

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:- Councillor A. Hooper

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor M. Williams



MINUTES OF THE STIFFKEY ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING **HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH MAY, 2026 AT 7.30 PM** **IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL**

Present:-

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

Julie Chance – Clerk.

Four members of the public also attended the meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1** It was **AGREED** to elect Cllr. A. Hooper as Chairman of Stiffkey Parish Council.
- 1.2** The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form witnessed by the Clerk.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

- 2.1** It was **AGREED** to elect Cllr. M. Williams as Vice-Chairman of Stiffkey Parish Council.
- 2.2** The Vice-Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form witnessed by the Clerk.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH, 2026

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th March 2026, having been circulated, were taken as read, **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

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

Telephone No:- 07305048062

Email:- clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk

4. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

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

None given.

5.1 **Email – North Norfolk District Council – Register of Interests:-**
Circulated. Noted.

5.2 **Power of Competence:-** It was **AGREED** to adopt the Power of Competence.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received.

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

7.1 **County Councillor's Reports:-** Attached.

7.2 **District Councillor's Reports:-** Attached.

8. **PLANNING**

8.1 **PF/25/2624 – Hill House, 25 Bridge Street, Stiffkey:-** APPROVED.

8.2 **PF/25/2794 – Rose Cottage – Solar Panels:-** Parish Council's comments attached.

8.3 **LA/24/1743 and PF/24/1742 – Dormer Windows – River House:-**
The Clerk read an email from North Norfolk District Council stating that the dormer windows are a departure from the approved planning application. This matter is with the Enforcement Team. It was **AGREED** that this item will be removed from the agenda.

8.4 **PF/25/1291 – CD/26/0009 – 14 Wells Road, Stiffkey:-** The Clerk read an email received from the applicant stating that he will liaise with the contractors to resolve the issue of parking and to make sure that they adhere to Stiffkey Parish Council's Planning Policy.

8.5 **PF/26/0583 – Hill House, 25 Bridge Street, Stiffkey:-** Parish Council's comments attached.

8.6 **PF/26/0290 – LA/26/0291 – The Old Hall, Church Street, Stiffkey:-** Parish Council's comments attached.

8.7 **PF/26/0685 – Creek House, 4 Greenway, Stiffkey:-** Parish Council's comments attached.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2026:- AGREED and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

9.2 Annual Governance – Section 1 AGAR:- AGREED and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

9.3 Accounting Statement – Section 2 AGAR:- AGREED and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

9.4 Certificate of Exemption AGAR:- AGREED and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

9.5 Internal Auditors Report:- Circulated. Noted.

9.6 Cash Book to 30th April, 2026:- Circulated. **AGREED.**

9.7 All present signed the bank statements against the bank reconciliation for the period to 30th April, 2026.

9.8 The following payments were AGREED:-	£
Clerk's salary, office allowance, travel and Stationery	
April and May 2026	607.88
HMRC – Tax & NI	129.60
J. Hiscocks	40.30
NNDC – Licence Camping Hill	100.00
T.T. Jones – Street Lighting Maintenance	43.03
NNDC – Dog Bin Emptying	312.00
Roger Canwell – Internal Auditor	35.00
Norfolk ALC – Subscriptions	101.82

9.9 Newsletter:- Cllr. Husain reported that she will be preparing another edition during the summer.

9.10 Annual Insurance:- It was **AGREED** to renew with Zurich in the sum of £748.48 which is an increase of £12.06 from last year. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would enquire whether Stiffkey Parish Council can have a three or five year term with Zurich.

9.11 Greenhoe Local Energy Club:- Cllr Hooper reported that they are moving forward. It is going to take seven months before recruiting of members. No tariffs have been set-up at present. Cllr. Hooper and Husain attended the training. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

9.12 Strimmer:- It was **AGREED** that the strimmer will be donated to the Village Hall Committee.

10. HEALTH ACCESS TRANSPORT SCHEME

10.1 The Clerk reported that the Charity status is now in place. A public meeting will be held to recruit Trustees. The Clerk will obtain some dates from Tim Adams and once a date is agreed, leaflets will be produced to inform the public of the meeting.

11. HIGHWAYS

11.1 Temporary Traffic Orders:- Circulated. Noted. The Clerk circulated the reply from Norfolk County Council concerning the emergency road closure by Anglian Water. This caused chaos in the village. The Clerk emailed David Baker at Anglian Water to ask whether the Parish Council could have more notice to enable them to be better prepared. David Baker has not replied.

