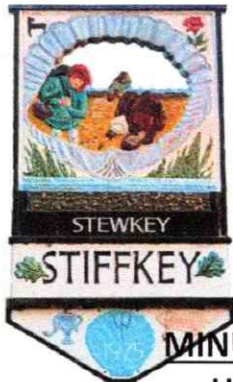


STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:- Councillor M. Williams

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor J. Lawrence



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 27TH JANUARY, 2025 AT 7.00 PM IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL, STIFFKEY

Present:-

Vice Chairman – Cllr. J. Lawrence, Cllr. P. Claydon, Cllr. A. Hooper,
Cllr. R. Husain and Cllr. J. Sugden.

County Councillor M. Dalby.
District Councillor V. Holliday.

Julie Chance – Clerk.

Two members of the public also attended the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER, 2024

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read, **AGREED** and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. Harrison and Cllr. M. Williams.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

A prejudicial declaration of interest was received from Cllr. J. Sugden in connection with item 15.1 on the agenda.

Clerk:- Julie Chance, Pine Lodge, Gimingham Road, Trimmingham, Norfolk, NR11 8HP

Telephone No:- 07305048062

Email:- clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public enquired how the Parish Council can justify the donation made to the Lynx which came out of the reserves. He said that the Lynx is not an essential organisation and goes against the reason for reserves. The Clerk said that it is recommended to have a certain level of reserves in order for the Parish Council to continue to function should anything go wrong with the payment of the precept. There is no reason why the Members cannot make a resolution to use reserves for payments that are not covered in the budget. Cllr. Hooper said that the matter was not thought through as thoroughly as it could have been. Once a resolution had been made the Members realised the grant would have to come out of reserves. The Grant Policy was missing the grant application form which is now available. No application will be accepted moving forward without this form being completed. The Grant Policy deadline dates have now been put in place which will enable the Members to consider any grants before they come to a meeting. Cllr. Sugden said that the Lynx is a vital piece of communication for the villages.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

5.1 County Councillor's Reports:- Attached. County Councillor Dalby reported that Norfolk County Council has voted in favour of the Priority Program for Devolution. This will mean that they can now enter negotiations with the Government.

Cllr. Hooper enquired what our MP's view was. County Councillor Dalby said that the MP abstained from the vote. Further details will be reported as this matter progresses.

Cllr. Hooper enquired whether the results of the booking scheme at the recycling centres is known yet. County Councillor Dalby said that it will take a year to know the full results but at present the reports are saying that fly tipping has not increased in the area.

5.2 District Councillor's Reports:- Attached. District Councillor Holliday reported that North Norfolk District Council are discussing the proposals for Unitary Authorities for Norfolk. The Government are focusing on urban areas and not the countryside, coast or the elderly population. District Councillor Holliday will forward the

up-to-date position to the Clerk to be included in the newsletter social media and the website. Further details will be reported as the matter progresses.

District Councillor Holliday reported that the taxbase will change due to the 100% second homes council tax which is split 25% to North Norfolk District Council and 75% to Norfolk County Council. The amount this will raise is £1.7m and this will be used for the housing issues in the area. The North Norfolk District Council's budget was balanced this year.

Cllr. Hooper thanked District Councillor Holliday for the information concerning the occupational therapy funding. Residents in Stiffkey have benefitted from this funding.

District Councillor Holliday forwarded information concerning North Norfolk District Council's benefits calculator. Noted.

6. PLANNING

PF/24/2644 – The Marsh, 9a Greenway, Stiffkey. No objections.

Decisions:-

PF/24/0945 – Hill House, 25 Bridge Street, Stiffkey:- The Clerk circulated an email received from North Norfolk District Council with an update. Noted.

PF/24/1742 – River House, 1 Bridge Street, Stiffkey – Approved.

LA/24/1743 – River House, 1 Bridge Street, Stiffkey – Approved.

PF/24/1018 – 14 Wells Road, Stiffkey – Withdrawn.

Cllr. Hooper reported that the Government's proposed changes to planning policies and procedure will remove local views and the voice of the residents of the area. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Hooper will prepare a response for agreement and circulate to Members. This matter can be dealt with under our Consultation Policy.

