



PORINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Poringland Community Centre, Overtons Way, Poringland, Norfolk, NR14 7WB
Tel: 01508 492182 Email: clerk@poringlandparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Faye LeBon FdA
Chairman: Mr Tim Boucher

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

You are hereby invited to attend the Poringland Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st May 2019 at Poringland Community Centre. All persons are welcome to attend, but only registered electors of the parish of Poringland can vote on matters.

The business to be transacted at the meeting is as follows:-

- 1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd May 2018**
- 3. Matters Arising From the Minutes**
- 4. Parish Council Reports**
 - a) Chairman's Report
 - b) Financial Report and Annual Report
- 5. Report from Village Organisations**
 - a) District Councillors – John Overton; and Lisa Neal
 - b) County Councillor – Vic Thompson
 - c) Six Strategic Group
 - d) Youth Representatives – The Six Youth Council; and Churches Together
 - e) Welcome Home and Memorial Playing Field Trust
 - f) Fuel Allotment Trust
 - g) Sand and Gravel Charity
 - h) Men's Shed; and Tree Warden
- 6. Parishioner Questions and Comments**

This is your meeting, please feel free to participate!

Refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting

Dated the 18th April 2019

Chairman.....

PORINGLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at Poringland Community Centre.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Attendance | ACTION |
| | Tim Boucher (Chairman) | |
| | David Hewer | |
| | David Gooderham | |
| | Lisa Neal | |
| | John Overton | |
| | Trevor Spruce | |
| | James Landshoft | |
| | Chris Walker | |

The Clerk, Assistant Clerk and 17 members of the public were also in attendance.

Apologies: Steve Aspin, John Joyce, Henry Gowman.

2. Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2017 were **approved**.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Parish Council Reports

a) Chairman's Report

Tim Boucher gave his report (Appendix 1).

b) Financial Report

The Parish Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer presented the financial report (Appendix 2).

5. Reports from Village Organisations

a) District Councillors

John Overton reported that it had but a busy year, working alongside the Parish Council on matters affecting residents. He acknowledged the disruption caused by the Anglian Water works, necessary due to the age of the pipework. He advised that the B1332 was not due to be resurfaced until 2023. The current roadworks were due to the last planning condition of Norfolk Homes from 2003 which was to widen the Cycle Path; being fulfilled before they withdraw from the village.

The development off Burgate Lane had been unanimously refused and although the developer could appeal, the land supply figures have subsequently changed in the village's favour.

John & Lisa continue to lobby for the pedestrian crossing outside the church to become controlled because criteria is met both in terms of traffic volume and speed. The improvement is listed on the County Council budget list.

He discussed the Boundary Review which will result in three district councillors covering the ward incorporating Poringland, Framingham Earl, Framingham Pigot and Trowse.

He reported a £4 million investment in Wymondham Leisure Centre and £2 million in Long Stratton Leisure Centre, and advised that Lisa had been moved to a Cabinet position and that he would take over the Chairmanship at the end of the year.

Question: When will Norfolk Homes be withdrawing from the village and will that mean the Spine Road will be opened?

Answer: No fixed date but will be soon. John will ask about the Spine Road

Question: Will The Street be resurfaced any sooner than the next 5 years due to the state it is in now?

Answer: Highways consider the road to be within tolerance and have no long term plans to resurface, just to maintain. The ‘bumps’ currently present will flatten in time. Had it had been laid flat, ‘dips’ would have appeared.

Question: Budgens roundabout will not survive 5 years, due to the shattered brickweave, can this be looked at sooner?

Answer: The chairman advised the Clerk could bring it to the attention of Highways

b) County Councillor

The Chairman referred to the written report provided by Norfolk County Council (Appendix 3).

c) Strategic Six Group

Charles Muttly spoke on behalf of the Strategic Six Group and outlined a number of matters that the member villages of Stoke Holy Cross, Caistor St Edmund, Trowse, Bixley and Arminghall had been involved in throughout the year. He expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for their financial support, to Vic Thompson and the district councillors for their help throughout the year, to John Overton for acting as vice-chairman and to Tina Eagle for her administrative support.

d) Police

The Chairman referred to the written report provided by PC Sansbury (Appendix 4).

e) Youth Representatives

- No report or representative from The Six Youth Council .
- Emmy from “Churches Together” reported that up to 15 young people now attend two youth cafes per week and one mentor session, engaging in a range of activities, and that the volunteer base continues to grow in confidence.

David Gooderham expressed his disappointment that the 6YC had failed to

supply even a written report and questioned whether the group should be supported by the council further.

f) Welcome Home and Memorial Playing Field Trust

John Overton reported that the Parish Council is investing in a new heating systems and installing new showers which fulfil FA regulations. The Pavilion is still available to hire and is being used by a private pre-school club.

Question: With the new facilities being built on the Community Land, what will become of the facilities on the Playing Field?

Answer: The land is protected and will never be developed. Will continue to be used as the multipurpose facility it is at present.

g) Fuel Allotment Trust

David Gooderham gave a report of the activities of the Trust, attached at Appendix 5.

James Landshoft asked for clarity on the definition of “needy people”. David confirmed that it was not means tested and that the only criteria was that people needed to be residents of Poringland.

h) Sand and Gravel Charity

Chris Walker gave a report of the activities of the Charity, attached at Appendix 6.

i) Men’s Shed; and Tree Warden

The Chairman read out the update submitted by Henry Gowman (Appendix 7).

