

**MINUTES OF KIMBERLEY AND CARLETON FOREHOE ANNUAL PARISH
MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 21ST APRIL 2023 AT 7PM
AT CARLETON FOREHOE CHURCH**

The Parish Council Chairman, Colin House, presided and the following Councillors were present:-

Joy Smiley, Graham Mann and Jane Fraser. The Parish Clerk, County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury, District Councillor Richard Elliott and 2 members of the public were also present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Val Evans.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 20TH MAY 2022

The minutes were read, agreed and signed by the Chairman, proposed by Jpy Smiley, seconded by Jane Fraser, all in favour.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's Report was presented by the Chairman (copy annexed to these Minutes ref: **Appendix A**).

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report was presented by the Clerk (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix B**).

5. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The report was given by Richard Elliott, District Councillor (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix C**). Richard thanked Colin for his service as Chairman, noting that he had been a great advocate for the parish. Richard agreed to find out more about the concept of banking hubs, offering face to face banking for all banks, from one premises.

6. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The report was given by Margaret Dewsbury, County Councillor (copy annexed to these minutes ref: **Appendix D**). Margaret thanked the Chairman and Clerk for all they had done, noting that they would be missed.

7. REPORT FROM KIMBERLEY FETE COMMITTEE

Joy Smiley reported that Kimberley Fete was very successful, the weather was good and we had an amazing amount of people attending. The fete committee have subsequently donated money towards the upkeep of the church and three other charities – Star Throwers; St Martin's Trust; and Epilepsy Action. The fete this year will revert to its original date of 4th June 2023.

8. REPORT FROM CARLETON FOREHOE FENLAND CHARITY

Val Evans had sent a report noting that there had been various discussions with the relevant experts and other local fens over the on-going management plans for Carleton Forehoe Fen. We've also had a meeting with Tim, the rector, discussing other Fenland charities. Some hand tools have been purchased to aid the

conservation work, which at present continues in line with other years. The accounts can be viewed on the Charity Commission website. It was noted that the Clerk had found the governance document for the Trust, which confirmed that the Rector was a Trustee of the charity.

9. REPORT FROM KIMBERLEY CHURCH

Joy Smiley reported that there had been 11 services this year plus a Group Service, and a Christmas Carol service. There was also a wedding, and four funerals. The Carol Service was well supported and the collection of £444 was sent to Warchild UK, specifically for those affected by the war in Ukraine. The PCC was grateful for the contribution from the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

10. REPORT FROM CARLETON FOREHOE CHURCH

The report was given by Jane Fraser, noting that the PCC was grateful for the grant to the grass cutting. There were 8 on the electoral role, and more people were needed on the PCC. The church had hosted weddings, a baptism and Christmas events. There were no weddings planned for 2023.

11. GENERAL PARISH MATTERS

A member of the public noted that towards the bottom of Red Barn Hill had flooding problems, which occurred after heavy rain and could be due to collapsed drains under the roads and on to proper water courses. It was noted that Highways were looking at the B1135 and were aware of this. It was noted that there was an obstructed view round the bridge, and moving out to avoid the water caused danger from approaching traffic. Jane Fraser would bring this up as part of the A47 Group as they were looking at that road. The road was not to a suitable standard for a B road. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would report this to Highways, and Joy would supply the exact location. **ACTION: Clerk / JS**

A member of the public noted that he had read through agendas from the last five years, and picked up an item regarding the lack of response from Wymondham Town Council regarding the footpath. He noted that he supported the footpath links, and hoped that the Town Council would pursue this after the elections.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe Parish Council April 2023

Chairman's Annual Report

As you are all aware this is the last time that I will be reviewing the past year.

I have acted as your Chairman for some 20 years, as position which I have been privileged to act as your voice within our small part of local government. We have managed to retain our independence as a Parish Council (serving both Carleton Forehoe and Kimberley) rather than being swallowed into an ever expanding Wymondham Town authority.

A significant step was taken by your Parish Council in forming the A47 Task Force. Since its inception we have (through the dedication of Jane and Val) managed to keep our parish's case at the forefront of policy making, and we continue to have our suggestions included in the draft proposals subject to planning permission. I urge the incoming councillors to keep on top of this matter whilst retaining the interests of the wider population.

Along with my departure councillor Val Evans has not stood for re-election, thank you Val for your service over the past years.

Sadly Catherine, our dedicated and highly qualified Parish Clerk has tendered her resignation. Catherine will be sorely missed, leaving very hard shoes to fill. Thank you Catherine for all your hard work and support that you have given for 15 years.

Thanks go to Joy, Jane and Graham for your time and commitment. Also I would like to thank Margaret and Richard for attending our meetings and keeping us abreast of matters happening within Norfolk and South Norfolk.