7. BLAKENEY SURGERY AND DENTISTRY

7.1 The Clerk circulated updates from Steff Aquarone MP and District Councillor Holliday. Noted.

Cllr. Hooper reported that Demera Dental Surgery in Wells is now accepting NHS patients on the waiting list.

It was **AGREED** that this matter will be removed from the agenda until September 2025.

8. POLICE

8.1 SNAP:- Cllr. Hooper reported that anti-social behaviour based in Wells and Walsingham was discussed at the meeting. The Constabulary have decided that the priorities will be on a district level in future. Priorities set were Retail Theft and Road Safety.

8.2 Community Speed Watch:- Report attached. The Paish Council thanked the Community Speed Watch team for getting approval to carry out speed checks in the 20 mph zone.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Cash Book:- The Clerk circulated the cash book made up to 31st December, 2024. **AGREED.**

9.2 All present signed the Bank Statements against the bank reconciliation.

9.3	The following payments were AGREED:-	£
	Clerk's salary, office allowance and travel	
	December 2024 and January 2025	580.58
	HMRC – Tax	125.60

9.4 Newsletter:- Cllr. Husain reported that the next newsletter is in progress and a draft will be circulated shortly.

9.5 Full Council Training:- The Members expressed concern at the quality of the full council training and felt that the trainer was indiscrete and unprofessional. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will carry out refresher training twice a year before a meeting. This will be for short periods when areas needing training are identified.

9.6 HMRC:- The Clerk reported that HMRC have accepted the appeal and no penalties are outstanding.

9.7 New Pay Scales – Clerk:- Cllr. Hooper reported that the new pay scales have been agreed. The Clerk is on SPC 26 which has increased from £18.10 to £18.72 per hour. This takes effect from 1st April 2024 and needs to be backdated. The Clerk has also

underclaimed her office allowance by £10. The total amount of back pay due to the Clerk is £108.08. It was **AGREED** to pay this amount. The new hourly rate will take effect from 1st February 2025. **AGREED.**

- 9.8 Taxbase Changes:-** The Clerk reported that due to the increase in council tax for second homes to 100%, the taxbase has increased. Stiffkey Parish Council set their precept based on the budget and not the taxbase but it means that the council tax for the residents will reduce by £10.37 per annum for the current year. The Council Tax invoices should show a minus percent due to the fact that the precept remained the same for the current year.

10. DEFIBRILLATOR AND HEALTHY STIFFKEY WORKING GROUP

- 10.1** Cllr. Claydon circulated the maintenance record. Noted. The Clerk will keep a separate file for this information.
- 10.2 CPR Training:-** It was reported that the CPR Training was a success and the Clerk has written to thank all involved. It was **AGREED** that further training will be held in the future.
- 10.3 Transport Scheme:-** It was **AGREED** to hold a public meeting in April this year to discuss this project and try and recruit volunteers. The Clerk and Tim Adams will attend and inform all present of the transport scheme Cromer Cares runs. The Stiffkey Healthy Initiative will meet to discuss advertising the meeting once the Clerk has obtained a date when Tim Adams is free to attend.

11. ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW

- 11.1 Health and Safety:-** Circulated. No amendments required.
- 11.2 Dark Skies Policy:-** Cllr. Hooper circulated a draft letter to try and deal with the external lights which are causing a problem with light pollution. It was **AGREED** that this letter will be placed in the newsletter and on social media and the website. If this does not improve the situation, the letter will be sent to individual households. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

12. REPORTS

12.1 Community First Responders:- Attached. This information is also on the website and social media.

12.3 Norfolk ALC – AGM:- Report attached. It was **AGREED** that Stiffkey Parish Council support Norfolk ALC converting from a Co-operative Society to a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Clerk will action accordingly.

13. HIGHWAYS

13.1 Temporary Traffic Orders:- Circulated. Noted.

13.2 Anglia Water Repairs:- It was reported that this work is complete and this matter will be removed from the agenda.

13.3 Scaffolding:- It was reported that the scaffolding has been removed and this matter will be removed from the agenda.

13.4 H-Bars:- It was reported that these have not been refreshed and the Clerk will chase accordingly.

13.5 Footpath Sign:- It was reported that this has not been repaired and the Clerk will chase accordingly.

13.6 Bridge Street Drains:- The Clerk read an email from a member of public stating that although the drains are being cleared, the mud is left beside them and when it rains this mud goes back down the drains. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk write to Norfolk County Council requesting them to remove the mud off site once the drains have been cleared.

