

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th January 2003 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Councillor Bernard Crowe. Councillor Derek Baxter and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mark Harrison

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2002 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman after clarification of the following issue:

***Bangay Lane** The verge clearance would not be added to the annual maintenance contract. Mark Harrison had generously offered to cut the verge once a year, which would hopefully ensure this problem, did not reoccur.*

2 Matters Arising

Land at Camping Hill Councillor Crowe informed the Councillors that the N N D C was required to look for the 'Best Value' for this piece of land which could include outline planning permission for a house to be built on the land or to be sold to an adjacent property owner (s) to extend their garden. It now look very unlikely that the Parish Council would be able to purchase the land for a 'pepper corn' rent as had been originally hoped.

Security for the Village Hall The Clerk reminded the Councillors that discussions needed to take place at the next Village Hall Committee Meeting to review the security system in present use for the hall. This was in preparation for the Public Inquiry due to be held at the village hall in the Spring. It was anticipated that the next Village Hall Committee Meeting would be held in January.

3 Correspondence

Norfolk County Council

- Local Bus Service Publication
- Local Bus Service Variation – Norwich – Holt – Blakeney – Fakenham
- Local Bus Service Variation – Norwich – North Walsham – Mundesley – Cromer
- Winter Driving in Norfolk Publication

North Norfolk District Council

- Planning Training and Other Planning Matters
- Parish Newsletter – Issue Number 63
- Notice of Meetings Winter 2003-02-02 Agenda – 18th December 2002

Go East Government Office for East of England - Renewable Energy and the Planning System – Questionnaire

Eastern N H S Support Services – Heron – Local Health Information for Norfolk
www.heron.nhs.uk



4 Finance

The following direct debits have been paid:

Eastern Contracting : £13.14
TXU Energi: £28.19

The bank statements were made available for inspection.

5 Planning

The following Notice of Decision has been received:

Old School, Church Street, Stiffkey - Retention of two dormer windows - Permission for Development.

6 Meeting for 2003

The meetings for 2003 would be as follows:

Monday 6th January
Monday 3rd February
Monday 3rd March
Monday 7th April
Monday 12th May
Monday 2nd June
Monday 7th July
Monday 18th August
Monday 6th October
Monday 3rd November
Monday 1st December

The Parish and Town Council Elections will be held on 1st May 2003.

7 A O B

Wells Cottage Hospital The Parish Council unanimously agreed that the Clerk should send a letter of objection to the recent temporary closure of Wells Cottage Hospital.

The Chairman closed the Parish Council Meeting to enable the following report to be presented from Councillor Bernard Crowe (attached).

Councillor Derek Baxter informed the Council that he would provide a detailed report for the next meeting. But would investigate why the warning hazard signs for Warborough Hill had not been put back as had been agreed at the site meeting earlier in the year.



Flashing Speed Signs

The cost of the provision of flashing speed sign was discussed. Councillor Baxter explained that on an 'A' road the purchase cost (approximately £5,000) for the flashing sign could be met by the Norfolk County Council if sufficient funds were available.

However the cost of the electricity supply for the installation would have to be met by the Parish Council which could be a considerable sum of money.

Street Lights

The Clerk would report that the following lights were not working:

Street light number 1 near the Red Lion PH

Street light number 3 at the Greenway

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'P. John' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Councillor Bernard Crowe

Council Tax

Electors will be concerned regarding the increase in Council tax over and above inflation for the financial year 2003-04. Last year, using Blakeney as my example, the Band D rates were:

Parish Precept	£36-45
District Council	£99-99
County Council	£758-52
Police Authority	£100-35
Total	£995-51

Band D is used, as it is the comparator nationwide.

In 1999, when I became a District Councillor, we were able to deliver a balanced budget and cater for growth items. Since then, the pressures on local government from central government initiatives have steadily increased to the extent that we were facing a budget gap of £485,000 next year. Year on year we have had budget problems that have been solved by taking small cuts across all services. This was not a sustainable way of dealing with the problem. Within North Norfolk District Council, we have undertaken a

Corporate Review and an options appraisal. The short-term problem has been addressed and we have been able to produce a balanced budget whilst limiting the increase in council tax to 6.5%. So the Band D rate set by NNDC will be rise to £106.50. This will be put to the Full Council on 26 February 2003 for their agreement. The incoming council will address the longer-term options after the elections on 1 May 2003. This will include the requirement to adopt the Euro requirement for waste reduction, which will add another £927,000 to our bill.

You will have read that the Norfolk County Council is facing a similar but larger problem. The total rise could amount to a 12% increase, which is a £91 rise in Band D. I do not have the Police Authority figures but we should expect an increase there also.

All councils are facing what is, in effect, a stealth tax. We are required to manage extra costs that are almost entirely outside our control.

Many come from national agreements and government decisions or policies that councils must comply with, but which will not bring with them the funds needed to put them in place. NCC has stated that of the £50 million extra costs £48 million are almost entirely outside their control. The special edition of 'Norfolk Matters' explains why people are likely to face increases in council tax and seeks the views of residents on budget options.

Another area which local government is taking up with central government, is the timing of the announcements of level of the revenue support grant. I believe that announcements should be made much earlier in the year, leaving only small changes to be left to the autumn and winter. Three months ago, I suggested in the Glaven Newsletter, that we should involve the public on a more regular basis. I wrote: '...the public should not be required to become experts on local finance, but instead be given the opportunity of making choices within a framework informed by the political and technical judgment of your local authority'.

Based on the experience gained this year, it would need a two-stage approach. The first stage would begin early in the budget cycle (May-June) in which the broad priorities and possible directions are discussed. The second stage would take place in November-December when we can determine the overall size of the spending cake. Making the

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

The CPA for North Norfolk District Council has commenced and is to be completed before the May elections. Councils are graded Excellent, Good, Fair, Weak or Poor.

The CPA has been completed for County Councils. Some of the results are given below for the East Anglia region. Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk were graded GOOD. Lincolnshire was graded FAIR. Bedfordshire was graded POOR.

The principles of the CPA are that councils and their partners should be assessed not on the circumstances that they find themselves in, for example, rural areas with high deprivation, but on the way they respond to those circumstances.

E-Government

Project Reach Out is now in service. I am pleased to say, in my capacity as chairman of the project management board, that it was delivered on time and within the £450,000 awarded by government and the East of England Development Authority for this innovative project. NNDC provided £50,000 in match funding and NCC contributed £20,000. We have been informed that our proposals for a further major project have also been approved. This is the Front Office/Back Office integration project for which we have been awarded another £200,000. In addition, we have been awarded a further £154,000 to improve our Benefits system. The officers and members who put together these award-winning proposals are to be congratulated; among other benefits they take some of the strain off council taxpayers.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr L Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage

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Cley

NR25 7AP

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The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2003** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

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

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

31st January 2003

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2003 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Councillor Derek Baxter and the Clerk

Apologies: Councillor Bernard Crowe

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 6th January 2003 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Street Lighting Street Light Number 1 and 3 are still not working. The Clerk would contact Eastern Contracting to remind them that these are in need of maintenance.

Road Signs At the last meeting concerns were raised that during the road surface improvements the warning hazard signs at Warborough Hill and 'walking' sign at Muckledyke and the Knoll were removed – following correspondence on behalf of the Council from Councillor Derek Baxter and the Clerk, Mr Ryan from the Highways Department had sent his apologies and gave his assurance that the above signs will be replaced as soon as possible.

Land at Camping Hill The Clerk had received the following copy correspondence from Councillor Bernard Crowe to Geoff Kidd at the N N D C in response to the issues raised at the last meeting:

Stiffkey Parish Council have raised again the question of a decision on the NNDC plot at Stiffkey. You recall that we have been discussing over the last two years.

Stiffkey Parish Council accepts that Best Value denies the Stiffkey Parish Council the opportunity of leasing the land from NNDC at a peppercorn rent. Stiffkey Parish Council had intended to manage the plot as a conservation site.

Stiffkey Parish Council now suggest that it should be used to provide social housing using the exemptions policy. I believe that you asked Steve Oxenham to investigate whether it could be sold off for private dwelling last year but I am unaware of the outcome of that option.

Finally Stiffkey Parish Council suggest an open tender sell-off to provide a contribution to social housing either in Stiffkey or possibly Wells.

May I have your comments?



3 Matters Arising – Land at Camping Hill - Continued

The following response has been received from Mr Geoff Kidd:

Coincidentally I discussed this site with housing yesterday, I have spoken today with Peter Whittall and will revert to you again once he has spoken further with the planners.

Village Hall Security

Following a meeting of Stiffkey Village Hall Committee it has been agreed that a new lock will be provided prior to the Public Inquiry for the front door and the keys will not be issued until the Inquiry has taken place.

4 Correspondence

Norfolk County Council - Re Town and Parish Council Elections 1st May 2003

Norfolk County Council - Norfolk Matters Issue for January 2003

North Norfolk N H S - Patient Advice and Liaison Service for North Norfolk PCT

5 Finance

The following direct debits have been paid:

TXU Energi £28.19

Eastern Contracting £13.14

A donation of £25 was approved for Fakenham and Wells Citizens Advice Bureau

The bank statements were made available for inspection

6 Planning

The Clerk had received the following planning application:

Stiffkey Old Hall - Internal and External alterations and demolition of outbuildings

Due to the volume of plans involved with this application it was agreed the application would be passed round all the Councillors and a decision deferred until the next meeting. The planning department would be informed that the response from the Parish Council would be made immediately after the 4th March.

