Matters

4 Expenditure

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

Audit Commission £58.75

5 Planning

5:1 River House, 1 Bridge Street – Retention of re-instated first floor partition wall – Permission for development.



Carolyn Heydon.

6 Parish Plan Steven Bashforth gave a brief report regarding the progress on a Parish Plan. A meeting had taken place with Fiona McCollum who had been extremely helpful. A strong Steering Group has now been formed. Caroline Hulme from the NRCC will provide a presentation on the provision of a Parish Plan, how it works and the provision of a question to be distributed to everyone in the village to ensure public consultation.

7 A O B

Village Sign on the Knoll The Chairman suggested that some fund raising needed to be organised to raise money to replace the village sign on the Knoll which is showing considerable signs of wear and tear. The Chairman also felt that the new sign should have a little more of the history of the village incorporated into it. Mark Harrison offered to find out who produced the Warham sign which is thought to be very good.

Accumulation of Rubbish Concerns were raised regarding the accumulation of rubbish at the bottom of Bangy. The Chairman confirmed that if the rubbish is bagged up and put at a central collection point the NNDC will remove it.

Woodland Mark Harrison confirmed that he had given permission for one or two people to collect wood from the area of woodland at the bottom of Bangy.

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Minerals & Waste Development

Norfolk people are being given the chance to have their say on minerals and waste issues that will literally change the shape of some of our county's countryside.

Over the next decade and beyond, the strong growth expected in Norfolk will place heavy demands on the raw materials of development - minerals dug from the ground - and place further pressure on waste disposal.

Norfolk County Council, as minerals and waste planning authority, is required to produce plans with an aim of ensuring that in the years up to 2021 demand can be met in ways that minimise the impact on quality of life and the environment, while meeting the requirements of development, such as new homes and job opportunities.

A six-week consultation period, beginning 15th February and ending 28th March gives people a chance to comment on broad strategies for the county and the development control policies affecting mineral and waste management sites; comment upon over 100 possible mineral extraction sites and 64 possible waste management sites (the sites included in the consultation have been put forward by landowners and mineral and waste operators).

Any of the sites listed chosen after the consultation will still have to apply for planning permission and undergo detailed examination in the normal way, including further opportunities for comment.

For minerals, a landbank (reserve) of seven years for sand and gravel and ten years for carstone is proposed to be maintained. Around 3 million tones a year is extracted, mainly for the construction industry. Most of the potential sites put forward by operators are for sand and gravel workings.

For waste, by 2016, some 2.56 million tones a year will need to be dealt with, with at least 75% being recycled or recovered instead of going to landfill. Waste management sites therefore need to take account of increased recycling, composting and energy recovery facilities, with additional landfill sites only being allowed in exceptional circumstances.

h.a.1

The strategy suggests that larger minerals sites and waste facilities should be close to the main growth areas of Norwich, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Thetford, with smaller facilities serving growing market towns.

Free museums entry for school parties

All children in Norfolk school parties are to get free admission to the county's 12 museums after county councillors agreed the budget on February 18th.

Councillors backed a late addition to the budget tabled by Norfolk County Council Leader Daniel Cox to allow pre-booked school parties free admission to museums operated by the Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service during the summer and autumn terms this year and spring term next year.

The Authority hopes free entry will encourage thousands more schoolchildren to use the excellent countywide services and fire the imagination of the younger generation with free visits to places such as Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, Time and Tide at Great Yarmouth and Norwich Castle Museum.

At Home Not Alone is leaving a lasting legacy

Norfolk's highly successful £3.6m project to pilot prevention and well-being services is set to leave a lasting legacy for the county's growing population of older people.

At Home Not Alone is part of the Government's Partnership for Older People's Project and was set up after Norfolk was awarded £3.6m to pilot new prevention services.

Older people have been helped to live at home for longer thanks to the new services such as teleshopping, teleclub, Night Owls, Swifts and Home Security.

As well as developing the new services, the project has brought together a range of partners who have not traditionally worked together and opened up opportunities for further joint work.

When At Home Not Alone formally ends on March 31st there will be £834k unspent that will carry forward into 2008/9 and form the beginning of a joint prevention fund for the county. Initially this will see some of the projects continue into 2008 but eventually will form the beginning of a joint prevention fund for the county.

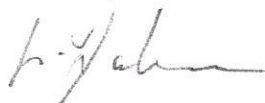
Move to Unitary Authorities

Now that the Boundary Committee has had its terms of reference agreed, there is more information forthcoming about the process and timetable.

Phase 1 will run from 3rd March to 11th April. This will see the Committee consider concepts for change and talk with authorities about them.

Phase 2 will run from 14th April to 4th July. This will involve further discussions between and within authorities and the Boundary Committee to help the Committee formulate a proposal or set of proposals for consultation.

Phase 3 will run from 7th July to 26th September. The Committee will publish its proposals by 7th July and then consult on them. It may publish one set of proposals, or more, but, if so, must indicate its preferred option.



Phase 4 will run from 29th September to 19th December. The Boundary Committee will consider all the responses received and then provide its advice to the Secretary of State in the form of a recommendation.

There is then a four week period in which people can make further representations to the Secretary of State who will then either agree to implement the recommendation either as it stands or with some modifications, or reject it, or ask for further information.

If the decision for unitary change is made, it will be swiftly followed by an electoral review to agree the wards or divisions of the new unitary council or councils. The intention is that any new authority commences on 1st April 2010.

The Boundary Committee has no powers to decide earlier whether or not the county council elections planned for May 2009 will go ahead, only the Secretary of State can do so when the decision about any changes has been made.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Gahan', is centered on the page below the text.

Before the commencement of the Parish Council Meeting the Chairman welcomed members of the Village Hall Committee to the meeting.

The Treasurer Karen Pickles gave a detailed financial report of the Village Hall finances, she confirmed that £4,500 was in the investment account. The current account balance is £750, however the anticipated expenditure for the year is £1,600.

The Village Hall Chairman Alison Lawrence reminded those present that the provision of the village hall was due to a great deal of effort by a number of volunteers in the past and some of whom were in attendance at the meeting and is run on an entirely voluntary basis and that the village hall in addition to hall bookings, had for a number of years received financial support from the Fete Committee.

However the lack of car park facilities is a considerable factor when people wish to book the hall, it is very difficult for the Village Hall to compete with other establishments that can far more easily provide these facilities. A contributory factor in the decline of the village hall finances was due to the opening of the Red Lion.

At the moment the Village Hall is just ticking over but due to limited income this will not be able to continue indefinitely. The Chairman also gave a report of the hall bookings and procedures.

The Treasurer stressed that the Village Hall has been viable over the past few years entirely due to the regular donations from the Village Fete Committee. However over the past three years the donation from the Village Fete Committee had reduced from £1,300 to £750 to £350, but running costs continue to rise and hall bookings are down. There is also an agreement in place that there are no hire charges for fund raising events for the village.

