

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:- Councillor J. Lawrence

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor M. Williams



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL **HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH, 2026 AT 7.00 PM** **IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL**

Present:-

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

County Councillor M. Dalby.

Peter Nicholson- National Trust.
Tracey Sizeland – National Trust.

Julie Chance – Clerk.

Three members of the public also attended the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the representatives from the National Trust.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19TH JANUARY, 2026

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th January 2026, 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. M. Williams 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

None received.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Peter Nicholson introduced Tracey Sizeland and said that the National Trust has been restructured nationwide which has been positive. The National Trust now look after Norfolk Coast, the Broads and Sheringham which includes Sheringham Park. Peter wanted to thank all the volunteers who helped with the recent repairs to the footpath. New more integrated signage has been installed working with Natural England and other bodies including the Stiffkey Parish Council. There is a new ranger team.

The National Trust are hoping to apply for grant funding through the GIRAMS scheme and have identified three key areas where the funding would be used. The possibility of seasonal wardening, supporting better signage and they would like to install a focal point/interpretation point at the north end of the path north of Stoney Road. It is hoped that this will deter people from walking further out onto the marsh.

Tracey Sizeland – Report attached.

Cllr. Hooper asked what the National Trust were doing to encourage no footprint. Peter Nicholson said that it is hoped that the interpretation board would deal with this matter. Cllr. Hooper asked whether the same approach would be used around the car park. Peter Nicholson said possibly. The proposal for the funding has not been finalised and the National Trust will consult with the Parish Council before any decisions are made.

Cllr. Hooper said that the Redshank disturbance is an issue and the Marsh needs to be restored. Cllr. Hooper asked the timescale to deal with the decline of the Redshanks. Tracey Sizeland said that they are hoping to collect data for as long as possible and it is likely to be 10 years. Peter Nicholson said they would like to get seasonal wardening in place for the summer of 2026.

Peter Nicholson said that Ben Smyth has been successful in getting the position of Property Operations Manager. His previous role as Communications and Volunteers Coordinator will be advertised.

A member of the public said that it would be more productive if the National Trust focused on keeping dogs on leads, wardening and conservation rather than reports and surveys.

Tracey Sizeland said the National Trust would like to do so but have to account for expenditure. Peter Nicholson said that Tracey Sizeland has to cover a large area and they are always open to volunteers. Tracey Sizeland said that they need to prove that wardening works in order to get more funding.

Cllr. Lawrence asked who to contact if anyone wished to volunteer. Peter Nicholson said Ben Smyth and his email address will be placed on the website.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

5.1 County Councillor's Report:- Attached.

The Government has launched a consultation seeking views on a proposed national digital ID system for British citizens and foreign nationals with permission to be in the UK. Their proposals for a digital ID system are aimed at simplifying access to public services via mobile devices. They say they are designing the new ID as something people will want to get, rather than something they must have, and there will be no legal obligation for people to have or present the digital ID.

Critics have expressed concerns over privacy and the potential for mandatory adoption, highlighting the risk of excluding digitally disadvantaged individuals.

The consultation closes on 5 May 2026.

County Councillor Dalby reported that he will not be standing again for election. The Chairman thanked County Councillor Dalby for all his hard work on behalf of Stiffkey during his term of office.