7 A O B

Condition of Trees - Following concerns raised regarding the condition of some trees in the Street it was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged with Mr Sizer, the Tree Preservation Officer, the Clerk and Mark Harrison.

Dangerous Road Condition following Severe Frost The Parish Council unanimously agreed to purchase a grit bin to be located at the steep corner leading to Choosley

Vegetation Clearance in the pit The Parish Council unanimously gave their support to Mark Harrison for the clearance of vegetation.

The formal part of the meeting was closed to allow the following reports.



Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe

Council Tax

Electors will be concerned regarding the increase in Council tax over and above inflation for the financial year 2003-04. Last year, using Blakeney as my example, the Band D rates were:

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You will have read that the Norfolk County Council is facing a similar but larger problem. The total rise could amount to a 12% increase, which is a £91 rise in Band D. I do not have the Police Authority figures but we should expect an increase there also.

All councils are facing what is, in effect, a stealth tax. We are required to manage extra costs that are almost entirely outside our control. Many come from national agreements and government decisions or policies that councils must comply with, but which will not bring with them the funds needed to put them in place. NCC has stated that of the £50 million extra costs £48 million are almost entirely outside their control. The special edition of 'Norfolk Matters' explains why people are likely to face increases in council tax and seeks the views of residents on budget options.

Another area which local government is taking up with central government, is the timing of the announcements of level of the revenue support grant. I believe that announcements should be made much earlier in the year, leaving only small changes to be left to the autumn and winter. Three months ago, I suggested in the Glaven Newsletter, that we should involve the public on a more regular basis. I wrote: '...the public should not be required to become experts on local finance, but instead be given the opportunity of making choices within a framework informed by the political and technical judgement of your local authority'.



Based on the experience gained this year, it would need a two-stage approach. The first stage would begin early in the budget cycle (May-June) in which the broad priorities and possible directions are discussed. The second stage would take place in November-December when we can determine the overall size of the spending cake. Making the adjustment between the need for additional resources and the taxpayers' willingness to pay is a decision for councils but consultation with the public would be a great help in reaching those decisions.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

The CPA for North Norfolk District Council has commenced and is to be completed before the May elections. Councils are graded Excellent, Good, Fair, Weak or Poor.

The CPA has been completed for County Councils. Some of the results are given below for the East Anglia region. Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk were graded GOOD. Lincolnshire was graded FAIR. Bedfordshire was graded POOR.

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E-Government

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Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

In the coming financial year (2003/4) the NCC settlement from the Government will be increased by 6.3%. This will bring in an additional £26 million but, unfortunately is well short of the £48 million extra required due to Government decisions and policies that the Council has to comply with (e.g. £22m for nationally imposed pay awards and inflation). On top of this, the Government have also brought in "Resource Equalisation" which has led to monies being removed from southern authorities and diverted to those in the northern midlands and the north. Because of this factor alone NCC has lost £16 million. Bearing in mind that every 1% of Council Tax equals £2 million, this means that Resource Equalisation alone equates to a Council Tax rise of 8%!!

Very little of the NCC overall budget is discretionary; with over 70% of spending dictated by the demands of Government. For example, the education budget, which represents over 60% of NCC spending is 'ring fenced' and if it is not spent on education, it would be cut the following year.

It is a myth that the NCC is full of people wandering around doing nothing. The authority



needs people to deliver services and in some cases departments like Social Services are experiencing trouble recruiting staff. NCC as an authority employs 6.5 staff per 10,000 population which is well below the average of other counties.

So the reality, unpalatable as it is, that there are really only two options. Firstly to increase Council Tax by possibly 15% or more, to avoid any cuts in services. Or secondly to increase Council Tax by a lower figure and to look at changes in service delivery.

So, the decisions this year are not easy. The budget is still out to consultation with the public and more detailed information will follow in due course.

Speed camera signing on Norfolk 'A' Roads

Speed camera enforcement signing is to be erected on several A class roads in Norfolk, one or more of which pass through the Wells Division. These signs have been requested by the Norfolk Casualty Reduction Partnership to facilitate speed limit enforcement by either mobile or fixed sites. The scheme aims to reduce casualties and improve road safety for all road users by reducing vehicle speeds.

The A class roads to be signed are A11, A140, A148, A143, A47, A149 and A10. A large sign with the legend 'Police Enforcement Cameras' and the speed camera logo will be placed at each end of the route.

The signs are programmed for erection during late January and early February this year.

CoastHopper Bus Service

A review of the CoastHopper bus service (Sheringham to King's Lynn) serving settlements in the Wells Division is due to take place shortly with new contracts to be implemented for September 2003.

One new feature which has been applied for will be a work journey from Wells at 0740 arriving in Sheringham at 0818 on Mondays to Fridays which will also connect with trains to Cromer and Norwich. There will be a return journey from Sheringham to Wells on Mondays to Saturdays all year round.

Another new facility will be a journey from Wells departing 0715 to Hunstanton arriving at 0800 on Mondays to Fridays.

Rights of Way etc

In January 2003 the Countryside Agency began mapping open country and registered common land in the area. This is for the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 which is made up of 5 parts:-

- 1) introduces new rights of access to open countryside
- 2) introduces new rights of way legislation
- 3) deals with nature conservation and wildlife protection
- 4) introduces new powers to manage AONBs
- 5) draws together miscellaneous and supplementary material.



Comprehensive Performance Assessment

Norfolk County Council has been named as a good performing authority in the first ever round of CPAs published in December.

Under the new system, the performance of 150 unitary and county councils has been assessed by the Audit Commission using a range of sources to assess the quality of each council's core services.

Councils in the first batch of assessments were placed in one of the following five categories; poor, weak, fair, good or excellent.

In Norfolk, the county council's overall performance has been rated as Good - placing it as one category from the top - two more points would have meant the performance was Excellent.

This represents a positive development for Norfolk because the Governments stated approach to local government is to reward councils that are performing well and to concentrate more of its management and inspection on those that it feels are not delivering what they should for local people. It has promised that councils judged either good or excellent will benefit from less audit and inspection and be offered additional freedoms and flexibilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. John' or similar, written in a cursive style.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr Lawrence Jordan

Clerk's Address:

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tcrowe@morstonassets.com

28th February 2003

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2003** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

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

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd March 2003 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Councillor Bernard Crowe, Councillor Derek Baxter, 4 Parishioners and the Clerk

Apologies: Roy Rogers

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2003 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

SSSI designated site - Written reeport from Lord Buxton The Parish Council supported the designation of this area and in response to some concern regarding the increase in the number of parked vehicles in the area the Chairman explained that a parking area is to be introduced to help keep the problem to a minimum.

Gritting Bin A new bin has been purchased at a cost of £95 and delivered to Mark Harrison. The Highways Department would be requested to provide the salt and sand and would liase with Mark for the delivery.

Tree Inspection A site meeting has just taken place with the Tree Preservation Officer, Mr Chris Yardley from the N N D C to inspect the trees in Bangay Lane and the trees which overhang the main street opposite the Post Office. Mr Yardley's assistance was much appreciated and the Clerk would record the meeting in a formal letter to Mr Yardley.

Land at Camping Hill - Councillor Bernard Crowe reported that the Planning Department at the NNDC are investigating the possibility of the area being used for housing. However, if planning permission is to be granted the provision of parking on the green would have to be included in the application as vehicle access would not be possible from the property.

3 Correspondence

Information Commission - Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Publication Scheme

North Norfolk & Rural Broadland Crime Prevention Panel - Posters advertising Crime Prevention Panel 'One Stop Shop'

North Norfolk District Council:

- Agenda Council Meeting 26th February 2003
- Budget 2003-2004
- Re Extended Service



3 Correspondence - continued

Blakeney Area Historical Society - Opening of the History Centre Sunday 9th March from 11.00am to 1.00pm at the Scout Hut, Blakeney

Norfolk Rural Community Council - Winners or Whingers

Norman Lamb MP Re Licensing Bill

4 Finance

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Norfolk County Association of Parish and Town Council Annual Subscription £73.46
Builders Equipment - Grit Bin £95.00

The following direct debit has been paid:

TXU Energi (monthly energy charge) £28.19
Alfred McAlpine (monthly maintenance charge) £13.14

5 Planning

Dr and Mrs Bell, Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street, Stiffkey - Internal and external alterations and demolition of outbuildings. The Parish Council expressed their approval for this application. Councillor Bernard Crowe informed the Council that a site meeting will be held to enable the Planning Committee to have a clear understanding of the proposed changes and Parish Councillors would be welcome to attend – date to be advised.

6 A O B

Finger Posts John Pearson reported that the sign posts for Damson Lane / Bridge Street and Bangay Lane have disappeared – the Clerk will request the provision of replacements.

“To Let Signs” It was felt the ‘To Let’ signs located in the street were very obtrusive. The Parish Council and individuals have expressed their concern to the N N D C and this issue is being investigated by the Enforcement Officer.

Church Repairs The Parochial Church Council would like a representative from the Parish Council to be in attendance at their sub committee church refurbishment meetings .

Speed Limit Once again concerns were expressed regarding the speed of traffic when approaching the ‘T’ Junction, these concerns would once again be conveyed to PC Ken Durrant.

P Q T

Mr Curtis expressed his concern regarding the encroachment of vegetation in Church Street which does need to be trimmed back by the property owners. The Clerk will convey the concerns raised to the property owners.

The Chairman closed the formal part of the meeting to enable the following reports to be made.



