

# LONGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of a meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in the Village Hall.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Sue Douglas, was present, together with Cllr's Kerry, Dye and Collins, District Cllr's Richard Duffield and Roger Atterwill and three members of the public and the Clerk. County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris was present for part of the meeting.

## **1. Welcome and apologies for absence.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated all councillors on their recent election to office. Apologies were received from Cllr's Donna and Roddy McLeod, together with C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris who would be arriving late.

## **2. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

Cllr Collins proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Kerry and agreed. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

## **3. To receive reports from:**

### **a) The Parish Council Chairman.**

The report from the Parish Council Chairman is attached.

### **b) District & County Councillors.**

D/Cllr Duffield reported that a new leader was in place at Breckland and it had been a busy year, although Longham was a relatively quiet village. He had had a busy year, visiting many of the churches in the local area, with the highlight of the year being a trip in a refuelling plane from Mildenhall. He will continue to assist the Parish Council when necessary.

D/Cllr Atterwill, who is a new district councillor, informed the meeting that he had been chairman at Swanton Morley parish council for 13 years. He has been appointed to the Planning Committee at Breckland and is keen to make villages living places with smaller properties being build which are suitable for younger people and families. He too, will assist the Parish Council where he can.

A report from the C/Cllr, Mark Kiddle-Morris is attached.

### **c) Village Hall Committee**

The report from the Village Hall Committee is attached.

### **d) St Andrew's and St Peter's Churches.**

The report in respect of the churches is attached.

## **4. To discuss Parish Council forward-planning.**

Council agreed it was important to continue with current priorities, to keep village facilities alive, and those present were in agreement.

## **5. To receive a report on the Parish Council's Finances.**

A year end financial report is attached, there were no questions.

**6. Open Forum.**

A member of the public said what a wonderful job the parish council do, the Chairman thanked them for their kind comments.

A member of the recent litter pick team notified Council that the two back packs retrieved during the litter pick belonged to a courier. The litter pick had been very successful but sadly there is already more litter in many places throughout the village.

**7. To note the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.

Signed:

Date:

---

## **Chairman Report 2019**

Once again there have been several planning applications both for new properties and extensions, these additions help to keep the village alive. The Dereham Cats Protection in Hoe Road has completed their extensions and renovation and it all looks very good.

The Plans to install a Defibrillator at the Pub are under way, with the Parish Council looking into what kind of machine to install and then also trying to get a grant to cover the rest of the cost.

Many thanks to the volunteers who spent a morning, in April, carrying out a Litter Pick around the village, they gathered several bags of rubbish, plus a tyre, a television and some sports bags that were thrown in the ditches. The gardens and the village look lovely in the summer, so I hope, if you see any litter you will pick it up and put it in the correct bins, to keep it that way.

The new play equipment and adult fitness machines are being well used, which is gratifying to see, The Parish Council are going to install a couple of benches on the playing field using the money from they get from the re-cycling banks.

I would like to thank our County and District Councillors for their support and guidance over the last year and also my fellow Parish Councillors for all they do for the Village and we have been very ably supported by our new Parish Clerk, Sheryl so thank you to her for all her hard work.

Sue Douglas Chairman

## County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Annual Report Report 2018-2019.

Norfolk County Council agreed a net revenue budget of £409.293m on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. It was agreed that Council tax would rise by 2.99% adding £39.51 per year to a band D property and that an adult social care charge of a further 3% rise was not to be made. The financial climate in which local government operates continues to be challenging with significant and ongoing reductions in core funding at the same time as substantial service cost pressures. The agreed council tax increase of 2.99% will enable the Council to protect vital services and will help to ensure a robust and sustainable financial position in future years. This years budget is balanced, robust and allocates our resources across Norfolk's people and communities in the best way we can.