5.2 District Councillor's Report:- Attached.

6. PLANNING

- 6.1 PF/25/2626 – South View House, 12A Church Street, Stiffkey:- **APPROVED.**
- 6.2 PF/25/2624 – Hill House, 25 Bridge Street, Stiffkey – The Clerk read an email from North Norfolk District Council stating that a new officer has been assigned to the application. The application is still being processed.
- 6.3 Solar Panels – Rose Cottage:- The Clerk read an email from North Norfolk District Council stating that there is currently a pending application for an extension to the property. They are aware that solar panels have been installed and they are assessing whether they need planning permission. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to North Norfolk District Council expressing concern that this application has been removed from the website. The Parish Council will need an extension to the consultation period once the application is back on the website.
- 6.4 LA/24/1743 and PF/24/1742 – River House:- The Clerk read an email received from North Norfolk District Council stating that the dormer window is a departure from the planning approval. This has been passed to the enforcement team to investigate.
- 6.5 PF/25/1291 – CD/26/0009 – 14 Wells Road:- Cllr. Hooper drew Members attention to the discharge of condition 7 which includes a construction plan. The bottom of Hollow Lane will be obstructed with working vehicles and this will hold up traffic. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to the applicant's agent to highlight that their own construction plan is not being followed.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1 Cash Book:- The Clerk circulated the cash book for the period to 28th February, 2026. **AGREED.**
- 7.2 All present signed the bank statements against the bank reconciliation for the period to 28th February, 2026.

- 7.3** The following payments were **AGREED:-** **£**
- | | |
|--|--------|
| Clerk's salary, office allowance, travel and stationery
February and March. | 639.51 |
| HMRC – Tax | 129.60 |
| A. Hooper – Newsletter reimbursement | 32.69 |
| A. Hooper – HATS leaflet reimbursement | 30.39 |
| A. Hooper – Gravel war memorial | 75.06 |
| Community First Responders – Grant | 175.00 |
- The Clerk reported that the cost of the mobile phone package for the transport scheme has increased from £1.99 to £4.90 per month.
- 7.4** Newsletter:- It was reported that the latest edition has been delivered. Cllr. Sugden asked whether the colour could be changed to make it easier to read and can the Members have more time to comment on the content before it is printed. Cllr. Husain said she will change the colour and take on board the time issue. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Husain and Cllr. Hooper for all their hard work on the newsletter.
- 7.5** Internal Auditor – 2026:- It was **AGREED** that Roger Canwell will be appointed the internal auditor for 2026.
- 7.6** CPR Training:- Report attached.
- 7.7** Asset Register:- The Clerk reported that the annual insurance is due for renewal so the asset register needs to be updated. It was **AGREED** that the BT Phone Box value would be increased to £3,500. The Clerk will obtain quotes for the renewal of the insurance for the May meeting. It was reported that the strimmer is no longer used. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.
- 7.8** Greenhoe Local Energy Club:- Report attached. This matter will be placed on the agenda as a separate item.

8. HEALTH ACCESS TRANSPORT SCHEME

- 8.1** Cllr. Hooper reported that the scheme is up and running and has been used by a resident recently. Once the charity has been formed a public meeting will be called to try and recruit Trustees and for the volunteer drivers to inform people of how the scheme

works. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Hooper for all her hard work in getting this scheme up and running.

9. DARK SKIES POLICY

- 9.1 It was reported that the letters agreed at the last meeting have been delivered. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be removed from the agenda.

10. HIGHWAYS

- 10.1 Temporary Traffic Orders:- Circulated. Noted.
- 10.2 Drains Bridge Street to Stiffkey Stores:- The Clerk read an email from Norfolk County Council stating that the work has been programmed. The work will include the entirety of the system which needs cleansing. Eight catchpits, seventeen gullies and two lets will be included in the work as well as jetting the associated pipework. They do not have a date for the work but the Clerk will write to ask that Bridge Street be expedited sooner as offered in their email.
- 10.3 Rusty Signposts:- The Clerk read an email received from Norfolk County Council stating that the inspection for Stiffkey is imminent which will cover both the signs and the inspector has been tasked with raising works as necessary for the signs.
- 10.4 Missing Footpath Sign – Hollow Lane:- It was reported that the replacement sign has been placed on the wrong location. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to Norfolk County Council and report this issue.
- 10.5 Pothole – Greenway:- The Clerk read an email received from a member of the public requesting assistance with the repair. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to say that the Parish Council are unable to help in this matter as it is an unadopted road. The Clerk will also suggest that they contact the residents and businesses to try and raise the funding for the repair.
- 10.6 Refuse Lorries using Hollow Lane:- Cllr. Hooper will send the Clerk the details of the agreement. Once received the Clerk will write to the refuse company and ask them to adhere to the agreement.
- 10.7 Abandoned Vehicles:- Cllr. Hooper reported the vehicles are legal as they have insurance and tax. Unfortunately the position of the parking is causing a pinch point in the village. It was **AGREED** that