Reports

Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe

Constitutional Matters

The Periodic Electoral Review North Norfolk District Council

The Electoral Commission has made the necessary change order and the Glaven Valley Ward will come into effect from 1 May 2003. The Ward will comprise Blakeney, Brinton with Sharrington, Field Dalling with Saxlingham, Letheringsett with Glandford, Morston, Stody with Hunworth, Thornage and Wiveton. The Ward has a population of 1899 and will be supported by one Councillor.

Langham and Stiffkey move into the Priory Ward with Binham, Hindringham, Holkham, Warham and Wells-next-the-Sea. The Ward has a population of 3553 and will be supported by two Councillors.

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

Periodic Review of Norfolk County Council

The review is to commence on 11 March 2003 and the resultant new electoral arrangements will be effective from 5 May 2005.

Blakeney Parish Council

Blakeney Parish Council has opted to reduce its membership level from 11 to 9. The new levels will apply to the Council to be elected on 1 May 2003.

Affordable Housing

In view of the many concerns, we wrote to the Office Of the Deputy Prime Minister concerning affordable housing. I have extracted sections of the reply that will be of interest.

Quote: The Government is acutely aware of the problems that first time buyers and others have in acquiring property in many rural areas. We have published a consultation paper and invited the views of the public and local government on our proposals to give local authorities discretion to reduce the 50% council tax discount for second homes and long term empty homes. We will announce final decisions shortly. However, our proposals would require primary legislation and if all goes ahead the impact will be on council tax bills for 2004/05 onwards. *End quote.*

[I leave readers to draw their own conclusions].

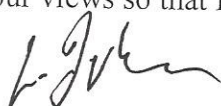
Quote: The Secretary of State has designated North Norfolk District Council as a 'rural area' for Right to Buy purposes. You are able to impose restrictions on the resale of properties sold under the Right to Buy to ensure:

that the property can only be sold to someone who has lived or worked locally in the area for three, or

that the property must be offered back to the council if it is resold within 10 years.

End quote.

I would appreciate your views so that I can represent them to NNDC. (Preferably by letter or e-mail please).



Number of Right to Buy Sales

It may be of interest to see the number of Right to Buy Sales over the past 5 years:

Year	Total Number of Sales	Increase Over Previous
1998	73	---
1999	88	20%
2000	92	5%
2001	122	31%
2002	137	12%

Discount

The current rate of discount for RTB housing is 60% or £38000. John Prescott, DPM, has ruled that thirty of the thirty-three London Boroughs and twelve of the Authorities in the South East will be able to reduce the discount by £22000. It will put it in line with the £16000 'right to acquire' discount for housing association tenants. This change does not affect North Norfolk at present.

Exemptions Policy

Within North Norfolk a Working Party of the Local Plan Review is considering the application of the Exemptions Policy which allows affordable housing to be built outside the development zone. The Oddfellows Field complex in Blakeney is currently the only development of that kind in North Norfolk. Other towns and villages are interested in considering this concept.

Where affordable housing allows local people in lower paid employment to live nearer their places of work, I fully support this move. However, when I became a District Councillor in 1999, I found that the definition of 'local' was applied to applicants from anywhere in North Norfolk. I have, therefore, persuaded NNDC to agree a local letting policy to ensure that future lets will go to people who have a connection with Blakeney & District Ward.

Recycling

In the next edition, I will bring our readers up to date with the progress, or lack of it, on recycling and on the controversial issue of 'wheelie-bins'.

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Some Census Highlights

The NCC's Demographic Services specialise in population details and have been analysing the 2001 Census to see what it says about Norfolk and how it compares to other parts of the country.

The information is now on the Council's special web pages which you can visit by logging on to www.norfolk.gov.uk. Then select 'Learning', next select 'Demographic Services' from the drop down menu.

For those of you without Internet facilities, among the interesting facts which emerge are:- Less than half the households in Norfolk (48%) are now occupied by married or cohabiting households, a similar figure to nationally. Around 29% of households consist of one person.



A quarter of the people in Norfolk are single (never married), less than the national figure of 30% and there is a higher proportion of married or remarried people - 55% as against 51% nationally.

Answers to a new question on whether people were caring for a sick or disabled adult relative or neighbour found over 81,000, of whom nearly 17,000 provided care for more than 50 hours per week, a similar proportion to the national figure.

Around 19% of the people in Norfolk have a long-term illness and 9% described their general health as 'not good' - similar to the national percentages.

A higher proportion of people in Norfolk travel to work by car (66%) than in England and Wales (61.5%) and a considerably lower number use public transport (under 6% compared with 14.5%). The proportion of households with one or more car or van (79%) compares with 73% nationally.

Around 15% of Norfolk people have higher qualifications and nearly a third have no academic or professional qualifications. Around 17% of people are retired compared with under 14% nationally.

There are 343,000 households in Norfolk with an average 2.3 people in a household. Over 70% of households are owner-occupied.

In terms of ethnicity and religion, North Norfolk has the lowest percentage of ethnic groups other than 'white' in the Region. On the Census religion question, which was voluntary, Norwich has the highest proportion in the whole country of people indicating they had 'no religion'. North Norfolk also ranked first in the Region on the proportion of retired people in the population.

Budget

The January report went into some detail of why people in Norfolk are having to pay an additional 15.9% on their NCC Council Tax. If you think this is bad then don't move to Suffolk this year because the rise there is 18.5%!

The key budget proposals are:-

£4.4 millions extra each year to Social Services. This includes increased funding for residential homes and funding to avoid the further transfer of home care to the private sector.

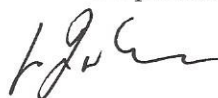
An extra £1 million for education in Norfolk over and above the Government settlement; the vast majority of which will go straight to Norfolk schools.

No mothballing of museums and continuation of the West Runton Elephant project.

The removal of the closure option for three of the five libraries where closure had been an option.

£445,000 to support a 20% increase in opening hours for libraries right across the county.

Restoring balances (cash reserves) to a level recommended by the Director of Finance (and District Audit) as acceptable for the responsibilities that the authority has to bear.



Restoring the authority's depleted insurance fund by £3 millions so that it is more appropriate to the level of risk carried.

Spending Plan for Roads and Transport

The County Council has secured around £40 millions in a better than expected settlement from the Government. Now Councillors are looking at the detailed spending programme.

Tim Malynn, the Director of Planning and Transportation, recommends that the capital spending budget is divided between structural maintenance work on the county's roads (12.5m) and bridge repairs/improvements (£3.9m) – leaving some £12.9m for other investment, for example on footways, pedestrian and cycling facilities, safety schemes and infrastructure such as park and ride.

Another £8.1m is earmarked for major schemes to improve passenger transport in Norwich (including a new bus station) and build the Nar Ouse Regeneration Route in King's Lynn. £2.2m is available to help the County Council maintain former trunk roads handed back to it by the Government in recent years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. J. L.', is centered below the text.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr Lawrence Jordan

Clerk's Address:

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

1st April 2003

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 7th APRIL 2003** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

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

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISHIONERS MONDAY 12th MAY 2003

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th April and an informal meeting held on Monday 12th May following the Annual Report to Parishioners 2003 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: 2 Parishioners and the Clerk

Apologies: Councillor Bernard Crowe, Councillor Derek Baxter

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3rd March 2003 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Reclassification Order 1999 - Public Inquiry - Proposed date Tuesday 22nd July and Wednesday 23rd July.

Church Street Following site meeting between the Clerk and property owners the vegetation encroaching over the walls in the Street will be cut back.

Tree Inspection Following a site meeting to inspect the trees a formal letter expressing the Parish Council's concern has been forwarded to Mr Yardley, the Tree Preservation Officer for the North Norfolk District Council.

3 Correspondence

Mr John Adnitt Re. Location of the Bottlebank at Warborough Place

Susan Elliott Re. Location of the Bottlebank

North Norfolk Primary Care Trust - Patient Advice and Liaison Service - Poster

Go-East Government Office for the East of England - Renewable energy and the planning system - notification of meetings: Sadlers Shop, North Walsham on the 6th May at 3.00pm to 6.30pm and at Wymondham Central Hall on the 7th May 9.30am to 1.00pm.

Norfolk County Council

- Periodic Electoral Review of Norfolk County Council
- Travellers in Norfolk – Information Leaflet
- Revised Timetable for 36 Coast Hopper
- Household Waste in Norfolk - Consultation on Options
- Norfolk Matters Issue No. 7
- Summer Bus Timetable Coast Hopper
- Revised Timetable - 36 Coast Hopper
- Norfolk Local Transport Plan (LTP) Annual Forums
- Norfolk county Council Periodic Electoral Review – Replacement Material
- Vegetation Cutting on Public Rights of Way



3 Correspondence – Continued

North Norfolk District Council

- Planning Delivery Grant - Changes in the planning application system
- Parish Newsletter Issue No. 64
- Parish Council Elections
- North Norfolk District Council : Homelessness Strategy
- Agenda Council Meeting 23rd April 2003

Mott Macdonald Norfolk & Norwich Hospital and Research Park - Public Consultation for Road Access Options

Norfolk Tourism Team - Free Events Database

Environment Agency - Coast Lines Newsletter

4 Finance

The following direct debits has been paid:

TXU Energi £28.19 Eastern Contracting £13.14

Fakenham and Wells Citizens Advice Bureau - Acknowledgement of the £25 donation.

Builders Equipment Limited £16.63

Allianz Cornhill £231.87

The bank statement was available for inspection

5 Planning

Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street for Dr and Mrs Bell - Erection of Stiffkey Old Hall, conversion of outbuildings to form extension to annexe, erection of summerhouse and garages. At the last meeting the Parish Council had no objection to the planning application.