14. ALLOTMENTS

14.1 The Clerk reported that one of the allotment holders wishes to pass their allotment to another allotment holder. It was **AGREED** that as there is no waiting list, this be accepted. The Clerk will inform the allotment holders accordingly.

15. PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

15.1 Discussions concerning the steps to the permissive footpath. The steps are deteriorating and in need of repair. It was **AGREED** that the work required needs to be ascertained and a project formed in order to obtain quotes for the work. Cllr. Lawrence will ascertain

the work required and this matter will be placed on the next agenda with the heading Permissive Footpath. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will write to the County Councillor to ask whether he needs to spend his budget by a certain date and how much is available.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

- 16.1 Norfolk ALC:-** Various. Circulated. Noted.
- 16.2 Steff Aquarone MP:-** Report Circulated. Noted.
- 16.3 Email – Stiffkey Bridge:-** The Clerk read an email received concerning recognition for the member of public responsible for the work being carried out. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to the residents and state that this has already been minuted and has been placed in the newsletter.
- 16.4 NNDC – Consultation for Car Parking:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 16.5 Business Waste Collections:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 16.6 Multi-Agency Flood and Drought Summit – Friday 31st January:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 16.7 VE Day – 80th Anniversary:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 16.8 Email – Fishing Stiffkey river:-** The Clerk read an email received enquiring how permission to fish in Stiffkey river can be obtained. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will inform the writer that they need to obtain a license.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 24th March, 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Stiffkey Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

Norfolk Highways maintenance allocation

Norfolk will receive over £56 million for road repairs in 2025, thanks to new government funding announced today.

This funding will be used to fix the roads most in need of repair and improve living standards across the country.

The news comes shortly after Norfolk topped the National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey for the second year in a row, with residents giving high satisfaction scores for road conditions.

Since April, over 5,300 potholes have been fixed in Norfolk, with 99% repaired on time. If you spot a pothole, report it at www.norfolk.gov.uk/potholes

New Fire and Rescue Vehicles

Norfolk has received four new tactical response vehicles (TRVs) as part of a multi-million-pound investment to update the fire and rescue fleet. The new Toyota Hilux 4x4s, costing £175,000 each, will help firefighters reach remote locations and handle emergencies in severe weather. They will be based in Reepham, Acle, Downham Market, and North Walsham in early 2025, joining the existing TRVs in Cromer, Sandringham, Wymondham, Diss, Gorleston, and a Land Rover in Thetford.

This investment follows the recent £7 million funding for 22 new fire engines to replace older vehicles that had reached the end of their service life. The new Angloco vehicles have already been rolled out across 18 fire stations, with the final ones now in place for training and duty cover.

Devolution

Following the publication of the governments white paper titled “Devolution and Local Government Reforms”, cabinet members and NCC Officers have been meeting with the government minister for local government, at which point Norfolk has been asked to join the government priority programme to negotiate a new devolution deal for Norfolk.

The deadline for the programme is listed as 10th January, at which Norfolk County Council has called an extraordinary meeting of full council on the 9th January to debate and vote as to whether to join the priority programme.

If full council agrees to join the priority programme, a cabinet meeting will therefore take place straight after full council, at which if cabinet agrees, NCC will submit the application to join the priority programme at which would anticipate hearing the government decision on the application by mid-February.

A consequence of joining the priority programme will see the delay of May 2025 County council elections by one year.

I will keep you up to date on developments on the priority programme and devolution over the coming months.

London Landmarks Half Marathan

January 2025 County Councillor Report

In April 2025, I will be taking on the huge challenge of running the London Landmarks Half Marathan for Dementia UK, as most of you will know I work mostly with elderly people, some who suffer from Dementia and its associated forms.

Dementia UK provides nurses (also known as Admiral Nurses), for those affected by dementia, and their family, at which is provided free of charge, give life-changing support and advice to affected people.

If you would like donate please follow the following link:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michaeldalby2024?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM

or search Michael Dalby in the search bar on Just Giving. Thank You.

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

07306886552

Government intervention needed to resolve Norwich Western Link issue

In March of this year, just before the planning application for the Norwich Western Link was set to be submitted, Natural England released updated guidance regarding the protection of barbastelle bats, which are present in the area around the proposed 3.9-mile dual carriageway route west of Norwich. This new guidance has created a major obstacle for the council in advancing the project.