The Treasurer felt that consideration must be given as how the village hall moves forward, a few years ago a public meeting was called to discuss the possibility of the village hall being combined with the Pavilion on the playing field which would provide much better usage and facilities than at present.

There had been some suggestions to upgrade the Village Hall kitchen but it was felt that this would not resolve the problems, hirers were now tending to use outside caterers. The Pavilion was in need of upgrading to meet Health and Safety regulations and the combining of the two establishments would enable the provision of one facility that would meet the needs of the Village Hall and the Pavilion.

The Village Hall bookings are administered through the Village Store.

Stephen Bashforth confirmed to the meeting that there should be two named Trustees on the Village Hall Committee on behalf of the Parish Council. The various organizations in the village should also be represented. It appears that over a period of time the named Trustees should have been replaced and that not all organization were aware of their representation on the Village Hall Committee.

Michael Jordan felt that Village Hall Committee Meetings should be held in the Village Hall instead of the Pub.

It was agreed a public meeting would be held on Thursday the 6th March at 7.30pm to enable everyone in the village to be given the opportunity to discuss the issues raised above.



STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr Laurence Jordan

Clerk's Address:
Morning Flight
42 High Street
Blakeney
Holt
Norfolk
NR25 7AL

Tel: 01263 741576 (evenings/weekends)
e-mail: stiffkey@glavenvalleycouncils.co.uk

1st March 2008

The next meeting of Stiffkey Parish Council will be held on Monday 3rd March 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda
- 3 Minutes of the February Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Reports for Information
- 8:1 Parish Plan – Report from Steven Bashforth
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 A. O. B.

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th May 2008

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

In attendance: Councillor Jonathan Savory, Councillor Derek Baxter, 2 parishioner and the Clerk
There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 7th April 2008 were read, approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Election of Officers

L Jordan was unanimously elected as Chairman and M Harrison was elected Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for 2007 – 2008.

2 Matters Arising

S Bashforth informed the Councillors that he had spoken to PLO Hendry-Smith regarding the hedge and overhanging brambles on the boundary of the property along Church Street adjacent to the War Memorial which had not been cut back as requested and continues to be a danger to road user. PLO Hendry-Smith had offered to inspect the hedge and speak to the property owners. However PLO Hendry-Smith indicated that after inspecting the hedge she did not consider it to be a sufficient obstruction to warrant any further action. The Councillors agreed that the Clerk would again contact Quinton Barker from the Highways Department to get the hedge cut back which he had agreed would be done in the Spring.

Village Sign on the Knoll Mark Harrison is to approach George Hewitt to ask if it would be possible for him to make a mould of the village sign and to enquire how much this would cost.

Bench and or Tree Mark Harrison informed the Councillors that he had as yet been unable to contact Mr Peter Stoner who has kindly offered to purchase a seat or tree for the village.

3 Correspondence

Lord Buxton – Regarding the unauthorised excavation work at the north west corner of Camping Hill.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council - Local Government Review

Norfolk Police Authority – Policing Plan 2008 – 2009

NNDC – Local Code of Conduct Complaints procedure.

Blakeney Area Forum - Minutes of the last meeting.

NHS – Proposal for new GP lead Health Centre, Norwich.

Norfolk Link

Wells Area Forum - Invitation to attend a meeting on 19th June

Roger Belsten – Re application for the erection of a two storey building on land opposite lamp shop.

4 Finance

Income:

NNDC 1st Precept Instalment £1,700

Expenditure:

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

T T Jones Electrical Ltd – Street lighting maintenance Contract £63.84

5 Planning

Notice of Decision:

10 Greenway, Stiffkey – Erection of single-storey rear extension and detached double garage – Permission for development.

Planning Applications:

Stiffkey Old Hall – Installation of window and opening between north east tower and main roof and reinstatement of cellar - The Councillors had no objection to this application.

Land Opposite Stiffkey Lamp Shop - Erection of two-storey dwelling – By a majority of 5 votes to 1 the Councillors approved this planning application.

6 Parish Plan

Steven Bashforth gave the following report:

Fiona McCullum from the Wells Area Partnership has agreed to finance the cost for the provision of the village plan. The four major issues highlighted at the moment are as follows:

- i) Traffic safety, speeding vehicles and parking of vehicles through the village
- ii) Affordable housing
- iii) Village Hall
- iv) Amenities in the village

An open meeting will be held on 7th June. A questionnaire will be formulated for distribution to everyone in the village. Affordable housing under the exemptions housing scheme may be possible. The type of accommodation required needs to be investigated as does the possible provision of land for purchase under the exemptions policy.

A barbecue will be held on 24th June to give everyone the opportunity to meet and talk about the issues raised.

7 A O B

Village Seat Following concerns raised at the Annual Report to Parishioners regarding the dilapidated condition of the seat located opposite the Red Lion which could become a hazard, Eddy Proctor and Laurence Jordan will remove it on health and safety concerns.

Flint Wall The Clerk will contact Quinton Barker to request a site meeting for an inspection of the flint wall leading to the bridge towards Cockthorpe which has become very dilapidated due to the ivy. This wall is the responsibility of the Highways Department.

Parish Pit Mark Harrison informed the Councillors that he has been granted a 5 year licence to thin the woodland and parish pit by 30%.

Surgery Notice The notice advertising the surgery days and hours is in need of refurbishment – Eddy Proctor agreed to carry out the refurbishment.

Bridge at the end of Stoney Road - The Councillors expressed their concern regarding the bridge at the end of Stoney Road which is in need of attention. The bridge is the responsibility of the National Trust and it is understood they are considering whether to carry out repairs or to remove the bridge altogether due to lack of funding.

Reports from Councillors Derek Baxter

National Care Homes Week

National Care Homes Week is being held from Monday June 2 and Norfolk County Council and private, independent and voluntary care home owners in Norfolk are using the week to highlight the good quality care available in residential homes.

Over the next 15 years the number of people aged 65+ in Norfolk is expected to rise by another 83,000 bringing the total number to 260,500. This shows that there is an ever-increasing need for good quality residential care homes in Norfolk.

According to the Commission for Social Care Inspection there are 233 homes in Norfolk that are judged as being good or excellent, at a time when the industry is facing increasing cost pressures. Norfolk County Council works closely with providers of residential care top constantly look at ways to improve services and promote independence, ensure dignity in care and provide good quality services. The County is also engaged with independent providers and the public in pulling together a long term strategy for residential care in Norfolk to help cater for increasing numbers.

The strategy aims to ensure that in future there is a suitable variety of residential care available in Norfolk meeting demand for specialist care for people with dementia and for people requiring short term care. Also under consideration is an increase in the number of housing with care places available.

A glimpse of more parish power

Parish Councillors have been told they have an important part to play in reinvigorating local democracy. The Communities and Local Government Secretary, Hazel Blears, used a speech to members of the National Association of Local Councils to outline a vision of a new era of "parish power".