The N N D C Planning Committee will be holding a site meeting at 2.30pm on Tuesday 15th April to ensure everyone has a clear understanding of the application. The Parish Councillors were invited to be in attendance

Namadene, Hollow Lane, Stiffkey - Proposal Raising Height of roof to provide first floor accommodation – No objection

River House 1, Bridge Street - Erection of single storey extension

The following Notices of Decision have been received:

Namadene, Hollow Lane, Stiffkey - Raising height of roof to provide first floor accommodation - Permission for Development

Development Control Committee (West) 17th April 2003 Reports for the following:



5 Planning - Continued

Stiffkey Old Hall:

- Erection of extensions to Stiffkey Old Hall, conversion of outbuildings to form extension to annexe, erection of summerhouse and garages.
- Internal and external alterations and demolition of outbuilding

Recommendation - Approval subject to conditions

6 A O B

Bottlebank Following receipt of the letters from Susan Elliott and John Adnitt, considerable discussion took place regarding the present location of the bottlebank. It was felt that this created no more of a noise disturbance than the external central heating connection adjacent to the bottlebank.

The views of the Parish Councillors were as follows:

The views of some of the Councillors was that the bottlebank should remain in its present location and it was also suggested that an alternative site either at the Red Lion P.H; in the corner on the Knoll or at the Village Hall, if the Village Hall Committee were in agreement could be investigated.

The Parish Council agreed not to make a formal proposition regarding the bottle bank at the moment until an investigation into an alternative site has been carried out.

Concerns were expressed that the Parish Councillors are the representatives of the parishioners of Stiffkey and therefore they make decisions on behalf of the parishioners. This appears to work well until someone objects to a decision they have made as a collective body, and that decision is challenged because a resident(s) are not in agreement. It was felt that if residents did not wish to accept decisions made on their behalf by the Councillors, or try to overturn them, then there was not much point in being a Parish Councillor. It was also suggested that parishioners who are objecting to the decisions made by the Parish Council should perhaps consider becoming Councillors themselves.

To Let Signs The Parish Council was pleased to note that the 'To Let' signs have at last been taken down

Fly Tipping The Parish Council was disappointed to note that fly tipping has continued in Bangay Lane despite the Councillors efforts to keep the area in a clean and tidy state. The Council agreed that the Clerk would produce a notice to be given out to residents at Camping Hill to remind them that some of the Parish Councillors had spent a considerable amount of time clearing the vegetation in Bangay Lane and that it is an offence to fly tip and to please stop dumping garden rubbish in this area.

Litter Pick The Chairman reminded everyone that there would be a 'Litter Pick' in the village on Saturday 12th April 2003 starting at 10.30am.

The formal part of the meeting closed to enable the following reports.



Report from Councillor Bernard Crowe

The Periodic Electoral Review [PER]

This report summarises some of the activities of the North Norfolk District Council over the last four years. By the time you read this article the local elections will be under way. Blakeney will become part of the Glaven Valley Ward, and the former Blakeney Ward will not exist after 1 May 2003. The Glaven Valley Ward will consist of Blakeney, Morston and Wiveton plus Letheringsett with Glandford, Field Dalling with Saxlingham, Thornage, Stody with Hunworth, and Brinton with Sharrington. That is 1899 electors living in 1167 houses. In addition, there are 361 second homes: Blakeney 210, Morston 25, Wiveton 19, Letheringsett/Glandford 20, Field Dalling/Saxlingham 26, Thornage 30, Stody/Hunworth 12, and Brinton/Sharrington 19.

The Council

The current Council was elected in 1999. There are 46 Councillors. The numbers will rise to 48 in May 2003 as required by the PER. We are a 'hung Council' today with the following break down:

Conservative & Allied Independents	16
Liberal Democrats	13
Labour	7
Independent Labour	3
Independent	7

The 'ruling alliance' consists of the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent Labour Groups with one 'non grouped' member.

Clearly some of us hope this will change!

Aims

The Council's aims have been modified to reflect that developing the economy must be given top priority so that our other aims can gain the necessary funding to support them. These remain Protecting the Environment, Improving the Quality of Life, and Involving Local People.

Local Strategic Partnerships [LSP]

The Council is working with partners to form the North Norfolk Local Strategic Partnership and has set up the following Improvement Teams:

- Environment & Outdoor Recreation
- Health & Social Care
- Economy
- Housing
- Transport
- Leisure & Culture
- Learning & Skills
- Safety

These will strengthen the capacity of the LSP to plan and facilitate a mixed economy/partnership approach.

Corporate Review

Throughout 2002, we have carried out a Corporate Review in order to produce a leaner and more efficient Council. This has enabled us to make savings on the way we deliver services whilst restricting the increase in NNDC council tax to 6.5%. That figure includes current inflation of 2% and stealth taxation set by central government over which we have no control. The key items are the staff salaries that are set nationally, and the increased level of National Insurance contributions.

In FY 2004/05, we will be faced with similar problems. The estimated cost of meeting government legislation on waste/recycling alone is £927,000, which will have to be met, under current arrangements, by cutting services or by raising council tax. The Corporate Review has identified a programme of work which will make an impact in reducing local taxation in future years. This means taking a radical approach to way we deliver services and this will require strong leadership to implement.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment [CPA]

The CPA grades Councils into Excellent, Good, Fair, Weak or Poor. The CPA for NNDC has commenced and will be completed in June/July 2003 during the tenure of the next Council. The outcomes are important because the government has adopted a 'stick and carrot' approach with greater freedoms and latitude to those who achieve an Excellent grading.

E-Government

Project Reach Out is now in service. I am pleased to say, in my capacity as chairman of the Project Board, that it was delivered on time, to specification, and within the £450,000 awarded by government and the East of England Development Authority for this innovative project. NNDC provided £50,000 in match funding so we were able to spend mainly 'other peoples' money for this North Norfolk project. The officers and members who have assisted me in putting together further award winning proposals for e-government projects amounting to £544,000 over the next two years are to be congratulated. Among other benefits they take some of the strain off our council taxpayers. The current Project Board will also run these projects.

Consultation

I have been keeping you up to date with areas of interest through the 'District Councillor's Notebook in the excellent Glaven Valley Newsletter and equally good Local Lnyx. I hope to do so in the future. I send my thanks to Steve Wiles, the Editor of the GVN, and Bob and Helen Brandt of Local Lynx for their dedication and hard work.

Parish Councils

Our Parish Councillors do a marvelous and voluntary job. We are very grateful for all their work and for the support of hard working Parish Clerks. I hope that you will attend meetings from time to time and see their work. You are also welcome to attend all public meetings of the District Council and of the Area Committees.

We are fortunate to be living in the lovely and vibrant villages of North Norfolk, not only because of its attractiveness but because our residents put so much back into village life. For my part, I send a vote of thanks to you all. It is a privilege to represent you at North Norfolk District Council.

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Green Fuel Trials for County Vehicles

A year long trial of alternative vehicle fuels is to be carried out by Norfolk County Council.

NCC is to test the performance of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Bio-diesel and hybrid electric cars against conventional petrol and diesel powered vehicles.

The trials, due to start at the beginning of July, aim to establish:

Fuel costs per mile

Total operating costs, including maintenance and breakdowns Emissions of CO₂ and other pollutants

Running the trial for a full year will allow each fuel to be tested across a range of temperatures and types of weather. To ensure a fair comparison, traditionally fuelled vehicles will go through the same rigorous tests.

The Council plans to convert or buy at least five vehicles to run on LPG and to use at least ten vehicles to test Bio-diesel. It also plans to buy at least two hybrid electric cars, and will work with other agencies to find ways of testing CNG powered vehicles.

Multi-Million Investment Programme for Norfolk

NCC's Cabinet have agreed an initial £77 million programme for the year ahead to invest in Norfolk's schools, roads, social services, fire service, libraries and other council services.

The final figure will be higher as further announcements on funding are made by the Government.

On the approved programme, more than £47 million will pay for a number of items already underway or committed, such as the Lakenheath Housing with Care scheme in Norwich, the Sprowston Housing with Care scheme and the new Archive Centre.

In the year ahead, Planning and Transportation will spend more than £40 million on maintaining Norfolk's roads and footpaths and improving and maintaining bus services.

About £12.5 million will be spent on structural maintenance work on the County's roads and £3.9 million on bridge repairs/improvements – leaving some £12.9 million for investment in footways, pedestrian and cycling facilities, safety schemes and transport infrastructure such as Harford park and ride.

In education, approximately £19.5 million is available to allocate to new schemes in the year ahead. This includes £10.9 million to provide new school places in areas of growth, £7 million for improving the suitability of existing school buildings and £750,000 for improving disabled access in mainstream schools.

A further £11 million will be available directly to schools to help them tackle their most urgent building priorities.

This boost needs to be seen in the context of substantial need at schools across Norfolk (at least £350 million).

This clearly demonstrates the need to prioritise the limited funding available - and emphasises the fact that only the most urgent problems can be tackled through conventional central funding sources. NCC is exploring other sources of funding - including PFI - in order to increase future levels of education capital expenditure.

There are a number of new starts:

A new fire station is planned for Downham Market to replace the existing station in the town centre which is a one-way system

£390,000 is allocated towards the cost of providing a new sports centre in Fakenham, which is the subject of a bid for Lottery cash

£1.3 million to provide new libraries for Wymondham and Dereham

£175,000 to improve and enlarge the Wells household waste recycling centre. The work will include better access to the site and possible improvements in the range of recycling services available.

NCC Standards Committee

A body set up by NCC to ensure high standards of conduct are being maintained by elected members of the Authority is on the lookout for an independent Chairman.