A report set to be reviewed by Norfolk County Council's cabinet on December 2 will provide an update on the ongoing discussions between the council and Natural England, although no resolution has yet been reached.

Given that the updated bat guidance was published after the planning process had already begun, the council has called on the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to urgently review the issue. In their letter, the council is asking for intervention to ensure a positive outcome that supports the people and businesses of Norfolk.

While awaiting responses to letters sent to both Natural England and government ministers, as well as the outcome of the Government's transport spending review, the report recommends reducing expenditure by scaling back or pausing activities on the project. This includes concluding Stage 1 of the design and build contract with Ferrovial Construction and removing future stages from the current contract. Additionally, the report suggests that a further update be presented to the cabinet once there is greater clarity on how Natural England and the Government are addressing the issue.

Norfolk winter gritters are out across the county

Norfolk's gritting fleet headed out for the first gritting run of the season on 19/11/24, as icy weather is forecast for the foreseeable future. The team will continue to monitor weather conditions and forecasts throughout the winter, responding with gritting operations as needed.

For the first time, all 58 of Norfolk's gritters will be equipped with new, state-of-the-art auto-salting technology. This system, enhanced by satellite navigation, will enable more accurate salting with minimal manual input, improving efficiency, saving time, and reducing waste.

As temperatures drop and icy conditions become more frequent, Norfolk County Council's annual winter travel and safety campaign, #NorfolkWinter, kicks off on social media. The campaign will provide helpful information and advice to ensure safe travel across the county this winter, no matter how people choose to get around.

The council's experienced highways team will monitor detailed weather forecasts and sensors across the county to determine when and where gritting will occur throughout the winter season.

Updates on gritting activities will be posted to the county council's social media channels, along with winter travel tips and safety advice. Look for the #NorfolkWinter hashtag on Facebook, Nextdoor, and X.

Residents can check the roads included in the council's gritting routes for the season on the map at www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting. The map also shows the locations of around 2,000 grit bins throughout the county, which are filled by the council for public use on pavements, cycle paths, and roads to help everyone travel safely.

Each full 3-hour gritting run in Norfolk covers 2,200 miles of road. A and B-class roads, along with some C-class roads, are treated, with a focus on key commuter routes, major bus routes, and at least one route into every village. The A11 and A47 are gritted by National Highways.

New poetry project launches across Norfolk libraries

Norfolk Library and Information Service has partnered with Creative Arts East to launch the multi-lingual *Words of Welcome Poetry Exchange*, which will roll out this month in all 47 libraries across the county. The project aims to celebrate Norfolk's cultural diversity and highlight the county as a welcoming place. Library visitors will be invited to read specially commissioned poems on the themes of welcome and sanctuary, and contribute their own "words of welcome" in response.

The National Centre for Writing has selected renowned poets George Szirtes and Marjorie Lotfi to write two original poems for the project. These poems have been translated into Arabic, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, and Ukrainian—some of the most widely spoken languages in Norfolk. Beautifully designed postcards featuring the poems and their translations will be available in all 47 libraries, allowing visitors to read and take them home.

Library-goers are encouraged to respond to these poems on blank postcards, sharing their own words of welcome. Whether through poetry, short stories, personal reflections, or even drawings, all contributions will be collected and added to a growing collection that celebrates Norfolk as a place of inclusivity, belonging, and community.

For more information, including access to the poems, translations, audio recordings in all six languages, biographies of the poets and full project details, visit the [Creative Arts East website](#).

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

07306886552

Jan DC report



From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
To Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, beestonpc <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, wivetonpc@gmail.com <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, m6 <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Salthouse <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Weybourne Parish Clerk <weybournepc@gmail.com>
Date 2025-01-15 12:15

District Councillors report January 2025

Local plan

NNDC hopes the current new local plan will be adopted this summer. Then work will start on the next local plan which has to accommodate the additional 400 homes per annum required by the government (the annual housing target was 556, it is now 932, possibly plus a 20% buffer).

NNDC is now working to the National Planning Policy Framework brought out in December 24. There is a stronger presumption to development. Otherwise, the major changes relate to housing numbers as described above and to development in the green belt.

