

MARLINGFORD & COLTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Colton Village Hall 11th April 2023, 7pm.

MINUTES

Present

John Morse	JM	Chairman
Paul Hammerton	PM	
David Woods	DW	
Caroline Agate	CA	
Carol Farrow	CF	
Steve Clark	SC	(from item 3)
Maria Hutson	MH	Parish Clerk
Margaret Dewsbury	MD	Parish and District Councillor
Marion Morse	MM	Colton Fuel Allotment
Felicity Maton	FM	Marlingford PCC and Grapevine
Rosanna Ellis	RE	Colton Art and Crafts Club
Dominic Castle	DC	Colton Village Hall
Chris Witting	CW	Marlingford Village Hall

1 Member of the Public

1	To receive any apologies.
	Apologies accepted from Deborah Perfect, Councillor
2.	To accept and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 th April 2022
	CF proposed and JM seconded that they were a true record.
3.	Reports from Local Community Organisations
	a) Marlingford PCC
	A report was given by FM and can be read in full in Appendix 1.a
	b) Colton PCC
	A report was submitted which was read out JM and can be read in full in Appendix 1b
	c) Marlingford Village Hall Report
	A report was given by CW and can be read in full in Appendix 1c
	d) Colton Village Hall Report
	A report was given by DC and can be read in full in Appendix 1d
	e) Fuel Allotment Charity
	A report was given by MM and can be read in full in Appendix 1e
	f) Grapevine
	A report was given by FM and can be read in full in Appendix 1f
	g) Community Car Scheme
	A report was submitted by David Ditton which was summarised by JM and can be read in full in Appendix 1g

	h) Marlingford Cricket Club
	A summary was given by PH and can be read in full in Appendix 1h
	i) Colton Arts and Craft Club
	A report was given by RE - The group started as she was asked to start something by residents. Pre-Christmas there was a focus on crafts at the club. Since the New Year there has been more of a focus on Art. RE acts as a facilitator rather than a teacher. She is able to offer a range of mediums and activities and what is offered is led by what those attending would like to do. The group display some of their art in the village hall.
	j) Marlingford Dance Club
	It was not possible to make contact with the group
	k) Little Owls
	It was not possible to make contact with the group
4.	Reports from other bodies
	a) Parish Council Report
	A report was given by JM and can be read in full in Appendix 4a
	b) District Council Report
	A report was given by MD and can be read in full in Appendix 4b
	c) County Council Report
	A report was given by MD and can be read in full in Appendix 4c
	d) Police
	PC Indans was not able to attend the meeting. She reported that there had been two attended incidents in the first three months of the year in Marlingford, and likewise two in Colton. Although attended by police, none of these incidents were recorded as crimes. The crime figures for the D11 area of Costessey, Easton, Marlingford, Colton and Wramplingham and Barford are down 10% on the previous quarter. She will be standing down as the local Beat Manager, with her last day being 28/04/23.
5.	General Parish Issues raised by members of the public
	Questions were raised regarding; Grapevine – growth in housing in Easton Community Car Scheme – future funding The Colton Amenity Area questionnaire and usage of area
	Meeting closed at 20:38

Appendix 1a

Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Marlingford

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 for the Marlingford & Colton Parish Council

Background

St. Mary's Church, Marlingford PCC has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and also maintenance responsibilities for the fabric of the church building. The risk assessment has been adhered to. The PCC is required to pay a share of the yearly Benefice fee to the Diocese of Norwich.

Membership

Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following members served as members of the PCC:

Rector: Revd. Laura Montgomery

Churchwarden, Secretary and Deanery Synod officer : Felicity Maton

Lay Chair: Sally Neale

Child & vulnerable adult protection officer: Felicity Maton until the Benefice elected:

Sarah Smith and Margaret Seely for the 4 Parishes

Elected Members: Carol Chiles (treasurer) Eric Neale (fabric officer)

This year (2023) Jane Knights has been elected to the PCC

PCC members maintained close contact by phone and email during the year. They endeavoured to contact those in the Parish who were ill, bereaved or needing spiritual support.

Marlingford Church Services in 2022

There were 13 Benefice Communion services. During the year there were two Funerals and 1 Burial of Ashes. At the Christmas Crib Service 39 plus 16 children attended. On Christmas Day 58 plus 5 children attended.