He or she will Chair the Authority's Standards Committee whose principal responsibilities are:

To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the Council
To assist members and co-opted members of the Council to observe the Council's Code of Conduct
NCC welcome applications from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Successful applicants are likely to possess the following qualities:

An interest in local government issues and knowledge of structures

An appreciation and understanding of the role of County Councillors

An understanding of the importance of high standards of conduct by Councillors.

Closing date for application is 17th April.

News in Brief

Shoppers in Norfolk will be protected by a number of new rights coming into force from the 31st March.

An EU directive states that consumers will be able to choose a second course of action (other than to ask for a refund). They will be able to ask for a repair or a replacement.

Blakeney Quay reconstruction is in its final stages with works due for completion by Easter as planned.

The £650,000 scheme has involved the construction of a new anchored steel sheet-piled quay wall with a reinforced concrete wall which had reached the end of its useful life.

The new wall, which includes two sets of steps for access to moored boats, is to be clad with timber planking, and will include new mooring bollards along its length. The whole quayside area and carriageway are being reconstructed and a new fence to separate traffic from pedestrians is being installed.

A crackdown on cars being sold illegally on roads and verges in Norwich is already having a significant impact on the problem.

NCC has been posting notices on some of the cars which are for sale, threatening to impound them and take legal action against the owners and sellers.

There could be a second network of "Quiet Lanes" in Norfolk if people in an area south of the county say they are in favour. NCC has begun consulting parish councils and residents in the area between Attleborough, Diss and Thetford.

The County pioneered the concept of "Quiet Lanes" with a successful national pilot scheme in North Norfolk, between Cromer and North Walsham.

Quiet Lanes schemes aim to make minor rural links better for all road users, including walkers, cyclists and horse riders. They encourage motorists to use the most suitable routes and ask all users to be considerate towards each other. They also provide links to the public footpath and bridleway networks.

Beacon Status for Norfolk County Council

At the beginning of April, Norfolk County Council heard that it is one of only six local authorities in the U.K. to be awarded Beacon status by the Government for showing leadership in promoting better construction practices.

NCC was shortlisted from 27 applicants to become a Beacon authority for "Rethinking Construction". This is a national initiative which aims to drive up quality in the construction industry by improving leadership, project management, partnership working and customer focus.

As a Beacon Council, NCC will now work closely with the National Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA) on a year-long programme to disseminate what it has learnt to other councils and to the private sector, including a major national conference planned for next summer.

Annual Road Surfacing Work Under Way

NCC's annual programme of road surfacing got under way in mid-April. Around £5millions will be spent on the program this year, to help maintain the county's roads. Work will be avoided on busy roads during peak periods whenever possible. Surfacing involves a thin layer of bitumen and stone chippings, which provides a cost-effective treatment for the roads and improves skid resistance. It also helps to prevent water from getting into the road structure below and causing problems.

On some roads the work will mean a temporary 20mph speed limit during the work and for a few days afterwards, for safety reasons. The treated surface also needs to be given some time to settle down before vehicles travel over it at faster speeds.

The surfacing programme takes place every summer for around four months, when the better weather and warmer temperatures help the process. Work will start first on some of the county's main A class roads and theses should be completed during June, weather permitting.

This work is in addition to the Council's routine programme of road resurfacing, which uses a variety of materials, such as hot-rolled asphalt, to strengthen the structure of the road and improve running surfaces.

Monitoring of Bus Complaints

NCC has set up a new hotline for people who want to complain about the performance and reliability of the bus services they use.

The Council does not operate any public transport services. Where the service is a commercial service, it will not be able to investigate the complaint itself, however, it will pass them immediately to the appropriate bus operator and ask them to contact the passenger to try and sort the problem out.

The new hotline number is 0845 600 28 24 and it will be open between 0900 and 1630. There is also an e-mail hotline on ptu.pt@norfolk.gov.uk.

Some Local News

Work will begin next Monday (May 12th) to replace damaged/old kerbs and resurface footway with hot rolled asphalt at Mill Court, Wells. The work will take five weeks and cost £19,600.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Lawrence Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage

High Street

Cley

NR25 7AP

Tel: 01263 740843

e-mail:

tcrowe@morstonassets.com

1st May 2003

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 2nd June 2003** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Co-option of Parish Councillors
- 4 Minutes of the April/May Meeting
- 5 Matters Arising
- 6 Correspondence
- 7 Finance
- 8 Planning
- 9 Any Other Business
- 10 Parishioners Question Time

Date of Next Meeting: **Monday 7th July 2003**

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Address:

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

6th April 2003

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 12th MAY 2003** at 7.00pm in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A - ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Election of Officers

Chairman
Vice Chairman
- 3 Minutes of previous Annual Parish Council Meeting
- 4 Presentation of the Annual Report of the Council
- 5 Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2003
- 6 Declarations of Acceptance

Code of Conduct Acceptance
- 7 Co-option of Parish Councillors
- 8 A O B

*Tricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to Stiffkey Parish Council
5th April 2003*

Minutes of Stiffkey Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th May 2002 at 7.00pm.

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

Apologies: Cllr Bernard Crowe and Cllr Derek Baxter

In attendance: The Clerk and 4 parishioners

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2001 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. He also expressed his thanks and that of the Council to Councillor Bernard Crowe, Councillor Derek Baxter and the Clerk. Due to the resignation of Eva Gambrill the Chairman was pleased to report that Michael Jordan had been co-opted during the year.

Mr Jeavons had attended a Parish Council to discuss the water levels in the River Stiffkey which had provided to be a most informative evening.

The past year had been successful for the village, gaining an award in the WREN Competition

He was sorry to report that the Parish Council had so far been unable to acquire the surplus land at Camping Hill.

The Parish Council had considered 4 planning applications during the past year.

The homewatch scheme was working very well and an asset to the village as was the Shop and Post Office.

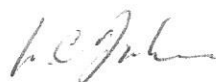
The Village Hall and Playing Field Committees had been run in their usual very efficient manner.

Finally the Chairman thanked everyone who had helped keep the village in such neat and tidy order; it was a credit to everyone.

3 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2002 (copy enclosed in the Minute Book) that were unanimously approved and duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

There being no further business the Annual Parish Council Meeting closed at 7.55pm.



Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd June 2003 at 7.00pm

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), Stanley Sutton, Mark Harrison, Cherry Martin, Mary Gerrard, Karen Pickles and Michael Jordan

In attendance: Councillor Jonathan Savoury, 2 Parishioners and the Clerk

Apologies: Mary Gerrard and Councillor Derek Baxter

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 12th May 2003 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Co-option of Parish Councillors Following an advertisement on the notice boards in the village and there being no other nominations, Cherry Martin and Karen Pickles were duly co-opted onto the Parish Council. The acceptance of the Code of Conduct, declarations of other and financial interest were duly signed by both new Councillors.

3 Matters Arising

Reclassification Order 1999 - Public Inquiry - It has been proposed that the Public Inquiry will now take place on 23rd and 24th September. Details to be confirmed by Denise Bales in the Legal Department at County Hall.

Church Street In spite of a site meeting between the Clerk and the owner of the property regarding the dangerous condition of the vegetation encroaching over the walls in the Street this has still not been cut back, a further approach will be made to Mr White and if this fails, representation will be made to the Highways Department to request that they cut the vegetation back and Mr White could be required to meet the cost.

Fly Tipping Following the action taken by the Parish Council in recent months and the notices delivered to properties with access to Bangay Lane, there appears to be a considerable improvement.

4 Correspondence

Norfolk County Council

- **Bus Hotline** A new service has been introduced which will enable people who wish to make a complaint about the performance and reliability of the bus services they use.
- **Norfolk Matters** Issue Number 8 May / June 2003
- **Local Transport Plan (LTP)** Annual Transport Forums

North Norfolk District Council

- West Area Committee Meeting will be held on 17th June 2003
 - Agenda Council Meetings
- A. J. L.*

5 Finance

The following direct debits has been paid:

TXU Energi £28.19 Eastern Contracting £13.14

The following invoice was approved for payment:

Stiffkey Village Hall - Hire of Village Hall for Meetings

The bank statement was available for inspection

6 Planning

Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street for Dr and Mrs Bell - Erection of Stiffkey Old Hall, conversion of outbuildings to form extension to annexe, erection of summerhouse and garages. At a previous meeting the Parish Council had no objection to the planning application.

The N N D C Planning Committee held a site meeting at 2.30pm on Tuesday 15th April to ensure everyone had a clear understanding of the application. Parish Councillors were in attendance.

A reported dated 17th April 2003 from Development Control Committee (West) 17th April 2003 has recommended approval subject to conditions

The following retrospective planning application has been received:

Pip Cottage, Bridge Street - Retention of replacement window and rear door. The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

The following Notice of Decision has been received:

144 Camping Hill, Stiffkey - Erection of Conservatory - permission for development.

6 A O B

The formal part of the meeting closed to enable the following report provided by Councillor Jonathan Savoury:

NNDC will in April 2004 introduce a more efficient refuse collection and recycling service but before it can make a decision on what service is best for the district it needs to carry out more research. NNDC is aware that if a wheeled bin collection is launched (and this has not yet been agreed) there are many homes such as flats where wheeled bins cannot be used. In addition some people because of age or disability may not be able to use the bins.

If residents think they should be exempt from a wheeled bin collection or are unable to use a wheeled bin they may apply for a property exemption or apply for an assisted collection. Forms are soon to be widely available in libraries CABs and NNDC area offices.

A decision on the chosen service will not be made until October 2003.