The Secretary of State said parishes would have a real purpose in modern society, far from the perception of them as outdated, 19th century institutions. The small size of the councils, she said, belied the scale of impact they could have addressing issues that made a difference to people's quality of life such as parks, trees and allotments, bus stops, community halls and litter bins. She said the forthcoming "Empowerment" White Paper would be complemented by separate powers for parish councils including plans to make it easier for them to use local experts to drive key priorities and shape services. There would also be a "wellbeing" power for eligible parish councils, which would move more power to local areas. The wellbeing power is currently only applicable to Local Authorities. More parish councils are being set up with 19 being established last year. "The truth is new parishes can revive democracy, and modernize communities by putting more power into local people's hands. That's why we are boosting the power of parishes, devolving more power from central and local governments to local people," Ms Blears said. "We are seeing a new era of modern parish power. It's high time we got away from stereotypes that parishes are sleepy, out of touch operations. Parishes are about local democracy in action and I'm proud to be strengthening their arm" she added.

Home visits for absent pupils

Attendance officers visited homes of students who missed school in early May as part of a major attendance drive in East Norfolk.

Norfolk County Council targeted high school pupils who fail to turn up for school by calling at their home addresses and speaking to parents about their legal responsibilities around attendance.

Throughout the week attendance improvement officers and police community support officers met every morning at various high schools to collect registration details. They then visited the homes of the absent pupils to find out why they were not attending and to speak to their parents.

The sweep was the latest initiative in a major crackdown on school absence. Already this year, there have been several high profile court cases involving parents whose children have not attended school. In 2006/7, parents of 93 children were prosecuted in Norfolk and in the last 6 months that figure has already been exceeded, with parents of 98 pupils prosecuted between September 2007 and March 2008.

Report from Councillor Jonathan Savory

Councillor Savory informed the Councillors that he had received 10 letters and a number of telephone calls of objection to the planning application for the land opposite Stiffkey Lamp Shop and has asked for a decision on the planning application to go to the full planning committee instead of through delegated powers. Councillor Savory reminded the meeting that if the planning application goes before the Committee objectors/supporters are allowed to attend and speak either against or in support if they wished.

The NNDC is running an Environmental Community Award Competition to recognise and celebrate the actions of various organisations that are increasing environmental understanding and awareness.

In response to a question from a parishioner Councillor Savory confirmed that the Core Strategy Recommendations will not affect Stiffkey.



Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th June 2008

Present: Laurence Jordan, Stanley Sutton, Andy Nolan, Eddy Proctor, Cherry Martin and Mark Harrison 2 parishioner and the Clerk

Apologies: Steven Bashforth, Councillor Jonathan Savory and Councillor Derek Baxter

There were no declarations of interest

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 12th May 2008 were read, approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Verge Obstruction Following further concerns regarding the hedge and overhanging brambles on the boundary of the property along Church Street adjacent to the War Memorial which had not been cut back as requested and continues to be a danger to road user, the Clerk informed the Council that a site meeting has been arranged with the Highways Representative Quinton Barker on Wednesday 11th June at 10.30am.

Mark Harrison will also be available to meet Mr Barker to inspect the flint wall leading to the bridge towards Cockthorpe which has become very dilapidated due to the ivy. This wall is the responsibility of the Highways Department.

Village Sign on the Knoll Mark Harrison is to approach George Hewitt to ask if it would be possible for him to make a mould of the village sign and to enquire how much this would cost.

Bench and or Tree Mark Harrison informed the Councillors that he had as yet been unable to contact Mr Peter Stoner who has kindly offered to purchase a seat or tree for the village.

Surgery Notice The notice advertising the surgery days and hours is in need of refurbishment – Eddy Proctor will carry out the refurbishment as soon as time allows.

3 Correspondence

NNDC Flood Siren Review in Norfolk – Publication of responses to questionnaire.

Environment Agency North Norfolk Shoreline Management Plan.

N C C - Norfolk Matters

N C C - Local Transport Plan Delivery Seminar

4 Finance

The following expenditure was approved:

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

T T Jones Electrical Ltd – Street lighting maintenance Contract £63.84



5 Planning

Notice of Decision:

Red Lion, 44 Wells Road, Stiffkey - Construction of first floor doorway and external staircase – Refusal of permission for development.

6 Parish Plan

Cherry Martin informed the Councillors that Fiona McCullum gave an interesting and informative presentation on a Village Plan at the Open Meeting held on the 7th June. Sadly the meeting had been very poorly attended with only 6 people present, the time of the meeting may have been a factor. However the provision of a village plan is to be progressed and it is hoped interest will increase.

7 A O B

82 The Greenway Following concerns raised regarding planning regulations Stanley Sutton confirmed that the recent building works complied with the approved planning application and that no planning regulations had been broken.

46 Wells Road Mark Harrison informed the Councillors that this property has now been sold and work is due to recommence once the amended plans have been approved.

Report from Coucillor Derek Baxter

National Care Homes Week

National Care Homes Week is being held from Monday June 2 and Norfolk County Council and private, independent and voluntary care home owners in Norfolk are using the week to highlight the good quality care available in residential homes.

Over the next 15 years the number of people aged 65+ in Norfolk is expected to rise by another 83,000 bringing the total number to 260,500. This shows that there is an ever-increasing need for good quality residential care homes in Norfolk.

According to the Commission for Social Care Inspection there are 233 homes in Norfolk that are judged as being good or excellent, at a time when the industry is facing increasing cost pressures. Norfolk County Council works closely with providers of residential care to constantly look at ways to improve services and promote independence, ensure dignity in care and provide good quality services. The County is also engaged with independent providers and the public in pulling together a long term strategy for residential care in Norfolk to help cater for increasing numbers.

The strategy aims to ensure that in future there is a suitable variety of residential care available in Norfolk meeting demand for specialist care for people with dementia and for people requiring short term care. Also under consideration is an increase in the number of housing with care places available.

A glimpse of more parish power

Parish councillors have been told they have an important part to play in reinvigorating local democracy. The Communities and Local Government Secretary, Hazel Blears, used a speech to members of the National Association of Local Councils to outline a vision of a new era of "parish power".



The Secretary of State said parishes would have a real purpose in modern society, far from the perception of them as outdated, 19th century institutions. The small size of the councils, she said, belied the scale of impact they could have addressing issues that made a difference to people's quality of life such as parks, trees and allotments, bus stops, community halls and litter bins.

She said the forthcoming "Empowerment" White Paper would be complemented by separate powers for parish councils including plans to make it easier for them to use local experts to drive key priorities and shape services. There would also be a "wellbeing" power for eligible parish councils, which would move more power to local areas. The wellbeing power is currently only applicable to Local Authorities. More parish councils are being set up with 19 being established last year.