Two working papers on changes proposed in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill have been published and are out for comment: The role of Planning Committees at District Councils, and Development and Nature Recovery.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-reform-working-paper-planning-committees/planning-reform-working-paper-planning-committees#our-proposals>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/675db3f7cfbf84c3b2b2cf9f3/Planning_Reform_Working_Paper_-_Development_and_Nature_Recovery.pdf

The government wants to standardise what is approved by planning officers and what goes to Planning Committee. A national scheme of delegation (ie those decisions made solely by Planning officers) is proposed. More emphasis will be on policies and site allocations agreed in the local plan, which is where resident engagement will have assumed to have taken place. An additional strategic level planning committee is proposed.

Regarding nature recovery, the government wants to streamline development and discharge environmental obligations by looking at mitigation at a wider level rather than individual proposals. Developers will then pay into a mitigation fund. Government agencies - such as Natural England - will develop delivery plans and oversee delivery - however, this may take years.

Extended producer responsibility

Extended producer responsibility comes in this year. Some companies will be paying for their packaging as it goes through the waste and recycling system, and the money will go to local authorities, such as NNDC, to help pay for waste disposal. The allocation for 25/26 is provisionally set at £1.6mill.

Blakeney Surgery

The planning application for a 24hr medicines vending machine at Blakeney Village Hall has been approved. The delivery of the Pharmabox24 is expected in the spring. Until it's installed, medicines collection will continue to temporarily operate out of the Blakeney Surgery

Benefits calculator

If you think anyone would benefit from additional benefits, here is a way to find out.

Here is the link to a benefits calculator on NNDC's website: [Home | Benefits calculator \(north-norfolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/your-benefits-calculator)

Making a silent 999 call

I hope you never need this, but if you're in danger and need help but can't speak, you can call 999 from a mobile phone, press 55 and your call will be automatically transferred to the police. They will be able to find your location. Calling 999 from a landline, if you can't speak the call will be automatically transferred to the police, who again can find your location.

Green futures - Youth Project

NNDC have launched a year long programme of green events for young people, Green Future - Youth Project. Free activities will be offered throughout the year with the opportunity to learn practical skills, about nature and the environment. All outdoor activities are at NNDC Green Flag spaces: Holt Country Park, Pretty Corner and Sadlers Wood. Book via the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/nnhc-countyside-team-105602914831>

Dc report Jan 2025



From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
To Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, beestonpc <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, wivetonpc@gmail.com <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, m6 <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Salthouse <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Weybourne Parish Clerk <weybournepc@gmail.com>
Date 2024-12-15 18:53

District Cllrs Report January 2025

All best wishes to everyone for a peaceful and happy New year.

From NNDC

Coastal

The new Climate Change and Coastal Transition Lawyer is in post and working to identify legislation policy and coarse law to ascertain how councils can help businesses, homes and infrastructure away from the coast.

The rock defences on Cromer beach have been completed. The Mundesley rock placement is ongoing.

Planning

The new National Planning Policy Framework has been published with a revised annual target for North Norfolk for housebuilding of 932. This is approximately double what has been built in the district in previous years.

31 new homes have been built through the mitigation to nutrients in watercourses by upgrading of householders' septic tanks to new ones which release less nutrients.

I am now NNDC's representative on the board overseeing the Norfolk wide Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS). This strategy addresses the mitigation of increased recreational impact on Habitats Sites (such as the salt marshes) in our area.

Cabinet has approved the revised Planning in Health Protocol which recognises the need for greater collaboration between local planning authorities, health service organisations and public health departments in planning for further growth.

The time limit for enforcement action against an alleged planning breach has been extended to 10 years.

Benefits

We are still very keen to identify residents eligible for pension credit. To check your eligibility for pension credit go to gov.uk/pension-credit, call 0800991234, or contact the Financial Inclusion team (financial.inclusion@north-norfolk.gov.uk or 01263516221).

The financial Inclusion team are absolutely the best place to start for any money worries, problems paying bills etc. They have claimed over £1.4mill in missed benefits or funding for residents. They also might be able to put you in touch with help to fill your oil tank and can help you obtain other benefits and allowances eg disability living allowance.

Households will be contacted by the Benefits Team if they are eligible for payments under the Household Support Fund.