The following report was kindly provided by Councillor Bernard Crowe:

Election Turnout

Readers may be interested in the voter turnout statistics across Norfolk in the recent elections which were as follows:

Breckland	33.5%
Broadland	33.0%
Great Yarmouth	30.3%
North Norfolk	43.4%
Norwich	35.7%
South Norfolk	38.5%
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	47.6% (Total Postal Voting)
District Average	37.4%

The Glaven Valley Ward was 50.5%

Local Governance

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee since the elections of 1 May 2003, it was agreed to set up a working party to consider whether there should be changes in the structure of the Executive Committee in the light of the Council's new political balance. The terms of reference are:

- To consider the alternatives to the current make up of the Executive Committee and to make recommendations as to a preferred way forward.
- To consider whether any consequential amendments to the Constitution need to be recommended as a result of any recommendation made above.
- To consider whether any other necessary amendments can be conveniently recommended at the same time.

I am a member of the working party. I have some doubts about the intentions of the majority party. In the forward to the report on the Comprehensive Performance Assessment the following has been added: 'It is expected that the make-up of the Executive Committee will now change, and it will become a Cabinet of solely Liberal Democrat members'. I will let you know whether this consultation exercise is genuine or a charade.

Forward Planning

It is normal for an incoming majority group to brief the Chief Executive and Service Heads on the programme for the next four years so that the officers can undertake forward planning based upon political guidance. This is usually done in the first week after the District Council elections which were held on 1 May. The majority group has not yet decided their programme and priorities so we are currently operating in a limbo. At the meetings of the Policy Development and Consultation Committee on 4 June and at the Executive Committee on 9 June, the majority group declined to put forward ideas under a standard item, 'Work Programme: to consider developing a work programme for the forthcoming year and to identify the issues that should be added to such a programme'. We understand that all will become clear after an 'Away Day' consultation to be held by the majority group on 28 June. So by 1 July 2002, it is hoped that members and the public will be briefed on the direction North Norfolk District Council is taking.



Council Tax

In my earlier reports, I have drawn attention to the need for involving the public in setting priorities and in budget choices. This ensures that we are in touch with people and that our services are focused on the citizen. Members will use the information to help them make judgments in budget priorities and council tax levels.

We are using Citizens Panel Survey (Number 8) to provide a strategic view of public opinion in relation to how much council tax they would be willing to pay, what savings they would like to make, and what additional charges they would find acceptable. The Survey will be carried out by MORI. 1000 'demographically representative' residents have been invited to participate. The results will be available in August 2003.

Waste

I have advised previously that the Council is to consider other options for waste disposal. In my recent discussions with officers, I have obtained the important assurance that *'we are not assuming that the Council will agree to a wheeled bin scheme'*.

Having made that point, we are committed to investigating the impact of a wheeled bin solution, and the potential costs associated with assisted and exempt collections which I describe below.

In April 2004, the council will be introducing a more efficient refuse collection and recycling service to help meet the Government's new targets for recycling. The Council is presently considering what sort of new collection service to introduce, and, although no final decision has yet been made, the use of wheeled bins is one possible option. NNDC is aware that if a wheeled bin collection service is launched, there are many homes, such as flats, where wheeled bins cannot be used. In addition, some people, because of age or disability, would not be able to wheel the bins out to the curtilage (or edge) of their property, where the rubbish is to be collected.

Consequently, before a wheeled bin service can be considered fully, the Council needs to know how many homes in North Norfolk are likely to be exempted from the scheme, and how many residents might need help to put their bins out; i.e. an assisted collection.

If you think your home should be exempt from a wheeled bin collection, or if you and the other residents in your household are physically incapable of wheeling the bins to the collection point at the edge of your property, then you may ask for a property exemption or for an assisted collection. I am arranging for Parish Clerks to have copies of the appropriate forms. Alternatively, you can write to the Council to explain why you think your home should be exempted or why you would need an assisted collection. Please send your letter to The Contracts Division, North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 9EN.



STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Lawrence Jordan

Clerk's Address:

Wildfowlers Cottage

High Street

Cley

NR25 7AP

Tel: 01263 740843

e-mail:

tcrowe@morstonassets.com

1st July 2003

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 15th July 2003** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 ~~Co-option of Parish Councillors~~
- 4 Minutes of the June Meeting
- 5 Matters Arising
- 6 Correspondence
- 7 Finance
- 8 Planning
- 9 Any Other Business
- 10 Parishioners Question Time

Date of Next Meeting: **Monday 18th August 2003**

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th July 2003 at 7.00pm

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), Stanley Sutton, Cherry Martin, Mary Gerrard, Karen Pickles and Michael Jordan

In attendance: The Clerk

Apologies: Mark Harrison, Councillor Jonathan Savoury and Councillor Derek Baxter

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2nd June 2003 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Signage The Chairman has had a meeting with the representative from the County Council regarding the signs which have been removed at various locations in the village. The Chairman received an assurance that these will be replaced.

Reclassification Order 1999 - Public Inquiry - It has now been confirmed that the Public Inquiry will take place on 23rd and 24th September. Mary Gerrard kindly agreed to be the contact person from the 1st - 19th September should any queries arise during the Clerk's absence.

4 Correspondence

Norfolk County Council

- Public Inquiry – Confirmation of the arrangements
- Route Hierarchy - Signing Review
- Wells-next-the-sea Walking and Cycling Study
- Rural Bus Subsidy Grant services

A M Street Lighting - Structural Integrity of Street Lighting Columns

North Norfolk District Council

- Consultation documents – Proposed new refuse and recycling collection service – Exemption /Assisted Collection forms. The Clerk has obtained additional copies which will be available in the Post Office for those adversely affected by the proposed scheme.
- North Norfolk Joint Area Committee East Area Meeting 16th July 2003

Norfolk County Association Parish and Town Councils - sundry publicans

DEFRA Publication of the Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme



4 Correspondence - Continued

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister - Publication of a consultation paper on the nature of the power to be conferred on relevant authorities under s.101 of the Local Government Act 2000

Councillor J Savoury - Informing the Parish Council that he will be unable to attend future Stiffkey Parish Council meeting following his co-option on to the Town Council at Wells because the meeting for Stiffkey and Wells were held on the same evenings. He would however be pleased to assist the Parish Council in any matters connected with the NNDC. - The Parish Council expressed their concern that no representatives from the District Council would be in attendance at their meetings and asked the Clerk to convey their concerns to the District Council.

5 Finance

The following direct debits has been paid:

TXU Energi £28.19 Eastern Contracting £13.14

The following invoice was approved for payment:

A Curtis - Strimmer Cord - £3.35

The bank statement was available for inspection

6 A O B

Village Sign on the Knoll Following concerns raised regarding the village sign Karen Pickering offered to speak to a contact regarding an appropriate replacement for the village sign on the Knoll which is in a very poor condition, replacement of the post will also be included in this project.

Vegetation Concerns were raised once again about vegetation on the footpath in the street and along Bangay Lane and it was agreed that Karen and her husband could tackle this problem.

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



STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Lawrence Jordan

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11th August 2003

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 18th AUGUST 2003** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the July Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time

Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 6th OCTOBER 2003**

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th August 2003 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: The Clerk

Apologies: Councillor Jonathan Savoury and Councillor Derek Baxter, *M. Gerard*

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 17th July 2003 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Public Inquiry 23rd and 24th September The arrangements are now all in hand and advertising notices have gone up in appropriate locations. Security arrangements have been finalised with Eva Gambrill and Denise Bales has been informed that Mary Gerard will be the named liaison person during the Clerk's absence from 31st August to 21st September. The Parish Council discussed the issue relating to the Public Inquiry at length and Mark Harrison urged everyone to attend if at all possible and ensure the Inspector is made aware of the opinions of the parishioners.

3 Correspondence

E-mail Janice Baker - Re Bottle Bank.

North Norfolk District Council:

- Updating of Development Control Committee with Parish and Town Council Comments
- Parish Newsletter Issue 65
- Best Value Performance Plan 2003

Norfolk County Council:

- Draft Mapping of Open Country and Registered Commons
- Household Waste in Norfolk - Consultation on Options
- Periodic Electoral Review
- Bus Service Changes

DSEF Report on a noise insulation grant scheme survey at RAF Colitshall August 2001

Norfolk Land Mines Clearance Memorial Committee - Mines Clearance Memorial

Norfolk Playing Field Association - Publication

4 Finance

The following invoice was approved for payment:

- N N D C – Election Costs £30.94

The following direct debits have been paid:

Alfred McAlpine - Lighting Maintenance £13.14
TXU Energi - Energy Charge £28.19

5 Planning

The following applications have been received:

Warborough House, 2 Wells Road, Stiffkey - Alteration to outbuildings and extension to form swimming pool building, glazed canopy link, garages, re-siting of stables and erection of tennis court fencing.

Warborough House, 2 Wells Road, Stiffkey - Erection of swimming pool building, glazed canopy link, garages, re-siting of stables and erection of tennis court fencing.

River House, 1 Bridge Street - Demolition of outbuilding and side porch and alterations to facilitate erection of single-storey extension and outbuilding

River House, 1 Bridge Street - Demolition of outbuilding and side porch and erection of single-storey extension and outbuilding

The above applications were to be passed round the Councillors for their comments. The responses would be sent to the NNDC if they could not be returned to the Clerk before the 30th August.

The following Notice of Decision has been received:

Pip Cottage, Bridge Street Retention of replacement windows and rear door-
Refusal of listed building consent

6 A O B

E-mail from Councillor Jonathan Savoury

NNDC will in April 2004 introduce a more efficient refuse collection and recycling service but before it can make a decision on what service is best for the district it needs to carry out more research.

