

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:- Councillor J. Lawrence

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor M. Williams



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19TH JANUARY, 2026 AT 7.00 PM IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL

Present:-

Vice-Chairman – Cllr. M. Williams, 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.

David Baker – Anglian Water.

Four members of the public also attended the meeting.

The Vice-Chairman took the chair and introduced David Baker from Anglian Water. The Vice-Chairman welcomed all present. It was **AGREED** to move Item 13 – Anglian Water to item 3a.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON MONDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER AND 24TH NOVEMBER, 2025

The Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 29th September and 24th November 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. J. Lawrence.
Clerk:- Julie Chance, Pine Lodge, Gimingham Road, Trimmingham, 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. P. Claydon, Cllr. P. Harrison and Cllr. R. Husain in respect of any Hollow Lane matters. Declarations of interest were received from Cllr. P. Harrison in respect of Item 12 – Muckledyke Permissive Footpath.

3a. ANGLIAN WATER – WATER PRESSURE

David Baker introduced himself and explained that the water supply in Stiffkey is from the water main in Binham which is fed from Wells reservoir. The water pressure is controlled by a valve and is set to deliver 30 meters head of pressure to the village. The level of pressure is set by Ofwat at 10 meters head but Anglian Water aim to deliver a higher water pressure to feed the village. Anglian Water carried out pressure logging last summer and received the expected results. The Members explained that the water pressure in Camping Hill, Hollow Lane and various areas in the village is very low and in some cases no water at all during the height of the holiday season when the village is full. David Baker said Anglian Water did see a dip at this time. The control valve which controls the water pressure to the village is 20 years old and Anglian Water intend to replace this with a new modulating valve in the spring or early summer of 2026. This new technology will automatically measure usage and will increase the flow/pressure when necessary. It is hoped that this will resolve some of the issues with pressure. Anglian Water are hoping to install the new valve on private land which will mean there will be no road closures during the work. The Members will liaise with the landowner in question and pass their details to Anglian Water. The work will take 3 to 4 hours but Anglian Water will tanker the village so it is hoped that the water will not need to be turned off. In the meantime David Baker agreed to also look at increasing the pressure slightly to try and help the situation.

The pipes in the ground owned by Anglian Water are in good condition but there are a lot of issues with privately owned pipework coming into properties which was installed in the 1930/40s when the capacity needed was much lower. The old pipes are small and cannot accommodate too much pressure. Anglian Water can increase their pipes to a larger size but this will not solve the issue unless the private

pipework to properties is also increased. This is the responsibility of the property owners and is expensive.

Cllr. Hooper asked whether the installation of the new valve will make the situation with water pressure worse. David Baker said no it will not make it worse but it may not improve matters due to the old pipework to private properties. Cllr. Husain asked whether there was any grant funding available to install pressurised tanks in their properties. David Baker said Anglian Water do not have any grant funding. If properties are reservoir banded Anglian Water have to install pumps but Stiffkey is not within that band. If any properties install new pipework, Anglian Water is happy to change their pipework to the property. Cllr. Husain requested District Councillor Holliday to enquire whether there is any grant funding from North Norfolk District Council for replacement of pipes or installation of pressurised tanks. District Councillor Holliday will enquire and update the Parish Council. David Baker stated that Anglian Water did have grants available to change private supply pipes that were made from lead as this is a government directive. Anglian Water will test householders pipework free of charge to ascertain the presence of lead pipework. However, if the feeder supply pipes are galvanised or if any other material, Anglian Water has no funding to help with this.

Cllr. Hooper said that the Fire Brigade struggle to get water. Anglian Water work closely with the Fire Brigade and fires are fought from the fire engine and not a water hydrant which is only used to top up the fire engine. The Fire Brigade would prefer to use a pond or stream for their water supply.

Cllr. Harrison said that the water pressure has dropped off over the last two years. David Baker said he will check the control valve to ensure it is working properly.

A member of the public enquired why, when there is a water leak, Anglian Water take weeks to repair and then carry out an emergency road closure with no notice. David Baker said the road closures are controlled by Norfolk County Council but he will endeavour to inform the Parish Council in future of any emergency road closures a week in advance. David Baker said that the Members or public can contact him direct to report any problems and his email address will be placed in the next newsletter.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public introduced himself as Robert Ravillious a property developer and explained that he submitted a planning application for land west of 84 Wells Road which has been refused. He explained that he does not want to disrupt the village and wants to be involved with community activities. He will be submitting another planning application but will engage with the Parish Council concerning design before submitting to North Norfolk District Council.

