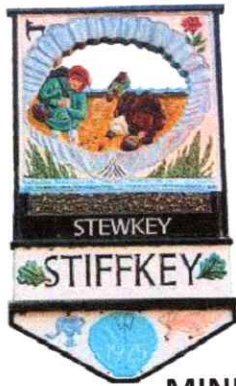


STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:- Councillor J. Lawrence

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor M. Williams



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL **HELD ON MONDAY 28TH JULY, 2025 AT 7.00 PM** **IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL**

Present:-

Chairman – Cllr. J. Lawrence, Vice- Chairman – Cllr. M. Williams,
Cllr. A. Hooper and Cllr. R. Husain.

County Councillor – M. Dalby.

Julie Chance – Clerk.

Six members of the public also attended the meeting.

It was **AGREED** that agenda item 5 – County and District Councillors' Reports would be moved to item 4 and agenda item 4 – Public Participation would be moved to item 5. It was **AGREED** that agenda item 17 – National Trust Bird Management Plan would be moved to public participation.

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

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th May 2025, having been circulated, were taken as read, **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. Claydon,
Cllr. P. Harrison, Cllr. J. Sugden and District Councillor V. Holliday.

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

Telephone No:- 07305048062

Email:- clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. J. Lawrence in respect of planning application PF/25/1291 – 14 Wells Road and agenda item 11.4 Hollow Lane.

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. A. Hooper in respect of agenda item 8.5 grant applications as a member of the Local History Group and the PCC.

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. R. Husain in respect of agenda item 11.4 Hollow Lane.

4. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

4.1 County Councillor's Report:- Attached. County Councillor Dalby reported - English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. Powers will be devolved to Mayors of Strategic Authorities. Housing and strategic planning (Strategic Authority), transport and infrastructure, economic growth and regeneration, skill and employment support and police and fire. Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Consultation. There were 3115 responses received and around 2/3rds agreed that MCA would benefit. County Councillor Dalby has met with the leader of Norfolk County Council and expressed concern that there is not enough consultation. The leader has agreed to increase involvement with the public and press. Members expressed concern that the consultation document is not an accessible document. County Councillor will request that this is made simpler. The Clerk circulated information concerning the future of local government attached. County Councillor Dalby will keep the Members updated.

4.2 District Councillor's Reports:- Attached. The Clerk circulated information concerning digital switchover and chemicals pollution in the River Stiffkey. Report on digital switchover attached.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public read a report concerning the poor condition of Hollow Lane. Attached. This matter is on the agenda and will be discussed.

A member of the public presented details of the planning application PF/25/1291 – 14 Wells Road. This matter is on the agenda and will be discussed.

The General Manager of the National Trust – Peter Nicholson introduced himself to all present. Mr. Nicholson reported that the relationship between the National Trust, the Parish Council and the public has been challenging in the past and he would like to improve this relationship with transparency. The Parish Council asked questions on the National Trust Bird Management Plan and the questions and replies will be placed on the Parish Council's website, social media and notice boards. Copy attached. A lot of data is available on the birds being monitored on the Blakeney Spit and he enquired which forum would be best to share this information. It was **AGREED** that Mr. Nicholson will be invited to attend the March 2026 meeting to make a presentation of the information. Mr. Nicholson said that the National Trust would like to work with the Parish Council in partnership for some new signs. It is envisaged that the signs would carry the Parish Council logo as well as the National Trust logo. It was **AGREED** that this matter would be placed on the next agenda for discussion. Mr. Nicholson confirmed that there is no request for any funding from the Parish Council for the signage. The Members thanked Mr. Nicholson for attending the meeting and updating them.

6. PLANNING

- 6.1** PF/25/1291 – 14 Wells Road, Stiffkey:- It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council will comment as follows:- While it is clear that some changes have been made from the previous withdrawn application, the proposed plans still seem to be over development for the site. While the Parish Council would not object outright to the plans, it would like to comment on the following:
1. The use of extensive glazing will impact on the nocturnal characteristics of the village. Stiffkey Parish council has a dark skies policy and these plans diverge from that policy
 2. The proposed buildings would not meet the aims and objectives of policy HO 8 of the North Norfolk Core Strategy – the proposed increase in size would not seem in proportion to the original dwelling and its curtilage and its appearance in the surrounding countryside.

3. Loss of street scene – both through the replacement and more prominent nature of the buildings – but also the glazing, in particular after dark when lighting is on.
Should the planning authority decide to give permission, we would ask the following be included:
A condition which states that use of the buildings is only permitted for purposes ancillary to the residential use of 14 Wells Road
A condition of low VLT of ≤ 0.65 in accordance with the UK Dark Skies Partnership recommendations
An advisory should be placed on the conditions asking the applicants (and their builders/contractors) to:
 - consider the traffic issues within Stiffkey and where possible to inform the Parish Council beforehand of any likely disruptions
 - abide by NNDC policy on noise and working hours of building works.

