

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:- Councillor M. Williams

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor J. Lawrence



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 24TH MARCH, 2025 AT 7.00 PM IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL, STIFFKEY

Present:-

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

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

Julie Chance – Clerk.

One member of the public attended the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27TH JANUARY, 2025

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th January 2025, 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. M. Williams.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. P. Harrison in respect of item 13 Stiffkey Trod on the agenda.

A prejudicial declaration of interest was received from Cllr. J. Sugden in respect of item 13 Stiffkey Trod on the agenda.

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

Telephone No:- 07305048062

Email:- clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

5.1 County Councillor's Reports:- Attached. County Councillor Dalby reported that North Norfolk District Council have submitted three preferred options and Norfolk County Council have submitted one preferred option for devolution and local government reorganisation. The final submission will be on 21st September this year. Cllr. Hooper requested that Stiffkey Parish Council receive a copy of Norfolk County Council's response. County Councillor Dalby agreed to forward this to the Clerk for circulation. The Members will be kept informed of progress. The Clerk circulated papers in relation to the Devolution and Government Reorganisation. Noted. Cllr. Hooper circulated a proposed response from Stiffkey Parish Council in relation to the Norfolk and Suffolk devolution proposals which was **AGREED**. The Clerk will action accordingly.

5.2 District Councillor's Reports:- Attached. As a result of councillor complaints about digital connectivity, and the difficulty in making any progress to improve this, North Norfolk District Council are setting up a centralised source to collate and manage requests for better digital connectivity. Cllr. Hooper has been researching the issue in Stiffkey. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Hooper will collate the information with the addresses affected and circulate to the Members and District Councillor Holliday in order that she can work on this issue on behalf of the village.

6. BROADBAND

This matter has been dealt with in 5.2 above.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Decisions:- The following applications have been approved.
LA/24/2316 – 1 Warborough Place, Wells Road, Stiffkey.
PF/24/2315 – 1 Warborough Place, Wells Road, Stiffkey.
PF/24/2644 – The Marsh, 9A Greenway, Stiffkey.

LA/25/0191 – 2 Warborough Place, Wells Road, Stiffkey:-

Circulated. No objections. Cllr. Claydon declared an interest in this item late as it was not on the agenda.

- 7.2 North Norfolk District Council – Planning Training:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 7.3 Development Committee Consultation:-** Stiffkey Parish Council responded to this consultation.
- 7.4 North Norfolk District Council Local Plan Examination:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 7.5 Planning Reform Working Paper – Development and Nature Recovery:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 7.6 Pilot of Community Resilience Tool – Norfolk County Council:-** Circulated. Noted.

8. POLICE

- 8.1 SNAP:-** No meeting held. No update.
- 8.2 Community Speed Watch Scheme:-** Cllr. Lawrence reported that this scheme is very successful and they have recruited two new members.

9. FINANCE

- 9.1 Cash Book:-** The Clerk circulated the cash book to the period 28th February, 2025 which was **AGREED**.
- 9.2** All present signed the bank statements at 28th February, 2025 against the cash book.
- 9.3** The following payment were **AGREED:-** **£**
 - Clerk's salary, office allowance and travel
February and March, 2025 including
back pay. 723.65
 - HMRC – Tax 149.40
 - Solopress – Newsletter 32.69
 - Norfolk ALC – Annual Subscription 101.82
 - T.T. Jones Maintenance Street Light 41.51
- 9.4 Newsletter:-** Cllr. Husain reported that the newsletter has been delivered and has been well received. It was **AGREED** that the next newsletter will be distributed in June/July. The newsletter is a good source of information for the village.

9.5 Clerk's Appraisal:- Circulated. **AGREED** and signed by Cllr. Hooper and the Clerk.

9.6 Internal Auditor:- It was **AGREED** to use Roger Canwell for the current financial year.

10. HEALTHY STIFFKEY WORKING GROUP

10.1 Transport Scheme:- The Clerk reported that three members of the public have come forward who wish to volunteer for the scheme. The posters for the public meeting have been displayed and are on the website and social media. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th April at 7.00 pm in Stiffkey Village Hall. The leaflets will be distributed a week before the meeting.