NNDC is aware that if a wheeled bin collection is launched (and this has not yet been agreed) there are many homes such as flats where wheeled bins cannot be used. In addition some people because of age or disability may not be able to use the bins. If residents think they should be exempt from a wheeled bin collection or are unable to use a wheeled bin they may apply for a property exemption or apply for an assisted collection. Forms are soon to be widely available in libraries CABs and NNDC area offices. A decision on the chosen service will not be made until October 2003.



6 A O B – Continued

~~The Chairman expressed his growing concern at the state of the caravan site. There is~~
a considerable amount of rubbish laying around and the whole areas has an air of neglect about it. 

He is also expressed his concern at the amount of vegetation in the village, he felt that this was the worst he had seen it for many years and urged everyone to take responsibility for the banks and verges adjacent to their properties.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm



STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr Lawrence Jordan

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1st October 2003

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

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the August Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time

Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2003**

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th October 2003 at 7.00pm

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), Stanley Sutton, Cherry Martin, Mark Harrison, Karen Pickles, Mary Gerrard and Michael Jordan

In attendance: The Clerk. Councillor Derek Baxter and 3 parishioners

Apologies: Councillor Jonathan Savoury

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 18th August 2003 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Correction to the Minutes – Caravan Site The Chairman informed the Councillors that the Minutes of the last meeting were incorrect regarding the caravan site. He wished to place on record that the caravan site had never looked so neat and tidy as it does now and is a credit to the village - The Minutes were also duly amended.

Public Inquiry held on the 23rd/24th September The Chairman was pleased to report that all the arrangements to facilitate the Public Inquiry had gone well. A decision from the Inspector is now awaited.

Appeal The Clerk was asked to ascertain if there is a right of appeal against any decision the Inspector may make, and if so, how long would an appeal take to be heard.

Verge Clearance The Councillors wished to place on record their appreciation to Karen Pickles for her tremendous effort in clearing the vegetation in the street.

3 Correspondence

Mrs E Gambrell - To put forward for discussion the proposal that the village relocates the village hall to the playing field. She appreciated that there would be lots of hurdles to cross but felt until everyone is given the opportunity to express an opinion on this suggestion, there seems little point of looking into the actual legalities.

After some initial discussion it was agreed that the Village Hall Committee should put this suggestion on an agenda for a Public Meeting for everyone in the village. Once the feelings of the parishioners were known, it would then be an appropriate time for the Parish Councillors to discuss it further. Eva Gambrell agreed to arrange a public meeting to give everyone the opportunity to express their views on this proposal.

Edward N Bangay (His family ancestors came from this area) Regarding the Bangay Green Way. In the 1900's it was referred to as 'General's Drift Path' and Mr Bangay asked if the Parish Council could let him know, (or advise him where he might find out) the date of the change of name of this path, and also after which particular Bangay person it was eventually named - The Councillors were unable to provide the information requested by Mr Bangay.



3 Correspondence - Continued

North Norfolk District Council:

- **Highway Matters - Excessive verge vegetation in Church Street** - Enclosing a copy letter from Mr A Curtis - The Councillors agreed the Clerk should write to Mr and Mrs Bennett, The Blacksmith Cottage, Church Street, Stiffkey and formally request that they cut back the vegetation overhanging their property into the Street.
- **Norfolk Matters** - Issue Number 9

Norfolk County Council:

- **Extended Services - Wells-next-the-sea** - The Benefits and Council Tax surgery has now been relocated to the Public Library and will be held on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 10.15am to 12.15pm
- **Agenda** Council Meeting

4 Finance

Expenditure:

There were no invoices due for payment

The following direct debits have been paid:

TXU Energi – Monthly Energy Charge (August) - £28.19

TXU Energi – Monthly Energy Charge (September) - £28.19

Alfred McAlpine – Public Lighting Maintenance - £13.14

Income:

Precept – The second instalment of £1,325.00

5 Planning

The following planning application has been received:

Pip Cottage, Bridge Street - Installation of replacement windows - The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

The following Notice of Decision has been received:

Old Hall, Church Street - Internal and external alterations and demolition of outbuildings - Listed Building Consent.

Old Hall, Church Street - Erection of extensions, conversion of outbuildings to form extension to annexe, erection of summerhouse and garages. - Permission for development

6 A O B

Finger Posts - Michael Jordan expressed his concern regarding the disappearance of the finger posts. The Chairman explained that he had held a site meeting with the Highways Department and the removal of the signs appears to be problem throughout the area and they will be replaced as soon as funds allow

Speeding Traffic - Concerns were once again expressed regarding the speed of traffic through the village and it was agreed the Clerk would draft a letter to the Police Constable to ask why despite raising their concerns with the local Police on numerous occasions and all the traffic calming measures introduced through the village, nothing appears to have any effect and to ask what can be done to encourage/force drivers to slow down.

Reports

The Clerk read out the following report from Councillor J Savoury. Once again concerns were expressed by the Councillors that there was no representative at Stiffkey Parish Council Meetings.

North Norfolk District Council Licensing Committee

NNDC will take over the responsibilities of Magistrates for licensing under the Licensing Act 2003. The first task is to produce the Councils Licensing Policy. In addition licensing activities for the provision of alcohol and the regulation of entertainment will be taken over by this committee. NNDC will be required to take on additional staff and purchase specialist IT software.

Councillors will be required to adjudicate on cases where objections to licences are raised and go to appeal.

These changes come from central government without any funding. The cost will fall on our council taxes.

Parish Review

NNDC are going to review parish boundaries and parish council electoral arrangements. In future present parishes may be amalgamated, abolished or have their boundaries altered. This review will involve full consultation, any suggestions are welcome at this stage.

Cromer Hospital

A public exhibition on the 3rd and 4th of October by North Norfolk Primary Care Trust outlined the proposals for the new Cromer Hospital.

Services are expected to include day surgery and outpatient care, minor injuries service, renal dialysis, a relocated doctors surgery and community mental health services. A suitable site in Cromer has yet to be identified.

Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Recycling Centre - Councillor Baxter was pleased to give a detailed report, which included a plan of the extended layout, for new recycling centre at Wells. The new facilities would provide a greatly improved service for waste recycling and would also include improvement to the entrance to the site due to the limited visibility at the moment.

Attendance at meetings Councillor Baxter explained to the Council that he represented a large number of Parish Councils and would therefore not be able to attend all Stiffkey Parish Council Meetings and appreciated the concerns raised by the Councillors, but would do his best to attend as many as possible.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm



STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Lawrence Jordan

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30th October 2003

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2003** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the October Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time

Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2003**

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2003 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: The Clerk and Councillor Jonathan Savoury

Apologies: Mary Gerrard and Karen Pickles

There were no declarations of interest.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 6th October 2003 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Public Inquiry

The Inspector's decision following the Public Inquiry could take anything from two months to a year before it is made public.

If the Inspector confirms the order (that means he agrees with everything that is in the order) then you can challenge his decision in the High Court. It will cost in the region of £30,000 to challenge his decision i.e. either an individual or the Parish Council would have to find these costs.

The appeal has to be lodged within a six-week period and there will be a six-week calculation

If the Inspector confirms an Order that alters something, he has to publish his intentions to alter the order. This also has a requirement of a 6-week notification period.

Anyone can object to this which will not cost anything and not need to go to the High Court but the objector will have to have justifiable evidence to support the objection to modify the order – substantive evidence would be needed to object.

Overhanging Hedge, Church Street - The Clerk has sent the following formal request to Mr and Mrs Bennett at the Blacksmith's Cottage and to Dr Norman, Apple Tree Cottage, Bridge Street to request that they cut back their hedges which are encroaching into the road. These have been copied to Mr Bushell at the Highways Department for their information:

Overhanging Hedge

At a recent Parish Council meeting concerns were once again raised regarding the overhanging hedge growing from your property into the street. Not only has your hedge become an eyesore it has also become a danger to cyclists and people walking through the village who have to walk around the overhanging branches into the path of traffic.

The Parish Council has also received notification from the County Highways Department informing them that they have also received a complaint regarding your hedge and they are prepared to take the necessary action to get the hedge cut back if that is the wish of the Parish Council. I understand that if it does become necessary for the Highways Department to carry out this work you would be liable for the costs that this work would incur.



The Parish Council is anxious to get this situation resolved as quickly as possible. They would not wish you to incur the costs for the hedge to be cut back by the Highways Department if it can possibly be avoided and therefore hope that you will take the necessary action to get the hedge cut back to your boundary as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Traffic Speeding The Clerk has prepared the following draft correspondence which was approved by the Councillors to be sent to the Chief Constable of Norfolk Police following the ongoing concerns raised about the speed of traffic through the village:

Traffic Issues within the village of Stiffkey

I would like to take this opportunity to draw to your attention the concerns raised at Stiffkey Parish Council regarding the speed of traffic through their village.

The Parish Council has expressed their considerable concern on numerous occasions to the local Police Liaison Officer and the Councillors had been assured that once the officers had received the appropriate training to enable them to use the recently acquired speed gun this would be used in the village of Stiffkey if an appropriate site could be located.

As part of the A149 improvements Stiffkey also had speed restrictions signs put up throughout the village and also introduced the coloured road surface indicating a reduced speed limit warning but this appears not to have any effect whatsoever.

Initially Stiffkey Parish Council had requested the provision of flashing warning signs as part of the A149 initiative but was informed that the introduction of these signs at the entrance to the east and west side of the village could not be justified.