6.2 The Saltings, 68 Wells Road, Stiffkey:- **APPROVED.**

6.3 Local Plan Timetable:- The Clerk circulated information from District Councillor Holliday.

6.4 Reform of Planning Committees Consultation:- Report attached.

6.5 Additional Planning Training:- Report attached.

7. POLICE

7.1 SNAP:- Attached. It was **AGREED** that the Members would contact the Clerk with any suggestions for priorities to be taken to the next SNAP meeting in September.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Annual Accounts for the period to 31st March, 2025:- **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

8.2 Cash Book:- The Clerk circulated the cash book made up to 30th June, 2025:- **AGREED.**

8.3 Bank Statements – 30th June, 2025:- The bank statements will be signed off at the next meeting.

8.4 The following payments were AGREED:-	£
Clerk's salary, office allowance and travel	
June and July 2025	598.08
HMRC – Tax – June and July 2025	129.60
Stiffkey Village Hall – Hire	180.00
T.T. Jones Electrical – Street Lighting Maintenance	41.51

- | | |
|---|--------|
| Norfolk ALC – Website Hosting Fee | 84.00 |
| NNDC – Dog and Litter Bins | 296.40 |
| Cllr. A. Hooper – Reimbursement of Printing Costs | |
| Newsletter | 32.69 |
- 8.5** Grant Applications:- The Clerk circulated two applications which were received as follows:-
Stiffkey Parochial Church Council – request £50:- **AGREED.**
Stiffkey Local History Group – request £50:- **AGREED.**
- 8.6** Newsletter:- Cllr. Husain reported that the most recent newsletter has been circulated. The next newsletter will be produced following the September meeting.
- 8.7** Norfolk County Council – Bus Shelter Funding:- The Clerk circulated information. Noted.
- 8.8** Draft Budget:- Circulated. The draft budget will be agreed at the September meeting. Members will inform the Clerk of any comments before the meeting.

9. HEALTHY STIFFKEY WORKING GROUP

- 9.1** Transport Scheme:- Report attached. It was **AGREED** that Option B be adopted and a sum of £250 will be allocated from the earmarked reserves, currently standing at £800. The Clerk reported that Tim Adams is ready to send the constitution to the Charity Commission. It was **AGREED** that the following people would be temporary trustees:- Tim Adams, Julie Chance, Jamie Lawrence and Martin Williams. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will update the volunteers on progress. Once the Charity has been set-up the Clerk will apply for funding.

10. ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICIES

- 10.1** Freedom of Information Policy:- No amendments.
- 10.2** Biodiversity Policy:- No amendments. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Hooper will do the required audit stipulated in the Policy.
- 10.3** IT Policy:- No amendments.

11. HIGHWAYS

- 11.1 Temporary Road Closures:- Circulated. Noted.
- 11.2 H-Bars – Junction Bridge Street and A149:- The Clerk reported that she has not received a reply to her request for the schedule of work and she will chase accordingly.
- 11.3 Roadside – Bridge Street Junction to Stiffkey Stores:- The Clerk read an email received expressing concern about the build up of mud, leaves and debris. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would contact Norfolk County Council and request that they clear the roadside and take away the debris.
- 11.4 Surface of Hollow Lane:- Report attached. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would request a meeting with the Highway Engineer to discuss a way forward.
- 11.5 Drains Choosley Hill and Cockthorpe Hill:- The Clerk reported the drains to Norfolk County Council but to date has not received a reply. The Clerk will chase accordingly.

12. MUCKLEDYKE PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH

- 12.1 Cllr. Husain reported that the repairs will be carried out shortly. The repairs include the replacement of three posts. Cllr. Lawrence has replaced the footpath sign. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council will grant a street licence for a period of 12 months in order to raise funds for repairs to the permissive footpath. The Clerk reminded Members that Cllr. Harrison and Cllr. Sugden should not be involved in any fundraising due to their prejudicial declaration of interest as owners of the land.

13. SEWAGE SPILLS AND WATER PRESSURE

- 13.1 It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would invite Anglian Water to the November meeting to discuss these two matters.

14. MEETING DATES 2026

- 14.1 Circulated. **AGREED.**

15. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS

- 15.1** Town and Parish Council Briefing – Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation:- Report attached.
- 15.2** Community First Responders:- Report attached.
- 15.3** National Trust – New General Manager Meeting:- Report attached.
- 15.4** Norfolk Coast Forum:- Report attached.

16. NNDC

- 16.1** Website details for Parish Council:- The Clerk reported that she has emailed NNDC and District Councillor Holliday requesting that the details for the Parish Council be updated on their website. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.
- 16.2** NNDC Assets – Local Government Reorganisation:- The Clerk reported that there is a possibility of the Parish Council taking over ownership of any NNDC assets in Stiffkey as part of the local government reorganisation. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to NNDC requesting that this be considered.

17. NATIONAL TRUST BIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 17.1** This matter was dealt with under Public Participation. Report attached.

18. DEFRA FLOODS

- 18.1** Report attached.

19. CONSULTATIONS

- 19.1** Dentistry:- Report attached.
- 19.2** Health Survey:- Report attached.

20. MEETING TRANSPARENCY

- 20.1** Report attached. It was **AGREED** to adopt item a, b and c of the report.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

21.1 Norfolk ALC Newsletters:- Circulated. Noted.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 29th September, 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Stiffkey Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

Cabinet backs one council for Norfolk

Councillors have backed a report which says replacing Norfolk's eight councils with one would save £36.2m per year and deliver the biggest benefits to residents.

On 23 June Norfolk County Council's cabinet selected a single unitary council as its preferred option, which will be developed into a detailed proposal and submitted to the Government in September.

Norfolk County Council studied data and evidence on the pros and cons of one, two or three unitary councils and asked the public what mattered to them about local councils and services. It is proposing that its preferred option is one unitary council, covering the whole area.

Having one council would cut costs, join up services for residents and ensure strong financial foundations, according to the draft options appraisal report considered by the cabinet.