11.2 Drains – Bridge Street to Stiffkey Stores:- It was reported that this part of the drains system has not been cleared. The remainder of the drains have been cleared. The Clerk will chase accordingly.

11.3 Rusty Signposts:- The Clerk will contact Norfolk County Council and request an update on the necessary work.

11.4 New Footpath Sign:- It was reported that the sign has now been moved to the correct location. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be removed from the agenda.

11.5 Refuse Lorries – Hollow Lane:- The Clerk read an email received from North Norfolk District Council apologising that the refuse lorries were still using Hollow Lane. North Norfolk District Council will deal with this matter. It was **AGREED** that this item will be removed from the agenda.

12. MUCKLEDYKE PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH

12.1 Cllr. Lawrence reported that business have agreed to make a donation towards the upkeep of the footpath. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

13. SEWAGE SPILLS

13.1 The Clerk read an email from David Baker at Anglian Water stating that the new pressure control valve has been signed off for delivery and is waiting for an engineer for design and installation. It is hoped that this work will be completed before the summer. The two resident queries have been resolved. It was **AGREED** to remove this item from the agenda until the Autumn.

14. **GARDEN PLOTS**

14.1 **New Billing Schedule:-** This matter has now been dealt with and this item will be removed from the agenda.

15. **REPORTS**

15.1 **Community First Responders:-** Report attached.

15.2 **Coastal Forum:-** Nothing to report. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be placed on the November agenda for any report.

15.3 **SNAP:-** Cllr. Hooper reported that the next meeting will be held next week. Nothing to report. Noted.

15.4 **Dentistry:-** Cllr. Hooper reported that she has referred this matter to County Councillor Holiday and this matter will be placed on the next agenda for an update.

15.5 **Ambulance Response Times:-** Nothing to report. It was **AGREED** that this matter will be placed on the November agenda for an update.

16. **CORRESPONDENCE**

16.1 **Norfolk ALC:-** Circulated. Noted.

16.2 **Norfolk Ramblers Footpaths:-** Circulated. Noted.

16.3 **Email – Parking:-** The Clerk read an email concerning the parking outside the Stiffkey Stores causing an issue with traffic. It was **AGREED** that polite notices will be placed on cars asking them to park responsibly. Cllr Hooper will prepare the wording and this matter will be placed on the next agenda. The Clerk will update the resident and ask them to contact the Police.

17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 20th July, 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Stiffkey Village Hall.

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

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

From Norfolk County Council

Help with living costs

The Crisis Resilience Service offers financial support in the short term and ways to improve your financial resilience. Please reach out and if you have any difficulty with an application, get in touch.

Find out more at

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41957/What-the-Crisis-and-Resilience-Service-is>

Food support can be accessed

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/accessingfood>

Help with utility bills can be found at

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/41958/Help-and-advice-with-utility-bills>

Road safety and maintenance

I have asked to meet the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss road safety as speeding is one of her areas of expertise.

You can report potholes here

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/63696/?s=road&t=pothole>

I have a meeting with the Highways Area Manager early June to discuss road maintenance.

There is still some money available in the Bus Stop Improvement Programme. This covers new bus stops, bus shelters and possibly trods. Contact me for more details.

Environmental services

To the best of my knowledge, recycling centres can now accept washing machines, tumble driers, dishwashers and cookers at recycling centres, cannot accept fridge freezers and small electricals including batteries light bulbs.

Don't forget the next household hazardous waste day is at Hempton Recycling Centre Friday 29th and Saturday 30th May and at Norwich South Friday 5th and Saturday 6th June. You will need to book a week in advance either online

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/62632/Norfolk-Recycling-Centre-bookings>

Or by phone, call 03448008020

Transport

For those living on the coast, there are new Coasthopper and Lynx timetables with earlier buses and more links for school children

<https://www.sanderscoaches.com/timetable-improvements-sunday-24th-may-2026-0>

And for Lynx

https://images-lynxbus.passenger-website.com/downloads/Coastliner_0.pdf

Business support

The New Anglia Growth Hub provides support to grow your business, make it more sustainable and resilient. There are events and funding opportunities, find out more at

<https://www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk>

For advice as to how to employ apprentices, please visit

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42789/Employ-an-apprentice>

School transport

For those affected by the most unfortunate closure of Sheringham Sixth Form, NCC is currently setting a new core route area for the former Sheringham core route area. Anyone applying for post-16 travel assistance to Fakenham 6th Form who lives in the Sheringham catchment area will be entitled to travel assistance to Fakenham 6th Form. For more information about core routes and post-16 entitlement please visit - [Travel options for college or sixth form - Norfolk County Council](#) .