Review of the year

The Church remained unlocked for people to visit and for personal prayer and reflection.

Fundraising events were held: A Big Sale Day, Tombola at Village Hall Fayre and Carols in the Courtyard at Marlingford Old Hall. Funds were sent to the Churches Trust for the Annual Bike Ride, of which a percentage came to Marlingford Church. The Marlingford Parochial Parish 50 Club was drawn quarterly.

The Church building has been kept clean, checks made on the fabric and a repair to the Chancel roof was made. **The Churchyard** is a Conservation Area, where wildlife and wildflowers are encouraged. Pathways to the Church doors are regularly mowed and other areas trimmed according to the season. Cars are permitted to park in an area without graves near the large gate. The grant from Marlingford and Colton Parish Council of £300 a year for Churchyard maintenance is gratefully received.

Appendix 1b

**St Andrew's Church Colton
in the Easton Benefice.**

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

For the year ended 31 December 2022

**Rector
Revd Laura Montgomery
The Rectory
172 Fairway
Costessey
Norwich
NR8 5GB**

**Bank
National Westminster Bank
Wymondham
Norfolk**

**Independent Examiner
Mr A.C. Mobbs
East View
Mill Road
North Tuddenham
Dereham
Norfolk
NR20 3DD**

St Andrew's Church Colton – Annual Report 2022

Background

The PCC of St Andrew's has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of St Andrew's.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following members served as members of the PCC

Rector:	Revd Laura Montgomery .
Warden: (Ex Officio)	Dr S Smith
Representative on the Deanery Synod	Vacant
Elected Members:	Mrs P Dennis Mr D Organ Mrs E Plater Secretary Mrs J Scrivener Treasurer:
Co-opted member: (Fabric Officer)	Mr T Scrivener (May 2021)

The full PCC has met once since the 2022 APCM.

Church Attendance and significant information

There are 7 members of the Electoral Roll (full revision in 2019).

The average regular attendance at services, from April 2022, was 18.
In 2022 there have been two funerals, one wedding and one baptism service.

Review of the Year

After the disruption of the Covid pandemic and the impact of this on the running of services and activities within the Benefice, 2022 saw a return to relative 'normality' with only small adjustments still being made eg in the manner in which we conduct

The Peace and the distribution of the wine during Communion. At St Andrew's we now host the monthly All Age Communion Service which fits into the arrangement for different sorts of services throughout the Benefice. Children, and indeed adults too, are encouraged to be fully involved in a more informal approach to worship and it is hoped that we can welcome more young people to this service. Other significant services have included a service of Remembrance following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II in September and our annual Carol Service where singing and worship were, once again, joyfully accompanied by the Cawston Brass Band. The Open the Book team are now able to deliver assemblies in person at St Peter's School Easton. There are weekly prayer meetings on Zoom and a weekly Celtic Service of worship, also on Zoom. The Bible Study group has studied the Book of Revelation and the story of The Prodigal Son.

We were saddened by the deaths of two Colton villagers who were both involved in St Andrew's during their lives. Martin Hemming was a valued member of the churchyard mowing team and Bill Blatch led the team who arranged the annual Colton golfing event which raised over £10,000 for St Andrew's over the many years it took place. Bill also used to sing in The James Chorale. It was an honour to host their funerals in February and May. We were also saddened to hear of the death of Tony Harmer in October. Tony and Liz lived in The Old Rectory for many years and were tireless in their support of St Andrews serving on the PCC and being actively involved in church activities whether it be fundraising, Church and churchyard maintenance and singing in The James Chorale. Tony's Thanksgiving Service in Wymondham Abbey was a celebration of the life of a wonderful man.

Thankfully the Church is in good condition and we are grateful to Terry Scrivener, our Fabric Officer, who continues to undertake a number of internal and external works; fortunately there are, currently, no apparent urgent issues arising. We are delighted that Terry and Judy have been able to arrange for the altar kneelers to be replaced – the new kneelers are very well crafted and of a substantial size. It has also been good to have some of the wooden wall protections in the nave replaced. Working parties help to keep the church relatively clean.