Lastly, thank you all for having me!

Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe Parish Council
Accounts for year ending 31st March 2023

	2022/23	<i>Budget</i> <i>2022/23</i>	2021/22
Income			
Precept	£ 2,582.00	£2,582.00	£ 2,258.00
Council Tax Support Grant	£ -	£0.00	£ -
Interest	£ -	£0.00	£ -
Misc	£ -	£0.00	£ -
Grants	£ 400.00	£0.00	£ -
S106	£ -	£0.00	£ -
CIL	£ -	£0.00	£ 447.86
VAT	£ 28.62	£0.00	£ -
Total	£ 3,010.62	£ 2,582.00	£ 2,705.86
Expenditure			
Subscriptions	£ 124.64	£125.00	£ 122.03
Insurance	£ 350.18	£350.00	£ 329.15
Audit Fees	£ 40.00	£45.00	£ 40.00
Bank Charges	£ 72.00	£72.00	£ 72.00
Grass Cutting	£ 350.00	£350.00	£ 350.00
Expenses	£ -	£50.00	£ 30.09
HR	£ 1,211.76	£1,250.00	£ 1,175.20
Hall Hire	£ 50.00	£50.00	£ 50.00
Defibrillator	£ 126.00	£135.00	£ 126.00
Misc	£ 5.00	£55.00	£ 28.10
S137	£ 200.00	£0.00	£ -
Contingency		£100.00	£ -
VAT	£ 25.20	£0.00	£ 28.62
Total	£ 2,554.78	£ 2,582.00	£ 2,351.19
Balance B/f	£ 2,158.72		£ 1,804.05
Income	£ 3,010.62		£ 2,705.86
Expenditure	£ 2,554.78		£ 2,351.19
Balance c/f	£ 2,614.56		£ 2,158.72
Represented by			
Unity Trust Current Account	£ 2,614.56		£ 2,158.72
Unpresented Cheques	£ -		£ -
	£ 2,614.56		£ 2,158.72
Earmarked Reserves			
Agreed Minimum Free Reserve:	£ 2,000.00		£ 2,000.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£ 447.86		£ 447.86
Coronation Grant	£ 200.00		
	£ 2,647.86	£ -	£ 2,447.86
Free Funds:	-£ 33.30		-£ 289.14

Kimberley & Carleton Forehoe Parish Meeting Annual Report

April 2023

South Norfolk Council has made big strides in the last year helping the district address a whole variety of challenges including: the recovery from Covid, the cost of energy and general cost of living, the impact of Ukrainian Refugees on top of previous schemes from Hong Kong, Afghanistan, Syria and immigration across the channel.

But as we look to the future **our ambition has never been greater, our drive more intense or our financial strength so great.**

Since 2007, council tax in South Norfolk has increased by a quarter LESS than inflation. So, for the last sixteen years our tax rise has been in aggregate 25% less than the ONS's RPI inflation measure.

This year we have approved a capital budget of **£113m, whilst freezing council tax for a ninth time. Ours is a balanced, affordable budget that does not draw from reserves.**

There have been no cuts. No, we're doing more, much more. And doing it for less for every family, in every street and place in our district.

This year we're committing an extra **£1.3million pounds** for those in need so we can continue to help 500 households a month address the cost of living and the challenges life sends.

Our day to day work covers 86 different activities and includes:

- Keeping people **fit and healthy** with new country parks in Costessey (Queens Hill) & Cringleford (Yare valley) whilst renewing our commitment to our heritage landscape at Venta Icenorum in the Landscape Protection Zone.
- Generating **50% of our council tax income again from trading activities** – building homes including our share of the affordable homes that are so important and have meant that every home lost to the right to buy has been replaced.
- Providing commercial space for **business to prosper & expand**.
- Teaching **3000 kids to swim** each year in our swimming pools that will now be heated by renewable energy sources.

We hope that we are trusted to deliver the best possible quality of life:

- **Trusted by residents** – who know that during Covid every bin collected, every fridge filled.
- **Trusted by business** – who appreciated over £1m per week distributed in lockdown with targeted schemes that filled the gaps the national programs missed.
- **Trusted by government** – Our capital program includes £30m in grants to make a bigger economy and a brighter future for our 140,000 residents in 60000 homes.

Here in these rural parishes, I have helped to deliver several local schemes and supported local groups including:

- Help with the provision of a village defibrillator in Kimberley.
- Lobbying for improved road safety measures and an end to rat running.

- Reduced fly tipping in our villages and action to prosecute offenders.

Last year Full Council authorised us to borrow £20m over 20 years at fixed rates in the low 2%'s. That was the deal of the century. It's allowed us to commit to this budget at the lowest possible landed cost. We are set up to make the important and far-sighted generational investments which will pay dividends for residents for years to come.