The county council's report says that the key benefits of one council for Norfolk are:

- A single council would mean consistent services, delivered across the whole of Norfolk, with equal levels of Council Tax, service quality and services available, wherever you live
- It would save £36.2m per year, by cutting duplication, reducing the number of chief officers and councillors and having economies of scale when purchasing services. Start-up costs would be repaid in a year
- It avoids the risks and costs of splitting up complex, county-wide services like adult social services, children's services and highways - which would incur extra costs of between £20.4m and £33.6m per year, if there were two or three unitary councils
- It recognises the role of greater Norwich as an economic centre of activity for the whole county and highlights the importance of not creating an artificial boundary around it, which would stifle growth

The report's conclusion says: "We have an opportunity to create a new council for Norfolk which can:

- Be a powerful advocate for Norfolk - speaking up and influencing as one voice for local communities, creating more impact, both with any Norfolk/Suffolk mayor and with the Government, businesses and investors
- Be accountable - our residents would know that one council was responsible for all of the services, removing confusion. There would be one set of locally elected councillors, with one set of elections
- Be efficient - removing duplication and bureaucracy and joining up services to deliver better value for money
- Enable devolution - through a single, clear and concise set of strategic priorities for Norfolk and simplifying decision-making
- Avoid the use of untested models for delivering critical services to children, families, older people and some of the most vulnerable of our residents"

Now that a preferred option has been selected, there will be further engagement. The preferred option will be developed into a detailed proposal, to be submitted to the Government by 26 September 2025. Ministers will take the final decision on what council structure to adopt.

Further details are available on the county council's webpages [here](#).

Norfolk County Council Approves £500k Community Fund to Boost Local Projects

Norfolk County Council has approved the launch of a new £500k Norfolk Community Fund for 2025/26, aimed at supporting grassroots projects that strengthen communities and improve local wellbeing.

The fund will empower local voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) groups to apply for grants between £200 and £2,500 to deliver small-scale initiatives that bring people together, promote inclusion, and enhance quality of life. Each of the county's 84 councillors will be allocated £5,000 to distribute within their divisions, ensuring funding reaches every corner of Norfolk

The fund responds to growing pressures on the VCSE sector, highlighted in the recent State of the Sector Survey, and builds on the success of previous schemes like the Norfolk Parish Partnership. It will also encourage match funding through crowdfunding, potentially doubling the impact to £1 million

The 2025–26 programme will prioritise projects that support ageing well, youth engagement, community cohesion, and cultural connection.

For more information on how to apply, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk.

New Support for Norfolk Parent Carers Through Council and Charity Partnership

Norfolk County Council has partnered with national charity Kids to enhance support for parents caring for children with disabilities or additional needs.

The new service offers:

- One-to-one support
- Specialist workshops
- The 'Healthy Parent Carer' programme
- Coffee mornings and drop-in sessions

This support complements the Council's refreshed parent carer needs assessments, which help identify the impact of caring responsibilities and connect families with tailored guidance and services.

Kids, which has over 50 years' experience supporting families, is now delivering the service across Norfolk.

To learn more or request support, visit the [parent carer needs assessment page](#).

National Updates

Fair Funding Review 2.0 Consultation

The Government has announced a [consultation on the redistribution of local authority funding](#).

The consultation seeks views on the approach to local authority funding reform through the Local Government Finance Settlement from 2026 to 2027.

The scope of the consultation includes determining local authority funding allocations; the approach to consolidating funding; measuring differences in demand for services and the cost of delivering them; measuring differences in locally available resources; the New Homes Bonus; and transitional arrangements and keeping allocations up to date.

It also covers a long-term approach to the business rates retention system; devolution and wider reform and invites views on the possible equalities impacts of these proposals.

Once finalised, the changes will be implemented in 2026-27 through the first multi-year Settlement in a decade.

In a [statement made on 20 June](#), Local government minister Jim McMahon said: “We will work with councils to fix what is broken, moving around £2 billion of funding to the places and communities that need it most; and modernising council tax administration. He also said that the formulae used to assess local authorities’ current needs is out of date and will be updated to target money where it needs to go and ensure those places that have been overlooked get their fair share.

The consultation runs until 15 August 2025.

Modernising Council Tax Administration consultation

Along with their [Fair Funding Consultation](#), the Government [launched a new consultation](#) seeking views on policies to improve the administration of council tax to create a fairer and more efficient system for taxpayers and local authorities.

This consultation contains policy proposals to improve the system, including changing the ways council tax is billed, collected and enforced; modernising the support available in the system; and, supporting councils to improve efficiency.

The consultation runs until 12 September 2025.

New Water (Special Measures) Act measures come into force

Water companies will now have to publish plans to reduce pollution incidents and address the use of nature-based solutions when managing wastewater.

From 23 June Water companies must be transparent in their efforts to prevent pollution as a new legal requirement in the Water (Special Measures) Act comes into force (Section 3).

[The new rules](#) make it mandatory for water companies to prepare and publish Pollution Incident Reduction Plans (PIRPs).

These outline how companies will identify, respond to and reduce sources of sewage pollution incidents in their network each year. This includes actions like increasing monitoring, investing in technology and infrastructure and carrying out awareness campaigns for customers.

Water companies will need to publish these plans by 1 April each year, and report on the progress made since their previous plan. The first plans will be published by 1 April 2026 and scrutinised by the Environment Agency.

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

07306886552

Chief Executive's Office
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH

Email: LGR@norfolk.gov.uk

Date: 6 May 2025

Dear Chair

Help shape the future of local government in Norfolk

The Leader of Norfolk County Council wrote to you recently explaining that the Government wants to change the way that councils are organised across the country.

In Norfolk, the county council runs **some services** (like education, adult and children's social care and roads) and the seven district, borough and city councils run **other services** (like planning, housing and refuse collections.) The Government wants to see all eight councils replaced with fewer unitary councils - which would be responsible for **all services** in their area.

When the Government decided to re-think local government arrangements in Norfolk, the Minister wrote and asked the county council and the district, borough and city councils to submit proposals about how things could work and how many Unitary councils might be needed.

This is major decision and at Norfolk County Council we don't want to jump to any conclusions - we want to look at all the evidence first. We have been gathering data on costs and services to help inform our decision making and want to hear from community-based organisations about what matters to them and the local areas they represent before focusing in on a preferred option.