The Churchyard is well maintained throughout the spring, summer and autumn by those who mow; our thanks to Philippa Blake Roberts who co-ordinates the mowing rota. The churchyard remains a haven of peace and beauty. We have decided that the car park should stay closed during the winter (except for services) to aid its recovery from regular churning of the surface and we will discuss a way forward, perhaps requiring an improved surface when finances permit.

The Financial Statement covers the detail of the Church's income and expenditure (*to follow*). We are thankful to those who donate their village Fuel Allotment Charity 'hand out' to St Andrew's.

Liz Plater 09.01.23

Risk Assessment

The PCC has undertaken a review of the principle risks it faces and this will be reviewed on a regular basis. Controls have been put in place to address those risks and these may be summarised as follows:

- (a) Operational Risks. The PCC is not aware of any possible operational problems which are likely to arise in the future, but will continue to monitor the situation so that any such problems can be speedily and effectively dealt with
- (b) Child protection: The PCC has adopted a formal policy which is on display in the Church Porch. A Child Protection Officer has been appointed
- (c) Protection of Vulnerable Adults: The PCC has adopted a formal policy which is on display in the porch. An Adult Protection officer has been appointed.
- (d) Financial. The PCC prepares an annual budget and forecast. Management accounts are prepared for each meeting of the PCC and the annual accounts are subject to an audit.
- (e) Legislative: These include Health and Safety and disability and other forms of discrimination. The PCC has reviewed the relevant legislative requirements in these areas and has taken steps to ensure that it meets its responsibilities. Audits have been taken both in the Church and in the Churchyard.

Appendix 1c

Marlingford Village Hall Annual Report

April 2023

Marlingford Village Hall has had a successful year with users enjoying the improvements to the facilities carried out over the past few years.

A major piece of work this year has been to gravel the vehicle access to the hall which has greatly improved the look of the entrance and also reduced the amount of standing water and mud that sometimes caused issues for vehicles. We have also been donated a larger marquee and further chairs which meant that we needed to increase the dry storage area. This has been achieved by the purchase and erection of a new shed for this purpose. We have also added a bench to the patio area which commemorates three regular committee members who are no longer with us but supported the hall tirelessly. We are also purchasing a further bench with support from South Norfolk District Council.

These new facilities have meant that as well as the existing 3 art groups that use the hall on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, we now also host a series of dance classes on Tuesday evenings. These regular events bring a regular income which gives stability to the finances of the hall.

Last year saw the successful return of the annual Christmas Fair which was well attended and well received with a number of new stalls. The hall also put on a number of events during the year including a curry night along with Bollywood dancers and an Acapella group which attracted a good audience.

The films and talks have been more difficult to restart after the events of recent years with film audiences being disappointing, but the talks are bringing in more people now and we are expecting to run more of these during the year. The committee is always grateful for the support received when holding events and the support that we get from the parish council and South Norfolk district council. If anyone would like to book the hall in advance for an event/party/group or get involved with the organising committee, please get in touch.

We will continue to make improvements to the facilities when we have the finances to do so and we will continue to do this going forward.

Chris Whiting
Chair, Marlingford Village Hall Committee

Appendix 1d

Colton Village Hall Chair's report 2022/3

The last 12 months have been a period of rebuilding the use of the hall following the disruption caused by the pandemic.

We began the year with a fresh new look to the hall after the renovation and updating works which we showed to the village at an open day and which drew a decent response from people coming to look.

A table-top sale was less successful, attracting only a handful of buyers, though we table-toppers bought and sold freely among ourselves!

Easter bingo was a solid performer as usual and, despite having the competing attraction of a world cup football match involving England, the Christmas bingo and charity payout was also a very worthwhile evening.

Additionally the quiz night and the summer barbecue were very popular, the summer event helped by glorious weather.

Our regular groups, the Thursday coffee morning and Little Owls, were joined this year by a fortnightly art and craft group with Rosanna Ellis, which has created a community for our artistic talents and produced some inspiring work, and the Marlingford & Colton Parish Council which meets monthly while the Marlingford hall is unavailable to them. The Thursday coffee morning group offers a welcome hub for the village and the owls continue to provide an important facility for parents and toddlers. All bring very welcome regular cash support and ensure the hall gets regular use.

We have also had a good number of hall hires and as word spreads we would hope to see those increase.