Dr Victoria Holliday
County Cllr Wells Division
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07557054629

NCC Update

Government announce that it supports three unitary councils for Norfolk

The Government announced this week that it supports three unitary councils for Norfolk.

Cllr Kay Mason Billig, Leader of Norfolk County Council, said:

"I was briefed this morning by the minister, Alison McGovern, confirming the government's decision that it is minded to support 3 new councils for Norfolk. We await the details of the rationale behind this decision and will carefully consider this against the criteria the government set out for reorganisation. We must examine what this decision means for our residents, partners and services.

"We are clear that the Government must ensure that the full costs of reorganisation are met and that implementation arrangements are robust, realistic and fully deliverable. It is not acceptable to push these costs onto local councils and taxpayers.

"Our concern is that essential local services are protected and that any new arrangements provide stability and long-term sustainability for our communities.

"Our priority remains safeguarding frontline services and ensuring continuity for the people of Norfolk."

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service – new partnership

Norfolk residents will benefit from faster response times and greater resilience during peak demand through a new partnership between the Norfolk, Suffolk and Hertfordshire fire and rescue service control rooms and Motorola Solutions.

The Motorola Solutions Guardian Hub will enable the three counties to jointly handle emergency calls, dispatch crews and coordinate incidents, in the first formal partnership of its kind between three UK fire control rooms.

Most emergency calls will still be answered by Norfolk control room staff, but calls can be seamlessly diverted to Suffolk or Hertfordshire when demand is high, with Norfolk providing the same mutual aid in return.

National Update

Neighbourhood health framework

The Government has published a [Neighbourhood Health Framework](#) to support a new neighbourhood health service, building on recent NHS and local government pilots. It emphasises joint working between the NHS, councils and partners to combine the NHS's responsibility for health services with local authorities' responsibility for adult and children's social care services and public health. The aim is to shift care from hospital to community and focus more on prevention.

The framework also sets out the first targets for neighbourhood health. The Government says that over the next few months DHSC and NHS England will set the baselines that Integrated Care Boards will need to proceed with the new arrangements.

April 2026 County Councillor Report

Call for public views to reform disability benefit for millions

Disabled people and those with long-term health conditions can share their views on how Personal Independent Payments (PIP) should be reformed, as the [Timms Review opens a Call for Evidence](#) this week. Topics being explored include:

- How effectively PIP is delivering on its intended purpose
- Whether the PIP assessment provides fair access to the right support
- Whether the experience of claiming PIP varies for different groups
- How the changes in the workplace and wider society since 2013 have impacted PIP

Anyone can respond and those with lived or learned experience of PIP, including disabled people, the organisations that represent them, carers, clinicians, experts, MPs, and other elected officials across the UK, are particularly encouraged to do so.

The online form for responses is available [here](#). The closing date is 28 May 2026.

County Councils Network (CCN) response to the National Planning Framework

The CCN has [published its consultation response](#) to the Government's revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), warning that the reforms would weaken local communities' voice and increase the risk of speculative, unsustainable development in rural areas.

CCN says the proposals would centralise decision-making by moving to a nationally set, 'one size fits all' framework that can override local policies making it harder for local councils to resist development except in exceptional circumstances.

It adds that mandatory housing targets introduced last year mean county areas face, on average, a 56% increase in delivery - 64,000 homes a year (around 1,245 a week) - over seven times the increase for councils in England's major cities.

Land use framework

The Government has published a new [land use framework](#) to guide how land is used across England, balancing farmland and nature with pressures such as housing and industry. It has three parts:

- A vision for England's future landscapes, informed by land-use change analysis
- Principles to guide land-use decision-making
- Actions to support land-use change, delivered with partners

The framework commits to maintaining overall food production in England, and to support food security and economic growth. It also sets out how the Government will protect the most productive land and give farmers (owners and tenants) greater rights, data and certainty to invest.