We have an opportunity to build on the best features of our current councils and create something that delivers efficient and effective services, with strong community links. We want the needs and priorities of local people in your area to help shape any new local government structure.

How Parish and Town Councils can be involved

Norfolk County Council is posing a series of questions and will use the replies to help draw up plans for a future council structure. The feedback form is available until 20 May 2025 at www.norfolk.gov.uk/lgrfeedback and people can answer as many or as few questions as they wish to and we would ask you to encourage your parishioners to respond.

We also want to hear from your council to gather even more insight into what matters in your community, so will be holding some in-person events in local areas and an online meeting with parish and town councils to hear what you have to say. We would welcome members of your council to **attend any (or all) of these meetings**.

The in-person events will take place at:

- **The Small Barn, Knights Hill Hotel and Spa - King's Lynn**

Knights Hill Village, King's Lynn PE30 3HQ Tuesday 13 May from 5.30pm to 7.30pm

- **The Ragnar Hall, Viking Centre - Sprowston**

Tills Rd, Sprowston, Norwich NR6 7QZ Wednesday 14 May from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

- **Queens Hall - Watton**

Norwich Road, Watton, Thetford IP25 6DA Thursday 15 May from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

- **The Cedars - North Walsham**

New Rd, North Walsham NR28 9DE Friday 16 May from 5.00pm to 7.00pm

- **Tiffany Room, Central Hall - Wymondham**

6A Back Lane, Wymondham NR18 0QB Monday 19 May from 7.00pm to 9.00pm

- **The Carnegie Room, the Library - Gorleston on Sea**

Lowestoft Rd, Gorleston-on-Sea NR31 6QU Wednesday 21 May from 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Online event

Tuesday 20 May 6.30pm - 8.00pm.

Further information is provided at the end of this letter and in the attached 'joining teams meeting' instructions for PC and phone.

On the day of the meeting, please use the link below to join. If you are unable to click on the link, you can also open Microsoft Teams on your device and join using the meeting ID and passcode provided below.

Microsoft Teams link: <https://bit.ly/3GQ9qvZ>

Meeting ID: 383 231 752 220 6 Passcode: 63qh2Xx3

To help make best use of the time available, at the in-person meetings especially, we have identified a few points that we are particularly keen to get views on which you might want to share with your colleague councillors ahead of the meeting. These are:

- What is currently working well with local services in your area and what could be better?
- What challenges does your local area face and what would help both the people and place to flourish?

To help us plan, please tell us who from your council will attend and which meeting(s) they intend to come to (including the online meeting) by emailing LGR@norfolk.gov.uk

We will want to continue to engage with your council as we progress towards our final submission to Government in the Autumn, so please do keep an eye out for further emails over the next few weeks.

More information

You can find out more about local government reorganisation at www.norfolk.gov.uk/LGR and by subscribing to the county council's email bulletin, Your Norfolk Extra: www.norfolk.gov.uk/yournorfolkextra

If you have questions about the above, or any observations or comments about local government reorganisation, please email LGR@norfolk.gov.uk.

And finally...

We know that the rules around contact details for parish and town councils will be changing over the next year or so. If your council email address or other key information is updated please do let us know by emailing communities@norfolk.gov.uk so we have a way for our highways and other teams to get in touch if they need to.

Yours sincerely



Tom McCabe
Chief Executive

Online meeting information:

The meeting is scheduled to start at 6.30pm on Tuesday 20 May. You are welcome to join at any point during the meeting.

Joining the online meeting

On the day of the meeting, please use the link below to join.

Microsoft Teams link: <https://bit.ly/3GQ9qvZ>

If you are unable to click on the link, you can also open Microsoft Teams on your device and join using the meeting ID and passcode provided below.

Meeting ID: 383 231 752 220 6 Passcode: 63qh2Xx3

Joining instructions

If you need to, you can refer to the relevant 'joining teams meeting' document attached to the email for detailed instructions on how to join the meeting using either a computer or a mobile device.

Participation during the online meeting

Instructions on how to ask questions or provide comments will be provided at the beginning of the event.

Difficulties in the online meeting

If you encounter any technical difficulties once you are in the meeting, we will have someone available to try to assist you. However, please note that our support may be limited since you are using your personal computer or mobile device.

Sent via Email

Chief Executive's Office
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH

Email: tom.mccabe@norfolk.gov.uk

Date: 9 June 2025

Dear colleagues

Your help to shape the future of local government in Norfolk

You may recall that I wrote to you in May about local government reorganisation, inviting you to some events to ensure that the needs and priorities of local people across Norfolk help shape any new local government structure.

I'm very grateful those of you who attended of these sessions, and I understand that there were some really useful discussions.

You provided some very valuable insights on local issues, which you will see are captured in our latest report, which is published today.

Our draft options appraisal report that sets out the findings of a detailed assessment of a range of potential options for unitary structures in Norfolk.

We have studied data and evidence on the pros and cons of one, two or three unitary councils and asked the public what mattered to them about local councils and services. The conclusion of the options appraisal is that the recommended preferred option is one unitary council, covering all of Norfolk. Cabinet will decide whether to proceed with this option at their meeting on 23 June.

You can read the full options appraisal report at <https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/2380/Committee/201/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

A media release summary version is available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/news.

Subject to cabinet's approval, we will develop our proposal in more detail, ensuring that a single council has the strongest and most effective links to our communities, including through our work with town and parish councils.

We know the vital role you play and so we are keen to have further engagement with you over the next few months, as we develop our final submission to the Government in September. A successful submission to government will be one that strengthens and supports this role.