a small leaflet will be placed on any vehicles which are blocking the traffic. Cllr. Hooper will prepare the wording for the Clerk and when a leaflet is placed on a car the Clerk will be informed of the details.

11. MUCKLEDYKE PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH

11.1 Cllr. Husain reported that she inspected the sight and there were two wobbly posts. Cllr. Sugden reported that the riser height has increased due to undermining and this needs to be filled with Planings. Cllr. Lawrence has approached businesses and some have offered to give donations towards the work. Cllr. Lawrence will issue a receipt for any donations. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

12. ANGLIAN WATER

12.1 The Clerk reported that Cllr. Hooper has contacted the land owners concerning Anglian Water's wish to replace the valves. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to Anglian Water and ask for an update. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

13. GARDEN PLOTS

13.1 The Clerk reported that the law around Garden Plots and Allotments are in September. If the rent needs to be increased you have to give one years notice from 1st September. Therefore, the Clerk has changed the payment date from March to October. The first payment following this years renewal will be October 2027.

14. REPORTS

14.1 Community First Responders:- Report attached.

14.2 Coastal Forum:- Report attached.

14.3 SNAP – Report attached.

14.4 Dentistry:- No update received.

14.5 Ambulance Response Times:- Report attached.

15. NNDC – WEBSITE

- 15.1** The Clerk reported that she keeps emailing but does not receive a reply. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be removed from the agenda.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

- 16.1** Norfolk ALC – Newsletter – Circulated. Noted.
16.2 Blakeney Harbour Restoration Feasibility Project – Circulated. Noted.
16.3 Benjamin Court Lobby – Circulated. Noted.
16.4 Environment Agency – Vegetation Management and River Maintenance – Circulated. Noted.
16.5 MacMillan Mighty Hike – Circulated. Noted.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Tuesday 26th May, 2026 at 7.00 pm in Stiffkey Village Hall. Please note this will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47 pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

Elections May 2026

The Government has proposed to postpone the May 2026 County Council elections to May 2027 to allow time for Councils to implement the new unitary authorities. The number of unitary authorities has yet been announced which we now expect the government to announce the number of unitary authorities in March 2026.

The mayoral election which were set to take place in May 2026, was in November 2025 postponed to May 2028 by the government.

The Order which legally delay the elections for one year, is expected to be laid in parliament shortly. There is a legal challenge (Judicial Review) being heard for two days from 19th February 2026. We expect to hear the result of this legal challenge shortly after.

Adult Social Care Transformation

Norfolk County Council Adult Social Care Department has posted a video outlining the vision and ambition of their Transformation Programme.

The video talks about the vision for Adult Social Care transformation and how communities will play an important role in creating that wrap around support for residents. [Adult Social Care Transformation video](#)

The transformation programme is designed to help residents and communities live their best life well in ways that matter to them. It focuses on preventing issues early, building stronger relationships with people, and connecting them with local support. By working more closely at neighbourhood level, improving how we commission services, and continually learning from what works, we aim to provide more joined-up and responsive support for everyone.

Future of Care Homes

The council launched a review of its care estate last year, as its contract with Norse Care Ltd is due to end in March 2026.

Stow Healthcare, a company that runs good and outstanding care facilities, is interested in buying Norfolk County Council's care company and 20 homes.

If Norfolk County Council agrees a deal with Stow Healthcare, residents of the homes would continue to live there, and existing Norse Care staff would move to the new owner.