11. POLICY REVIEW

11.1 Planning Policy:- Circulated. No amendments.

11.2 Complaints Policy:- Circulated. It was **AGREED** that the contact details would be amended to the current Clerk.

11.3 Safeguarding Policy:- Circulated. No amendments.

11.4 Code of Conduct:- Circulated. No amendments.

11.5 Dark Skies Policy:- Cllr. Hooper reported that following the letter being placed on the website and social media, there are still some properties who are causing problems with their lighting. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will place the letter on headed paper and they will be distributed to the properties concerned in April and again in September. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Hooper will amend the wording of the letter slightly before distribution.

12. REPORTS

12.1 Community First Responders:- Attached.

12.2 Coastal Forum:- Attached.

13. HIGHWAYS

13.1 Temporary Road Closures:- Circulated. Noted.

13.2 H-Bars:- It was reported that these have not been refreshed. The Clerk will chase accordingly.

- 13.3 Rotten Footpath Sign:-** It was reported that this has not been repaired. The Clerk will chase accordingly.
- 13.4 Drains Bridge Street:-** It was reported that these have not been cleared. The Clerk will chase accordingly.

14. STIFFKEY TROD

- 14.1** The Clerk reported that County Councillor Dalby cannot use his budget for this project. The Clerk reported that a specification of works needs to be prepared and three quotations for the work need to be obtained. Once the specification and quotations are in place, funding will need to be raised to cover the work. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Lawrence will prepare the specification and obtain three quotations. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update. The Clerk will circulate the agreement to all Members.

15. STREET LIGHTING

- 15.1** It was reported that the street light opposite the village shop is now working. This matter will be removed from the agenda.

16. ASSET MANAGEMENT

- 16.1 Insurance:-** The Clerk circulated the Asset Register and reported that the insurance is due for renewal on 16th June, 2025. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Hooper, Cllr. Husain and the Clerk will work on the insurance values in order that quotations can be obtained for renewal at the May meeting.
- 16.2 Asset Maintenance:-** The Clerk circulated the inspection sheets. Cllr. Hooper has inspected the majority of the assets the remainder will be inspected as follows:-
Cllr. Claydon – Bench – Bridge Street, Notice Board Near Village Shop and BT Phone Box.
Cllr. Sugden – Notice Board – Greenway Junction.
Once all the forms have been returned to the Clerk a specification of works schedule will be prepared.

17. NATIONAL TRUST BIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN

17.1 Cllr. Hooper reported that this plan is publicly available on the North Norfolk District Council's Planning Portal. The report is comprehensive, but it does raise a few questions and perhaps opportunities for how the Parish Council can contribute and keep on top of any potential issues arising, such as access and new commercial ventures in the car park. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to the National Trust for clarification on several views attached. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

18. COMMUNITY SHOP

18.1 Cllr. Husain reported that she has met with the organisers of the Coastal Communities which run out of Heritage House where they are based with a café and community shop. They also run pop-up vans. This service is not means tested and any permanent resident can use them to obtain a 30% discount on branded goods. The cost to join is £3.50. Unfortunately, their website does not list the pop-up van locations and she has requested information to be placed on the Stiffkey Parish Council website, social media and in the next newsletter. Until recently they were giving away free fruit and vegetables but are now charging a minimal amount.

19. ICB UPDATE

19.1 Cllr. Hooper reported that there are two consultations and it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Hooper will respond to these consultations and copy the Clerk into the responses. Report attached.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

- 20.1 Norfolk ALC:-** The Clerk circulated various papers. Noted.
- 20.2 The Rural Bulletin:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 20.3 NNDC – Norfolk Coastal Forum:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 20.4 Nutrient Neutrality Fund:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 20.5 RBL – VE Day:-** Circulated. Noted.

20.6 Questionnaire for Coastal Forum Members:- Circulated. Noted.

20.7 Victoria Holliday – Future Health Services in Norfolk and Waveney:- Circulated. Noted.

20.8 Norfolk Coast Macmillan Mighty Hike 2025:- Circulated. Noted.

20.9 NNDC – Gambling Statement of Principles:- Circulated. Noted.

20.10 Blakeney Harbour Coastal Restoration Feasibility Project:-
Circulated. Noted.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Tuesday 27th May, 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Stiffkey Village Hall. Please note this will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

County Council March 2025 Report

The 2025/26 programme will deliver what communities have told us they need, this includes trods, village gateways, bus shelters and vehicle activated signs.

The programme is funded by Norfolk County Council matching contributions made by Town and Parish Councils. This year Norfolk County Council plans to contribute £425,476 which means a programme of local works totalling £848,702 will be delivered.