The full framework is available [here](#)

Devolution Bill update

The Government has announced [new amendments](#) to the English Devolution and Community empowerment Bill that they say, if voted through, will create safer streets, champion culture, and strengthen local accountability. The proposed amendments include:

April 2026 County Councillor Report

- New Local Scrutiny Committees to strengthen accountability and oversight of strategic authorities and regional mayors, as part of a push to strengthen accountability in devolved areas.
- Regional Mayors to have new responsibilities to promote arts, culture and heritage.
- Stronger enforcement powers for councils including tackling dangerous pavement parking and improving taxi/PHV licence standards.
- The Community Right to Buy period doubling to 10 years, giving communities longer to save valued local assets.

CLLR Michael Dalby

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Norfolk County Council – Annual Parish Report 2025-26

Our Promises	What Was Delivered	Impact
Libraries & Culture	Built new libraries, invested £3m+ , and transformed Norwich Castle into a world-class attraction	Stronger cultural offer and a major boost for tourism
Better Care	Invested £40m+ in care homes and supported living	More residents able to live independently for longer
Backing Our Children	GOOD-rated services , £2.5m+ for care leavers, £5m for jobs, and 600+ opportunities created	Better life chances and stronger futures for young people
Better Roads	Major infrastructure projects completed and £10m extra invested in maintenance	One of the best-performing highways services in the country
Improved Buses	£50m+ invested , more electric buses, and 26% growth in passenger numbers	Cleaner travel and better public transport access
Protecting the Environment	850,000+ trees planted and emissions cut by 50%	Protecting Norfolk's countryside and tackling climate change
Growing the Economy	Investment in high streets, improved connectivity, and hundreds of new homes built	Stronger local economy and thriving communities

Norfolk County Council, under a Conservative administration, has a strong record of delivering on its promises and investing in the county's future. From new libraries and major road schemes to over £40 million in care and significant improvements in children's services, we have focused on the priorities that matter most to residents. We have strengthened local transport, supported businesses and high streets, expanded opportunities for young people, and taken meaningful action to protect Norfolk's environment. This is a council that combines experience with action backing communities, improving services, and driving sustainable growth, while continuing to stand up for Norfolk and secure the investment it deserves.

Norfolk County Council delivers a balanced and responsible budget for 2026–27

Norfolk County Council approved a balanced £613.8m budget for 2026–27, demonstrating strong financial leadership and prudent management in what remains one of the toughest funding climates in decades.

The administration has once again delivered stability and certainty for residents, setting a balanced financial position while identifying £42.3 million in savings and efficiencies and committing £76.3 million in targeted investment to protect vital services and strengthen Norfolk's economy.

Despite significant national financial pressures and ongoing constraints in central government funding, we have ensured the county remains on a firm financial footing, without resorting to emergency measures. This stands in stark contrast to a growing number of upper-tier authorities across the country that have issued Section 114 notices or are facing effective bankruptcy.

The budget enables the council to continue:

- Protecting frontline services
- Investing heavily in adults and children's services
- Delivering new libraries and modern learning hubs in key towns
- Supporting for heritage, culture, and tourism
- Driving transformative reforms to improve efficiency and outcomes
- Backing economic growth and infrastructure
- Maintaining long-term financial sustainability

In line with national funding assumptions a 4.998% increase in council tax was implemented due to the government's continued reliance on placing the burden on local taxpayers to safeguard core services. This decision reflects the financial realities facing councils nationwide, while ensuring essential services remain protected for Norfolk residents.

This budget reinforces Norfolk's Conservative administration's commitment to careful stewardship of taxpayers' money, strong local services, and a resilient future for the county.

Norfolk County Council invests in community led highway improvements across the county

Norfolk County Council has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local communities with the approval of 99 new highway improvement schemes for 2026-27, delivered in partnership with town and parish councils across Norfolk.

Papers highlight how the Parish Partnership Programme, now entering its fifteenth year, gave local communities a voice in shaping the highways enhancements that matter most to them, whether that's improving pedestrian safety, slowing vehicle speeds, or making it easier to walk, cycle or access local services.

This year's programme represented a total investment of £769,034, made possible through the longstanding 50/50 funding model. Town and parish councils will collectively contribute £384,517, matched by £384,517 from Norfolk County Council, enabling more than twice as many small-scale schemes to be delivered than could be funded by the council alone.