6. General Parish Issues

John Overton advised that on 19th May he will be attending a closed meeting with NHS regarding the proposed new chemist in the village. A member of the public queried if the surgeries had been invited. John confirmed that they had been engaged with but would not be in attendance.

John Overton also acknowledged the investment made by Norfolk Homes at Poringland Lakes and encouraged attendees to visit.

David Hewer reported that the Good Neighbours Scheme has continued to develop and is now in greater demand than ever with more volunteers needed. Assistance is provided with transport/delivery and befriending.

The Chairman referred the audience to the strategic project the council are currently involved in, regarding the use of the word “Parish”. He asked for feedback to be given as to whether “Parish” puts people in mind of the church or whether it is outdated, and whether “Poringland Community Council” for example, would be a more appropriate title.

A member of the public gave a brief update on The Nook Appeal and

confirmed that £85,500 has now been raised locally. The build is progressing well with the project looking to be completed in April.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all the Parish Councillors for their volunteered time over the past 12 months. John Overton thanked Tim Boucher for taking over the Chairmanship at a difficult time following the passing of John Ellis and commended the job he had done.

A member of the public expressed her thanks to Tim, all the councillors and the office staff for the work put in to the Parish.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45pm

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX 1.

It's been another challenging and very busy year for the Parish Council, but we have also achieved some great successes, some of which I'm pleased to share with you in this report. The Community Land Project is moving forward well, with planning documents being prepared ahead of delivery of the site. We have created a new children's play area adjacent to the Community Centre, and following the successful fete hosted in 2017 at the Centre, we have planned another fete this year. For those who enjoy a game of table tennis, we have a new outdoor table being installed in July; another great asset for the community. Neighbourhood Planning has captured a lot of our attention, and I am sure that many of you have participated in the consultations we have been holding. One of the biggest challenges we have faced over the last few years has been the seemingly endless roadworks while Anglian Water replaced 11km of water main along various local routes. We met with Anglian Water on several occasions and highlighted any issues brought to our attention, they also attended last year's annual parish meeting to face the public. We can all breathe a sigh of relief that these works are now completed, albeit a new set of temporary lights have been installed for an 11 week period as works commenced to provide a new wider footpath and cycleway between Springfields and Rectory Lane. These works form part of an agreement made with Norfolk Homes and the Community back in 2003 when local residents met the developer to agree what benefits the developer could provide the village. These later forming planning policy. It is worth mentioning that all of our Parish Councillors are elected volunteers who attend public meetings to discuss ways we can maintain and improve our village. We are constantly looking at new projects to provide more facilities to make Poringland a better place to live. The Parish Council is also managed day to day by a busy team working within the Community Centre and led by our Clerk, Catherine Moore, without whom none of this would be possible.

As always as a Parish Council we try to engage more closely with the residents within the village and invite you all to attend our monthly Parish Council meetings, where we discuss and plan our next steps. There is always an opportunity for the public to participate in those meetings and our clerk is always on hand to take phone calls or e-mails with suggestions for discussion at our next meeting.

Tim Boucher, Chairman

APPENDIX 2.

Summary of Parish Council Accounts 2017/18

Income	Actual 2016/17 £	Budget 2017/18 £	Actual 2017/18 £	Over (Under) 2017/18 £	Budget 2018/19	Inc / Dec on 2017/18 Budget
Precept	122,922	142,829	142,829	0.00	150,922	+5.67%
Shortfall Grant	5,829	3,714	3,714	0.00	1,994	-46.31%
Interest	2,567	2,000	3,508	1,508	2,000	0.00%
Burial Ground	8,006	4,500	18,810	14,310	5,500	+22.22%
Miscellaneous	1,967	500	1,129	629	500	0.00%
Grants	13,739	4,067	15,320	11,253	19,100	+369.63%
S106 Commuted Sum	32,975	0	27,500	27,500	0.00	-
Refund to Comm Sum	0	0	1,569	1,569	0.00	
CIL	1,558	0	3,837	3,837	0.00	-
Memorial Repairs	1,750	0	1,050	1,050	0.00	-
Community Centre	89,646	65,000	84,277	19,277	76,355	+17.47%
Use of Earmarked Monies (incl. S106)	0.00	0	0.00		28,200	-
Total	280,959	222,610	303,543	80,933	284,571	+27.83%
Tax Base (adjusted no. of properties)		1,693			1,789	
Band D Tax*		£84.36			£84.36	
% inc/dec Band D Council Tax		+1.78%			+0.00%	

* Band D Council Tax is calculated as Precept divided by Tax Base.