I will be back in touch in the next few weeks, with further details of our next round of engagement. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the team at lgrfeedback@norfolk.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom McCabe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom McCabe
Chief Executive

DC report July, many thanks

From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
To Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, wivetonpc <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Parish clerk <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Salthouse <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, Clerk Weybourne Parish Council <weybournepc@gmail.com>
Date 2025-07-17 17:39

Dc Report July

From NNDC

Democratic Services

The Town & Parish Council Forum will restart in the autumn. This is an opportunity for T&PCllrs and clerks to engage with NNDC officers.

Coast

NNDC will be working with local communities, including Weybourne, to look at ways to better plan for and adapt to coastal erosion. Topics include how/if to transition housing, local facilities, housing inland.

Leisure

Holt Country Park, Pretty Corner and Sadlers Woods have again been awarded Green Flag status which means they meet requirements such as conservation of biodiversity, environmental management and be easily accessed. Cromer, East Runton, Mundesley, Sea Palling, Sheringham and West Runton beaches have all been awarded Blue Flag status which reflects good environmental management and safety standards. There are only 70 Blue Flag sea beaches in England.

Planning

The government wants to combine district and county councils to increase efficiency and save money. Proposals from the current 7 District Norfolk Councils and the County Council are due to government by the end of September and a decision expected early 26. There is a consultation running till 1st August on the NNDC website <https://www.futurenorfolk.com/have-your-say>. The new Local Plan will be going out again for public consultation for six weeks in August-September. The additional site allocation to the west of Langham Road in Blakeney is still being put forward, as is Weybourne as a small growth village. This consultation will be the final opportunity to have a say on Planning Policy in North Norfolk for the foreseeable future, so I encourage you to participate.

There will no longer be funding for the development of Neighbourhood Plans which is unfortunate.

Benefits

Don't forget we have just over £100k to help residents with tenancies and homelessness. Do get in touch if this money would be helpful.

There are 2123 households on the housing list; 22% have the most urgent need. Homelessness is still a problem with 46 accepted as homeless April to June. The majority move into social housing.

There were 59 households in temporary accommodation as of June 30th. NNDC has 27 units of temporary accommodation and is purchasing 6 more as they are far more acceptable than nightly bed and breakfast.

£255k has been spent on housing adaptations to improve accessibility of homes. Typical works are adaptations to showers, widening of doorways for a wheelchair or the installation of a stairlift.

There will be further funding for insulation, low carbon heating and solar panels for qualifying households.

If you have any questions regarding benefits or housing, please do get in touch.

Environment and waste

Food waste collection will start autumn 2026, depending on the delivery of the new food waste vehicles.

There appears to have been an uptick in missed bin collections- please contact me if you are having any issues.

Finance

The final outturn for 24-25 is a £622k surplus. This change from the previously predicted loss is due to improved income, and reduced employee and supplies and services budgets.

A small grants scheme has been established this summer for street and town centre support, 'North Norfolk High streets Matter'.

Fakenham is one of the recipients.

There is a consultation on street trading.'

Anglian Water

Sewage overflows in our area in 2025 to date are only 1.5 hrs and only in Melton. Additional phosphorous removal schemes to improve water quality will be installed at treatment centres on chalk streams, including Langham. Additional nitrogen removal is being added in certain treatment works- I think the closest is Briston. Water pressure is a problem in some places. This needs to be reported to AW on a case-by-case basis so they can investigate and amend. The contact number is 0800771881.

Digital switchover

By January 2027 your current landline phone calls will be made digitally over the broadband network instead of the old copper lines. Unlike landlines, digital phone calls won't work in a power cut (whilst mobiles do). If you want to keep your landline just as it is that is possible but you have to let BT know on 08001234150 as soon as possible to get the help you need. Also, if you don't have a mobile for power cuts, need support with a Telecare device or would like some advice on how to deal with this switchover, please do contact BT or get in touch with me.

GP out of hours provision at Fakenham

I am hoping to meet with the OOH provider to ascertain why there seems no weekend out of hours cover in Fakenham. At the moment the closest OOH base is in North Walsham which is a long drive if you're poorly.

Victoria Holliday
District Councillor
Coastal
07557054629



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North Norfolk District Council

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Think before you ink - do you really need to print this?

DCreport June 25

From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
To Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, Tracey Bayfield
<clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, wivetonpc <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, Parish clerk <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Salthouse
<salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Weybourne Parish Council
<weybournepc@gmail.com>
Date 2025-06-15 21:12

Dc report June 25

Local government reform

NNDC will be holding briefing sessions on Local Government Reform for T&PC on 17th June at Fakenham and 24th June at Mundesley. Proposals from the District Councils and the County Council are due to government by the end of September and a decision expected early 26, with the new unitary/unitaries in shadow form by 2027, taking over from the current District and County Councils as of April 28.

Local plan

The new Local Plan will be going out again for public consultation for six weeks in August-September. The additional site allocation to the west of Langham Road in Blakeney is still being put forward, as is Weybourne as a small growth village. This consultation will be the final opportunity to have a say on Planning Policy in North Norfolk for the foreseeable future, so I encourage you to participate.

GP Out of Hours, Norwich Walk in Centre and Vulnerable Adults Service Consultation

The consultation on proposed reduction in opening hours or even closure of the GP Out of Hours and Norwich Walk in Centre has been suspended. The service therefore remains as is, as does the Vulnerable Adults Service. I have asked about the GP Out of Hours provision at Fakenham as this base seems to be seeing very few patients. It would be great for us if it were available rather than the current situation which requires us to drive to North Walsham.

Anglian Water

Anglian Water attended Overview & Scrutiny Committee at NNDC last week to discuss storm overflows into our rivers, broads and seas. Our chalk streams are of particular concern. We have asked them to let us know what investment is going into the sewage treatment works in our district which are the worse offenders, in the form of upgraded water storage tanks for example. Storm overflows are permitted by the Environment Agency after rain but not in dry weather. We have therefore asked for that data to be pulled out as well. Water pressure is a problem in some places. This needs to be reported to AW so they can investigate and amend. The contact number is 0800771881.