Since the contract started in 2011, people's care needs have become more complex and most of the 20 care homes now require modernisation. Three of the homes have closed already but are being included in the proposed sale.

The council's cabinet meets on 26 January to decide whether to agree the "in principle" sale to Stow Healthcare, subject to the details of any sale being agreed with the director of strategic finance in consultation with the leader, deputy leader and the board of Norse Group.

Further details, including a list of the 20 homes, are available in our press release [here](#).

National Updates

Town of Culture competition

The Government [has launched](#) the first ever UK Town of Culture competition, inviting towns across the country to apply to showcase their local culture and identity. The initiative is intended to complement the UK City of Culture programme.

Applications are now open. The strongest bids will progress to a shortlist, with each shortlisted town receiving £60,000 to help deliver their full bids for the competition.

Three finalists - one small, one medium, one large town - will be chosen. The winner will be crowned UK Town of Culture 2028 and receive a £3 million prize. The two runners-up will each receive £250,000 to deliver elements of their bid, from refreshed community infrastructure to electric music festivals.

Applications are open until 31 March 2026 for expressions of interest.

For more information and guidance on how to bid for the UK Town of Culture 2028 title, please go to: [UK Town of Culture 2028 Expression of Interest](#).

Warm Homes Plan

The Government has [announced](#) a £15 billion Warm Homes Plan aimed at providing households with solar panels and green technology to reduce energy bills and triple the number of homes with solar energy. The 'Warm Homes Plan' targets help at low-income families, alongside a universal offer, to ensure that working families can feel the benefits of products that can cut their bills.

Mobile phones and social media

The Government has [announced](#) a 'national conversation' on children's social media use and bans phones in schools to protect young people's wellbeing and ensure safer online experiences. This will look at options including raising the digital age of consent, implementing phone curfews to avoid excessive use, and restricting potentially addictive design features such as 'streaks' and 'infinite scrolling'.

House of Lords backs UK social media ban for under-16s

The House of Lords has supported a move to ban under-16s from social media platforms. By 261 votes to 150, opposition peers voted to support a ban through an amendment to the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#).

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

District Cllrs Report February 2026

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>, Clerk Salthouse <salthouseclerk@gmail.com>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Weybourne Parish Council <weybournepc@gmail.com>
Date 2026-02-15 18:19

Social Tariffs

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/services/extra-support/tariff-options/lite/>
<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/services/extra-support/tariff-options/lite/>
<https://www.connexl.com/energy/guides/energy-fund>
<https://www.comparethemarket.com/broadband/content/broadband-social-tariffs/>

Some utility companies offer social tariffs - lower rates for those on limited incomes. I've found for Anglian Water and Eon (presumably other electricity providers). There is similar for broadband if you're interested. Don't forget the brilliant Financial Inclusion team at NNDC - 01263516221 - to help with accessing benefits and other resources.

Disabled Facility Grants

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/housing-services/apply-for-disabled-facilities-grant/>

These grants are for any resident who needs a little help to make their home more accessible, no formal diagnosis needed. The team are very helpful and I would encourage you to reach out.

Social Worker Drop-in

There is a social worker at the Glaven Centre in Blakeney, open to all, no appointment needed, 10am - 2pm

March 6th and 16th

April 3rd and 13th

May 1st and 11th or 12th

June 5th and 15th

July 3rd and 13th

Aug 7th and 18th

This is great opportunity to get help with social care assessments/ packages of care, information about personal care/ befriending, advice re capacity assessments/power of attorney, advice re residential care/funding thresholds/carers allowance, safeguarding etc. The social worker can either help directly or sign point residents to the right place.

Urgent Dental Care

There are now more urgent dental appointments available in North Norfolk, 170 appointments /month. We're not told who are the three providers, but they are accessed via 111. Please spread the word.