Expenditure	Actual 2016/17 £	Budget 2017/18	Actual 2017/18 £	(Over) Under Spent 2017/18 £	Budget 2018/19	Inc / Dec on 2017/18 Budget
Staff Costs	105,191	106,954	112,574	(5,620)	125,899	+17.71%
General Admin	13,209	12,150	19,619	(7,469)	16,860	+38.77%
Burial Ground	12,020	8,000	8,986	(986)	6,000	-25.00%
Community Centre	53,701	67,866	55,079	12,787	52,293	-22.95%
Outside Spaces	22,554	10,630	8,433	2,197	13,560	+27.56%
Playing Field	14,219	10,310	8,562	1,748	16,859	+63.52%
Section 137	275	500	225	275	300	-40.00%
Professional Fees	542	1,500	0.00	1,500	1,500	0.00%
Land Project	0	2,500	1,525	975	33,000	+1220.00%
Octagon PO	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	200	
Neighbourhood Plan	0	0.00	3,385	(3,385)	16,500	
Contingency	0	2,200	0	2,200	1,600	-27.27%
Total	221,711	222,610	218,388	4,222	284,571	+27.83%
Comm Sums & Earm'ked Reserve (ER) Expenditure	17,567		5,381			
Grand Total	239,278		223,769			

Accounts

Barclays Current	13,275.50
Unity Trust Current	48,937.89
Barclays Deposit	65,697.04
Petty Cash / Bar Floats	550.00
Nationwide Instant Access Saver	60,582.76
Julian Hodge Bond 1	22,000.00
Hampshire Trust Bond 1	55,847.75
Cambridge & Counties 120 Day Saver	74,086.85
Fidelity Investment	30,000.00
Hampshire Trust Bond 2	20,000.00
Julian Hodge Bond 2	55,000.00

Less unrepresented payments 1,215.81

Total 444,761.98

APPENDIX 3.

Norfolk County Council Parish Council Annual Review 2017-18 March 2017 – March 2018

Infrastructure

Broadband – our Better Broadband for Norfolk programme has already transformed broadband speeds for many people in the county, including in some of our most rural areas. We're on course to increase superfast broadband access in Norfolk to 95 per cent by March 2020 but we need to do more to reach the final five per cent. So we're looking to invest an additional £13m into the programme to extend superfast broadband coverage and get us much closer to our goal of eliminating broadband inequality in the county.

Mobile coverage – our new Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee is leaving no stone unturned in the drive to improve the county's mobile coverage (with a target of 98%) – working with the big four mobile providers and identifying opportunities to work together to improve the quality and reach of mobile data and voice coverage in Norfolk. In February we kicked off a campaign to improve coverage, with our survey van scouring the county to identify areas of greatest need. We are also using our county council-owned buildings to help overcome 'not spots', by putting mast on top of them to improve phone signals.

A47 – we continue to actively work with the A47 Alliance, bringing together key stakeholders from Lowestoft to Peterborough to lobby for improvements to this important trunk road. Throughout 2017 we worked with Highways England (HE) to develop proposals for sections of dualling and junction improvements to deliver the already funded projects (over £300m) as soon as possible. In Norfolk, this has seen the preferred scheme solutions announced by HE for dual carriageways between Easton and North Tuddenham, and from Blofield to Burlingham. It has also resulted in proposed junction improvement details being published for the A47/A11 Thickthorn junction, as well as the Vauxhall junction in Great Yarmouth. The County Council is currently delivering improvements to the rail station junction in Great Yarmouth, using funding provided by HE, which has also confirmed its commitment to complete the construction of all these projects between 2020 and 2023.

We are also actively engaging – with the A47 Alliance – in securing the next round of funding for further trunk road improvements due to be delivered between 2020 and 2025. Our two priorities in Norfolk remain unchanged: to see dualling of the Acle Straight and the Tilney to East Winch sections. This all builds towards the ultimate aim of seeing the A47 being a dual carriageway from Great Yarmouth through to Peterborough and the A1.

The NDR – construction of the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR – the A1270) made good progress over the summer of 2017, allowing the opening of the first 6 km, from the A1270 Fakenham Road to the A140 Cromer Road, to open in November, more than three months ahead of schedule. This was followed by the next 7.75km to the A1151 Wroxham Road before Christmas. The final phase, 5.25km from the A1151 Wroxham Road to the connecting roundabout on the Postwick Hub, is on course to open to traffic on the 11th April 2018.

Norwich Western Link – we have continued to develop the initial business case appraisal for a Norwich Western Link – to join the NDR to the Norwich southern bypass. The work undertaken during 2017 (and reported to Committee in October) included modelling to provide an indicative assessment of a possible dual or single carriageway solution. This work was based on an assumed alignment (which should not be

taken to be a preferred solution). The economic appraisal provided a high value for money (vfm) rating (using Department for Transport guidance). The next steps include further scheme development, technical and environmental work and consultation to be completed throughout 2018.

Great Yarmouth – work is well under way on £9m (from New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership) of transport improvements to make it easier to get into and around Great Yarmouth and which will have long-term benefits for local people, visitors and for the borough's economy.

Work to sort out some of the town's congestion hot spots, improve the area around the railway station and make it easier to get between the station and the town centre began in autumn 2017.

Work on the Fuller's Hill roundabout is complete, with landscaping scheduled for spring. We're also improving the railway station right turn at Asda, which will reduce congestion and delays on Vauxhall roundabout, and shorten journey times. And at North Quay, we're providing better walking and cycling links between the rail station and the market place, and a widened route for pedestrians and cyclists.