The Council has absorbed significant and ongoing cuts in government funding, a total of £204m between 2010-11 and 2018-19. There are significant cost pressures such as inflation, demographic changes, unfunded burdens such as the National Living Wage and the need of vulnerable social care users becoming increasingly complex. Despite those pressures the Council is continuing to deliver savings and has plans in place to deliver £79m of savings by 2021-22. This includes £32m of saving in this financial year.

The Council has also agreed a £549m, 3 year, capital programme which will pay for investment in infrastructure, property and equipment. £120m will be spent on new special schools and resource bases for children with special educational needs, £120m on the third river crossing at Yarmouth, £9m for extra care housing to help older people live independently as part of a total investment of £29m. Most of the expenditure for capital projects is borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board, a department of HM Treasury, and repaid from revenue over a long period.

Adult social care costs continue to escalate, and the Council has made provision in the budget to invest £6m to address growing demand. Although the 3% adult social care precept was not raised this year all council tax rises from 2016-17 to 2018-19 are expected, by government, to be spent on adult social care. Thus, this year's council tax bill shows an adult social care precept of £96.05 for a band D property with no increase for this year. Additionally, government has awarded the Council a grant of £4.2m to help alleviate winter pressure on the Counties health and social care services. The money will go towards measures to avoid unnecessary delays in hospitals for people with mental health difficulties; bolster the short term capacity in the care market

and to provide reablement support to enable people to regain their ability to live independently.

There are also substantial financial pressures on Children's Services. The Council has around 200 statutory responsibilities for children and the government has increased the top of the age range from 18 to 25. There are 1200 children in the care of the Council (the numbers have stabilised), 3000 children in special and complex needs schools, 2,900 children in need (590 with CP plans) and 20,000 children with special educational needs. The under 25 population of Norfolk is 243,00. As an example, home to school transport costs £27.7m pa, placements and support for looked after children costs £57m pa and education and care for children with SEN £56.4m pa out of a total budget of £186m.

The government awarded the Council £12.7m to fund pot hole repairs and highway improvement schemes. The highway team have been doing a good job over the summer and have largely caught up with the backlog of work. The extra cash must all be spent by the end of the financial year so some improvement schemes which have been shelved though lack of funding have been resurrected. In my area much needed resurfacing of 2 miles the B1145 was completed in February. Resurfacing work at 3 busy junctions will be carried out before the end of March. Norfolk has been ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 28 similar councils in a national highways and transport survey. The highest scores for the county were for traffic levels and congestion and the condition of roads and footpaths.

The Council continues to lobby government and the Highways Agency, through the A47 Alliance, to fund the dualling of the A47 from Peterborough to Yarmouth. The stretch of road between Tuddenham and Easton has been approved and work will start in 2021/22, this will provide a continuous dual carriageway link between Dereham and Norwich. Other schemes in Norfolk to 2020 include junction improvements at Thickthorn and at Yarmouth and dualling between Biofield and North Burlingham. Another top priority for the Council is the so called western link, the construction of a road between the A1067 and the A47. This would link the newly completed Broadland Northway (the NDR) with the A47. The final account for the construction of the Broadland Northway has been settled in the sum of £205m.

Last May the Council took the decision to revert to the Cabinet system of governance from May 2019 (an earlier transition was not possible legally). The

recent departure of the Managing Director has given rise to an opportunity to move to an Executive Leader model. This would mean that the Council would be run on a day to day basis through weekly meetings between Cabinet members and the Senior Management Team (the paid Directors) with the Leader as Chair with all decisions being put through Cabinet or promulgated for consideration by Members. A Scrutiny Committee chaired by a member of the opposition will monitor outcomes and will run a call-in system where decisions taken by the Executive Members and Cabinet can be called in by Members for discussion. 3 Select Committees will develop policies and make recommendations to Cabinet.