Cabinet will also review the highways capital programme which highlights some of the successes from the last year and outlines how and where highways maintenance funding is going to be spent over the next 12 months. This includes an extra £15 million this year received from DfT.

This additional money will see an extra 100 miles of roads in Norfolk getting a new surface this year, and benefitting from our proactive highway maintenance approach which is proven to help prevent potholes forming. There will also be extra resources for local repairs and patching works across the county.

New apprenticeship starts in Norfolk increase by a staggering 11%

New apprenticeship starts with Norfolk businesses and organisations soared by 11% in the first three months of the academic year 2024/25 - against a national increase of less than 1.5%.

The growth between 1 August to 31 October 2024 compared with the same period in 2023/24 equates to 2,025 new starts in the county. That is 199 more than the previous year and the highest volume in the same period for more than five years.

Apprenticeships Norfolk says starts have grown across the 16-18, 19-24 and 25+ age groups - by 7.4%, 9.6% and 14.6% respectively. These are fantastic results for younger apprentices because it's also the strongest set of Q1 starts for those aged 16-18 for over five years.

Department for Education (DfE) stats also show local businesses have been recruiting, with the number of 'newly recruited' apprentices (up to 3 months in employment at the start of their apprenticeship) rising by 10.4% compared to the previous year, and in real numbers this accounts for 94 more starts.

Analysis of the size of employers shows non-levy funded apprenticeships (i.e. those started by small to medium sized businesses) grew by 10.3% (69 more apprentice starts) compared with the same period in 2023/24. Larger businesses have also been starting more apprenticeships, with 11.2% growth or 130 more apprentices.

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

07306886552

- C - £1,560.56
- D - £1,755.63
- E - £2,145.77
- F - £2,535.91
- G - £2,926.05
- H - £3,511.26

Household hazardous waste days

Following the NCC setting the budget for the year ahead which includes money to hold an extra series of household hazardous waste events this year.

The event will take place at seven recycling centres this spring and are in addition to the usual events which take place in the autumn.

Customers must use the recycling centre booking system to attend the free of charge events which will be held throughout April and May 2025. Booking are expected open a week before each event.

The spring hazardous waste events will be held on:

- 4 and 5 April at King's Lynn
- 11 and 12 April at Dereham
- 25 and 26 April at Thetford
- 2 and 3 May at Norwich North
- 9 and 10 May at Hempton
- 16 and 17 May at Caister
- 23 and 24 May at Norwich South

What is hazardous waste?

Waste is hazardous if it can cause harm to humans or the environment and includes any waste that needs specialist disposal.

We don't normally take these items at our recycling centres.

A list of what can be disposed of at the hazardous waste days can be found here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/hazardouswaste

Norfolk Highway set for major investment in the year ahead

A series of investments and improvements to Norfolk's highways infrastructure will be reviewed by the Norfolk County Council's Cabinet next month.

Papers released today outline how 97 parishes, from Antingham, to Worstead, will benefit from schemes which will be delivered thanks to the councils Parish Partnership scheme.

London Landmark Half Marathan

On April 6th, I'll be lacing up my running shoes to make a difference. This cause is close to my heart, and your support means the world to me. Together, we can create change – every donation brings us one step closer to our goal. Please consider contributing and joining me on this meaningful journey.

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

Thank you for all your continues support!

Norfolk County Council delivers a balanced budget

Norfolk County Council has agreed a balanced budget for the fiscal year 2025/2026, despite facing significant financial pressures, due to inflations, increased demand on Adult and Children services.

Key facts and figures from NCC Budget:

- Gross budget: Norfolk County Council has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools)
 - We spend over £700 million in Adult Social Care, £367m in Children's Services (non-schools), £283m in Infrastructure, £44m in Communities and Environment and £46m in Fire.
- Net Budget: The Council has a net budget for 2025-26 of £572m. This is the amount we raise in Council Tax to fund the services we provide.
 - Budget growth: The 2025-26 budget provides growth of £121m, including
- £31m of inflationary pressures
 - £35m Legislative pressures (including increase in National Living Wage) and the cost of increased Employers National Insurance
- £15m demand and demographic pressures
 - Budget growth of over £25m to fund recurrent 2024-25 overspends in Adult and Children's Services.
- Funding and savings: At the same time as £121m cost pressures, funding has only increased by £32m. Government has abolished Rural Services Delivery Grant and diverted funding from rural areas to metropolitan areas. To balance the position, the 2025-26 budget includes savings of £45m.
 - Council tax: For 2025-26, an increase of 4.99%, including an increase of 3% for general council tax, and 2% for the Adult Social Care precept.
 - A Band D household will pay £1,755.63 per year, or approximately £34 a week, for County Council services in 2025-26.