Third river crossing – our hard work paid off. Last year's Autumn Budget contained some great news for Norfolk as Chancellor Philip Hammond committed £98m of Government funding to create a third river crossing in Great Yarmouth. We made the third river crossing one of our infrastructure priorities, recognising its potential to attract future investment and development to the area, creating skilled jobs, business opportunities and giving local people a better quality of life. The bridge will do this by reducing traffic congestion and improving transport links between the port and energy-related enterprise zone and the A47 and the rest of the trunk road network. We hope to start construction towards the end of 2020 and work is currently under way to appoint a contractor to build the bridge.

Long Stratton bypass – getting a bypass built around Long Stratton is one of the County Council's top infrastructure priorities for Norfolk, and something we have long been pressing for. There was good news in February, as developers submitted a planning application to South Norfolk Council which included plans for a bypass. There's a long way to go before any decisions are reached but this is an important step in the right direction, and the planning consultation is a great opportunity for people to have their say in this important matter.

Attleborough – following an award of £4.5m from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership to support planned growth within Attleborough, to help the town grow as smoothly and successfully as possible, we held a public consultation in summer 2017 to seek views on potential schemes and help us shape these significant transport improvements. As a result, we have prioritised work to create more parking spaces in the town centre's Queens Square car park and at the railway station, reduce queueing traffic and congestion by changing junctions and road layouts, encourage cycling and walking by improving and extending current facilities, and create a more attractive and usable space in front of the town hall – with the work due to start in Surrogate Street this year.

Hales roundabout – in January, work started on £1.63m roundabout to replace Norfolk's most dangerous main road junction on the A146 at Hales junction, which currently has the worst accident record for a main road in Norfolk. .

And more roundabouts – we've also had £3m from the Government for a new Hempnall roundabout which at the time of publication is out for public consultation. And in 2017, with the help of local funding, we completed a new roundabout at Felbrigg – one of three new roundabouts in north Norfolk, helping reduce congestion and cut journey times.

West Winch Relief Road – together with King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, we're looking into creating a new stretch of route that would reroute the A10 to connect to the A47 east of West Winch, to take traffic out of the village and support planned housing growth. As well as taking the pressure off West Winch, this would allow significant housing growth of up to 3,500 homes to the south of King's Lynn. The relief road would be predominantly developer funded and discussions are under

way with Homes England to investigate forward funding mechanisms to deliver the road early. Our hope is to have made enough progress by the end of 2019 to enable a planning application to be submitted.

Market towns – our Environment, Development and Transport Committee agreed in September 2017 to carry out a series of studies looking at short-, medium- and long-term transport impacts of growth in market towns – to help us identify and plan interventions ahead of growth. The first year’s studies, in Dereham, Thetford, North Walsham, Swaffham and Diss, are already under way, in close cooperation with local stakeholders, including town and district councils.

Transport for Norwich - last summer saw the launch of the flagship Westlegate pedestrianisation scheme. This has created a thriving new public space that is pedestrian and cycle-friendly and has increased trade to local businesses. Other projects included new cycle facilities along key routes to the city centre and university, as well as the start of works to reduce congestion on the Dereham Road/outer ring road junction. Forthcoming projects include improvements to traffic flow and pedestrian/cyclist provision around Prince of Wales Road, completion of the Wymondham to Hethersett cycle link, a new crossing on St Crispin’s Road and a new transport interchange in Cringleford.

And finally... recycling Norfolk’s disused railways

As part of our vision for a cycling and walking network for the county, a feasibility study is looking at bringing disused railways and other underused parts of the transport network back into use as cycling and walking routes which would help make the county a top walking and cycling destination for leisure and tourism. The initial feasibility study focusses on three disused railways, Weaver’s Way – which is owned in part by Norfolk County Council - King’s Lynn to Fakenham and King’s Lynn to Hunstanton.

Economy

Repton Property Developments – Norfolk is growing and we need enough houses for people to live in. Gathering information about the types of housing required will help us support economic regeneration and has the potential for us to make money from our own properties. With this in mind, we have set up our own company, Repton Property Developments Ltd, to do this work. We’re scrutinising our own property estate as, if we offer several services from fewer buildings, we can sell surplus property and reduce running costs. And having several services in one place also offers a better service to the public.

Launch of Local Investment in Future Talent programme – our successful bid for funding on behalf of five Local Action Groups (LAGs) resulted in the launch of a new skills and employability programme, Local Investment in Future Talent (LIFT). Funded by the European Social Fund, LIFT seeks applications from community-based organisations in Norfolk and north Suffolk that can deliver targeted employment and skills support in rural areas. The first project was approved in January and will see Moore Networking use the grant to set up TrAC Apprenticeships Norfolk, a pilot for an Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA). This will support and enable rural businesses to host apprenticeships for care leavers and other vulnerable young people who are not in education, employment or training. Also approved is a project to support ex-offenders to help grow salad crops for local restaurants. The Horticultural Industry Scheme, based in Thetford, offers training and help finding work to ex-offenders, and their £26,415.29 grant from the LIFT funding programme will enable them to support 15 individuals over the next 12 months.

Launch of new rural strategy – the county’s rural economy was boosted in November with the launch of Strong Roots: New Growth - Norfolk Rural Strategy 2017-2020. Since the original Norfolk Rural Development Strategy was published in 2013 there have been significant changes, which will have major impacts on Norfolk’s rural economy - these include the UK voting to leave the EU, the introduction of the National Living Wage and rapid advances in technology. To respond to the changes, the Norfolk

Rural Strategy Steering Group commissioned a refresh of the 2013 strategy to identify the priority areas on which the Norfolk rural community needs to focus between now and 2020. Effective delivery of the strategy will require close cooperation and action from all partners with a stake in Norfolk's rural economy.