Public Space Protection Orders Renewed

Cabinet agreed to renew the current inland Public Space Protection Orders for 3 years. The most relevant to our area is Blakeney Quay, where dogs must be on leads. In Holt, dogs are not allowed in the Burial Ground on Albert Street, Peacock Lane Field and the Kelling Road Playing Field and must be on leads in Holt Cemetery.

Mobile connectivity

NNDC is compiling a database of 'mobile 'not spots' in the hope this can be used for lobbying mobile and mast providers for better connectivity. This becomes more urgent with the switch to digital from copper lines in 2027.

Blakeney Surgery

We are now being asked if we want our meds from the Pharmabox. For the first few weeks of operation there will be a member of staff 9-12 to help with queries. There will be a secure postbox to leave scripts for repeat prescriptions and the facility for contactless payment at the Box. You can always go to another pharmacy including online. If your medications are fridge items or controlled drugs you will need to make other arrangements with the surgery. There is some capacity in the home delivery service - requests will be assessed by a GP.

Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust Recovery College

NSFT (our mental health trust) provides free online or classroom courses on managing mental well-being and living with mental health issues. These are very accessible and open to all. Phone 0300 303 4419 or email RecoveryOnline@nsft.nhs.uk or Google NSFT Recovery College.

<https://www.nsf.nhs.uk/download/prospectuspdf.pdf?ver=6373&doc=docm93jjm4n3522.pdf>

Consultation on revised Taxi Handbook and policy

NNDC is consulting on a revised Taxi Handbook. The new version is more readable but much more detailed. See <https://forms.north-norfolk.gov.uk/s/forms/Confirmation/Show/Confirmation> for the survey.

OUR PRIORITIES

Your safer neighbourhood team



Introduction

PC Jonathan Kentfield

Beat Manager - Wells-next-the-Sea

Covering Barsham, Binham, Great Snoring, Hindringham, Holkham, Langham, Sculthorpe, Stiffkey, Walsingham, Warham, Wells & Wighton.

District Priority

- **Anti-social behaviour in public spaces, including vehicle-related incidents.**

Next Neighbourhood Meeting:

Our next public meeting for the Wells area will take place on Tuesday, 02 September 2025, at 7pm, online via Microsoft Teams. Join us to hear what we've been up to over the last few months, and to have your say about local issues / concerns.

If you can't make the meeting but would like to raise a concern, or for a link to join the meeting, please email: **SNTWells@norfolk.police.uk**

Suspicious activity? Call us on 101.
Emergency? Always use 999.

f North Norfolk Police
t @NorthNorfPolice
@ @norfolkpolice



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY

norfolk.police.uk

Item 5.2 - Digital Switchover

Having attended the question and answer session on this, it is abundantly clear that there is a lot of confusion over the process – how it works and what you need to do. BT clearly have a defined process that we need to be ensuring our residents know about – in particular those who fall into the vulnerable category.

I would like to propose we put together a 1 page summary for residents with updated information on this process. We could then put this on the website and on both notice boards and look to include this again with the next newsletter. I am happy to put this together.

Proposed Response - **PF/25/1291**

While it is clear that some changes have been made from the previous withdrawn application, the proposed plans still seem to be over development for the site. While the Parish Council would not object outright to the plans, it **would like to comment on the following:**

1. The use of extensive glazing will impact on the nocturnal characteristics of the village. Stiffkey Parish council has a dark skies policy and these plans diverge from that policy
2. The proposed buildings would not meet the aims and objectives of policy HO 8 of the North Norfolk Core Strategy – the proposed increase in size would not seem in proportion to the original dwelling and its curtilage and its appearance in the surrounding countryside.
3. Loss of street scene – both through the replacement and more prominent nature of the buildings – but also the glazing, in particular after dark when lighting is on.

Should the planning authority decide to give permission, we would ask the following be included:

1. A condition which states that use of the buildings is only permitted for purposes ancillary to the residential use of 14 Wells Road
2. A condition of low VLT of ≤ 0.65 in accordance with the UK Dark Skies Partnership recommendations
3. An advisory should be placed on the conditions asking the applicants (and their builders/contractors) to:
 - consider the traffic issues within Stiffkey and where possible to inform the Parish Council beforehand of any likely disruptions
 - abide by NNDC policy on noise and working hours of building works.

Hollow Lane - Parish Council Meeting 28th July 2025



From shirley dekker <shirleydekker@hotmail.co.uk>
To Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Date 2025-07-29 11:24

Good Evening, my name is Shirley and I am a resident of Stiffkey, living in a property location on Hollow Lane.

The condition of Hollow Lane is in extreme disrepair. This fact was noted in the Parish Council minutes some 7 years ago.

Both my husband and myself have witnessed several walkers falling over or slipping on the dangerous uneven surface of Hollow Lane. I have tripped on several occasions, as has my husband Bryan. So far no one has sustained severe injury, but it is only a matter of time until someone does, which would lead to a claim of negligence. Plus there is the potential for claims for damage to vehicles.

Both Bryan and myself are in our 70s, both have health issues, at some point we will need a mobility scooter. There is no possible way a mobility scooter could be used on Hollow Lane in its present condition. Surely this is discrimination to anyone that is disabled, either living on Hollow Lane or visiting it. We have grandchildren that visit us with their children. There is no way a pram or pushchair could be used on Hollow Lane, without causing discomfort or injury to a baby. We have several friends that visit us who refuse to drive up Hollow Lane to our home, they prefer to leave their cars on the roadside, which is not ideal as it blocks the highways.