Norfolk County Council 2025-26 council tax bands:

- A - £1,170.42
- B - £1,365.49

Devolution

The County Council is still awaiting to hear of the Government's decisions on devolution, at which NCC anticipates hearing of the decision by mid-February 2025. Once this decision is received by NCC, I will notify all Parish Councils of the decision.

County Council balances budget 2025/2026

Norfolk County Council have presented their budget for 2025/26 in the face of severe financial headwinds.

The council's cabinet will consider proposals for a balanced budget, which will see council tax increase by 4.99%.

Councillor Andrew Jamieson, deputy leader and cabinet member for finance at Norfolk County Council said:

"I need to be straightforward with the people of Norfolk- funding from central government is inadequate to cover the future cost pressures that local councils will face."

"Norfolk County Council remains in a sound financial position for the forthcoming year thanks to the actions we have taken, and the extremely difficult decisions we've been forced to make."

"We continue to see significant growth in demand for our services, in particular in adult social care and SEND where there are systemic issues at a national level that haven't been addressed."

"We have also seen the abolition of Rural Services Delivery Grant, equivalent to 1% of council tax. We know how challenging it can be to deliver services in a large, rural county like Norfolk, so it is disappointing this hasn't been reflected in the government's plans."

"We need meaningful, sustainable reform to local government funding that provides local councils with the resources they need."

The papers set out the details of a balanced Budget for 2025-26, based on a total of £45.347m of savings, and investment into services of £108.808m.

The budget will be considered at the council's cabinet meeting on 27 January. The proposals will then be considered by scrutiny committee on 12 February, and full council on 18 February.

500,000 tree planted as part of 1 million tree for Norfolk Scheme

Norfolk County Council has marked the halfway point of its ambitious 1 Million Trees for Norfolk scheme, with the planting of tree number 500,000.

The tree was planted in the garden of Priscilla Bacon Lodge, with the help of Paul Bussey who has provided grant funding for a number of tree planting projects. The tree planted, a Norfolk Oak, was grown by volunteers at Gressenhall Community tree nursery.

The 1 Million Trees for Norfolk scheme, launched in 2020, aims to plant one million trees across the county. The initiative has seen widespread participation from local communities, schools, businesses, and landowners.

The county council has committed to planting an average of 150,000 trees a year until the one million tree mark is reached.

March District Cllrs report



From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
To Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, beestonpc <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, wivetonpc@gmail.com <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, .m6 <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Salthouse <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Weybourne Parish Clerk <weybournepc@gmail.com>
Date 2025-03-15 15:50

From NNDC

Benefits

Discretionary Housing Payments are still available to help with rent arrears, rent deposits or moving house and rent shortfall. Over £94k has been awarded so far for 24/25. Single working age households form the majority of those helped.

The Financial Inclusion team continues to help with support, generating £2 mill of missed benefits so far in 24/25. Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit and Personal Independence Allowance are the major awards. Do come forward if we can help.

We have delivered £100k to low income families in household support.

Social Prescribing continues to help with financial advice, benefits and mental health.

The Benefits Calculator is available on NNDC's website www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/benefits/calculator. This will show you if you are eligible for any benefits, and links directly to Anglian Water where you can claim the social tariff on your water bill.

Do get in touch if you have any questions regarding any benefits issues.

Housing

There were 2210 households on the housing list at the end of February. The greatest need is for one-bedroom properties but the greatest shortage of properties is in the larger properties.

As of the end of February 2025 there were 247 open homelessness cases. The most common triggers of homelessness are still end of private tenancy, families or friends no longer able to accommodate, and domestic abuse. There were 67 households in Temporary Accommodation, of which NNDC owns 25 units, and will be purchasing another four with government funding.

More than 550 new affordable homes should be delivered over the next few years.

YTD we have spent over £1.3m on housing adaptations including installation of stair lifts and level access showers.

Do get in touch if you have any questions regarding any housing issues.