LEADER project reaches funding milestone – funding allocated to rural businesses in Norfolk and north Suffolk through the LEADER programme, an initiative managed by the county council, passed the £3m mark in December. Since Norfolk and north Suffolk's LEADER programme started, the five Local Action Groups (LAGs) have awarded millions to 69 rural projects, including:

Four Norfolk County Council farms made available for tenancy – more than 1,000 acres of Norfolk County Council's 16,738-acre County Farms portfolio was launched for tender in January. The four farms available are located at Marshland St James and Welney in the west of the county, North Burlingham to the east, and Binham to the north. We've also expanded our portfolio, with County Farms acquiring Bank House Farm in Marshland St James back in September. The farms present opportunities for people at all stages of their farming career, whether it's a new entrant looking for their first farm, someone looking for the next rung on the ladder or those ready to go to the next level with a commercial-sized farm holding. Offering these tenancies underlines our support for sustaining and creating rural employment throughout the county.

Children and Families

Education

A good education – our role is to champion the very best education for Norfolk's children, so I'm very proud that, in July for the first time, Norfolk reached or exceeded the national average for the proportion of good and outstanding schools, with 90% of Norfolk's school now judged as good or better by Ofsted.

Children in care deserve the same chances as everyone else and, as their corporate parent, the County Council needs to do all it can to support them. Early indications suggest that there were significant improvements in last year's exam and assessment results for looked after children. Although the Department for Education has not yet published official statistics, our provisional data for all the children in our care suggests that:

- The proportion achieving the expected level in English and maths GCSE has increased from 15% to 26% - up 11 percentage points
- The proportion reaching the expected level at Key Stage 2 has increased from 19% to 30% – up 11 percentage points;
- The proportion achieving a good level of development at the age of five has increased by eight percentage points – from 23% to 31%.
- No looked after children were permanently excluded from school last year, compared with six the previous year.

Raising Learners – we launched the Raising Learners campaign in summer 2017 to help raise children's numeracy and literacy levels. The long school summer holiday can mean children forget some of their learning between one school year and the next. To help address this, Raising Learners provided simple and fun activities to reinforce their literacy and numeracy skills over the summer break. For example, Count on Norfolk made maths a fun part of everyday life. In launch week alone it had a million Twitter impressions, 80,000 Facebook reach and 1,200 page views on our website. We also held 16 family maths workshops at libraries across Norfolk and ran a stall at the Forum for the Science Festival. Our Write On

Norfolk 500-word writing competition for children ran for a second successful year – encouraging 5-13-year-olds to submit a piece of original creative writing which had to feature Norfolk.

Investing in special educational needs places – because we want children to be taught in their local communities wherever possible, we are developing a new strategy to create more school places for children with special educational needs – and are set to receive an additional £2.7m from the Department for Education to ensure there is enough specialist provision for them, subject to Government approval of our plans. But we believe a more ambitious plan, beyond the £2.7m, is needed to ensure children can go to school closer to home, and reducing the high transport and placement costs for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

School buildings – good quality places for school children in growing communities – since May 2017, we have approved £169m of capital investment in school building, to develop new and extended schools, making sure that there are enough school places across the county, responding to both population growth and housing development. The new schools are being developed as the education landscape across the county continues to change, with 43% of Norfolk’s schools now academies.

A new £1.1m sixth form college opened at Sidestrand Hall in June and more than £40m of school building programmes are under way across Norfolk, creating new and extended schools for hundreds of the county’s children.

In addition, the six ‘30 hours childcare’ schemes, separately funded by Government grant, will be complete for delivery by the end of April 2018. Two, at Scarning and Marham, are already complete.

Children’s Social Care

Ofsted turnaround – outstanding adoption service and improved support for vulnerable children sees council removed from intervention. Our Ofsted report was published in January, lifting us out of intervention, praising our outstanding adoption service and highlighting significant improvements in support to children in our care and care leavers. Overall, we require improvement but the good judgement we all want to see is now in sight. Inspectors highlighted some strong social work practice, innovation in recruiting staff and ‘steady progress’ in support for care leavers. And it’s clear from the report that children in Norfolk now have a much better experience than they did when we were first judged inadequate back in 2013. The report also acknowledges the strong leadership of the council’s new permanent Director of Children’s Services and the determination of councillors to provide good quality services.

Investing in children and families – we are investing £12m over the next four years to transform how we work with children and families to help support children to live safely at home. For those who do come into care, we want to ensure they can live with foster families wherever possible, rather than in residential homes. This means investing in intensive support for families whose children are at risk of come into care. It also means we need to recruit more foster carers and develop more early help services to work with families before they come into contact with social care. Without this level of investment, we estimate that demand for our services will continue to rise, costing an extra £5m each year by 2021-22. By reducing demand and investing now, we avoid costs going up in the future.

Our assisted boarding scheme, which places children at risk of coming into care in boarding school places, has received national recognition this year. Norfolk has been described as ‘leading the way’ in this work and we’re now assisting the Department for Education to try to get more local authorities to

provide these opportunities for children in need. Investing in these children's education helps to reduce the high costs that we would pay if they came into our care.