An additional £11m contract has been let to increase the superfast (>10mbps) broadband coverage from 92% to 95% in Norfolk. This will typically give coverage to properties and businesses that cannot be connected by Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) solutions and will use other technologies including Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). The small improvement in coverage for a sizeable investment reflects the difficulty in reaching premises remote from the FTTC solution. NCC have secured a government grant of £8m to allow a full fibre broadband connection to 208 of Norfolk's schools, 108 of NCCs corporate buildings and 34 fire stations. This will allow broadband speeds of 1Gigabit (about 20 times faster than the average speed currently). Additionally, nearby businesses will be allowed to piggyback on to these connections and government grants will be available to cover part of the cost of the connection.

NCC has won praise for its approach to improving mobile phone coverage. A survey was carried out on mobile phone signals across the county and the results were used to create an interactive map and more than 200 council owned sites have been identified in areas of poor mobile phone reception. These sites are being offered to mobile operators as potential sites for new masts.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

April 2019

## Chairman's Report

Through 2018 into 2019, the village hall committee have continued to engage additional hirers for the hall with success. Resulting in the hall being used now far more frequently than it has for many years. This continues to be essential as it's the only way we currently have to raise funds to support this community facility at this time.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee and volunteers for their support and hard work in keeping this village hall running. Which allows it to continue to support the local community and provide a venue for such varied uses including keep fit, auctions, sowing and dog training to name but a few.

Finally the Village hall committee would like to thank the Parish Council for the on going grant towards grass cutting on the playing field and their support with the Teachers House project, it is much appreciated

Phil Collins

Chairman Longham Village Hall

## **Longham Church Report 2018- 19.**

2018 was a year of stability with the congregation and pattern of services remaining largely unchanged. The Longham congregation is regularly joined by other worshippers in the Benefice who prefer an earlier service.

Longham Church hosted a service of Compline on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, and an Easter Service on Easter Sunday all of which were well attended.

The attendance at Harvest Festival and the Carol Service was a little disappointing but also in line with the trend in other small parishes.

It was a joy to have a wedding and two baptisms at the church during the year.

The church building is kept clean and in good repair by a small number of people, whose hard work does not go unnoticed.

The Church is open for all to enjoy on the Churches Open Weekend and the Christmas Wreath Display, the PCC are very grateful to all those who help or contribute in any way to make these fund raising events so successful.

The members of the PCC would like to pass on their thanks to the Parish Council for the donation towards the grass cutting in the churchyard , without which it would not be possible to maintain the churchyard .

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
 YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2019  
 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR END

BUDGET UPDATE	Budget 2018/19	Year End	% Spend
<b>PAYMENTS*</b>			
Admin	650	1670	257%
Salary	1677	1915	114%
Grounds Maintenance	500	0	
Playing Field	2325	1029	44%
Community Car	200	107	
Village Hall	0	300	
Donations	1875	1925	103%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7227</b>	<b>6945</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			<b>Received</b>
Precept	6000	6000	100%
Breckland Grant	86	86	100%
Admin	0	18	
Bank Interest	0	2	
Grants	500	0	0%
Recycling	200	439	219%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6786</b>	<b>6545</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>-441</b>	<b>-401</b>	

<b>Balance at 01.04.2018</b>	
Community Current Account	11,940.87
Business Reserve Account	<u>803.19</u>
	12,744.06
Plus Receipts at 31.03.2019	9,002.27
Less Payments at 31.03.2019	<u>8836.89</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>12,909.44</u></b>
<b>Bank Balance at 31.03.2019</b>	
Unity Trust Current Account	12909.44
Unity Trust Instant Access	0.00
Barclays Current Account	0.00
Barclays Reserve Account	<u>0.00</u>
	<b><u>12,909.44</u></b>

<b>Budget Notes</b>	
Payments include following from 2017/18	
<b>Salary:</b>	
Clerk Salary (retiring)	408.45
HMRC	<u>102</u>
	<b>510.45</b>
<b>Admin:</b>	
Clerk Expenses (retiring)	191.71
Mazars - external audit	<u>550</u>
	<b>741.71</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1252.16</b>