Finance

Currently the budget forecast for 24/25 is a small surplus, as a result of improved income and employee and supply and services budgets. Savings of £1.8 mill have been identified for the 25/26 budget.

The second home Council Tax premium from April will be spent on providing more housing. We appreciate that this premium is not welcomed by all but the funds will be put to very good use helping ease our homelessness crisis.

Estates

The new public toilets at Albert Street car park should be opening very soon.

Sustainable Growth

Additional UK Shared Prosperity funding will be available for 25/26. This will support businesses and communities in North Norfolk.

Holt is one of three possible options for a new M&S store in Norfolk.

Net zero

NNDC has partnered with MakeMyHouseGreen to provide residents with a discount of £500 on solar panel installation. MakeMyHouseGreen uses vetted local installers but it's still recommended you get three quotes before making a decision. There's more information on <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2025/february/the-council-has-partnered-with-makemyhousegreen-to-provide-residents-with-discounts-on-solar-panels/>

NNDC is working with 5 UEA final year students to research the carbon value of our assets and offsetting opportunities and local authority best practice.

Customer service

Average call wait times into NNDC are 3mins 5secs. In February, 30% customer contacts were via online forms.'

Devolution and local government reform

Norfolk has been accepted as one of the fast-track counties for devolution and local government reform. Devolution involves the creation of a new mayoral authority, with some powers handed down by central government, and local government reform the creation of combined county and district councils called unitary authorities. There will be some efficiencies of scale but we have to make absolutely sure the local voice is not lost. There's a consultation on the Mayoral Authority open till April 13th, check out <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution-consultation#:~:text=It%20is%20proposed%20that%20a, and%20Suffolk%20Combined%20County%20Authority>

Blakeney Surgery

It's expected the new medicines dispensing machine at Blakeney Village Hall will be operational end of May/June. There will be a secure postbox to leave scripts for repeat prescriptions.

New flood risk maps from Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has updated its National Flood Risk Assessment which shows current and future risks from sea, river and surface flooding at the postcode level: <https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>

There are also updated erosion predictions <https://www.gov.uk/check-coastal-erosion-management-in-your-area>

New Holt Library drop in

Holt library have started a new drop in, on the second Tuesday of each month, 10.30-12. This is an opportunity to speak with the Alzheimer's Society, HealthWatch Norfolk, Norfolk Community Law Service and Age Concern North Norfolk.'

Consultation on the Future of Health Services in Norfolk & Waveney

The Health board is carrying out a survey on the future of health services in Norfolk & Waveney, specifically the GP out of hours service, the walk-in centre in Norwich and the vulnerable adults service in Norwich. They are proposing cutting GP out of hours and reducing the hours of the walk in centre and diverting some money to general practices. One suggestion for vulnerable adult support is to provide care in the community across Norfolk rather than Norwich.

Do let the ICB know what you think as it's important!

<https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/changes-to-services-in-norfolk-and-waveney/>

DC report Feb 2025



From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
To beestonpc <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, 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 2025-02-15 18:29

From NNDC

Planning

NNDC has a new preapplication process - these are now treated as confidential and the application and response are not published unless and until a formal application is made for the site.

[Home | Planning and property advice including pre-applications north-norfolk.gov.uk](#)

A Building Safety Levy comes in force in September. This levy applies to residential projects of more than 10 units or HMOs, requiring building control approval. Developers are paying into a mitigation fund for addressing safety defects.

Coast

The Norfolk Coast Forum being held virtually on 11th March. Let me know if you need joining details resent.

Benefits

A revised Council Tax Support scheme has come into force. The changes include a flat rate non-dependent deduction of £10 for each adult, the removal of the weekly disregard, and a reduction to one month for the time support can be backdated.

Times for housing benefit and council tax support claims are amongst the fastest in Norfolk.

Discretionary Housing Payments are still available to help with rent arrears, rent deposits or moving house and rent shortfall. Over £90k has been awarded so far for 24/25. Do contact me if this would be of any help.

The Financial Inclusion team continues to help with support, generating £1.5 mill of missed benefits so far in 24/25. Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Allowance are the major awards.

We have £100k to disburse to low-income families in household support.

Social Prescribing continues to help with financial advice, budgeting, social isolation, and the risk of homelessness.

The Benefits Calculator is available on NNDC's website www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/benefits/calculator. This will show you if you are eligible for any benefits, and links directly to Anglian Water where you can claim the social tariff on your water bill.

Do get in touch if you have any questions regarding any benefits issues.

