

Parish Matters

The Newsletter of Poringland Parish Council

June 2021

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Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to Edition 6 of Parish Matters.

Fate has dealt a very cruel blow this month. Last month we reported on the sad death of our former Litter Picker Dougie Minns. This month, with the deepest sorrow, we are reporting the untimely loss of our current Litter Picker, Stephen Warminger. When Dougie left the Parish Council, high expectations were had of his replacement. However, when Stephen joined the Parish Council in 2011, he showed the same level of pride and high standards in his work as Dougie He was popular with his work colleagues, councillors and also with parishioners, with his cheery persona and willingness to help out. Poringland was his home, and he kept the open spaces in our village clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy. Council is still coming to terms with the loss of a valued member of our team and sends its deepest condolences to Stephen's family and friends.

Focus on the Community Woodland. The Community Woodland along Carr Lane was transferred to the Parish Council late last year. Since then we have been planting bulbs and given 'Penelope' her own sign to cement her permanency in this area. The Parish Council has agreed that the overarching strategy for the future of the woodland should be family friendly, engaging and educational. Councillors have been submitting their own ideas for this area, and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust has attended the site and will be providing their ideas on the development and management of this area. But we'd like to hear from our parishioners! What would you like to see in the Community Woodland that will meet our objectives? Have you visited a similar site where you've seen a feature that would work well in our woodland? Have you any pictures you can send us? Get in touch as we'd love to hear your thoughts.

Your Village — Your Say! The Neighbourhood Plan has had a long journey, from when the idea was conceived in 2017 through to tangible planning policies to shape our village. But we finally have a referendum date! A referendum date of the 8th July has been announced where all registered electors can vote on whether to adopt the Poringland Neighbourhood Plan. If adopted it will be used by South Norfolk Council to make decisions on planning applications in Poringland. The question at the referendum will simply be:

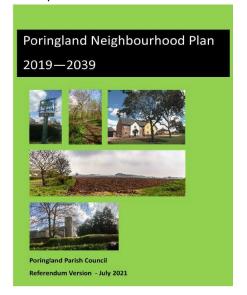
Do you want South Norfolk Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Poringland to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

The Parish Council will be running some drop-in events at Poringland community centre so you can find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan, how your consultation comments turned into planning policies and how the referendum process works. The dates for

these events are:

Wednesday 23rd June 10am— 1pm

Thursday 24th June 3pm—7pm



We look forward to seeing you, and don't forget to cast your vote, either in person at the community centre on 8th July or by using a postal vote.

Click here to view the Neighbourhood Plan

Parish Council Annual Meeting. The Parish Council met on 26th May for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. With the government not extending legislation to allow us to continue to meet online, the Parish Council met at the community centre, taking into account all Covid mitigation measures. John Joyce was unanimously elected as Chairman, and Tim Boucher as Vice Chairman. The council also co-opted a new councillor and would like to welcome Sean Curtis to the team. We had four expressions of interest in the role and it was great to hear from all the applicants about how their individual talents could benefit the local community. It was unfortunate that we only had one vacancy as all applicants would have been great councillors. Congratulations to Sean and we look forward to working with you!

Café Award. South Norfolk Council's Covid Marshalls visited the community centre café on 1st June. We discussed the measures we have put in place to keep visitors to the café safe from Covid-19, and they issued us with a certificate of Covid safety.



As well as being a superb cook, our Café Supervisor Bev works tirelessly to keep all of our customers safe, so we're grateful to South Norfolk Council for recognising her hard work.

Community Centre Reopening. The community centre is set to reopen to our regular hirers from 5th July. We have loved having the NHS onsite and being able to play our part in the vaccine rollout. We've learnt so much about the way the NHS operates and have gained an even greater appreciation of how they serve our community. But we are also looking forward to seeing our regular hirers and their clients back in the building. We truly hope that restrictions will be fully lifted on 21st June so that we, and other local businesses can start returning to

normal. To do this we all need to stick to the current rules, and keep testing – just to make sure we are not carrying the virus without knowing.

until next time - Keep safe

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