As always, I'm hugely grateful to the secretary, Vicky Green, treasurer Geoff Dunn, and all the committee members and helpers for the support given throughout the year; without it we would not be able to continue to give the community this fine facility to enjoy.

We should also acknowledge with gratitude the help and support of the Marlingford & Colton Parish Council, particularly Maria Hutson, the clerk, chair John Morse and Margaret Dewsbury. We have received welcome grant support over the year which includes money to largely fund a new bench and hopefully a grant for our coronation event.

Looking ahead, we have a promising year with plenty of events in the calendar. We do face challenges, not least with the power bill which, if it continues at the present levels, will cost us £4,000 this year alone and put a huge hole in our finances. Treasurer Geoff Dunn will, I'm sure, get this resolved as soon as possible.

This year, assuming re-election, I intend to ensure that the hall's status in regard to its constitution is properly updated. At present this is unclear and needs to be resolved with some urgency to ensure full compliance with all regulations. I won't be doing this alone and will be asking for help with this important project.

Thank you all again for your support; I'm sure we're all looking forward to an ever better year this year than last.

Dom Castle
Chair, Colton Village Hall
March 2023

DRAFT

Appendix 1e

Report from the Colton Fuel Allotment Charity for Annual

Parish meeting – Tuesday 11th April 2023

1. Payments made: Saturday 10th December 2022 during the Village Hall Christmas Bingo.
2. Number of payments made in cash: 26 residents x £30 (£780)
3. Payments assigned to St. Andrews Church: 14 residents x £30 (£420)
4. Total distribution: £1200

Issues for Trustees.

1. There were problems with the bank – changing signatures for cheques after Dominic Castle became a trustee in 2022.
2. Also changing the address to receive statements.
3. These issues were resolved in March 2023. The bank recognised its errors and made a compensation payment to the charity for all the inconvenience caused.
4. All Charity Commission returns will be made shortly. The format of reporting for small charities has been revised and Richard Smith – Chairman is awaiting the new advice from the Charity Commissioners.
5. The next distribution will be made in December 2023, date and venue to be 2nd Saturday – 9th December in the village hall and will remain at £30.

Appendix 1f

THE GRAPEVINE 2022 - 23

The Grapevine has had a good year and we are pleased we managed to regain printing the magazine, if only quarterly in 2022.

In 2023 we will continue to produce 10 issues: double issues for August/September and December/January. We hope to print a magazine every alternate issue, so enabling more of the villages' residents to take advantage of the news we bring them. We have 900 printed, of which 650 are for Easton, 110 for Colton and 100 for Marlingford with extra for leaving in Village Halls, Church porches, etc. We have volunteers who deliver a copy to each home and business in the villages. We are always appealing for more volunteers to help distribute the magazine.

The online version goes out every month and is distributed to all contributors, advertisers and committee contacts as well as those who have asked to be added to the online distribution list. The magazine is also uploaded to the Parish Councils' websites and a link is put on the Nextdoor website which covers Easton, Marlingford and Colton as well as part of west Norwich.

October and November are busy months for us when we need to renew the Advertisers' interest in the magazine. This year we were able to offer Colour or Black/White options. We are fortunate to have a loyal amount of supporters and now a few new Companies to add to our Advertisers.

In July Easton Parish Council offered to help us with an annual contribution of £1000.00. We also received an annual payment from Marlingford & Colton Parish Council and a donation from Colton Village Hall.

Many thanks for your support.

In October we were presented with a £1000 grant from Persimmon homes as part of their Charity Community Fund.

Our Advertising Revenue amounted to £3382.00

The brown Envelope donation Scheme which is our only other source of Income raised £568.80

Printing of the magazine is more expensive now as during Covid we were unable to print ourselves (volunteers could not work in a group).

The equipment we used then has seen better days and so became unreliable. Printing is by Barnwell Printers of Aylsham.

Our New Editor and Designer, Annette Hudson is great and has helped us to develop the magazine over the year and hopefully the readers are happy with the new improved version. Annette is always pleased to receive any articles with local interest and news.

Our Voluntary Committee members are:

Felicity Maton Assistant Editor, Sally Neale and Carol Chiles
Treasurer

We would welcome others who wish to help us.