"The truth is new parishes can revive democracy, and modernize communities by putting more power into local people's hands. That's why we are boosting the power of parishes, devolving more power from central and local governments to local people," Ms Blears said. "We are seeing a new era of modern parish power. It's high time we got away from stereotypes that parishes are sleepy, out of touch operations. Parishes are about local democracy in action and I'm proud to be strengthening their arm" she added.

Home visits for absent pupils

Attendance officers visited homes of students who missed school in early May as part of a major attendance drive in East Norfolk.

Norfolk County Council targeted high school pupils who fail to turn up for school by calling at their home addresses and speaking to parents about their legal responsibilities around attendance.

Throughout the week attendance improvement officers and police community support officers met every morning at various high schools to collect registration details. They then visited the homes of the absent pupils to find out why they were not attending and to speak to their parents.

The sweep was the latest initiative in a major crackdown on school absence. Already this year, there have been several high profile court cases involving parents whose children have not attended school. In 2006/7, parents of 93 children were prosecuted in Norfolk and in the last 6 months that figure has already been exceeded, with parents of 98 pupils prosecuted between September 2007 and March 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Blears', is centered at the bottom of the page.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:
Morning Flight
42 High Street
Blakeney
Holt
Norfolk
NR25 7AL

Tel: 01263 741576 (evenings/weekends)
e-mail: stiffkey@glavenvalleycouncils.co.uk

1st July 2008

The next meeting of Stiffkey Parish Council will be held on **Monday 7th July 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm**. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda
- 3 Minutes of the June Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Parish Plan
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 A. O. B.

There will be no Parish Council Meeting in August.

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 8th September 2008

Homewatch Scheme

Before the commencement of the Parish Council Meeting Mr Ted Gill, Home and Commercial Watch Administrator for North Norfolk and Gt Yarmouth gave a short presentation on the Homewatch Scheme and how it would work in the village of Stiffkey.

Mr Gill hoped to get the Homewatch Scheme started up again in the village and asked if the Parish Council would be willing to finance the cost of the hire of the village hall. Mr Gill wished to arrange a date to invite everyone in the village to attend a Homewatch meeting to enable him to explain the scheme and hopefully encourage more residents to become involved. In the past there used to be 12 people in the village who assisted with the Homewatch Scheme this has now reduced to 4.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to sponsor the hire of the village hall for the meeting. If anyone was interested in taking part in the scheme Mr Gill's telephone number was 01692 401055

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th September 2008

Present: Laurence Jordan, Stanley Sutton, Andy Nolan, Eddy Proctor, Steven Bashforth, Mark Harrison, Cherry Martin, 6 parishioners and the Clerk

Apologies: Councillor Jonathan Savory and Councillor Derek Baxter

There were no declarations of interest

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 7th July 2008 were read, approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Village Sign on the Knoll At the last meeting Andy Nolan had informed the Council that the village sign in Bodham had recently been repaired by some inmates from Weyland Prison. There had been no charge for the excellent repair work, just a donation to the local hospital and it had been agreed that Andy Nolan would investigate if the repair of Stiffkey village sign through Weyland Prison might be an option.


Mr Peter Stoner – Donation of a village seat Mark Harrison informed the Councillors that as soon as time allowed he would visit Emcy's Garden Centre to investigate the purchase of the seat on behalf of Mr Stoner.

Surgery Notice At the last meeting it was agreed that the notice advertising the surgery days and hours was in need of refurbishment. Eddy Proctor informed the Council that the refurbishment of the surgery notice board would be started as soon as time allows.

3 Correspondence

N C C - Norfolk Matters

N N D C – Local Government Review


6.10.08

4 Finance

The following expenditure was approved:

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

5 Planning

The Clerk gave a report on a recent planning meeting which had been held to discuss the planning application for Scaup Cottage and 10 Church Street before the deadline for comments to the NNDC had expired.

The Clerk also clarified the position regarding 80 – 82 Wells Road. The Enforcement Officer had once again been contacted regarding the proposed sale of the extension to this property as holiday accommodation. The Enforcement Officer had been out to visit the property and confirmed that the owner of the property could not advertise the extension for sale as separate holiday accommodation without the required planning permission. The Enforcement Officer had been in contact with the Estate Agent acting for the owner and been informed that the extension to the property could not be advertised for sale, he had also been in contact with the owner and reminded him that the necessary planning permission for the change of use would be required. The Enforcement Officer also confirmed that in July he had told the property owner that the relevant planning permission was required before it could be sold and had been informed that a application for the change of use would be submitted.

However the change of use application has only now just been received.

5:1 80 - 82 Wells Road Stiffkey – Change of use to separate holiday cottage – The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

5:2 Scaup Cottage, The Greenway – Erection of replacement outbuilding – The Parish Council had no objection to this application

5:3 10 Church Street – Erection of single-storey extension – Although the Parish Councillors did not object to this application, they had voiced their concern regarding the close proximity of the extension to the adjoining property.

6 Parish Plan

Stephen Bashforth informed the Parish Council that the preparation of the village plan is progressing. A meeting had recently taken place to consider the questions to be included in the village questionnaire and asked the Councillors to give some thought to any questions they might wish to have included in the questionnaire.

7 Social Housing

Following the recent public consultation it had been clear that the lack of social housing was a considerable concern for many people in the village and it was agreed that the provision of social housing should be included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

8 A O B

Village Fete The Chairman wished to record a vote of thanks to Cherry Martin and the team of volunteers who had ensured the village fete had once again been very successful.

Paul Atkinson

6.10.08

Village Hall Committee A committee meeting is due to be arranged in either September or October.

Hollow Lane - unauthorised vehicles Cherry Martin expressed concern at the number of unauthorised vehicles using Hollow Lane/ Mark Harrison informed the Council that this had been a concern for a considerable time and steps were going to be taken to prevent this occurring in the future.

Parking of vehicles at junctions Following concerns raised regarding parked vehicles at the junction of Bridge Street and the junction of the Greenway it was agreed the Clerk would obtain clarification regarding the minimum legal requirement of distance from a junction for parked vehicles.

Street Light No 15 the Clerk will inform the street lighting contract that the bulb on street light number 15 is very poor and needs to be replaced.

Speedwatch Volunteers/Volunteer Recruitment Monitoring Forms The Clerk went through the relevant forms which have to be completed by the volunteers who will be taking part in speedwatch initiative for Norfolk. It was agreed the Clerk will contact Wells Parish Council who have now agreed to purchase their own speed gun which it is understood will be made available for use by adjoining villages.

If this is correct it may not be necessary for the monitoring forms to be completed and that Stiffkey will take part in the scheme for Wells instead.

h. a. h. a. o.

6.10.08

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:
Morning Flight
42 High Street
Blakeney
Holt
Norfolk
NR25 7AL

Tel: 01263 741576 (evenings/weekends)
e-mail: stiffkey@glavenvalleycouncils.co.uk

1st October 2008

The next meeting of Stiffkey Parish Council will be held on **Monday 6th October 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda
- 3 Minutes of the September Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Social Housing
- 8 Planning
 - 8:1 Bull Cottage, 8 Wells Road, Stiffkey-Removal of outbuildings and erection of two-storey extension.
- 9 Parish Plan
- 10 Parishioners Question Time
- 11 A. O. B.