A member of the public reported some directional signs which are in poor condition. The member of public will email the Clerk with the details and this matter will be placed on the next agenda for discussion. The member of public reported that the drains on Bridge Street have still not been cleared properly. The Clerk will chase accordingly.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

5.1 County Councillor's Reports:- Attached.

5.2 District Councillor's Reports:- Attached. Cllr. Hooper asked about GRAM and the funding opportunities available for visitor impact. Cllr. Holliday confirmed that there was funding available, but that it was to mitigate new visitor impact, not existing impact and that there was a preference for this to go through umbrella bodies – like the National Trust. Cllr. Holliday was asked if it was possible to bypass the National Trust if community ideas/plans were raised but rejected by the National Trust and/or if funds did go through the National Trust, if there could be restrictions placed on use. Cllr. Holliday agreed that she could look at this if this became an issue and details were presented.

Cllr. Holliday also brought up access to benefits for any community members needing assistance. Cllr. Hooper asked if names of any potential residents could be forwarded to Cllr. Holliday for action as she did last year. Cllr. Holliday agreed.

5.3 Local Government Reorganisation:- Various updates circulated. Noted.

5.4 Staff Aquarone MP Report:- Attached.

6. PLANNING

- 6.1 PP/25/1812 – Land West of 84 Wells Road, Stiffkey:- REFUSED.
- 6.2 PF/25/1291 – 14 Wells Road, Stiffkey:- APPROVED.
- 6.3 PF/25/2624 – Hill House, 25 Bridge Street, Stiffkey:- Parish Council comments submitted.
- 6.4 PF/25/2626 – South View House, 122a Church Street, Stiffkey:- Parish Council comments submitted.
- 6.5 PF/25/1730 – Werrin, Greenway, Stiffkey:- APPROVED.
- 6.6 Solar Panels:- Cllr. Sugden reported that a property has installed solar panels and it is believed that no planning permission was sought. Cllr. Sugden will email the Clerk the property details and the Clerk will make enquiries with North Norfolk District Council. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.
- 6.7 North Norfolk Local Plan 2024-2040 – Formal notice of adoption – Circulated. Noted.
- 6.8 TPO – 25 Bridge Street, Stiffkey:- CONFIRMED.

7. POLICE

- 7.1 **SNAP:-** Report attached.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1 **Cash Book:-** The Clerk circulated the cash book for the period to 31st December, 2025. **AGREED.**
- 8.2 All present signed the bank statements for the period to 31st December, 2025 against the cash book reconciliation.
- 8.3 The following payments were **AGREED:-**

	£
Clerk's salary, office allowance, travel and stationery December 2025 and January 2026.	645.78
HMRC Tax	129.60
Cllr. A. Hooper – Gravel – War Memorial	73.50
T. T. Jones Electrical – Street Lighting	43.03
Mrs Janson – DBS Check – Transport Scheme	21.50
- 8.4 **Newsletter:-** Cllr. Husain reported that the proposed issue was not distributed due to the changes in the Local Government Reorganisation matters. Cllr. Husain is aiming for mid-February for the next issue and will include the details for the CPR Training and

the Anglian Water details for any complaints concerning water pressure or leaks.

- 8.5 **War Memorial:-** Cllr. Hooper reported that another bag of gravel is required for the war memorial. It was **AGREED** that this should be purchased and the Members thanked David Hooper for his work laying the gravel.
- 8.6 **CPR Training:-** Cllr. Hooper reported that two dates have been put forward from the trainers. It was **AGREED** that Thursday 5th March at 7.00 pm would be the date adopted. Cllr. Hooper will prepare an information sheet with the details to be delivered to the village.
- 8.5 **Clerk's Annual Appraisal:-** Cllr. Hooper reported that this has been carried out and the completed form will be circulated in due course.

9. HEALTH ACCESS TRANSPORT SCHEME

- 9.1 **Transport Scheme:-** The Clerk reported that the scheme is ready to be launched. The paperwork is with the Charity Commission and once this has been approved a public meeting will be held to try and recruit Trustees to the charity. All other paperwork is in place or is in the process of being adopted. It was **AGREED** that the information about the scheme with the telephone number would be added to the information sheet proposed for the CPR training. Cllr. Hooper has kindly agreed to produce this information sheet.

10. ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICIES

- 10.1 **Dignity at Work Policy:-** Circulated. No amendments.
- 10.2 **Light Pollution:-** It was reported that some properties are still leaving their lighting on causing light pollution. It was **AGREED** that another letter will be delivered to these properties and Cllr. Hooper will draft a letter for the Clerk to action.

11. HIGHWAYS

- 11.1 **Temporary Road Closures:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 11.2 **H – Bars – Junction of Bridge Street and the A149:-** It was reported that these have now been refreshed and this matter will be removed from the agenda.