Housing

There were 2256 households on the housing list end of January. The greatest need is for one bedroom properties but the greatest shortage of properties is in the larger properties.

As of 31st January 2025, there were 207 open homelessness cases. The most common triggers of homelessness are still end of private tenancy, families or friends no longer able to accommodate, and domestic abuse. There were 65 households in Temporary Accommodation, of which NNDC owns 25 units.

More than 550 new affordable homes should be delivered over the next few years.

We have 77 Ukrainian guests hosted in North Norfolk and one in temporary accommodation. Thank you payments will reduce to £350 in April.

YTD we have spent over £1 mill on housing adaptations including installation of stair lifts and level access showers.

Do get in touch if you have any questions regarding any housing issues.

Finance

Savings of £1.8 mill have been identified for the 25/26 budget.

Estates

The new public toilets at Albert Street car park will open the end of February.

The second home council tax premium will be implemented from April 2025. NNDC will receive 25% of the additional funds and this will be used to address the housing pressures in the district.

Sustainable Growth

An additional £400k of UK Shared Prosperity funding will be available for 25/26. This will support businesses and communities in North Norfolk.

Holt is one of three possible options for a new M&S store in Norfolk.'

Devolution and local government reform

Norfolk has been accepted as one of the fast-track counties for devolution and local government reform. Devolution involves the creation of a new mayoral authority, with some powers devolved by central government, and local government reform the creation of combined county and district councils called unitary authorities. There will be some efficiencies of scale but we have to make absolutely sure the local voice is not lost. Parish councils might want to make their views on this known to central government. The District Council have employed Deloitte to help decide what would be the best configuration for their residents. There is a very short time frame for this.

New Holt Library drop in

Holt library have started a new drop in, on the second Tuesday of each month, 10.30-12. This is an opportunity to speak with the Alzheimer's Society, HealthWatch Norfolk, Norfolk Community Law Service and Age Concern North Norfolk.'

Community First responders

Details of shifts and callouts attended will be published in the quarterly report at the start of April and published on the PC website

E East HEART trainer certification undertaken.

CPR training will be offered if there is interest from at least six people.

Coastal Forum

Shore Management Plan

New interaction modules now available to enable some bespoke mapping to see likely changes in the future. These are not perhaps as thorough and user friendly as perhaps they could be, but they do allow you to customise map views to show specific data areas – such as erosion risk, flooding risks and so on. For those interested, this could be a useful link to put in the next newsletter.

Coastwise

As a project has funding until March 2027. It continues to focus on trying to support communities in adapting to changes that come about due to coastal erosion – some interesting information, but not especially relevant to Stiffkey.

National Trust Breeding Bird Management and Monitoring Plan

This is publicly available on NNDC planning portal.

The report is reasonably comprehensive, but it does raise a few questions – and perhaps opportunities for how the PC can contribute to this and keep on top of any potential issues arising – such as access and new commercial ventures in the carpark....

Stiffkey PC should approach the National Trust for clarification and views on the following:

1. We note that three surveys per year are expected to be undertaken. Would it be possible to know which months these will be undertaken?
2. Will the National Trust be sharing the data that is gathered as part of the monitoring process? If so, how will this be made publicly available?
3. Who is undertaking the monitoring? In terms of both birds and visitor usage. If this is likely to require volunteers, could the Parish Council assist in publicising any need for volunteers?
4. The plan makes reference to 'physical stop points' as well as 'promotion of less sensitive areas for access'; Could the National Trust give more details as to what these are and where these are planned ?
1. The plan states that car park provision will not be promoted beyond current levels or capacity increased. Can the National Trust confirm that this will also include no amenity provision will be considered (such as retail/commercial opportunities)? Will the National Trust be considering a car park charge as part of its efforts to discourage use

ICB Updates

1. Dental Buses have been cancelled by central government. However, Wells dentist now has a contract for emergency NHS dental treatment. This should be promoted as it should mean patients in an emergency can contact them directly and not have to go through 111
2. Highlights:
 - £3 million overspend in the budget due to GP prescribing
 - Alongside NHS England – ICB many not close but will be making a 50% cut over the next 12 months. Not clear what kind of impact this is likely to have on services – hopefully will be clearer in the next few months
3. Consultations
 - a. GP out of hours service/GP practices and Norwich walk in Centre
 - b. Vulnerable Adults |Service inclusion