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 3rd November 2008



Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th October 2008

Present: Stanley Sutton, Andy Nolan, Eddy Proctor, Steven Bashforth, Mark Harrison, Cherry Martin, 3 parishioners and the Clerk

Apologies: Laurence Jordan, Councillor Jonathan Savory and Councillor Derek Baxter

The Vice Chairman Mark Harrison declared an interest in the possible provision of social housing.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 8th September 2008 were read, approved and signed as a true record by the Vice Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Village Sign on the Knoll Andy Nolan informed the Councillors that he is still waiting for a response from the contact at Weyland Prison regarding the possible refurbishment of the village sign.

Mr Peter Stoner – Donation of a village seat Mark Harrison informed the Councillors that he had purchased the seat on behalf of Mr Stoner at a cost of £230. For the moment the seat has been stored in Mark Harrison garage. The Councillors agreed that a letter of appreciation would be sent to Mr Stoner for the donation of the seat.

Surgery Notice Eddy Proctor produced the new surgery notice board which was almost complete for consideration by the Parish Councillors. The Councillors were very pleased with the board and expressed their thanks to Eddy Proctor for his excellent work.

Speedwatch Volunteers The Clerk confirmed to the Councillors that Wells Parish Council has approved the purchase of their own speed gun which will be made available for use by adjoining villages. The cost of the speed gun is £600 and Wells Parish Council will be inviting adjoining Parish Councils to make a contribution towards this cost which is anticipated to be in the region of £25 for Stiffkey. The speed gun would then be made available for use in Wells and the surrounding villages including Stiffkey. However the speed gun will not be available for use by volunteers, it will only be used by CPSO and Police Officers.

The Councillors once again considered the speed gun initiative that is being organised by John Hope at Langham. The Councillors felt that it may be possible to be involved with both speed control initiatives but felt that more information on the requirement for training to become a volunteer speed gun operative was required before a decision could be taken. The Clerk agreed to make some enquiries to ascertain what training is involved in the initiative being organized by John Hope.

3 Correspondence

N C C - Norfolk Matters

4 Finance

The following expenditure was approved:

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

5 Planning

Bull Cottage, 8 Wells Road, Stiffkey - Removal of outbuildings and erection of two-storey extension - The Parish Councillors had no objection to this application.

6 Parish Plan

A draft questionnaire has been completed and consultation will take place with interested parties. The Parish Councillors were invited to give their comments and suggestions regarding the questionnaire, particularly the questions relating to the Parish Council.

7 Social Housing

Stephen Bashforth informed the Parish Council that the next stage in the social housing processes is to contact the North Norfolk District Council in first instance to see if the Exception Housing scheme could be provided which will include a mix of dwellings / number; site; layout & design. This would be followed by formal consultation with the Parish Council, a wider consultation and a planning application. If the NNDC feels that a need for social housing has not been identified, the provision of social housing in Stiffkey would go no further. A copy of the Exception Housing Scheme was distributed to the Councillors for their information. A copy is attached to the minutes.

8 A O B

Village Hall Committee A meeting of the Village Hall Committee was due to be held in either September or October, but to date no date has arranged. Mark Harrison agreed to make some enquiries as to the date of the next meeting.

Following the recent hire of the village hall for band concert considerable concerns were expressed regarding the number of bottles and cans littered around the exterior of the building, the damage to the toilet door and the inappropriate use of the billiard table. It was unanimously agreed that steps must be taken to ensure this is not repeated in the future. There appeared to be considerable confusion over who actually booked the village hall and who the hirers were. The Councillors agreed that the matter needed to be urgently investigated to ascertain who booked the village hall, if they paid a deposit and if this had been retained to go towards the cost of the damage.

The Councillors stressed that it was not the responsibility of Andy and Alice at Stiffkey Stores to ensure that the bookings for the village hall were appropriate and that payments including deposits has been received. Their assistance as key holders for the village hall was invaluable and very much appreciated.

Mark Harrison agreed to make some further enquiries and report back to the Council at their next meeting.

It was agreed that as Trustees of the village hall the Parish Councillors needed to formalise the booking procedures for the village hall and agreed that the responsibility must be with the hirer of the hall.



Exception Housing Schemes

Providing decent, affordable housing for local residents is one of North Norfolk District Council's key themes, and Strategic Housing is committed to the provision of more affordable housing in our rural villages and has embarked on a series of Exception Housing Schemes to meet a local housing need for affordable housing.

An Exception Housing Scheme is a special policy in the current Local Plan for providing affordable housing in rural areas where there is a genuine local need for affordable housing. The policy allows a residential development on a site that is outside but adjoins the boundary of a Large Village or Selected Small Village (although there may be changes to this following the adoption of the Local Development Framework in the summer).

Who occupies the properties?

Exception Housing Schemes allow the Council to operate a special local lettings policy which allows the homes built through the policy to be prioritised for households with a local connection to the parish in which the scheme is located or the adjoining civil parishes. The policy has recently been revised to strengthen the criteria and give the highest priority to those households with the longest local connection. This policy is called the Local Lettings Agreement, and is used to occupy all homes on an Exception Housing Scheme. A local connection is:

- living in, working in, or having a relative who currently lives in the parish or adjoining civil parishes
- or previously living in, or has a relative who previously lived in the parish or adjoining civil parishes

Although all households on the Common Housing Register are eligible to be considered, all dwellings on the Exception Housing Scheme - whether they are rented or shared ownership properties - will be occupied in accordance with the Local Lettings Agreement. The highest priority is someone who has lived in one of the eligible parishes for at least 3 consecutive years and has a housing need.

The homes provided through the Exception Housing Schemes are protected as affordable housing in perpetuity – for instance, where shared ownership properties are provided, there is a restriction placed on the maximum share available to purchase (usually 80%), which means that 100% of the property can not be bought. These 'perpetuity clauses' ensure that the properties can never be sold to the tenants, or become open market housing.

How are Exception Housing Schemes funded?

Housing Associations can part fund the provision of affordable housing by borrowing against the rental stream of the new homes, however this is not sufficient to fully fund the provision of affordable housing and subsidy is needed to meet the shortfall.

This subsidy can come from a number of sources:

- Housing Corporation – this is a national body established to fund the provision of affordable housing
- North Norfolk District Council – the Council has an Enabling Budget that it can use to fund affordable housing

- Second Home Monies – this is a ring fenced pot of money set aside for affordable housing, these monies come from the increased income that has resulted from the reduction of the discount on Council Tax that applies to Second Homes.
- Developer Contributions – these monies are received from developers when it is not possible to secure affordable housing within a market site and a contribution is taken to provide the affordable housing elsewhere.
- Land Subsidy – the cost of providing affordable housing can be reduced when land is provided either free of charge or at a notional value.