- 11.3 Drains Bridge Street:-** It was reported that these have not been cleared properly and the mud removed has been washed back down the drains. Cllr. Williams reported this to Norfolk County Council and the Clerk will chase accordingly using the reference number.
- 11.4 Hollow Lane Signs:-** Cllr. Sugden reported that the public footpath signs at the marsh end of the Lane were taken down and one has not been replaced. The original sign was paid for by the Stiffkey Stores as their details were on the sign. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would request Norfolk County Council to replace the sign with a footpath sign.
- 11.5 Hollow Lane – Surface:-** The Clerk read an email received from Norfolk County Council with two quotes for any work to improve the surface. The quotes were £13,000 to £15,000 depending on the material used. The Parish Council are unable to meet any costs for this work and this matter will be removed from the agenda.
- 11.6 Parking – Stiffkey Stores:-** Cllr. Sugden reported that she has received some complaints about the parking outside the Stiffkey Stores. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council are not in a position to deal with this matter and it will be removed from the agenda. Cllr. Sugden will inform the complainants accordingly.

12. MUCKLEDYKE PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH

- 12.1** This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update from Cllr. Lawrence.

13. ANGLIAN WATER – WATER PRESSURE

This matter was moved to 3a.

14. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS

- 14.1 Community First Responders:-** Attached.
- 14.2 Coastal Forum:-** Nothing to report.
- 14.3 Consultations:-** Attached.
- 14.4 National Trust:-** Cllr. Hooper gave an update on the repair work to the car park. Noted. Peter Nicholson, General Manager, National Trust is attending the March meeting and the Clerk will request

the data on bird monitoring to be forwarded prior to the meeting. It was reported that the new signage is now in place.

15. NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL – WEBSITE

15.1 Cllr. Hooper reported that the details concerning the Clerk have still not been updated. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would chase accordingly. It is noted that this matter has been ongoing for over a year.

16. FISHING – RIVER STIFFKEY

16.1 It was reported that members of the public were fishing in the River Stiffkey without permission. Cllr. Harrison has erected a 'No Fishing' sign which appears to have solved the problem. This matter will be removed from the agenda and the Members thanked Cllr. Harrison for erecting the sign.

17. GARDEN PLOTS

17.1 Cllr. Hooper reported that she has received complaints about the number of deer on the garden plots. A request has been made for the Parish Council to install deer proof fencing. Cllr. Hooper reported that the Parish Council provided materials for fencing in 2015/16. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council are not in a position to provide funding for deer proof fencing. Cllr. Hooper will inform the members of public who raised the issue. Cllr. Hooper reported that garden plot holders are still planning to make and fit the gate as agreed in May, however, ill health has prevented this to date. This matter will be removed from the agenda.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

18.1 Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation:- Circulated. Noted.

18.2 Thank you Letters – Stiffkey Local History Group and Stiffkey PCC – Grants:- Noted.

18.3 Norfolk ALC – Various:- Circulated. Noted.

- 18.4 Greenhoe Local Energy Club:-** Circulated. Cllr. Sugden will be attending the meeting and this matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.
- 18.5 North Norfolk District Council – Social Worker – Glaven Centre, Blakeney:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 18.6 Blakeney Harbour Restoration Feasibility Project:-** Circulated. Noted.
- 18.7 National Trust – Norfolk Coast Newsletter:-** Circulated. Noted.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 16th March, 2026 at 7.00 pm in Stiffkey Village Hall.

There being no other business the Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

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Chairman

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Date

Local Government Reorganisation & Devolution

No New update.

NCC Updates

First place in Eastern region in Highways and Transport Satisfaction Survey

Norfolk County Council has again demonstrated strong performance in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey, taking the top spot in the Eastern region for overall satisfaction and second out of 29 county councils across England. This marks the 15th consecutive year Norfolk has participated in the survey, and the 7th year in a row that we have come either first or second overall.

Highlights from this year's results include:

- Top Regional Performer: Norfolk ranked 1st in the Eastern Region for overall satisfaction.
- Some of the best above average score were in our bus services thanks to improvements that have been made as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan. The 'local bus services' overall category we were 10% above the group average with sub indicators as follows:
 - Public Transport Information (11% above group average)
 - Frequency of bus services (9% above group average)
 - Ease of access to school / work (6% above group average)
 - Condition of highways (8% above group average)

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service – new vehicles

Two new state-of-the-art specialist vehicles are being delivered into Norfolk later this month, leading the way in technology and ability across the fire and rescue sector in the UK.

The water and foam carriers can hold and pump 13,500L of water, 1,500L of foam concentrate, making them among the largest and most capable vehicles with specialist equipment to enhance firefighting operations.

Built by Emergency One in Scotland, the cost of the two water carriers is £850,000 and replace two ageing and smaller carriers which are 23 and 24 years old.