DRAFT

Appendix 1g

**EASTON, MARLINGFORD & COLTON
COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME**

Co-ordinator
Mr David Ditton,
14, Woodview Road,
Easton
Norwich NR9 5EU

The Clerk
Marlingford & Colton

3rd April 2023

Dear Maria

Thank you for your letter requesting a report on the Community Car Scheme during the last twelve months. These are the Community Car Scheme figures for the last 12 months.

April May June 2022	£46.50
July August Sept 2022	£38.30
October Nov Dec 2022	£61.20
Jan Feb March 2023	£36.00

TOTAL £182.00

One third contribution from Marlingford & Colton Parish Council is £60.66

Over the last 12 months 602 miles covered and 76 Journeys

Our telephone account is now with Shell Energy they are cheaper than BT

Balance in the Bank Account to the 3rd March 2023 is £1,478.56

Yours sincerely

Mr David Ditton

Appendix 2a

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2023

Parish Council Meetings. Due to a new Dance Club in Marlingford Village Hall, all Parish council Meetings continue to take place in Colton Village Hall. The Parish Council however believe that this arrangement is not sufficiently representative, and it is hoped that alternate meetings throughout the summer will take place in the Marlingford Cricket Pavilion.

Precept & Finances. The Parish Council's reserves are currently in a good position with liquidity at approximately £8,000. This includes approximately £5,600 from the Communities Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It has however been identified that the Parish Council does not have a formal Reserves Policy. It is planned however that this will be addressed by the end of 2023.

The Parish Council is currently considering using a portion of the CIL money to refurbish equipment and facilities in the Colton Amenity Area. A questionnaire has recently been circulated amongst Colton residents to assess likely levels of usage of the facility, and the community's preferences for such improvements.

The Parish Council agreed that the Precept should be raised to £10,900 for 2023/24, and increase of 4%, in order to meet increasing costs.

The Parish Council has also agreed to grant fund Marlingford PCC (£300), Colton PCC (£300) and Grapevine (£375). However, it was agreed however to not allocate funds to the Community Car Scheme, due to insufficient information being received.

The Parish Council has continued to employ the same Auditors as in 2021.

Training. The Parish Council continues to ensure that its councillors are suitably trained in order for them to be effective. The last Training Course took place in 2021, and it is hoped that new and existing councillors will benefit from training this year.

Information and Dissemination. To disseminate information to the local community, in addition to the use of its website, and Village notice Boards, the Parish Council introduced, in 2022a Newsletter, produced in months when the Grapevine, also used, is only produced as an online edition. Currently the Newsletters appears 5 times per year and response from villagers, and in particular those without access to the internet, seems positive.

Local Issues

- 1. Flooding.** The Parish Council continues to be aware of potential flooding to the roads in the centre of Marlingford, caused by run-off from the housing development in Easton, by Persimmon Homes. The PC has met with Easton Parish Council to mitigate this issue.
- 2. Highways.** There are continuing issues with respect to overgrown hedges obscuring road signs. This has again been brought to the attention of highways for them to carry out appropriate rectification.

The Parish Council continues to send a delegate to continuing discussions in regard to the planned dualling of the A47, and the construction of the Norwich Western Link. It is understood the Secretary of State is currently reviewing the consultation, although both projects seem stalled at present, due to funding issues.

The Parish Council continues to be concerned about potential speeding and traffic volume issues through both villages, but more specifically, in Marlingford. The Council is currently monitoring traffic flow, using both SAM2 speed cameras in Marlingford, such that a report can be prepared in advance of discussions with the police, and the data can be used as a baseline in advance of the A47 development.

Footpaths. Councillors continue to monitor public footpaths in both villages. There are in generally good condition with any issues being reported to Norfolk County Council who oversee these paths, or to the landowners, as necessary.