In total local councils submitted 99 bids for 2026/27 and all were approved as viable schemes after being carefully assessed against value for money, community outcomes, safety benefits and compliance.

Norfolk's bus service improvements deliver record growth and faster journeys

Norfolk County Council's ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) has transformed public transport across the county, driving a 26% increase in passenger numbers since 2022 and making Norfolk a leading national example for sustainable travel.

A paper discussed at the council's Infrastructure and Development Committee on 22nd January highlighted what has been delivered thanks to the £65.45 million secured for Norfolk from the Department for Transport. That includes;

- New and enhanced bus services on more than 44 routes across Norfolk, including more evening and Sunday services
- Affordable fares: capped single fares in key towns and multi-operator ticketing
- Greener fleet: 75 zero-emission buses in Norwich and 24 more electric buses coming in 2026
- Improved passenger experience: real-time information, safer waiting areas, next-stop announcements and real-time information on more buses.

Not only are we seeing record-setting and increasing numbers of passengers, but customer satisfaction has also risen to 87%, bucking national trends and reinforcing Norfolk's approach to improvements in bus travel across the county.

Norfolk gritting vehicles headed out over the winter season

Norfolk County Council's winter gritting got underway during the recent winter, with gritters active on A/B roads, key bus routes, and village access roads, using new tech for efficiency. The first runs of the recent winter season (late 2025/early 2026) started as temperatures dropped, utilizing the 58-strong fleet with automated salting to cover 2,200 miles of routes, supported by stocked salt barns and public grit bins.

Norfolk County Council took first place in the Eastern region in annual Highways and Transport Satisfaction Survey

Norfolk County Council has once 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.

The annual survey, which gathers public views on highways and transport services, saw Norfolk achieve an overall satisfaction score of 48%, well above the national average of 40%.

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.

Key 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 County Council's Deep Disappointment at Government Decision to Halt Mayoral Election and Slash Devolution Funding

Norfolk County Council expressed serious concern following the Labour Government's announcement that the planned 2026 mayoral election for the Norfolk & Suffolk Combined County Authority will be deferred until 2028. The sudden decision meant that Norfolk would now receive only around one-third of the investment previously promised under the devolution programme.

Norfolk County Councils astonishment at the Government's decision to create 3 Unitaries for Norfolk under Local Government Reorganisation

Norfolk County Council made a robust bid for a Single Unitary council for Norfolk under the proposals for LGR. This bid was based on sound financial information with the primary purpose of protecting front line services, whilst ensuring value for money. NCC already deliver 85% of local services in Norfolk, a single unitary was the easiest to implement, would ultimately save money for taxpayers and was the most obvious choice for the county. It was also backed by key stakeholders like the NHS and the Police. None of the other proposals, which would split services and cost more to implement and run, stacked up. It is therefore disappointing that despite the 3 unitary proposal not meeting the government's own criteria, that this is the option chosen. This may be more a political decision than a practical one and seems irrational. The council will consider the details of the decision and may choose to challenge this.

Norwich Castle Keep reopens following £27m redevelopment

Norwich Castle Keep reopened to visitors following a comprehensive five-year redevelopment project that introduced new accessibility features alongside new galleries and interpretive displays.

Funded by £12 million from Norfolk County Council and over £13 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, all five floors of the newly named People's Palace were opened to the public for the first time ever.

The Grade I listed castle, originally commissioned by William the Conqueror 900 years ago and completed by his son Henry I in 1121, retained its historic significance while embracing modern improvements.

A new light-filled atrium adjacent to the Keep was unveiled in the first phase of the redevelopment in July 2024. Visitors also benefited from a new café, gift shop, and additional toilet facilities to enhance the visitor experience.

Importantly, a lift was installed to provide full wheelchair accessibility throughout the Keep, allowing access from the basement all the way up to the battlements, where visitors could enjoy panoramic views across Norwich.

Nationally recognised 'AI programme to be rolled out across Norfolk to prevent falls

A new, nationally recognised proactive intervention scheme is rolled out across the whole of Norfolk. The initiative was delivered in collaboration with local partners including Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSE), city, district and borough Councils and NHS organisations, aims to reduce falls in vulnerable and older adults.