In February 2024, Bryan needed an ambulance as he became unwell. The ambulance arrived, however one of the paramedics fell on the uneven surface of Hollow Lane, luckily she was not seriously hurt. If Hollow Lane is not repaired, it is possible that the emergency services could refuse to drive up Hollow Lane, then an alternative way would be found to take a patient to the ambulance on the roadside, once again the patient and paramedics would be travelling on the dangerous surface of Hollow Lane, not an ideal situation. Should we ever need carers or a visit from a District Nurse or Doctors, they could refuse to travel on Hollow Lane.

Hollow Lane is serviced by refuse trucks and dog waste bin truck each week, as well as other service vehicles. If Hollow Lane worsens even these vehicles may not be able to travel on the Lane. We would not be able to take our bins down to the roadside as it is now.

Bryan and I once owned a house with a Public Right of Way leading up to it which was our responsibility. We had a duty of care to maintain that Right of Way, which did.

Stiffkey is a beautiful village and the Parish Council do a fantastic job. We understand that Hollow Lane is other Parish Councils responsibility, however we would greatly appreciate that they support an application to Norfolk County Council.

A copy of this should be given to the Parish Council Clerk to be included with the minutes of this meeting.

Could the Parish Clerk advise us who we need to contact at Norfolk County Council to proceed with this matter, to invite Norfolk County Council to attend and inspect Hollow Lane.

Thanking you for your consideration in this matter.

Item 17 – NT Bird Management Plan

Item 17 - National Trust Bird Management Plan

The NT have sent a response with regard to the monitoring aspects of the bird management plan – as previously noted we have advertised for volunteers in the newsletter.

The Parish Council should keep a watching brief over the results of the plan and I propose we invite the NT Regional Conservation Advisor to attend a meeting next year to give us an overview and key findings 12 months into the monitoring.

Item 17 – NT Bird Management Plan

Queries from SPC and Responses from NT – June 2025 via Email

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?

The first breeding bird survey is a site visit to check transect route, etc, ahead of the early season survey visit. This early season survey takes place between early April – mid May. The late season survey takes place between mid May – late June with at least 4 weeks after the early visit. Visits should start between 6am and 7am and be no later than 9am.

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?

We are happy to share the data that is gathered as part of the monitoring process. Generally, all our survey data is entered onto iRecord or the NBN Atlas, which can be openly accessed. We promote use of BirdTrack and iRecord apps by all wildlife recorders, survey volunteers, and interested folk so that data is stored correctly, is accessible and can be used to understand ecological trends, etc, locally and at scale.

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?

NT Staff and volunteers will undertake the breeding bird surveys described initially.

Plans to monitor visitor usage are being considered, including use of GPS Phone tracking technology and user surveys. Your thoughts on this are welcomed, as are offers to publicise through the Parish Council. As I stressed during the drop-in session in Morston at the end of May I am very keen to build strong relationships with the local community. To this end, volunteers are vital to our work and we would really welcome community involvement in wildlife monitoring and conservation management at Stiffkey.

I know that @Smyth, Ben has met with some members of the local community to share information/knowledge on history relating to the marsh and some of the built features. He has had conversations about local people supporting the area by chatting to visitors to increase the profile of the marsh and it's wildlife and by sharing behaviours that will reduce disturbance ie dogs on leads and keeping to pathways.

It would be really good to know if anyone is recording wildlife in the Stiffkey area and talk further about participation in local and national survey schemes.

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 ?

Item 17 – NT Bird Management Plan

As you are aware the extensive saltmarsh at Stiffkey is exceptional in its quality and extent. It is a fragile environment and sensitive breeding and wintering area for birds. Wildlife thrives here because the marshes are so unspoilt and human disturbance is minimal. Focussing access provision away from such special areas is important to ensure species and habitat are not damaged or disturbed.

Initially 'physical stop points' will be rope cordons along the track to the bridge to discourage trampling and allow recovery of the saltmarsh habitat, and rope cordons beyond the bridge at the end of the informal footpath at the discourage disturbance along the meads to that area during the bird breeding season.

Our ranger team will be looking to deploy unobtrusive temporary fence and signage over the next month

Managing impacts of recreational usage on the coast must be considered strategically hence, as referenced in the *Breeding Bird Monitoring and Management Plan* we seek recreational usage monitoring as part of strategic access work on the North Norfolk Coast, ie as part of Norfolk Planning Authorities Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy ('GIRAMS') (in development).

5. 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

We have no plans to introduce any retail/commercial opportunities or parking charges at Stiffkey NT Car park at the moment.

Item 9 – Stiffkey Health Working Party

Unfortunately no formal meeting since the last Parish Council meeting. We have been working to find a co-ordinator and we have found someone prepared to undertake this on a trial basis. Right now the council has 2 challenges:

- a. Find people willing to be trustees to push through charity registration as this will be the sustainable way to get funding
- b. Start the process of DBS checks for those who have agreed to help and look to start transport under the auspices of the Parish Council before funding we have secured runs out. This would also be a risk as without funding we could invest and nothing come about if we are unable to find trustees.

If the council agree to option b – we would need approval to access some of the £800 currently reserved. I would propose approval for spending up to £250

Item 11.4 - Hollow Lane

FP 8 is designated as maintainable at the public expense and while the Parish Council has been consistently informed that it passes the 'test' for a footpath, the deterioration continues.

The argument has always been that it is a designated footpath and therefore repairing it for vehicular use is not maintainable at the public expense. This would be reasonable, but the surface of the bottom section of the path is now makes safety questionable. It is also the bottom section that has no registered owners.

Added to this is the recent extreme weather events that at each downpour has caused more debris to slide down onto the public Highway, threatening safety on the A149.