So, we're building on and enhancing some of the successes from the last 16 years including:

- Norwich Science is a world leader in genetics and genomics. We helped create that 16 years on from an initial £250k grant to buy experimental sequencers. Now we have £8m in the capital program to develop the future at the science park – proper jobs addressing the grand challenges of tomorrow.
- South Norfolk has been growing at 1pc per year for 50 years. But publications like the Sunday Times rank us as one of the best places to live in the country. That's because quality of life is so good. We have matched housing growth with infrastructure investment.
 - Harleston - £1m town centre improvements.
 - Doing the same again in Wymondham with the Town Council pooling their Community Infrastructure Levy.
 - Working on the Wymondham railway station to improve disabled access.
- A local plan that puts roofs over people's heads (circa 50,000k new homes across Greater Norwich) whilst protecting our environment including some of the unsung work renewing our work on conservation area reviews and supporting neighbourhood planning.

We have a responsibility to tread more lightly on our **shared environment**. We are already the **most energy efficient Norfolk Council**, having saved more carbon than any other – 700 tonnes since we began measuring our carbon footprint.

We will be moving this month to our new low carbon office building which has over 2,500 solar panels and will use **84% less energy** than we have had before, not only this we are going all the way by installing air source heat pumps.

It's the right thing for the world. And we recognise there has never been a more important moment to share the structurally lower cost base that arises, **passed on as a dividend to residents as a council tax freeze.**

Our job is to help everyone to go green and we have committed to EV charging points for every village that wants one, whilst committing to leading the energy transition in our nation.

But it's not just a green environment. It's a healthy one too:

- Keeping people fit and healthy – investing over £2m in the Diss Swimming Pool with air source heating and actively pursuing other opportunities in Diss.
- A major investment in Tennis at Wymondham with Sport England adding to the £1.5m investment in 3G pitches at Long Stratton & Ketts Park, Wymondham.

And we're also working with others on vital local schemes like:

- The Long Stratton bypass which has completed all the regulatory steps.
- New Easton Village Hall, helping the Parish to do more with our co-investment fund.
- Our voluntary groups, making 400 grants in 4 years including 40 larger CAF fund.
- £1m invested to improve Harleston Town Centre and a similar £1m scheme to improve Wymondham next year.
- Working with the doctors, NHS & CCG to deliver a new surgery for Hethersett.
- Our pivotal role in District Direct that places our staff in the hospital so we can prepare recovering patients for timely discharge to an adapted home.
- Working to welcome and sustain over 200 Ukrainian guests. We have built the financial strength and capacity to deal with the unexpected shocks without missing a beat.

I'm proud that we have built a team that:

- Puts **South Norfolk First**
- Provides the **strongest foundations** to deliver the important things that residents and business value the most
- Has the ambition to build a **bigger green economy** that everyone can be proud of.

Councillor **Richard Elliott**

Member for Wicklewood Ward

Cabinet Member for Customer Focus

Norfolk County Council Annual Report for Annual Parish Meeting

Many of the Services have been very busy over the last year.

Trading Standards

Trading Standards were so busy dealing with the outbreak of Avian Flu that other services sent people to assist them. There were 65 outbreaks identified across the county as opposed to 3 the previous year. It became mandatory to keep birds 50 or more birds inside but advisory to keep them all inside.

Trading Standards also continued its everyday work ensuring businesses are operating within the correct legislation and trying to protect local residents from rogue traders who email, telephone or knock on doors. They work in partnership with Citizen's Advice who provide a helpline to received information and give advice to local people. Tel: 0808 223 1133. They also provide a Trusted Trader directory of local organisations.

Eleven new No Cold Calling Zones were set up in 2022 taking the number to 308. These 308 act as a deterrent to bogus callers and help protect 14,474 households across the county.

Fire and Rescue Service

The Fire Service was very stretched at times during the year dealing with flooding and wildfires. Last summer they dealt with over 650 wildfires sometimes tackling 50 per day, over 6 times more than in 2021 when they dealt with 96. On July 19th the call centre received 808 fire calls and on July 24th 1672 so a major incident was called and ten engines from other services came in to assist. As well as field fires many houses were completely burnt out.

April 1st 2023 marks the 75th Anniversary of the creation of the current Fire Service. They will be having Open Days at some Stations and there will be an Emergency Village at the Royal Norfolk Show to show the work of the emergency services as well as a display from the Fire Museum.

The Council continues to work with the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance and all of its partners to reduce inland and coastal flood risks by establishing a single phone number for all flood related issues and targeting support for those areas most at risk. Work will continue to encourage people to clear ditches to try to prevent the build up of water during heavy downpours. An advice leaflet has been produced.