Thirty new social workers through grow your own – this year we've welcomed 62 newly qualified social workers to Children's Services, as part of our work to grow our own talented staff. Our Norfolk Institute of Practice Excellence (NIPE), created in 2014, provides dedicated support and training to our new social work staff. During their first year, staff have smaller caseloads, protected time and regular training. They also receive support from a Practice Consultant, who can help them to build their skills in the field. Our scheme has high retention rates and was praised as national best practice in our recent Ofsted report.

Case study: our Marshfields short breaks unit in West Norfolk achieved its magnificent seventh consecutive Outstanding rating from Ofsted. Its excellent team of social workers and learning disability nurses provides excellent care 24/7 to five to 18-year-olds with disabilities, and is firmly centred around the child.

App helps vulnerable young people in Norfolk to share their views – we've launched two interactive, secure apps that give vulnerable children and young people in Norfolk a new way to share their views and feelings, and record their thoughts and experiences – day and night.

Adult Social Care

Key highlights include:

In Good Company – our award-winning campaign to tackle loneliness in Norfolk continues to go from strength to strength. The health impact of being lonely can equate to smoking 30 cigarettes a day, so the risks can be substantial. With an estimated 43,700 lonely people in the county, the campaign is vital to ensure no one in Norfolk spends a lonely day if they don't want to. Thirty businesses and groups have now got one of our In Good Company quality marks, which were launched in July 2016 – and which highlight their strong commitment to combating loneliness.

Tackling loneliness at a local level – in February, nearly 100 people came to our first In Good Company Loneliness in Norfolk Summit, organised with the support of key partners, Age UK Norfolk, MIND, Action for Children, Carers Matter Norfolk and Norfolk Community Foundation. Actions pledged included setting up inter-generational groups in Norwich, free get-togethers with refreshments in Great Yarmouth and Waveney, a buddy system to share ideas in north Norfolk, creating a community champion in south Norfolk to work with young people, and individuals in west Norfolk promising to deliver 100 leaflets each to publicise events tackling loneliness. With team work, dedication and support like this, we can all help to end the epidemic of loneliness in Norfolk.

£35m boost for adult social care – this welcome one-off funding from the Government helped address pressures in the health and social care system and followed extensive national lobbying by local authorities, including Norfolk. The money has helped us recruit 50 social workers, as well as contributing to new preventative activities to reduce and delay the need for formal care and support the safe discharge of people from hospital.

Norfolk, Living Well – our campaign to recruit 50 social workers coincided with the introduction of this new approach to social work, promoting people's strengths and independence. Also known as the three conversations model, it is already operating successfully elsewhere and is about looking at what is going well in somebody's life and building on that to make things better for them.

Recruiting for reablement – in November we recruited around 80 new care workers countywide, including posts for our new accommodation-based reablement initiative which sees reablement care workers provide a ‘wrap around’ service to follow people from hospital and support them back to their home. An active assessment unit at Burgh House near Great Yarmouth opened in September, with three beds available for overnight accommodation-based reablement. This was followed in February by Benjamin Court in Cromer with a provision of 18 beds. These units complement the existing home based reablement service and are for people who are medically fit but unable to return to their home safely. We’re also planning a facility for west Norfolk.

Caring for carers – with the five Clinical Commissioning Groups, we’ve commissioned a new carer-led service, Carers Matter Norfolk, to support the county’s 100,000 unpaid carers.

Norwich Escalation Avoidance Team – sees health and social care joining forces to support Norwich residents facing non-999 emergency situations. This highly responsive service works to prevent crises escalating and causing unnecessary admissions to hospital or emergency respite care.

Tackling winter pressures, managing the strain on health and social care – to support timely and safe discharges from hospital, we agreed a package of financial measures to help home care and care home providers respond swiftly to requests to take on care packages related to hospital discharges. Facilitating a speedy discharge for people from hospital, either to their own home or to residential care, is essential to help people stay independent and also to keep our emergency care system running. Our Enhanced Home Support Service, a targeted initiative launched in February, is aimed at reducing delayed discharges from the three acute hospitals, as well as preventing unnecessary admissions. We’re piloting it for three years and are delivering it in partnership with three home support framework providers.

Investing in home support – in the next financial year, we will be investing an extra £2.1m to help home support providers. We’ve developed a new model to improve the coverage and quality of home support countywide. The key to making this work will be a collaborative approach from providers – communicating and working as a collective whole to deliver a stronger and more robust service. The ambition is that providers can respond to the majority of requests quickly and is reliable, providing continuity of well-trained personnel working to agreed professional standards, for people using these services to be able to remain in their own homes for as long as they wish.

Communities

Norfolk Community Learning Services – I’m proud of our Community Learning Services for adults, which have gone from strength to strength this year. You’re never too old to learn, so having the right opportunities there for everyone is vital, and something close to my heart. In April, Norfolk Community Learning Services (NCLS) was shortlisted for a national award in recognition of its performance turnaround. NCLS was one of six national finalists in the Most Improved Council category of the Municipal Journal’s Local Government Achievement Awards. The judges recognised that, in just fifteen months, the service managed to turn an ‘Inadequate’ Ofsted rating into a ‘Good’. There is enormous pride among NCLS staff that they improved their performance and service to learners in such a short space of time.