I would like to propose that the Parish Council write again to Chris Purvis at Highways and ask for a Highways visit to inspect Hollow Lane and then let us know their views and/or plans. It could be, for example, that simply breaking up the concrete section of the path would resolve many of the issues, but this would be for Highways to decide.

Once feedback from Highways is received we can then share this with residents.

The only other option would be Section 56 of the Highways Act 1980. As FP 8 is maintainable at the public expense, this allows any member of the public to require the local authority to repair the **surface** of a public footpath. This process gives Highways (the local Authority) a six-month period to address a repair. There is a definitive procedure for this.

Item 15 – Meetings Attended

Item 15.1 - Devolution – Cllrs Hooper, Husain and Williams

Mayoral establishment seems to be moving ahead with little resistance or deviation from government laid out schedules. The need to get this all in place by the end of the year in order for elections to go ahead next May seems challenging, but we can only assume there is a plan since relatively little information is being shared.

A comprehensive overview of devolution and LGR was included as part of the Parish Council Newsletter distributed in July. With the 3 options for LGR presented to government, there is little that can be contributed to the debate until a decision is reached at the end of September.

The 3-council option launched by, amongst others, NNDC has a website and a survey for completion. This was also included as part of the newsletter article for those who wish to engage in the process. The survey is designed for individual responses, rather than collective responses and the questions asked seemed designed to re-enforce the argument that **'3 is best'** rather than gather evidence or views for which is best!

Given the government will impose a model if there is no consensus reached – we are at a stage that as far as LGR is concerned, it is wait and see. We should have more information around the next Parish Council Meeting.

Item 15.2 - Community First Responders – Cllr Hooper

Report to the end of June 2025 is available on the website. In terms of callouts – it has been a busy period with the number of callouts increasing. Notably, the response time of CFR's is significantly quicker than that of the Ambulance – adequately demonstrating the value CFR's bring to their community.

Out of the ordinary was the presence of the CFR's as first on the scene at a major Road Traffic Accident.

The CFR also attended the scene when an alert came through that the Stiffkey Defib had been accessed. Collection of the Defib was not for a cardiac arrest – and the CFR's ensured it was put back and registered as back up on the network available for use.

Item 15.3 - National Trust Meeting (Morston Quay) – Cllrs Hooper and Williams

As circulated to members after the meeting – and simply for the record - a brief outline of the issues brought up were:

1. The hope (and request) that the NT would keep us as a Parish Council more informed and up to date with plans as the representatives of some of their major stakeholders. We did ask that information be detailed and pertinent and not simply a regurgitation of their website.
2. Attendance at a Parish Council at least once a year to share updates, plans etc

Item 15 – Meetings Attended

3. Information should the NT need us to help advertise for recruitment of volunteers
4. Some concrete info and an update on the bird management plan as part of their conditions for the new bridge
5. The hide in the NT carpark (the NT have no issue with the matter and also consider it closed)

The Parish Council has subsequently included info for recruitment of volunteers in its Newsletter distributed in July.

I would also propose that the Parish Council publish (noticeboard and the website) the correspondence with the NT with regard to the bird management plan (sent after the last meeting)

Item 15.4 - Coastal Forum – Cllr Hooper

Not an overly informative meeting this time. Main highlights from Coastwise

- a. Attempts to get erosion risks included as part of conveyancing have, to date, not proved successful. This will be pursued with the Law Society
- b. Coastwise is looking to commission a study to investigate feasibility of insuring properties at risk of coastal erosion and what the likely cost of such insurance would be.
- c. The role of the Regional Flood and Coast Committee was explained. A committee with statutory responsibilities who approve all flood risk management programmes. This will be a relevant committee for Norfolk as an area vulnerable to coastal erosion.

Item 18 - DEFRA – Floods

A technical consultation on seeking views on how government grants for flood and coastal erosion. While this is not a consultation which the Parish Council would normally participate in – the key proposals are interesting in so far as they may be applicable to groups and organisations working in and around Stiffkey – notably the Holkham Estate and the National Trust.

The proposals allow for a contribution free allowance towards a project – allowing the first £3 million of any project fully funded by the government. Potential also exists for fully funded the refurbishment of existing infrastructure – such as flood defences and there is particular interest in nature-based solutions for resilience in areas like flood management.

The call for evidence closes on 29th July. It is not clear when we can expect to see the publication of new guidelines.

Public Consultations

19.1 Dentistry

Steffan Aquarone MP has asked that we write to him expressing our support for the establishment of a dental school in Norwich. **I would like to propose we send an email directly expressing our support for this endeavour.**

19.2 Health Survey

A very basic questionnaire from our MP asking for thoughts on waiting times and accessibility. The questions are focused to the individual and so the Parish Council to would be unable to make a fair representation of constituent views. The survey can be access at northnorfolklibdems.org.uk/healthsurvey

A link is already available on the website

Item 20 - Meeting Transparency

Proposed actions to increase our transparency and recognising the accessibility needs of many of our residents.

- a. Where not immediately evident, expansion on agenda items to give details as to what is likely to be discussed/being proposed.

It will be the responsibility of whomever is asking for something to be on the agenda to provide the Clerk with details for discussion

- b. The following to be posted in BOTH village noticeboards:
 - The full meeting agenda. To include any supplementary papers which could inform a decision to attend a meeting (for example, the proposed budget). *The clerk will assist in deciding which documents are relevant for posting.*
 - Minutes of the meeting as soon as they become available – including draft minutes
- c. The Correspondence List to be more detailed so that it is clearer what the correspondence relates to. Where correspondence is time limited (particularly between meetings) – every effort is made to put a list of details for that correspondence in the noticeboard and in the news section of the website. *For the purposes of cost and time management this would be limited to once a month and only more frequent if the matter is time critical. Residents will be able to contact the clerk for more information.*