The Housing Corporation is, however, the main source of subsidy for affordable housing provision. The Housing Corporation's funding is accessed through a competitive bidding process (which has historically been via a bidding round every two years, although these arrangements are changing). Successful schemes are those that represent good value for money, meet housing need and are strategically important. We would be looking to put a bid forward for new Exception Housing Schemes in this next bidding round.

What is the process?

Consultation with Parish Councils is a key part of the process of developing an Exception Housing Scheme and it takes place throughout the process, as follows:

- The Parish Council is approached to discuss whether they would support the provision of an Exception Housing Scheme in their parish. (Some Parish Councils contact the Council in the first instance to see if an Exception Housing Scheme can be provided in their parish).
- If the Parish Council is supportive, then the next stage is to finalise the details of the scheme including:
 - the mix of the proposed scheme in terms of property size, type and number of bedrooms
 - identification of - and securing - an appropriate site, through discussions with the Parish Council and landowners
 - compiling a scheme layout and design, and seeking an informal view from Planning Development Control on the site suitability and scheme design
- The Parish Council is then formally consulted on the proposed scheme design and layout.
- A parish wide consultation event is then held, this is a drop in event to allow members of the Parish Council and local residents to see the proposed scheme design and layout and to find out more about the proposed housing in terms of how it would be managed if planning consent was granted.
- A planning application is the final stage after the above consultation has taken place.

Fate Davies

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:
Morning Flight
42 High Street
Blakeney
Holt
Norfolk
NR25 7AL

Tel: 01263 741576 (evenings/weekends)
e-mail: stiffkey@glavenvalleycouncils.co.uk

1st October 2008

The next meeting of Stiffkey Parish Council will be held on **Monday 3rd November 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm**. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda
- 3 Minutes of the October Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Social Housing
- 8 Planning
 - 8:1 Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street – Installation of revised dormer windows (revised Height), antique paneling to lobby and decorative plasterwork to ceiling
 - 8:2 Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street – Installation of three dormer windows (revised design)
- 9 Parish Plan
- 10 Parishioners Question Time
- 11 A. O. B.

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 1st December 2008

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2008

Present: Laurence Jordan, Stanley Sutton, Andy Nolan, Eddy Proctor, Steven Bashforth, Mark Harrison, Councillor Jonathan Savory and Councillor Derek Baxter 6 parishioners and the Clerk

Apologies: Cherry Martin

The Vice Chairman Mark Harrison declared an interest in the possible provision of social housing.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 6th October 2008 were read, approved and signed as a true record by the Vice Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Village Sign on the Knoll Andy Nolan informed the Councillors that he is still waiting for a response from the contact at Weyland Prison regarding the possible refurbishment of the village sign.

Mr Peter Stoner – Donation of a village seat For the moment the seat has been stored in Mark Harrison garage until a base has been prepared.

Speedwatch Volunteers At the last meeting the Clerk had confirmed that Wells Parish Council had approved the purchase their own speed gun which will be made available for use by adjoining villages. The gun will not be available for use by volunteers, it will be used by CPSO's and Police Officers. Stiffkey Parish Council had expressed their support for this initiative and wished to be included in the scheme. It is anticipated that Stiffkey will be invited to make a small donation towards the cost of the purchase of the speed gun. Further discussion took place regarding the speedwatch volunteer scheme and the training that would be required by volunteers who wished take part in this scheme.

3 Correspondence

Susan Elliott - A copy of a letter to Mr and Mrs Morgan requesting an indication as to when the proposed tree lopping along the boundary of Great Yard House is likely to be carried out. This work was due to take place some months ago, but due to the objections raised to the proposed road closure for 4 days to enable the work to be carried out this had been deferred.

Mark Harrison explained that the proposed road closure for 4 days was felt by many people to be excessive and would have caused considerable disruption in the village.

Local Development Core Strategy - Circulated to Councillors

4 Finance

The following expenditure was approved:

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

Mazars – Audit Commission - £58.75



5 Planning

- 5:1 Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street – Installation of revised dormer windows (revised height), antique paneling to lobby and decorative plasterwork to ceiling – The Councillors had no objections to this application.
- 5:2 Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street – Installation of three dormer windows (revised design). The Councillors had no objection to this application.

Notice of Decision:

- 5:3 10 Church Street – Erection of single-storey extension – Permission for development

6 Parish Plan

Village Plan Steven Bashforth gave an update on progress with the village plan. The following notice has been placed in the Local Lynx:

The Village Plan Working Group has now completed a draft questionnaire, and after consultation with local groups this will be distributed to all villagers early in the New Year. Please make sure your views count. Complete the questionnaire. This is your chance for you to have a say in the future of Stiffkey.

If you think changes would make your life better, let us know what you think those changes should be. If you want things to stay as they are – say so, action may be needed to be taken to ensure the good things remain the same.

The questionnaire will be distributed, by hand, by a neighbour and collected after 7 days, or beyond if you are unavailable. Please place the completed questionnaire in the envelope provide and seal to maintain anonymity.

If you own a holiday home in Stiffkey, and would like to complete the questionnaire please e-mail you contact details to janey Sugden@btinternet.com

When the questionnaires have been returned the information will be collated, analysed and developed into a Village Plan. This will contain an action plan to show what needs to happen to help the village retain the features you have highlighted as the best things and projects to improve the community.

The plan provides the Parish Council and other groups with evidence of views within the village, evidence which may enable funding to be attracted for projects knowing they have support of the majority of residents.

Steven Bashforth explained that the questionnaire has been produced after consultation with various groups in the village. The questionnaire will be distributed to everyone in the village early in the new year by hand and completed forms will be collected 7 days later.

7 Social Housing

Stephen Bashforth informed the Parish Council that no decision regarding the need for social housing in Stiffkey will be considered by the NNDC until the Village Plan has been agreed.

8 A O B

BT Red Phone Box A parishioner expressed concern regarding the notice on display in the phone box stating that it would be removed. The Chairman reminded the meeting that notification had been received that due to lack of use many public phones throughout Norfolk had been or were to be removed. The Clerk agreed to investigate the possibility of retaining or adopting the red box and the costs involved.

8 A O B - Continued

Village Hall Committee Mark Harrison informed the Councillors that he had spoken to the Treasurer and had been informed that the accounts have been prepared and a meeting of the Village Hall Committee is to be arranged. The Treasurer was aware of the concerns raised concerning a recent hall booking and confirmed that reimbursement for the damage to the door had been paid by the hirer. Revised forms have been produced to be signed by future hirers of the village hall.

Steven Bashforth expressed his concern that only 4 people had attended the last Village Hall Committee Meeting and emphasised the need to ensure the date and time of the meeting was well advertised.