With testing now complete, the new water carriers are due to roll into Norfolk by Christmas. Crews from Fakenham and Hethersett will then be trained on how to use the specialist equipment and also complete additional driver training to familiarise themselves with the vehicles.

National Updates

Local Government provisional finance settlement

The Government has announced a new three-year local government funding settlement to reallocate resources towards councils with higher assessed levels of need.

The settlement includes changes to council tax flexibility for a small number of authorities (these do not include Norfolk) and provides limited detail on the treatment of existing special educational needs deficits. The money is part of the first multi-year funding settlement in over a decade, giving councils more financial certainty so that they can plan ahead. The Government's

provisional settlement moves funding from rural shire authorities towards metropolitan and urban areas.

The implications for Norfolk are currently being analysed and will be incorporated into 2026-27 budget planning, and the county council's response to the [Government's consultation on the settlement](#) that closes on 14 January 2026.

Government Homelessness Strategy launched

The Government has announced its new Homelessness Strategy, with a £3.5 Billion investment aimed at preventing homelessness before it occurs, and setting out plans to improve temporary accommodation and increase social housing. There has been a reported 8 per cent increase in homelessness since summer 2024, with over 380,000 people currently homeless in England.

The strategy pledges to halve the number of long-term rough sleepers, end the unlawful use of B&Bs for families, and prevent more households from becoming homeless in the first place – by the end of this Parliament in 2029/30.

Norfolk Trails Public Survey

The council is seeking feedback to ensure that the future of [Norfolk's Trails](#) aligns with the values and preferences of residents. A public survey is being conducted to gather community input, which will inform the long-term planning and improvement of the trails, with the aim of enhancing accessibility for all.

We welcome the views of our local councillors and are keen to hear from your residents – so please share the link to the public survey. The link to the survey is available [here](#).

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Local Government Reorganisation

Awaiting government response.

Devolution

No new updates.

Consultation on the future of local government in Norfolk

Residents across Norfolk have the opportunity to take part in a landmark Government consultation that will help to decide the future shape of local government in the county. The Government has launched a statutory consultation asking people for their views on proposals for 1, 2 or 3 brand new unitary councils in Norfolk. The plans on the table would see county and district councils replaced by new unitary authorities. That means residents will have just one council that runs all services in their area, instead of two.

Norfolk County Council's proposal outlines a single unitary council for Norfolk - one organisation responsible for all local government services, designed to deliver better outcomes for residents, reduce duplication, and ensure long-term financial sustainability. Councils across the county have also submitted proposals for two and three unitary councils.

The consultation runs from Wednesday 19 November 2025 to Sunday 11 January 2026. People can [view all proposals and submit their views online](#). People can pop into one of Norfolk's 47 libraries for help to complete the consultation online - there's free access to computers, wifi and the internet, and library staff can provide support to access the consultation website.

Norfolk's gritting vehicles first run of the season

Norfolk's gritting vehicles headed out in the early hours of Tuesday morning on the first gritting run of the season.

Over the past three years Norfolk's gritters have been kitted out with brand new, state of the art auto-salting technology which makes the grit runs more accurate, saves time and reduces waste. Thanks to Norfolk's school children and members of the public, [all 55 vehicles have recently been named](#) so be sure to look out for Edith Gravel, Grit Yarmouth and Gritty Gritty Bang Bang on the roads, to name just a few.

The cold weather also marks the start of the council's annual #NorfolkWinter campaign on social media which shares updates on when the gritters will be out, travel tips and safety advice to keep Norfolk moving throughout the winter season.

Look for the hashtag #NorfolkWinter and follow Norfolk County Council on [Facebook](#), [Nextdoor](#) and [Instagram](#).

People can check which roads are on the council's gritting routes for this season using the map at www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting.

National Updates

Budget 2025

The [budget and supporting documents](#) have been published. They include an announcement of the removal of the two-child benefit cap and the introduction of a new council tax surcharge on high-value properties.

Send Funding: In the [full budget document](#), it says that the Government will fully fund Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from 2028/29. This could remove one of the biggest financial pressures on councils. However, ministers have not yet set out how this will be met within the existing Department for Education budget and there is uncertainty about managing historic SEND deficits. Further detail on the Government's wider plans for SEND reform is expected in the upcoming Schools White Paper.

Plans to enable regions to levy a 'tourist tax': As mentioned in the budget, the Government is [proposing](#) to give regional mayors in England the power to introduce a modest 'tourist tax' on overnight stays. Any money raised would be reinvested locally, supporting improvements to transport, infrastructure, and the visitor economy.

Local leaders in non-mayoral combined authorities could also get powers to introduce tourist tax.