Following a successful pilot with 1250 residents, the programme, which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify residents at risk of escalating needs, enhances the safety and wellbeing of those at risk of falls. The latest Artificial Intelligence technology, natural language processing is used to 'read' case notes and automatically extract meaningful insight about our residents. This technology enables the council to identify and prioritise individuals in Norfolk most at risk of falling, allows for proactive intervention before they fall.

AI is a rapidly developing technology with the potential to improve the delivery of services. The council is using AI to benefit the people of Norfolk in a safe, ethical and transparent way.

Falls are a major concern, particularly among older or vulnerable adults, and can lead to severe injuries and a decline in quality of life. Through this programme, the council will be able to predict people who are at higher risk and offer timely and targeted interventions to support them.

For more information about preventing falls visit [Preventing and dealing with falls](#).

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

Norfolk County Council 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

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

May DC report, many thanks



From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
To Stiffkey Parish Council <clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, clerk@morston-pc.gov.uk <clerk@morston-pc.gov.uk>, wivetonpc <wivetonpc@gmail.com>, Tracey Bayfield <clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Cley Parish Council <clerk@cleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Kelling Parish Council <clerk@kellingparishcouncil.gov.uk>, 'Clerk For Salthouse Parish Council' <clerk@salthouseparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Clerk Weybourne Parish Council <weybournepc@gmail.com>
Date 2026-05-15 11:49

From NNDC

'Cost of living support

Contact the friendly Financial Inclusion Team for support with the cost of living

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/benefits/financial-inclusion/>

Or via financial.inclusion@north-norfolk.gov.uk or on 01263513811

The Foodbank can be contacted via

<https://northnorfolk.foodbank.org.uk>

Or by calling the Help through Hardship advice line, 08082082138.

Planning

Four new posts in Planning are proposed to improve timeliness of decision making and to deliver the New Local Plan to be started in June and new requirements in ecology. These will be supported by government funding and increased planning income.

Environment

Cabinet agreed to take maximum action against fly tipping and lobby the government to take financial responsibility for the removal of fly tipping from private land as well as public. This would require modification of the Environmental Protection Act.

NNDC has also agreed to promote the Let's SCRAP Fly Tipping campaign which informs residents of their duty of care when they have waste to dispose of.

NNDC have suspended collection of small electrical items for the moment due to a lack of processing and storage capacity at the centres dealing with these.

Housing

NNDC has introduced two new policies to lawfully implement the new powers contained in ghee Renters Rights Act 2025, namely enhanced investigatory powers, new tenancy rights and extended civil penalty provisions.

NNDC will be purchasing 9 additional units of temporary accommodation using 1.34m of Local Authority Housing Fund grant moneys.

Leisure

Six North Norfolk beaches have been awarded Blue Flag status for 2026. These are Cromer, East Runton, Mundesley, Sea Palling, Sheringham and West Runton. These beaches have met assessment criteria such as water quality, life guarding, cleanliness of the Beach and local amenities. Ore details on assessment of bathing waters by the Environment Agency can be found here

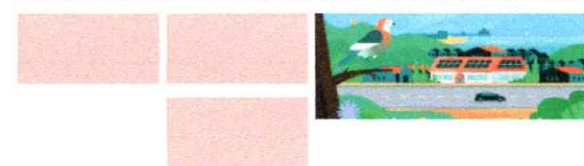
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/>

Victoria Holliday

District Councillor

Coastal

07557054629



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North Norfolk District Council

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Dc report May GVN - thanks so much

From Cllr. Victoria Holliday <Victoria.Holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk>
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Dear all

Herewith May's District Cllr report.

I'm going to repeat these yet again given the current increasing squeeze on our budgets:

General finance and benefit help

The brilliant Financial Inclusion team at NNDC - 01263513811 or financial.inclusion@north-norfolk.gov.uk - will help with accessing benefits and other resources.

Energy help

NNDC has donated 50,000 to the Norfolk Foodbank to help residents experiencing financial hardship because of rising heating oil prices. 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. You can then be referred to the Energy Bank. The contact is Jules Hunter- Jennings on 07826376343 (office hours). Alternatively you can contact the Financial Inclusion team, details above.

Foodbanks

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. You can also visit the Community Larder at the Treehouse Café, Charles Road, Holt where surplus goods donated by local businesses are available.

Utility Social Tariffs

Some utility companies offer social tariffs - lower rates for those on limited incomes. I've found social tariffs for Anglian Water and Eon (presumably they exist for other electricity providers). There is similar for broadband if you're interested.