The Chairman expressed his concerns to Councillors that the Fete Committee had discussed the Village Hall Committee and the management of the village hall at their recent meeting to discuss the donation of the proceeds from the Fete. The Chairman felt that it was not appropriate for the Fete Committee to discuss the Village Hall Committee and their problems and as a result the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee had tendered her resignation. Stanley Sutton agreed with the Chairman that it had not been appropriate to discuss the Village Hall Committee at the Fete Committee Meeting but clarified that it had arisen due to the discussions that were taking place regarding donations from the proceeds of the Fete.

Footpath Mr A Curtis once again expressed his concern at the lack of a footpath through the street, particularly from the village hall to Bridge Street and asked why nothing appeared to have been done to get the hedge cut back and the footpath reinstated by the Parish Council. Mark Harrison explained that a second site meeting had taken place in the summer, he and the Clerk had been in attendance and once again the request was made to get the hedge cut back. However the NCC Highways Officer stated that the hedge was not a sufficient obstruction and was not prepared to take any further action against the property owner. Mark Harrison also reminded the meeting the CPSO had also at the request of the Parish Council investigated the concerns raised regarding the hedge and possible obstruction to road users and pedestrian and she had also confirmed that it was not sufficient to take further action.

The Parish Council was very disappointed with these responses and agreed that Mark Harrison and Eddy Proctor would make a personal visit to the property owners to see if they would be willing to either cut the hedge back or allow the Parish Council to have it cut back and reinstate the footpath..

Mr Curtis felt that another letter should be sent to the Highways Department to request that some action is taken and to emphasise the need for a review regarding the provision of a footpath through the village as he felt pedestrians were in fear of their lives when walking through the village.

Steven Bashforth confirmed that a section on the provision of a footpath through the village is included in the questionnaire for the village plan.

Report from Councillor Jonathan Savory

Councillor Savory informed the meeting that a review of potential sites to be used for development in Wells is under way following the new legislation in the Core Strategy Plan that has recently been approved.

In response to a query raised by Steven Bashforth Councillor Savory confirmed that the above review would not affect the Social Housing Scheme.

Mark Harrison stressed the need for the government to allow development in villages such as Stiffkey to enable villages to survive.



Report from Councillor Jonathan Savory - Continued

The Chairman asked Councillor Savory for clarification regarding grants to upgrade village halls. Councillor Savory was unable to clarify this query but agreed to make some enquiries.

Report from Derek Baxter

Norfolk asked for response to huge building increase

Norfolk's county and district councils have been given just a matter of weeks to respond to a Government advice unit's suggestions that the county should find space for up to 67,000 extra houses by 2031.

Norfolk has already been asked by the Government to accommodate 74,700 new houses over the next 18 years as part of the development of a "spatial strategy" for the whole region.

However, the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit (NHPAU) has advised that Norfolk should be taking up to 67,000 more new houses by 2031, bringing the total to 141,700. This would require over 6,000 houses a year to be built in the county. NHPAU's advice to the Government is that at a minimum Norfolk should take an additional 36,390 houses, giving an average construction rate of 4,830 a year to achieve 111,090 by 2031. The Government has, through the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) asked local authorities to respond to NHPAU's advice.

An officer working group of county and district planning policy officers has been established to consider the implications of the NHPAU advice, and whether Norfolk could take such a huge and rapid increase in housing. A forum of key strategic service providers in Norfolk has also discussed the growth issues. A report seeking the views of Norfolk County Council's Planning, Transportation, Environment and Waste review panel says that EERA profoundly disagrees with the NHPAU advice and points out that the upper NHPAU figure (67,000 houses by 2031) would require an unachievable building rate of over 6,000 a year - way above anything that has ever been managed in Norfolk. Adrian Gunson, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, said "I personally think the high figure proposed by this housing think tank is highly undesirable for Norfolk, and is neither realistic nor achievable".

"Norfolk needs to plan for growth, but it must meet the highest environmental and design standards and growth must only take place if the vital infrastructure improvements are agreed and financed by Government. I am concerned that county and district planning officers are having to spend time on this proposal when they are already hard-pressed on important work such as making the case for major injections of Government funds for infrastructure improvements in the Norwich area and in King's Lynn to make possible the housing growth already decided by Government.

Fortieth anniversary celebrations at Wells Field Studies Centre

Children in North Norfolk joined in celebrations to mark the 40th birthday of Wells Field Studies Centre last week. Norfolk County Council opened the centre four decades ago. Its aim was to promote access and awareness of the importance of the wildlife of the North Norfolk Coast among school pupils, so they could play their part in conserving it. Since it opened on October 22 1968, it has supported the education of approximately 100,000 Norfolk youngsters.

It has given children the chance to take part in practical learning in range of curriculum areas such as biology, geography and history. Many young people have also learned how to cook, wash up and generally take care of themselves while living away from home for a few days with their school friends and teachers. Outdoor learning forms a crucial part of the County's ambition to raise young people's aspirations and attainment as it enables them to learn a huge range of skills and subjects in a hands-on way.

10/10

Government agrees council's Icelandic investments not reckless

The local Government Association and the Government are to continue monitoring the impact of the failure of Icelandic banks on Councils who had invested more than three-quarters of a billion pounds with them. The LGA is to analyse the effects on individual councils.

In a joint statement in early October the Association and the Government agreed that no authority had acted improperly or recklessly in investing in the Icelandic banks. They said the financial framework for local authorities, under which they have to strike an appropriate balance between the security of investments and the returns on their money, appeared to have been kept to.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. G. J.', located in the center of the page.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Proposed Dates for 2009

Monday 5th January 2009

Monday 2nd February 2009

Monday 2nd March 2009

Monday 6th April 2009

Monday 11th May 2009 Annual Report to Parishioners

Monday 1st June 2009

Monday 6th July 2009

No Meeting in August

Monday 7th September 2009

Monday 5th October 2009

Monday 2nd November 2009

Monday 7th December 2009

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:
Morning Flight
42 High Street
Blakeney
Holt
Norfolk
NR25 7AL

Tel: 01263 741576 (evenings/weekends)
e-mail: stiffkey@glavenvalleycouncils.co.uk

25th November 2008

The next meeting of Stiffkey Parish Council will be held on **Monday 1st December 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
 - 2 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda
 - 3 Minutes of the November Meeting
 - 4 Matters Arising
 - 5 Correspondence
 - 6 Finance
 - 7 Social Housing
 - 8 Planning
 - 9 Parish Plan
 - 10 Parishioners Question Time
 - 11 A. O. B.
- 11:1 Proposed Dates for 2009

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 5th January 2009

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st December 2008

Present: Laurence Jordan, Stanley Sutton, Andy Nolan, Eddy Proctor, Steven Bashforth, Cherry Martin and Councillor Derek Baxter 3 parishioners and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mark Harrison and Councillor Jonathan Savory

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2008 were read, approved and signed as a true record by the Vice Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Village Sign on the Knoll Nothing further to report.