The proposal is currently open for consultation. If adopted, it would bring English regions in line with other major cities around the world, such as Paris and New York, which already have similar schemes. The fee would apply to visitors' overnight trips, and it would be up to mayors and other local leaders to introduce a modest charge if it's right for their area.

The consultation closes on 18 February 2026.

Reforms to council funding formulas

The government has [unveiled](#) a major overhaul of council funding formulas intended to end 'postcode lottery' inequalities in local services. Backed by a £5 billion funding boost over three years, the reforms update decades-old data and consolidate dozens of grants into (what it claims to be) a simpler system, ensuring more money goes to councils in deprived areas with higher needs. By introducing a fairer, needs-based formula and a multi-year settlement, the reform aims to level the playing field so every council can provide similar service levels, regardless of local wealth or historic funding imbalances.

The County Councils Network [warned](#) that the plans are likely to tilt resources towards urban councils and away from rural counties.

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.Dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Local Government Reorganisation – Full Council voted in favour for a one unitary authority. NCC now awaits governments response, following all submissions by District Councils and County Council.

Devolution

Following a discussion at full council on 16 October, Norfolk County Council's cabinet have voted in favour of proceeding with devolution.

Devolution will bring new powers and funding to boost jobs, transport, housing and growth in Norfolk and Suffolk. Under the Government's devolution priority programme, Norfolk and Suffolk have been offered:

- The transfer of powers and funding from Whitehall, to enable decisions on jobs, skills, transport and housing to be taken in Norfolk and Suffolk.
- A multi-million pound investment fund for 30 years, to spend on local priorities.

The new devolved powers and funding would be overseen by a mayor, elected by voters in May 2026, to lead a new combined authority.

Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation

The council's annual budget consultation launched on 27th October and people are being urged to take a look at the proposals and have their say.

Overall spending by the council is expected to increase next year, but this will not be enough to keep pace with inflation (the costs of providing our services) and expected increases in demand for our services - particularly in adult social care and children's services.

The county council is working to set a balanced budget, despite the need to save £41.6m in 2026-27.

The council want to find out what people think about their 2026-27 budget proposals. This year they are consulting on proposals to increase council tax and to seek feedback on saving proposals to help close the budget gap.

The county council have produced a budget factsheet, a brief guide to the annual budget – what it means, where the money comes from and where it goes, why council tax is going up, the challenges local authorities face, and our plans to fix the budget gap.

The consultation survey offers residents and local communities the opportunity to share any ideas they may have for saving public money.

The consultation closes on 15 December 2025.

Findings and final decisions will be made by the council in February 2026.

People can find out more and have their say at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget.

People in Norfolk encouraged to attend organised displays this Bonfire Night

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging people to attend public fireworks displays this bonfire night, rather than setting off fireworks at home.

The advice comes from the service's Prevention team which works to keep people in the county safe by stopping fires from occurring.

Avian flu in Norfolk

The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) in England with mandatory biosecurity measures remains in place. This means all bird keepers (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) are required by law to take biosecurity precautions.

From 30 October 2025 Norfolk became one of the high risk areas where additional housing measures will apply to help protect birds from bird flu.

In Norfolk you must now house your birds if you keep either:

- more than 50 birds of any species
- any number of poultry (meaning birds that are kept to give away or sell eggs, poultry products or live birds)

You will not have to house your birds if you keep less than 50 birds and their eggs or poultry products are for your own use only.

Links to government updates are available on the county council's trading standards web pages [here](#).

If you wish to report breaches of bird flu rules, please email trading_standards@norfolk.gov.uk.

New Norfolk-wide highways contract

Norfolk County Council has appointed Kier as its new long-term contractor responsible for the maintenance and construction of the county's highway network.

Norfolk's highway network is one of the largest in the country, comprising around 6,000 miles of roads as well as extensive pedestrian and cycle paths. Kier will deliver a programme of highways maintenance and improvement, including road resurfacing and surface dressing, bridge works, drainage and the delivery of new transport infrastructure.

As part of the contract, Kier will invest in its existing site in Wymondham - upgrading facilities to reduce energy consumption and support the latest in sustainable construction and materials innovation, which will benefit the wider Norfolk economy.

A key feature of Kier's approach will be its commitment to local skills and employment. At any given time, Kier will employ at least 15 apprentices, providing structured training, professional qualifications, and career pathways for young people across Norfolk. The company will also run an annual 10-week programme for young people in care and care leavers, offering taster sessions, work experience, and employability skills, with support from supply chain partners.

Norfolk County Council Adoption Service

Norfolk is outperforming the national trend when it comes to recruiting adoptive parents. Whilst there has been a 12% drop in families considering adoption across England this year, Norfolk County Council's Adoption Service has seen a significant rise. In 2024/25, 43 adoptive households were approved in Norfolk - a 53% increase on the previous year. These included 37 couples and six single adopters.