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

From NNDC

'Local Government Reform

The Government has announced that they are supporting the replacement of the current District and County Councils with three Unitary Authorities, combining all their functions. North Norfolk will be part of the new East Norfolk Council. Your voice will be better heard in a smaller council but not as well as currently, and I have concerns about dividing up essential services such as social care and special education.

Purchase of temporary accommodation

NNDC will purchase 9 more homes for temporary accommodation for homeless households. This is part funded by central government, and it is proposed the NNDC part funding comes from the second home council tax premium. NNDC currently has 32 units of temporary accommodation.

Waste collection

NNDC is postponing delivery of the new food waste collection for residents till May 2027. There is a shortage of collection trucks so they won't be delivered as soon as expected.'

Mobile connectivity

Some of you have said that signal has fallen off a cliff recently. I have been in touch with VodafoneThree, who say
'Our networks team have assessed historical data across February and March and cannot find any evidence of a serious drop in coverage beyond the increased demand experienced over the Easter period. Please note that they obtain this information from live crowd-sourced data. Serving sites in the local area, including the site at Blakeney church, are expected to be upgraded with 5G standalone across the next several years as part of VodafoneThree's £11bn network investment plan.'

Good news about the investment although the time frame is too long, but I don't understand the drop in coverage you have been experiencing.

I now have contact details for ee and Virgin O2 so I can ask them the same question.

Fast fibre

I recently asked Openreach about slow internet speeds in Blakeney. They say

'In terms of the upgrade of this area to full fibre; I would suggest the best and quickest way to resolve this would be for as many affected residents to raise this through their Providers and register their interest in FTTP. As it stands, the tentative estimate is work to enable this area is by the end of this calendar year at the latest. The more interest there is from residents through their Providers, the more possibility this will be looked at earlier.'

That is somewhat encouraging but do get in touch if questions.

While the proposed extension is relatively modest in scale, we consider that it may nevertheless give rise to concerns regarding the potential overshadowing of neighbouring properties.

Although the property lies outside the Conservation Area, it is prominently visible from the A149, and its visual impact on the surrounding cottages has already been altered by the installation of solar panels.

We also have concerns regarding the existing parking arrangements and vehicular access from Greenway onto the A149 and the wider highway network.

Should planning permission be granted, we would request that consideration be given to the following matters:

1. That a condition be imposed requiring the external finish of the extension to be rendered in materials and colours sympathetic to the immediate surroundings, in order to achieve a more cohesive appearance within the streetscape.
2. That the views of the Highways Authority be sought in relation to vehicular access particularly with regard to visibility at the junction with the A149.
3. That any construction works take into account the existing traffic constraints within Stiffkey and, where possible, that the Parish Council be informed in advance of any likely disruption. Contractors should also be requested to minimise disruption wherever possible and avoid parking near the Greenway/A149 junction so as to maintain safe access for all road users.

Stiffkey Parish Council - response to PF/26/0583

Stiffkey Parish Council make the following observations and comments:

The application does not appear to be a reduction in size. The changes appear to add scope for additional but separate accommodation and/or commercial use. It would appear that the plans are once again in danger of overdeveloping the original building and does not seem appropriate for the site in its conservation and historic setting.

If the planning authority is inclined to give permission, we would ask the following conditions be considered:

Given the potential for an increase in light pollution in accordance with Policies of the adopted North Norfolk Core Strategy and reinforced in the Local Plan Policy we would ask prior to installation, details of the glazing should be provided to the local planning authority for approval. Details of the glazing should include the measures taken to minimize light pollution (such as coated glazing).

An advisory is placed on the conditions asking the applicants and their builders to:

- consider the traffic issues within Stiffkey, particularly where the property joins the A149 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. There have been numerous complaints over the current building work and we do not want this to be repeated with this application

PF/26/0290

As a Parish Council we support replacing oil-fired boilers with non-fossil fuel alternatives. In giving our views on applications of this nature, we make every effort to balance heritage considerations with wider objectives, including environmental sustainability and energy efficiency.

Due consideration has been given to the sensitivity of this context, along with the importance of preserving both the character and appearance of the conservation area and the significance of the heritage asset.

It does not appear that the proposed development would give rise to any material harm to the conservation area or the heritage asset. The plans indicate that the proposed solar array and air source heat pump (ASHP) are to be discreetly located and would not be visible from public footpaths, rights of way, or by the general public, thereby limiting any visual impact.