The main street of Stiffkey is very narrow and a majority of it has no footpath at all which makes the speed of traffic even more relevant. Day in and day out parishioners are having to get out of the way of traffic that is travelling through the village far too quickly, do we have to wait until there is a serious accident or fatality before someone will take any notice?

The Councillors appreciate that funding is limited but could you please tell us what is being done to discourage persistent offenders from breaking the speed limit in a village such as ours.

Suggested re-siting of village hall - A Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm in the village hall.

3 Correspondence

North Norfolk District Council:

- East Area Committee Meeting 13th November
- Parish on the Web
- European Parliamentary Elections – 10th June 2004 - Use of Village Hall for a Polling Station
- Re Bottle Banks with a request to provide a bottle bank in every village
- Agenda 22nd October 2003

Norfolk County Council:

- Norwich Area Transportation Strategy – Public Consultation
- Norfolk Matters



3 Correspondence - continued

The Playing Field Association - Newsletter

Norfolk Police Authority:

- Norfolk Police Authority – Open Style Consultation Event Fakenham Sector – Bridge Street Car Park, Fakenham on Thursday 13th November 10.00am to 12.00noon.
- Fakenham Community Consultation Forum - The Gresham Suite, The Feathers Hotel, 6 Market Place, Holt on Tuesday 18th November at 7.30pm

4 Finance

Expenditure:

T Temple-Crowe - Clerks salary and expenses £480.95

5 Planning

The following Notices of Decision have been received:

River House, 1 Bridge Street, Stiffkey - Demolition of outbuilding and side porch and alterations to facilitate erection of single-storey extension and outbuildings. - Listed Building Consent.

River House, 1 Bridge Street, Stiffkey - Demolition of outbuilding and side porch and alterations to facilitate erection of single-storey extension and outbuildings. - Permission for Development

Warborough House, 2 Wells Road, Stiffkey Erection of swimming pool building, glazed canopy link, garages, re-siting of stables and erection of tennis court fencing - Permission for Development.

Warborough House, 2 Wells Road, Stiffkey Extension to form swimming pool building and glazed canopy link - Listed Building Consent

6 A O B

Street Lighting Mark Harrison reported that the light in Bridge Street is on all day and off all night - The Clerk will contact the street lighting engineer to arrange an inspection.

It was also suggested that an additional light is needed between light 1 and 2 on Wells Road near Mary Gerrard's. There is an electricity pole already in that location - This will also be discussed with the street lighting engineer.

There being no further business the meeting closed

Councillor Jonathan Savoury gave a report (enclosed in the Minute Book) to the Councillors at the commencement of the meeting to enable him to leave the meeting at 7.25pm to attend Wells Parish Council meeting.



STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

PROPOSED MEETINGS

FOR 2004

Monday 5th January

Monday 2nd February

Monday 1st March

Monday 5th April

Monday 10th May

Monday 7th June

Monday 5th July

Monday 6th September

Monday 4th October

Monday 1st November

Monday 6th December

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Lawrence Jordan

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26th November 2003

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2003** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL** at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the November Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time

Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2004**

Minutes of Stiffkey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st December 2003 at 7.00pm

Present: Lawrence Jordan (Chairman), Stanley Sutton, Cherry Martin, Mark Harrison, Mary Gerrard, Karen Pickles and Michael Jordan

In attendance: The Clerk and Councillor Derek Baxter

Apologies: Councillor Jonathan Savory

Mary Gerrard declared an interest regarding the provision of an additional street light on Wells Road.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2003 were read approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

Suggested re-siting of village hall - A Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm in the village hall.

3 Matters Arising

Chairman's Meeting - Report by the Chairman – copies of the meeting were distributed to the Councillors.

Quality Parish Council's /Training evening - Notification of a training evening for all Parish Councillors and Clerk's to be held on Thursday 4th December at 7.00pm in the Parish Office, Blakeney. Mary Gerrard will be in attendance.

Signage The Clerk has contacted the NNDC regarding the removal of road signs and an inspection will be carried out with the Chairman and representative from the County Council

Additional Street Lighting - Mary Gerrard expressed concern at the provision of an additional street light adjacent to her property. It was agreed that a final decision regarding the provision of an additional light would be made following a site meeting by the street lighting engineer.

Meeting Dates for 2004

Monday 5th January

Monday 2nd February

Monday 1st March

Monday 5th April

Monday 10th May

Monday 7th June

Monday 5th July

Monday 6th September

Monday 4th October

Monday 1st November

Monday 6th December



4 Correspondence

North Norfolk District Council:

- Re Licensing Act 2003 – Draft Licensing Policy
- Parish Review

Norfolk County Council

- Notification of the Norfolk Fire Authority Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) beginning of the associated consultation process
- Responses to the Norfolk Structure Plan Review – Issues Report – Looking Towards 2025
- Re Claimant Kenneth Gregory – Request for a copy of Minutes from January 2001 to date in connection with Mr Gregory's claim against the Highways Department

Norfolk County Association of Parish and Town Councils - Norfolk Link

The Chairman left the meeting due to ill health and the remainder of the meeting was chaired by the vice Chairman Mark Harrison.

5 Finance

Expenditure:

The following direct debit have been paid:

TXU Energi Monthly Energi Charge for November	£28.19
Public Lighting Maintenance	£13.14

Precept - The Councillors unanimously agreed that the precept for 2004 – 2005 would remain at £2,650.

6 Planning

The following Notices of Decision have been received:

Installation of replacement windows at Pip Cottage, Bridge Street, Stiffkey – Listed Building Consent

Removal of Buttresses to North wall at Stiffkey Old Hall, Church Street, Stiffkey - Listed Building Consent

There being no further business the Vice Chairman closed the meeting.



Report from Councillor Derek Baxter

Norwich Bus Station

Proposals for alternative bus stops during the £4.1 million reconstruction of Norwich Bus Station have been agreed by County and City Councils, taxi operators and First Bus.

If planning consent is granted, the existing Bus Station will close in late January to allow Norfolk County Council to start demolition and total reconstruction to provide a brand new 12-bay bus station.

Additional on-street bus stops and lay-over facilities will be needed until the new Bus Station is ready, but the original proposals brought objections to the loss of disabled parking spaces and taxi ranks, especially on St. Stephens.

The new proposals, accepted by the objectors, means there will be no loss of disabled bays or taxi ranks on St. Stephens Street and no loss of disabled parking on Surrey Street. A new bus stop will be created on the west side of Surrey Street, but the disabled bays will move to the opposite side of the road replacing two 60-minute parking spaces.

The new Bus Station will be a dramatic improvement on the current Surrey Street site and will have spaces for 12 bus and three 'layover' spaces for resting drivers to use, a new travel office with seating, toilets and vending facilities, covered racks for cyclists and improved access for pedestrians.

The new station will also cur bus journey times through the city centre because buses will be able to enter and leave it from Surrey Street and from Queen's Road rather than the one-way system used at present.

It is hoped the new Bus Station will be open by March 2005.

Council Tax - First News

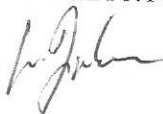
The outcome of last year's settlement was by no means satisfactory with Norfolk losing a considerable amount of funding due to 'Resource Equalisation', as funding was transferred from authorities like Norfolk to authorities in the North. This was part of the reason for the increase in Council Tax of 15.9% in 2003-2004.

The current settlement is against a backdrop of the continuing review of the balance of funding being undertaken by the Government, where high 'gearing' results in high increases in Council Tax.

It is the Government's intention for there to be no major changes to the grant system methodology in the three years following the 2003-2004 settlement, other than for changes in data (e.g. changes in client numbers) and changes due to transfers of services in or out of local government control, or between formula grant and specific grant funding.

The provisional RSG (Revenue Support Grant) was announced by the Secretary of State on 19th November 2003.

The Provisional Settlement shows that the County Council should receive next year, RSG of £261.887M and Business Rate Income of £210.172M.



Having made necessary adjustments, RSG and Business Rate Income (together known as 'Formula Grant') show an increase for 2004-2005 of £24.553M (5.5%) compared with the adjusted figures for the current year of 2003-2004.

Norfolk's increase in Formula Grant compares with the average for Shire Counties (with Fire Services) of 5.6%.

There will be further updates in due course.

Northern Distributor Road Consultation

North Norfolk people were encouraged to have their say on proposals for a 'Northern Distributor Road' to the north of Norwich.

Exhibitions were held in Fakenham, Holt, Aylsham, Cromer, North Walsham and Hoveton/Wroxham during November plus consultation documents have gone to all Town and Parish Councils in North Norfolk.

People are currently trying to avoid Norwich, but they are using unsuitable minor roads through villages such as Taverham, Costessey, Ringland and Long Weston. Also some 19,000 vehicles go through the city centre without stopping, adding to congestion and pollution.

Some local news

Hindringham high street is currently closed due to drainage works. This has been long awaited scheme as water continuously runs down to the dip in the street from North and South even in dry weather. The Parish Council and County Councillor have worked together to get the scheme started.

Planning permission for a new infant/junior school to be built at Stibbard was granted on 14th November. The new school will replace existing schools in Stibbard and Great Ryburgh and will cut down the number of cars using the dangerous junction on the A1067 between the villages. The junction will also be radically improved as soon as possible.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. G. ...' or similar, written in a cursive style.

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Mr Lawrence Jordan

Clerk's Address:

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28th December 2003

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2004** in **STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the December Meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Correspondence
- 6 Finance
- 7 Planning
- 8 Any Other Business
- 9 Parishioners Question Time

Date of Next Meeting: **MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2004**

Patricia Temple-Crowe
Clerk to the Parish Council