This positive news comes as the council celebrates National Adoption Week (20–26 October), which this year focuses on dispelling myths about who can adopt. Research shows that many prospective adopters worry they need a “perfect” home, but the reality is that children simply need a welcoming and loving environment. In fact, 41% of adoptive parents surveyed live in homes with two bedrooms or fewer, 65% do not have a garden, and 25% live in rented accommodation.

Norfolk Adoption Service is currently seeking families for 10 children. If you or someone you know is considering adoption, please visit [Norfolk Adoption Services](#) online or call 01603 638343 for a friendly chat and details of upcoming information events.

National Update

Bus Services Act

The Bus Services Bill became law on 27 October 2025, which the Government intends will protect services and hand more power to local authorities.

It aims to empower local authorities to take greater control of bus services, improve reliability, and protect socially necessary routes.

The Act tightens requirements for cancelling routes and empowers councils to identify services which they deem as ‘socially necessary’.

The Act also includes plans to mandate staff – drivers and those based at bus stations – to undertake training to recognise and handle incidents of anti-social behaviour and crime, including violence against women and girls.

Further funding for local authorities running bus services will be agreed in the coming weeks.

Financial penalties for environmental offences – new consultation

Water companies who commit environmental offences could face quicker penalties of up to £500,000, under changes being considered by the government.

[A consultation has been launched](#) to expand and strengthen the current range of financial penalties available to the Environment Agency in a bid to clamp down on more offences.

The consultation closes on 3 December 2025

Carbon budget and growth delivery plan

The Government’s new [Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Plan](#) sets out how they propose to meet statutory carbon requirements under the Climate Change Act 2008 and reduce emissions in a way that lowers bills and secures good jobs. This is in line with their wider strategy, [Unlocking the benefits of the clean energy economy](#), published alongside the delivery plan.

Priorities include:

- Energy security and lower bills.
- Meeting decarbonisation targets.
- Good jobs and economic growth – creating new clean energy jobs.
- Improving nature and air quality to improve health.
- Retrofitting 5 million homes (with insulation, heat pumps, solar).

- Expanding EV infrastructure and zero-emission transport.

CQC State of Care report published

The Care Quality Commission's latest State of Care report highlights the severe pressures on adult social care – chronic workforce shortages, rising care requests (especially among working-age adults), and persistent underfunding.

Responding for the Local Government Association, Wendy Taylor praised councils' efforts to support growing numbers of people with innovative, preventative care, but said that the current trajectory was not sustainable, calling for improved funding with a long-term workforce strategy, stronger prevention and early intervention, and an overarching reform programme to help councils deliver on the Government's ambitions for care.

Menopause to be included in NHS Health Checks

The Department of Health has announced that menopause support will be added to England's routine NHS Health Checks for women over 40.

The addition of dedicated questions to the NHS Health Check about the menopause - free assessments offered to eligible adults aged 40 to 74 every 5 years - will benefit nearly 5 million women.

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

District Cllrs report Feb



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>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, salthouseclerk@gmail.com <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, Clerk Weybourne Parish Council <weybournepc@gmail.com>
Date 2026-01-14 18:27

Dear all
Happy New Year! I do hope you had a lovely Christmas.
Herewith my DC report. Many thx.
Vbw

From NNDC

'Housing and benefits

NNDC have developed a 'better off calculator' (www.north-Norfolk.gov.uk/apply) for residents to help with financial planning and resilience. This can help with unclaimed benefits.

If you have any money worries, the Financial Inclusion team at NNDC are really helpful. Call 01263516221 or get in touch with me. Cabinet are discussing whether to accept a Local Authority Housing Fund grant which will enable the purchase of 4-6 additional units of temporary accommodation.

Planning

The New Local Plan has been adopted which will help ensure our communities benefit from a plan led system.

There is a consultation on yet another iteration of the National Planning and Policy Framework, from December 2025, open till March 11th. You can find it here <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>. I haven't looked at it in detail, but you might be interested to have a look and comment. It's quite readable. This framework, along with the NNDC New Local Plan, informs decisions on planning applications.

Anglian Water are now commenting on more planning applications to ensure there is sufficient capacity to deliver potable water or treat waste water. This is to protect the environment.

Environment

Anglian Water say all seven bathing waters in North Norfolk are rated as excellent. Investment to reduce sewage overflow spills into the Stiffkey and Glaven will be in the next AW business cycle, 2030-35.

Energy saving

There is a helpful online checker to create a plan to make your home more energy efficient. Check out [https://](https://norfolk.homewise.energy/App/Welcome)

Norfolk.homewise.energy/App/Welcome

Norfolk Warm Homes has details of how to make your home more energy efficient with government grants <https://norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk>

Several Mobile Network Operators will be attending NNDC in January and February to hopefully explain their plans to improve coverage in North Norfolk.