The installation of the solar array at ground level and the integration of the ASHP within the existing system are both designed to avoid material alteration or harm to the historic fabric. It seems to represent a proportionate and sensitive approach, while preserving the character and setting of the conservation area and the significance of the heritage asset.

PF/26/0685

Should the planning Authority approve the application, The Parish Council would ask the following conditions be considered:

1. In accordance with Local Plan Policy ENV 1 and 2 and to minimize adverse impacts on our dark skies, reduced VLT glass is used in all glazing.
2. Any external lighting be subject to dark skies recommendations – such as downlighting, low-lumen and if possible motion sensors to ensure no light is emitted above the horizontal plane.
3. The structure should remain ancillary to the main dwelling and not be used for residential purposes.

The Stiffkey CFRs attended **52 emergency call-outs** in the year ending **30 April 2026**. This represents just over a **50% increase year on year** and is largely due to efficiencies and improvements in despatch at the Norwich Control Centre, which have led to CFRs being more widely utilised.

Over the last 12 months, we spent just under **855 hours on duty** and were on shift a total of **178 times**, averaging just under **15 shifts per month**.

Of these 52 call-outs:

Ten were Category 1 – life-threatening illnesses and injuries. These included suspected heart attack, anaphylaxis and stroke. We were also first on scene at a multi-casualty RTA, which was subsequently attended by the Fire Brigade and the Air Ambulance. This was the first of two occasions in the past year on which we assisted the highly skilled teams from the East of England Air Ambulance. We were also first on scene at a suspected drowning on the beach between Wells-next-the-Sea and Holkham. This call-out was subsequently supported by the Coastguard, who assisted in bringing the casualty back to safety ahead of a rapidly rising Spring tide and in near-darkness.

Thirty-nine call-outs were Category 2 – general emergency calls for non-immediately life-threatening conditions. These included difficulty breathing, loss of consciousness, and a fall from a ladder.

Three call-outs were Category 3 – urgent calls, which were generally non-injury falls of unknown duration.

In this reporting period, we had **no Category 4 (less urgent) calls**.

This year, the majority of emergencies to which we were dispatched were in Wells-next-the-Sea, with call-outs extending along the coast as far as Sheringham to the east, and inland to Holt, Gunthorpe and Hindringham to the south. We were also called to several inland incidents, particularly in Holt.

Mileage this year reflects the increase in call-outs, with over **460 miles covered**. Of our 52 official call-outs in this reporting period, **four were in Stiffkey**.

Our operational radius remains roughly **ten miles from Stiffkey** and, on average, we generally arrive on scene within **11 minutes**. This compares to an average response time of **53 minutes** for ambulance crews during the same reporting period. This means we are often on scene between **15 minutes**, and in one case **up to three hours**, before paramedic crews arrive.

This year, we had no call-outs where ambulance crews did not subsequently attend, which again indicates improved ambulance availability, including RRVs.

The **Raizer II lifting chair** has continued to be a valuable asset over the past year and has been utilised several times, including one incident in which it safely lifted a woman with a broken arm at Wells Community Hospital.

In March, the Wells and Fakenham CFR Group ran a **Community CPR Training Evening**, which was well attended by residents of Stiffkey. It is hoped that this training can be repeated regularly to ensure CPR skills within the village remain current.

In terms of our ongoing training and professional development, we have attended a variety of sessions designed to improve our medical knowledge and practical skills. We have also recently completed our mandatory annual Basic Life Support certification.

In June 2025, the CFR Team attended a half-day training exercise provided by EEASt ambulance crews and volunteers. This was designed to give us the opportunity to deliver emergency care in a series of simulated emergency situations. It proved to be an excellent opportunity to receive feedback and further training in the management of medical emergencies.

As ever, the CFR Team is always grateful for further support and assistance, as only fuel costs incurred while attending emergencies are covered. Other mileage costs associated with compulsory monthly training, annual re-certification, and similar commitments are not reimbursed.

Wear and tear to vehicles, uniforms, and equipment is also not covered, nor is the annual running cost of the NMA — the device that allows EEASt's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to provide us with despatch instructions, medical history, and navigation to scene. Once again, we would like to thank the Parish Council and the members of the village who have kindly contributed toward our costs.