Adult learners celebrate excellent GCSE results – August saw students from NCLS celebrating their GCSE results, with 75% of those who sat an English GCSE achieving a grade 9-4 (A*-C) and 63% achieving the same result in maths. As well as being great results for the learners, the pass rates were well above the national pass rates for learners aged 17 and over taking English (40% above) and maths (21% above) GCSE. This was a testament to a combination of the students’ hard work and the high standard of teaching at NCLS.

Open Library – we are continuing to extend Open Library to more branches, giving customers access to libraries beyond staffed opening hours, by using their membership cards to access library buildings. This initiative ran successfully as a pilot project and the aim is to offer this service at all libraries.

Norfolk Reading Pathway – following a grant of £98,000 from Arts Council England, we have supported almost 600 Norfolk residents aged 8 and above to learn to read. Using a phonics-based reading programme, learners are supported by library volunteer coaches, who are given full training. A large part of this project has involved supporting schools with children who struggle to read. Reading sessions take place at libraries across Norfolk and we are continuing to recruit new learners and volunteers.

Digital libraries – as well as launching of the Libby app, enabling customers to access books from anywhere, the Library Service has been running a range of digital clubs. This includes everything from helping people learn to log on to the internet or use a tablet computer, through to a number of successful coding clubs. In the Autumn of 2017, Norfolk libraries were given 500 BBC micro:bits which can be borrowed for free. They are tiny codeable computers that help people get to grips with digital devices and learn about coding.

Healthy libraries, Story Walks – in the summer holidays, youngsters from Tuckswold and Lakenham were able to feed their imaginations and get some fresh air and a healthy snack at special themed story walks. The project was funded through a grant from Lakenham and Tuckswold Energise Project through Sport For Change and is a great example of innovative ways of working with partners.

Libraries as community hubs are helping break down social isolation and bringing services to the people – whether it's baby-weighing scales, Knit and Natter or Just a Cuppa drop-in sessions. There are some amazing volunteers doing amazing work at our libraries, making a huge difference to people's lives by fundraising, knitting, cooking, helping people with IT, running craft sessions, literacy sessions and activities for people with dementia. .

Outstanding exhibitions at our museums – two home-grown exhibitions at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery pulled in the crowds in the summer and autumn of 2017. *Nelson & Norfolk* and *Rembrandt: Lightening the Darkness* shone a spotlight on extraordinary objects in the Castle collections. The exhibition, which also featured major loans from Royal Museums Greenwich and the Royal Collections, attracted 57,527 visitors and received regional, national and international coverage.

Domestic abuse – we continue to tackle domestic abuse in Norfolk head-on, with our programme to train 'champions' – people in professions who deal with the public and who are taught to spot signs of abuse and offer support. Domestic abuse is not always physical and can take many forms, including coercion and control, and our aim is to raise awareness about this and focus on the safety of people at risk. Our domestic abuse change coordinators have exceeded all expectations by training 925 champions so far since 2015, keeping an estimated 1,500 people in the county safer.

Mental health – 2017 saw the launch of our suicide prevention and men's mental health campaign targeting males, and in particular older men. There are around 77 suicides a year in Norfolk - higher than the national average. I am really (not) okay is our multi-agency strategy for suicide prevention in Norfolk, and talks about it being everyone's responsibility, with all of us having a part to play in helping friends or family members who may be at risk. In December, we partnered with Norwich Theatre Royal to launch a month-long series of events focusing on men's mental health to help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health. There were workshops, screenings, and performances, using art as a platform to communicate the message.

Chathealth, our innovative confidential text messaging service gives 11-19-year-olds an easy way to talk to school nurses. In its first year in 2016 it had more than 3,000 texts on topics like relationships, smoking, bullying and exam stress. The service is particularly useful for young people who wouldn't have

the confidence to seek advice in person, it uses a platform that most 11-19 year olds are extremely comfortable using and also offers them support all year round, including outside school hours and school holidays.

Fire and Rescue – councillors from our Communities Committee voted unanimously in January that the Fire and Rescue Service should continue to be governed by the county council. In 2016/17 (latest stats available), our Fire and Rescue Service attended 7,340 incidents and rescued over 700 people. Following the devastating Grenfell Tower blaze in London, our Fire and Rescue Service did a great deal of public reassurance work and inspected all domestic Norfolk high-rise flats, mid-rise blocks and many commercial premises to check safety compliance. We've expanded our collaboration with the East of England Ambulance Service Trust - to have ambulances based at Great Yarmouth fire station for ease of accessing incidents. We're already doing this at Carrow, Sandringham and Sheringham. Our prevention work continues and included the IMPACT roadshow, seeking to reduce road casualties among young people and run in collaboration with Norfolk Constabulary.

Our drive to fill vacancies for on-call firefighters across Norfolk continues. The number of vacancies has decreased over recent months but there is still work to do to fill the remaining gaps in cover. Many of the recruitment difficulties are caused by the rural locations of fire stations and the need for on-call staff to live or work within five minutes of them.

The Prince's Trust and Crucial Crew projects saw continued success again and show the great efforts being made by the service with young people in our county.