3. **Communications:** There has been a significant improvement to telecommunications in our villages, when compared to the repeated theft of Openreach's copper cables in 2022. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation, as necessary.
4. **Policing.** The Parish continues to have relatively low levels of crime. However, it is important that any incidents are logged with the police, so they are able to track patterns of crime.
5. **Sports and Recreation Facilities.** There is currently an initiative in Marlingford to facilitate a wider participation in maintenance of the Conservation Area. In Colton, the lease on the Amenity Area, and Village Hall Car Park has been extended for three years, and currently, the residents are being consulted as to how best the facility, and equipment may be augmented and/or upgraded. To that end, one of our junior local residents has started a fundraising campaign to help
6. **Planning Applications.** In the past year the PC has dealt with five applications in total. One application was opposed, and the applicant has subsequently withdrawn his application.
7. **Proposed Honingham Thorpe Development:** The Parish Council has continued to maintain a dialogue with the Greater Norwich Local Partnership and other special interest groups to include the CPRE, in respect of this major initiative. It is however understood that this prospective development is only being considered by the local authority after the current GNLP plan which expires in 2038. The Parish Council also attends regular meetings of the Broadland & South Norfolk Village Clusters Group, and the Town and Village Forums, to ensure we are fully aware of other potential developments, in our area.

The Parish Council would again wish to record our considerable thanks for all the work carried out by our Parish Clerk / Bookkeeper / general factotum, Maria Hutson, and to Margaret Dewsbury, our District and County Councillor, for her continuing support, and continued access to grant funding.

I would also like to extend my thanks to my fellow members of the Parish Council, for their considerable commitment.

Finally, I would like to record with great sadness, the passing of our previous council Chairman Frank Curtis. We extend our condolences to Sheila and the rest of his family, and we know his presence in the village will be sadly missed by all.

John Morse
Chairman,
April 2023

DRAFT

Appendix 2b

South Norfolk Council report for Annual Parish Meeting

Over the last few years South Norfolk and Broadland Councils have worked together to share staff and provide services, yet still remain separate councils. Last year they jointly purchased the Horizon building at Thorpe and they hope to move in in April when the work to prepare it has been completed. Both councils have put their current headquarters up for sale and South Norfolk have vacated the Long Stratton building and are currently sharing Broadlands headquarters in Thorpe. Two thirds of South Norfolk residents live as close or closer to the Horizon building than to Long Stratton but to compensate for those living furthest away the Council has opened an office in Diss and called it Octagon Outreach.

The new building will use 84% less energy than the old headquarters as it has over 2500 solar panels plus air source heat pumps are being installed. This should save around £750,000 per year.

Solar panels are also being installed at the Leisure Centres and swimming pools to make them more energy efficient. Every year at least 3,000 children learn to swim in these pools.

South Norfolk Council wants to help the whole district to 'go green' and have committed to provide EV (electric vehicle) charging points for every village that wants them. The Market Town car parks have already been fitted with charging points.

The Council has worked with Harleston Town Council to improve their market place and this year will be helping Wymondham Town council to improve theirs.

To assist with people's health and wellbeing the Council has supported two new Country Parks near highly populated areas at Cringleford and Queen's Hills and are working with the NHS and CCG to provide a new surgery at Hethersett.

A free bin collection App has been launched to ensure people know when their waste will be collected. It also provides advice on what can or cannot be recycled.

This year South Norfolk Council approved a capital budget of £113 million, whilst freezing Council Tax for the ninth time and committing an extra £1.3million for those in need, so it can continue to help 500 households a month to deal with the cost of living or other challenges.

The Help Hub continues to provide support and advice for local residents as do the Community Connectors.

We have welcomed 200 Ukrainian refugees to the area as well as those from Hong Kong, Afghanistan and Syria.

Numerous grants have been awarded. In this Ward Marlingford and Colton have received funding for outdoor seating, Gt Melton Pavilion has received funding to update and refurbish their building, Easton Gym club has received funding to purchase more equipment and replace some that is worn out and the Council

worked with Easton Parish Council to provide a new multi purpose village hall for the ever increasing village.

Fifty per cent of Council Tax income is generated by trading activities including house building and providing commercial space for businesses to expand and prosper. The Council is working with others on a solution to Nutrient Neutrality because it has not been possible to grant planning permission for properties in the River Wensum or Broads catchment areas since last March. This is about to restart because from this April a new mitigation scheme is being offered which allows builders to 'off set' the impact of their developments by buying credits to fund measures, such as creating reed beds to trap nutrients, that will minimise the impact of the pollution, although larger schemes will probably created their own ways of mitigation on site.

As South Norfolk Council's day to day work covers 86 different activities this is just a summary of the main activities during the last year.

Margaret Dewsbury
Easton Ward
South Norfolk Council

Appendix 2c

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 off set 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

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