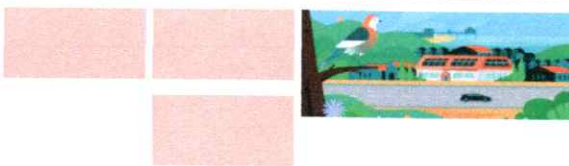
I'll be meeting with the ambulance trust in February 2026 to discuss emergency response times in our area.

Victoria Holliday

District Councillor

Coastal

07557054629



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North Norfolk District Council

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Dec DC report

From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
To <beestonpc@btinternet.com>, Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, m6 <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, wivetonpc <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, Clerk Weybourne Parish Council <weybournepc@gmail.com>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Salthouse <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>
Date 2025-12-12 18:54

From NNDC

Housing and benefits

NNDC have developed a 'better off calculator' (www.north-Norfolk.gov.uk/apply) for residents to help with financial planning and resilience. This can help with unclaimed benefits.

We have an additional £500k to improve household energy efficiency.

We continue to administer Discretionary Housing Payment to sustain tenancies and relieve homelessness.

At the end of November there were 1174 households on the housing list with 32% having the greatest need. This is a reduction in previously due to the new allocations scheme, with many not re-registering despite being contacted and a few no longer eligible. Those eligible can reapply.

Approaches for homelessness are down to 30 households were assessed as being homeless in November. The most common reason for homelessness is 'friends and family no longer able to accommodate'. The majority of those assessed as homeless are offered social housing. There were 64 households in temporary accommodation in November. NNDC has 29 units of temporary housing with 3 more being purchased. 93 affordable homes will be completed in 25/26 and 129 will come on stream in 26/27.

There has been good take up of the Disability Facilities Grant for housing adaptations to enable residents to stay in their home for longer. Do get in touch if you would like to know more.

There are still very few applications for the Forget me not grant, a non means tested grant for those with memory issues to help with equipment in the home so do contact NNDC:

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/housing-services/apply-for-a-forget-me-not-grant/>

If you have any money worries the Financial Inclusion team are really helpful. Call 01263516221.

Let me know if you have any questions about this.

Planning

The New Local Plan should have been adopted by the time you read this.

There is a consultation on the Building Regulations legislation, looking to see if services could be more financially sustainable, more Building Inspectors could be recruited and whether building regulations are complied with.

Environment

The new Renters Rights Act is now in force. This includes new investigatory powers for local councils.

Environmental crime such as flytipping has reduced.

Energy saving

There is a helpful online checker to create a plan to make your home more energy efficient. Check out [https:// Norfolk.homewise.energy/App/Welcome](https://Norfolk.homewise.energy/App/Welcome)
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Victoria Holliday

District Councillor

Coastal

07557054629



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November 25 DC Report



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 2025-11-13 17:46

From NNDC

Coastal

Coastwise Community Transition Plan activities continue in Weybourne and other more westerly coastal villages affected by erosion. In Weybourne these centre around the mitigation of possible flooding of the car park.

Planning

The Planning Inspector has concluded the new Local Plan which runs through 2040 is sound, provided the modifications which were recently consulted on are incorporated. The Norfolk Coast National Landscape (ex AONB) Management Plan is out for consultation till Dec 5th. You will find this at

[Norfolk Coast National Landscape Management Plan - Norfolk Coast](#)

Norfolk County Council has recently published our Local Nature Recovery Strategy which identifies biodiversity priorities and includes a local habitats map. You can find it here

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/57573/Public-consultation>

The Enforcement Team has set up 316 cases this calendar year, closing 259 to date. 7 enforcement notices have been served in the last three months.

Benefits

56% of NNDC's Discretionary Housing Payments (£103k) was allocated by October 31st to 67 households.

The Crisis Resilience Fund will replace the Household Support Fund from next April. This will provide crisis support to those on low incomes and help support financial resilience.

The Financial Inclusion Delivery Plan will operate over this winter, reaching out with Council Tax and Household Support and Pension Credit awareness to targeted households.

Early Help and Prevention received 104 referral in October. The majority related to finances.

Housing

There are 2237 households on the housing list with 23% being in highest need.

The Allocation Scheme for housing has been revised and applicants are working through the new process.

As of 31st October there were 63 households in temporary accommodation, 19 of these were in NNDC owner temporary accommodation. We are purchasing 7 more units this year, partly funded by the second home council tax premium.

650 affordable houses are planned in the next few years.

We have 63 Ukrainian guests in North Norfolk.