Norse Group

The Norse Group brings together facilities management specialists Norse Commercial Services, property consultancy NPS Group and care provider Norse Care. The Group has a combined turnover of more than £281m and provides employment for over 10,000 staff.

Norfolk remains central to Norse Group's thinking, returning millions of pounds in profits to the County Council every year, providing thousands of local jobs and underpinning the local community.

NorseCare is the largest care provider in East Anglia, supporting over 1,400 of Norfolk's most vulnerable people. Which? magazine recently found that for care providers who have more than 12 care homes, NorseCare was ranked in the top 10 in the country for having homes with good or outstanding CQC ratings.

The Group was awarded Norfolk County Council's In Good Company Quality Mark Plus in February 2018, in recognition of the positive work being done by staff to tackle loneliness in Norfolk.

Conclusion:

This has been a great year for Norfolk County Council and for Norfolk. We have a real sense of direction; we have a plan for the future; and we are focussed on doing the best for Norfolk.

We'll keep you updated through our website – www.norfolk.gov.uk – through Twitter and Facebook and through our roadshows. I'm also hoping to take your questions through live sessions on social media and Radio Norfolk.

APPENDIX 4.

Not Available

APPENDIX 5.

Poringland Fuel Allotment Charity

We are one of nearly 500 historic relief charities in Norfolk that were derived from land enclosures or philanthropic gifts of land or money by private individuals.

The Charity was established by Trust Deed in 1805. The objective was the relieving of need, hardship or distress of the residents of Poringland .

The Trustees are required to maintain the level of capital but may distribute the income.

In the mid 1990s, the Trustees decided to sell most of their land to Norfolk Homes and Budgens and to invest the money.

At the same time , the Charity broadened its charitable objectives allowing them to support the inhabitants of the parish, and to address education and training as part of their activities. The Charity continues to support local people and community projects.

The total value of the capital held is in the region of £725,000 of which just over 60% is invested in the stock market in low risk income based funds . During 2017, the Charity also purchased a buy to let property to diversify its capital base and provide a consistent income stream.

In the 2017/18 financial year, the total income from investments and interest earned was around £22k and total expenditure around £16k of which over £14k was on grants .This included a more than doubling of winter fuel payments following the recent very cold spell . There is scope for the level of grants awarded to be closer to income levels in future years and the charity is always willing to consider requests from Poringland residents in need of help .

In view of the property purchase and the need to protect the position of individual trustees, the charity is seeking to incorporate over the next few months..

David Hewer resigned last year as a trustee and the charity is very grateful for all his hard work over a number of years including his period as Chair. The charity has recently welcomed Sheila Hoyle and Andrew Wright as new trustees . Alison Randall is now Chair with myself as treasurer. The other trustees are Peter Sayles and Robert Parsonage.

David Gooderham

April 2018

APPENDIX 6.**2018 PORINGLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Report from -

Poringland Sand and Gravel Allotment Charity

Charity No. 264618

The Poringland Sand and Gravel Allotment Charity makes grants available to clubs, groups and societies comprising Poringland parishioners.

The Charity is run by 4 Trustees who are each appointed for a 4 year term by Poringland Parish Council but who are not necessarily parish councillors. Presently the Trustees are Pat Easter, Jenny Huxtable, Caroline Milton and myself.

Our financial year ends on 30 June and our accounts are independently examined each year. During the 2016/17 year, the latest available, we received income of just under £1,500 from our various investments and interest earned. Expenditure was just £220, of which £200 was a grant award to a local organisation. As at 30 June 2017 our funds stood at over £60K.

Since June last year we have awarded further grants to local organisations totalling £1,600.

Local clubs, groups and societies who wish to seek assistance from the Charity should apply in writing to either the Chair, Mrs. Pat Easter or the Secretary, Mrs Caroline Milton. Their addresses can be found in the 5+ and Contact magazines.

Thank you.

Chris Walker, Trustee

May 2018

APPENDIX 7.

Parish Tree Warden

Lots of visits to parishioners to give advice on hedge management or tree pruning plus advice on choices of trees for planting and after care. The most memorable incident of the year was dealing with Wilson Homes and the unfortunate chopping down of a splendid Oak tree. Through the offices of the Parish Council and South Norfolk Council this was resolved by Wilson Homes planting a new Woodland within their development.

Men's Shed

We were obliged to quit The Forge and have found refuge at The Barn behind The Dove courtesy of the landlord. This is the second move within the 2 1/2 years that we have been operating and so are grateful for the opportunity to create a purpose built Shed within the Community Land Project.

Over the past year our membership has steadily increased to some 40 members with a hardcore of 20 who meet twice a week and are engaged in hobby work or community projects. We have repaired and repainted Arminghall Village Hall, made a rocking horse to raise funds for the EACH Nook appeal (presently on sale at the EACH shop on Unthank Road) and are in the process of assisting EACH in making a carnival float for The Lord Mayors Show.

We are also working with Poringland Archive to make silhouettes of WW1 soldiers to represent the 11 fallen soldiers from Poringland for the Remembrance Service this coming November.

We are also making shelves and ladders for a local cat sanctuary and too many other projects to mention here. We continue to fix and repair household items to prevent them going to landfill. Two of our members are PAT trained for electrical items.

We are a vibrant, busy, useful user led project which is greatly benefiting the village