Mr Peter Stoner – Donation of a village seat For the moment the seat has been stored in Mark Harrison garage until a base has been prepared.

EDF Energy Tree Lopping - The Chairman informed the Council that EDF Energy are shortly due to cut off the electrical power for one day to enable essential tree lopping work to be carried out.

BT Red Phone Box The Clerk informed the Parish Council that following enquiries made with BT and the NNDC the empty phone box was not a registered listed building, however instead of it being removed by BT it could be adopted. Due to the considerable cost of disconnection BT does not disconnect the electrical power to the phone box unless they are to remove it. The cost of the ongoing maintenance and the electrical supply would have to be undertaken by the adoptee.

3 Correspondence

Information Commissioner's Office – Freedom of Information

NNDC - Agenda

4 Finance

The following expenditure was approved.

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

5 Planning

5:1 Red Lion, 14 Wells Road – Installation of external staircase and door – The Parish Council were in support of this application

Notices of Decision:

5:2 Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street – Installation of revised dormer windows (revised height), antique paneling to lobby and decorative plasterwork to ceiling – Permission for development.

5 Planning - Continued



5:3 Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street – Installation of three dormer windows (revised design). – Permission for development.

6 **Parish Plan** Steven Bashforth gave an update on progress with the village plan. The funding for the provision of the questionnaire has been approved by the Wells Partnership. Funding is also being investigated with the Norfolk Rural Community Council for the provision of the Village Plan. The questionnaire will be distributed in early January.

7 **A O B**

7:1 **Tree Lopping** John Pearson expressed his concern that despite all the negotiations and planning the tree surgery along the boundary of ~~Great Yard~~ ^{Warborough} House had at the last minute been abandoned at considerable cost to the property owners following objections to the proposed road closure for 4 days. He hoped that if the work was to proceed that this time there would not be further objections to the road closure as he felt that although some objections were raised to the length of the road closure it was not the view of the majority of those due to be affected by the proposed closure.

7:2 **External Funding** Michael Jordan gave details of a newspaper article which highlighted funding of £44,000 for Croxton Village Hall by external agencies and suggested that the village hall may also be eligible for funding. The Chairman felt that funding should be considered by the Village Hall Committee/Representatives at the next meeting when the future of the village hall is to be discussed

7:3 **Local History Group 15th January** A social evening organised by the Historical Society is to be held in the village hall and parishioners are invited to bring their old photographs and items of historical interest.

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Motorcyclists rise to 36% of all road deaths in Norfolk this year

An urgent plea for motorcyclists to take more care on Norfolk's roads has been issued by the county council's road safety officer for motorcycles (Andy Micklethwaite) after Tuesday's 18 November accident on the Acle Straight brought the number of motorcycle fatalities to three so far this month. So far this year there have been 33 road deaths in Norfolk of which 12 were motorcyclists.

Andy Micklethwaite who only took up the post in October said more motorcyclists were taxing and riding their bikes throughout the year which increased the chances of riding in poor visibility and bad weather.

"I would urge motorcyclists to take extra care particularly as the weather appears to be turning colder. They need to stay alert, take extra care and ride defensively".

Adrian Gunson, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation said "It is a frightening statistic that this year motorcyclists are accounting for 36% of all road deaths in Norfolk, yet they make up only 1% of the traffic. Overall, Norfolk has a good record on reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads, but this has thrown the issue of motorcycles into sharp relief. Motorcyclists are very vulnerable to carelessness by other drivers - but they also need to accept that they are too often the cause of their own misfortunes." Andy Micklethwaite's appointment by Norfolk County Council came during a county-wide campaign to cut the casualty toll among motorcyclists. The campaign aims to raise driver awareness of motorcyclists, but also calls upon motorcycle riders to improve their own standards. Norfolk now has mobile speed cameras that can catch motorcycles being ridden at excessive speeds.

Improvements to be made to diabetes services in Norfolk

Improvements to the way diabetes care and monitoring are delivered are to be made following an examination of the service by Norfolk County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reports discussed at committee meetings on 10 July and 4 September this year highlighted a number of concerns and perceived deficiencies in the way diabetes services were being offered in the county. After further investigation, the following improvements to diabetes service provision in Norfolk are set to be announced. The NNUH and QE (King's Lynn) will recruit additional senior psychological support to join their existing teams to provide dedicated support to children and adolescents with diabetes. The NNUH is increasing its number of diabetes specialist nursing staff in line with guidance from the Royal College of Nurses (one nurse for every 70/100 children). It is also recruiting additional administrative and health care support for the paediatric diabetes clinics.

Norfolk County Council's Children's Services will convene a working group with representatives from schools, Children's Services, clinicians, parents and young people with diabetes with the aim of providing more integrated care for children with diabetes.

Some concerns still persist around diabetes services in Norfolk however, especially as a report to the Committee has revealed that the number of children in Norfolk with type one diabetes is twice the national average.

Three Stars for Norfolk's Adult Social Services

Adult Social Services is celebrating after receiving an 'excellent' three-star rating under the Government's national performance measure.

This is the highest possible rating that can be awarded by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and builds on the success of Norfolk County Council Adult Social Services' two star judgment made two years ago.

CSCI inspectors say the Authority is delivering good outcomes for people, have increased performance significantly over the last year and have excellent capacity for improvement. Inspectors also praised the County Council's leadership, its continued commitment to improving services for the people of Norfolk and its good partnership working. The report highlighted other strengths including:

Excellent partnership initiatives for older people with mental health problems, enhancing current services and demonstrating good impact.

A new physical disability strategy which has been written by people who use Adult Social Services and people with physical disabilities. An excellent direct payments scheme, accessible to everyone using County Council services.

Targeted activities to engage with and make information more accessible to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Enhanced safeguarding procedures to protect adults from abuse, neglect or embarrassment. Good initiatives around the broad prevention agenda under the Partnerships for Older People Projects.

More school governors required

Just to remind you that there are still governor vacancies at Blakeney Primary School and Wells-next-the-Sea Primary School. If you are interested or know of anyone else who may be interested please let me know.



STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2009

Monday 5th January 2009

Monday 2nd February 2009

Monday 2nd March 2009

Monday 6th April 2009

Monday 11th May 2009 Annual Report to Parishioners

Monday 1st June 2009

Monday 6th July 2009

No Meeting in August

Monday 7th September 2009

Monday 5th October 2009

Monday 2nd November 2009

Monday 7th December 2009

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:
Morning Flight
42 High Street
Blakeney
Holt
Norfolk
NR25 7AL

Tel: 01263 741576 (evenings/weekends)
e-mail: tricia@glavenvalleycouncils.co.uk

27th December 2008

The next meeting of Stiffkey Parish Council will be held on **Monday 5th January 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda
- 3 Minutes of the December Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Parish Plan
- 9 Parishioners Question Time
- 10 A. O. B.

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2009