Housing adaptations - we have a fund of £1.7m for housing adaptations to enable you to live in your home for longer. The most common types of adaptations arrived out are installation of ramps, modifications of bathrooms etc.

The easy to claim Forget me Not grant of £500 for home adaptations/ equipment for those with any memory issues is available from NNDC (no formal diagnosis is required to be eligible). Check out

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/housing-services/apply-for-a-forget-me-not-grant/>

Do get in touch if you have queries about any of the above.

Environment and Waste

New licensing fees have been suggested. These are now based on a cost recovery methodology.

Commercial food waste collections are going well with 20 tonne of food waste collected.

121 laptops donated by NCC have been given to residents as part of the NCC Digital Inclusion project. Training has been given to 646 residents..

Details of NNDC's role in the management of fly tipping on public land is available on

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2025/october/information-about-fly-tipping/>

Finance

The current Outturn for 25/26 is a surplus of 354k. This is predominantly due to increased forecast income.

Sustainable growth

Energy saving tips for the home can be found

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/projects/energy-saving-tips/>

Sign up here for the Invest in North Norfolk newsletter <https://mailchi.mp/north-norfolk.gov.uk/invest-north-norfolk>

Net zero

NNDC has made reductions in CO2 emissions in some areas such as fleet, staff travel and electricity use, but large scale infrastructure projects such as the big coastal protection schemes and the purchase of temporary accommodation have added to increased emissions overall.

Community and Outreach

The Community Outreach team have helped 51 residents threatened with homelessness - these referrals came from food banks, community groups, housing associations and residents. They also received 50 referrals for falls and frailty on discharge from hospital who they offered help such as with aids and adaptations, benefit advice and Carer support.

The average call wait time for Customer Service Sept-Oct was 5 mins 19 secs. '

Mobile connectivity

The 4 main mobile providers (Vodafone, ee, Three and O2) have been asked to attend Overview & Scrutiny Jan 28th to explain their plans for improving mobile connectivity.

Victoria Holliday

District Councillor

Coastal

07557054629

My team and I have just closed our 10,000th case this month – that's 10,000 people whose lives have been made easier because they reached out to my office to ask for support. Helping people is my favourite part of the job and I will keep on being a voice for the people of North Norfolk at home and in Westminster on the issues that matter to them.

I have long campaigned for banking hubs for our towns and villages and I was pleased to open North Norfolk's first permanent bank hub this week. The hub will give the people of Holt access to banking services where they live and work, with more banking hubs planned for North Walsham and for Cromer in the very near future. Essential services like these are crucial to the success of our independent businesses and I'll keep campaigning for them to keep our local economy growing.

Many of my constituents have written to me about their concerns around digital ID and I will keep raising the issue in Parliament and making their voices heard. I have made it clear to the government that many of them are anxious about being forced to use digital ID and that making it mandatory will cause exclusion in my constituency. While there are some benefits to digital ID, the choice to use it – or not – should always be ours and I'll keep pressing the government for answers on how they plan to implement it in a way that works for the residents of North Norfolk.

I have heard the concerns of residents about the noise that is being created by RAF and American fighter jets performing manoeuvres over populated residential areas and I have raised the issue with the Ministry of Defence and have made them aware of the issues that residents are facing – from hearing loss to traumatised pets and disruption at work. There is no reason why the training cannot take place off shore over the North Sea where it will have less of an impact on our communities. The MoD has promised to look at the possibility of revising training schedules to minimise disruption and I look forward to updating you on the progress of these changes.

As we've hit that 10,000 number this month, I want to remind you how powerful it is when we work together to solve the issues that impact us the most. Whether that's fighting to save the paramedics on bikes service in Wells so that they can provide emergency help this Winter, or tackling service providers to deliver faster, more reliable broadband so that our small businesses can thrive – every voice matters.

As always, if there's anything that my team and I can support you with, please get in touch.

Steff Aquarone
North Norfolk MP

Item 7.1 SNAP

No significant alterations in crime statistics. Some complaints from Wells about Staithe Street and the smell of cannabis

Local preferences were for continues visibility and action over speeding

New district wide policing priority –‘safer streets’ – essentially higher visibility of the police.

At a local level there seemed to be no information/knowledge about the Mayoral Combined Authority and the impact on the PCC.

Item 14.1 CFR

Full report will be available on the website. Short Stats for the Last Period:

39 Shifts

190.72 hours on duty

CAT 1 x 2 and CAT 2 x 4

Training:

Drugs and Poisons

Burns and Wounds

BLS

Item 14.3 Consultations

Response to LGR consultation has been made and submitted. A copy of the PC response is available on the website.

A new consultation for the proposed reforms to the national planning policy framework has been launched. Details are on the website. With a closing date of 10th March, I would propose that we circulate and formulate our response as per policy and then submit.