Discretionary housing payments are available for rent arrears, rent deposit, moving costs and on going rent shortfall. So far 91 households have been helped.

Housing

As of 31st October 2024, there were 2315 households on the council waiting list, with 483 having the most urgent housing needs. In comparison, only 196 houses were let from 1st April to 30th November. As of 30th November, there were 207 open cases of households at risk of homelessness and 60 households in temporary accommodation. NNDC now owns 25 units for temporary accommodation which is far preferable to nightly paid accommodation.

Two rural housing schemes were opened this summer and four more are in build, and new affordable homes are coming on stream in Holt. Planning applications for two large affordable housing sites and with a high percentage of affordable homes have also recently been approved.

The housing adaptation scheme has funding, so do please come forward if you need modifications to stay in your own home. Not all grants are means tested so you may be eligible! Urgent home repairs (eg emergency boiler replacement) are also covered. Contact me if you have any questions.

Environment

An abandoned vehicle needs to be in place 21 days before it is considered abandoned, unless burnt out or dangerous. Abandoned vehicles can be reported via the website, search for 'abandoned vehicle'.

Licensing

There has been an increase in requests for taxi licences, to the extent a new licensing team member is required.

Leisure

All 6 blue flag North Norfolk beaches (Cromer, East Runton, Mundesley, Sea Palling Sheringham and West Runton) have had their bathing water classified as excellent which means they can be put forward again for blue flag status.

Finance

The end of year forecast for 2024/25 is for a £995k deficit. This is largely made up of additional borrowing costs and the cost of temporary accommodation. NNDC is still in discussion with NCC as to how a proportion of the additional council tax on second homes can be put towards social housing.

Customer service

The average wait time to contact Customer Services at NNDC has come down to 6 mins 19 secs in November.'

Blakeney Surgery

The planning application for a 24hr medicines vending machine at Blakeney Village Hall has been approved. I've asked for an update as to how long Blakeney surgery will remain open for medicines collection and will let you know.

Boiler Upgrade Scheme

Through the Government sponsored Boiler Upgrade Scheme you can get a grant of £7.5k towards replacing a fossil fuel heating system with a heat pump, or £5k towards replacing with a biomass boiler. This grant is not means tested. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme/print> for more information.

Victoria Holliday

District Councillor

Coastal

07557054629

Community Speed Watch Report to Parish Council – January 2025

The following sessions were carried out during December.

Date	Time	Location	Number of vehicles exceeding 30mph speed limit	Speeds
2 December	14.05 – 15.05	Church Street traffic coming from Morston	0	
11 December	13.35 – 15.05	Wells Road traffic coming from Wells	2	37 and 45 mph
20 December	14.00 – 15.00	Wells Road traffic coming from Wells	2	

December was a difficult month to co-ordinate sessions due to volunteers other commitments. We are still aiming to get regular weekly sessions in place, if we are able to recruit a couple more volunteers this is more likely to be achievable.

Due to the continued concern around the lack of monitoring in the 20mph speed limit, with the support of PC Jonathan Kentfield, our local beat manager, we were able to arrange for a further assessment of sites to take place.

Unfortunately, we were unable to get a site in the centre of the village approved but do have the following new sites in the 20mph speed limit.

- Standing on the knoll near the church monitoring traffic heading out of the village towards Morston
- Bridge Street (on the footpath just over the bridge) monitoring traffic coming from Cockthorpe direction
- In a volunteer's driveway (Pells Cottage) monitoring traffic coming through the village from Morston direction

A first session has been carried out in the 20 mph section, monitoring traffic coming out of the village towards Morston, and 8 vehicles were caught doing between 25 and 34 mph

The focus will remain on the 20mph sites during January.

If anyone else is interested in volunteering or finding out more please contact the Stiffkey co-ordinator Jackie Appleby via email jackieappleby295@gmail.com

NALC AGM

Annual report received – main discussions around the actions of the previous CEO and the president. Researching legal avenues now seem to be underway.

Reports that no County Council funding seems to be available to support NALC which will have an impact on role unless alternates can be sought.

Prime initiative which has come out to all members is a consultation as to whether or not NALC should change its legal status from a co-operative society to become a company limited by guarantee. This is set to come out shortly

I would propose that when this consultation does come out that Stiffkey Parish Council supports the notion that NALC change its status to that of a company limited by guarantee.