For routine care, there is a new dental practice in Cromer opening in the Autumn in the old Tourist Information centre and they are taking registrations of interest - register here (this is from last year, so I hope still available)

<https://www.thedentaldesignstudio.co.uk/cromer>

Food Bank Holt

If anyone needs help with oil or energy supplies you can get help via the Holt foodbank who will also allocate someone from citizen's advice to ensure you have the correct benefits and debt advice. They can then be referred to the Energy Bank.

The contact is Jules Hunter- Jennings on 07826376343 (office hours).

Foodbanks can be accessed via referral at Holt (on Fridays at Holt Youth Project) or Sheringham, or Cromer.

Holt Foodbank can also deliver on a Friday for those who might find access difficult.

Hearing Aid Clinic

There is a drop in Hearing Aid support clinic at the Glaven Centre on Tuesday March 17th from 1-2.30, no appointment needed. So come along or we may lose this service.

NSFT Recovery College

<https://www.nsft.nhs.uk/recovery-college/>

The Recovery College is open to anyone living in Norfolk (including carers, supporters and other professionals) looking to improve their mental health/ wellbeing. The Recovery College offers free courses, online and in person. These will help you build skills and strategies to help your mental health or support others.

Email RecoveryOnline@nsft.nhs.uk or call 03003034419 for more details.

Ambulance Response Times

The North Norfolk Emergency Ambulance Response Times Working Group met with the Ambulance Service recently. Emergency and urgent response times are still over target. The Ambulance Service puts this down partly to ambulance delays at the hospitals. When possible, they are managing patients without taking them to hospital. They were keen to stress when a patient is waiting for an ambulance their case is clinically evaluated and prioritised if necessary. There are now 67 Community First Responders in North Norfolk, but more are always welcome. The Holt Fire Station responds to cardiac arrests.

From NNDC

Local government reorganisation - we should hear the government's preferred model for new unitary councils in Norfolk (one, two or three) - in early March.

Coastal - there is further investment for Coastal Adaptation into North Norfolk from Government (£18m shared with the East Riding of Yorkshire, Great Yarmouth and East Suffolk). This is for developing options for communities where erosion is a real threat.

Benefits/ Housing - If you're eligible for free school meals, do make sure you're registered as until April households will receive a £15 monthly cost of living voucher. Registration is via the NNDC website.
NNDC continues to support households with housing issues such as tenancy sustainment and homelessness through Discretionary Housing Payments. Apply to benefits at NNDC if this would be helpful.
There are 713 households on the housing list. 265 properties were let from April 25 to January 26. 138 households were assessed as needing help with homelessness. It's hoped the Renters Rights Act will help with the homelessness caused by the end of a social tenancy, which is the leading reason for homelessness in North Norfolk. As of January 31st there were 58 household in temporary accommodation. NNDC holds 30 units of temporary accommodation and is purchasing 7 more. 650 affordable homes are in various stages of the development process with 95 coming on stream 2025/26.
Planning - the new Local Plan has been adopted. Planning for the next Local Plan starts in June. Look out for any opportunities for consultation as these will be limited.
Estates - NNDC is speaking with Town & Parish Councils who are interested in transfer of assets post Local Government Reorganisation.
Mobile Connectivity - the Overview & Scrutiny Committee met with a representative from Mobile UK to discuss poor mobile connectivity in North Norfolk. The three mobile networks (Vodafone/Three, Virgin/O2 and EE) are investing in 5G capacity - we need more specific detail on this in our area. The Government has been supporting 4G investment in rural areas but so far this has been mostly outside Norfolk, so we are asking if that can change. We support the rural roaming bill going through parliament - rural roaming is when network operators share equipment so if your network has no coverage you can use another network. You can enter real life connectivity by postcode on the Map My Mobile website. This will improve the accuracy of Ofcom's data as otherwise what is used is predicted coverage.'

Victoria Holliday

District Councillor

Coastal

07557054629

Net Zero Strategy

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North Norfolk District Council

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