Adult Learning

Adult Learning continues to offer hundreds of courses both online and face to face. They have just opened a new Construction Centre on Hellesdon Industrial site offering free courses for anyone over 19 years of age on bricklaying, carpentry, plastering, plumbing, and much more. A second centre is soon due to open in Kings Lynn. A temporary Construction Centre was set up at Wensum Lodge last year as they were keen to start delivering the course. Over 600 people attended the training and a third of them were female, this is far more than the one per cent of women in the construction industry. The courses are for people to learn new skills for employment but also for those who want to do their own DIY. They have also been offering courses to people who have English as a second language. They worked with the Fire Service to ensure immigrants and refugees knew how to report a fire or other incident in this country and they are offering new Multiply training to help people with numeracy. These are to help businesses upskill their staff, improve peoples employment opportunities or help people to manage their money. Training is free and can be for individuals or groups.

Libraries

The libraries continue to be the font of all knowledge, helping people requiring information about services provided by all councils and other organisations as well as providing a warm space during the cold winter months and the opportunity to join in activities for all ages, including knit and natter, bounce and rhyme, and board games. They also provided free, Keep Warm and Go bags containing a hat, blanket, socks and a hot water bottle and Toiletry Bags containing shampoo, bodywash, soap, hand gel, toothbrush and toothpaste and deodorant as well as the usual Tricky Period sanitary packs.

The Summer Reading Challenge was a great success with around 9,000 children taking part. Children were presented with certificates and medals as a reward for completing the challenge.

There has been a Public Consultation on mobile libraries to review the routes and the demand in each village. Not many people use them and fuel costs keep rising so there will be some changes later in the year.

Museums

The Castle Museum is still hosting weddings and visits from groups of school children. The transformation of the Castle Keep to a replica of what it was like in Norman times is nearly complete. All five levels from basement to battlements will be accessible to everyone. There will also be new catering and toilet facilities.

The latest exhibition of artifacts from a shipwreck which sank near Great Yarmouth on May 6th 1682, called the Last Voyage of the Gloucester, has been very popular and attracted an above average number of visitors, over 500 people, on the first Saturday that it was open.

Carbon Emissions

The County Council has committed to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions on our estates by 2030. All street lighting should be converted to energy efficient LEDs by 2024.

The proposal to plant one million trees in five years to help offset carbon emissions is continuing. Trees are being grown at the Environmental Hub at Gressenhall Museum. To date 210,000 trees have been planted and there is also a Hedge Restoration Fund to help fill the gaps in hedgerows and join up habitats to provide corridors for wildlife to travel safely along.

The Council has received government funding to provide 70 electric, zero emission, buses and the Roundtree Way Depot will be one of the first two fully electric bus depots outside London. Also 16 local authorities, including Norfolk, are to receive government funding to help roll out thousands of electric vehicle charging points.

Housing

Repton Property Development, the County Council's housing development company has recently completed a site in Attleborough where all 48 properties are affordable homes.

Strategic Review

The Council has been undertaking a strategic review to try to find savings by 'doing things better for less'. The predicted £60 million gap has been covered although due to increasing demand for Adult and Children's Services we foresee a gap of about £46 million next year. It has been agreed to increase the precept by 2.99% for general Council Tax and by 2% for Adult Services Social Care in line with the governments suggested cap.

Children's Services

Children's Services has been dealing with a need for more school places over the coming years. The three new SEND schools providing 500 more specialist places have been built and have opened in Fakenham, Gt Yarmouth and Easton.

Childminders and Foster Carers have been caring for children for decades. The Council now has a New Roads scheme which is looking for people willing to offer lodgings and advice and support to young people aged 12 – 25 to help them develop independence and prepare for adult life.

Last year the Council supported children aged 5 – 16 as part of the government's Holiday Activities and food programme. The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme will be repeated again this summer and at Easter. The scheme is free for children eligible for free school meals, young carers, children who are refugees and disabled children.

The Council offers various training schemes including Social Work Apprenticeships and experience of working with both children and adults.

Highways

Work continues on plans for the Norwich Western Link and Highways England will soon be starting work on the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton. There will probably be more rat running through the local country lanes and villages whilst the work is in progress. Highways are looking at ways of mitigating this.

The third River Crossing at Gt Yarmouth is nearing completion.

Highways Rangers have already started coming round the village to clean signs or help with small highways issues.

Devolution

The Council has been considering a County Deal with the Government which would bring in £600 million over thirty years, (£20million per year) plus the opportunity to apply for other funding and deliver more jobs, housing and investment. This would involve a directly elected leader and cabinet governance. A public consultation was held in March and the responses are being analysed. An agreement will be signed at the December Council Meeting if it is agreed to continue with this proposal.

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships
Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division