



Parish Matters

The Newsletter of Poringland Parish Council

March 2021

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Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to Edition 3 of Parish Matters!

Feedback on our new monthly publication has remained positive, so here's the third of three trial editions. As ever, feedback is very welcome to determine whether we continue providing information in this format.

Change of Meeting Date The Parish Council will be breaking with tradition in March and holding its monthly meeting on 24th March instead of 31st. This will allow us a little time to enact the decisions of the council before we reach our financial year end on 31st March. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but everyone who is already on our mailing list will receive the usual agenda details and link to the meeting, in good time.

Planning Application for Overtons Way The planning application for 9 dwellings and a commercial unit on Overtons Way has been amended and is open for public comment again. The new plans can be found on South Norfolk Council's planning website at <https://info.south-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications> using reference 2020/1689. The Parish Council will be discussing the plans on 24th March.

Surface Water on Mulberry Park Playing Field The Parish Council is currently exploring the services of land drainage consultants to see how best to drain the surface water from the Mulberry Park playing field. The topography here is difficult, with water naturally gravitating down to the lowest point, which just happens to be footpaths, making them inaccessible. Whilst we appreciate that it has been an extraordinary wet winter, we hope that there will be a mechanism that will alleviate at least some of the water.

Celebrating the Tree Council The Tree Council has been in operation for 30 years, and our Tree Warden, Henry Gowman, has been a tree warden for all this time. His expertise has been of great value in this village, especially with regards to the transfer of the Community Woodland to the Parish Council. To say thank you, we have planted a tree of his choice, a Copper Beech. This can be found close to the lagoon at the north of the Community Woodland, near The Ridings.



Roundabout Improvements David Wilson Homes has provided Norfolk County Council with £12,000 to make visual improvements to the Fiveways roundabout. As the roundabout is located in two parishes, representatives from both Poringland and Framingham Earl Parish Councils are looking at possible schemes to improve the aesthetics of this highway feature. There are many constraints due to visibility and the location of services under the roundabout, but we hope to design a scheme that will visually improve this area of the villages. This will not cause major highways works in this area.

Funding for Flooded Households Norfolk County Council is seeking funding to offer households the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £5,000 towards property level protection. You can apply if you have been flooded inside your house from rainfall, watercourses or groundwater and the grant can be used to provide a combination of automatic flood protection measures such as flood doors, air brick covers and non-returnable valves. However manual flood protection, such as flood boards and gates, are excluded as these rely on an individual being present at the property when flooding is expected. To register your interest, go to <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/flood-protection-grants>

Neighbourhood Plan Consultation The Parish Council has been working hard alongside District Councillor Lisa Neal and South Norfolk Council planning officers to improve Policy 2 to better meet community aspirations after changes suggested by an examiner. The new wording was taken to South Norfolk Council's Cabinet on the 8th February and was met with enthusiasm, especially from the Leader of the Council, John Fuller. Cabinet accepted the new wording unanimously and it is now being consulted upon until the 29th March. The new wording, which is designed to restrict market housing to smaller sites (of less than a hectare) can be viewed here: <https://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/poringland-neighbourhood-plan>

Local businesses and community groups that have already been part of the consultation process will have already been contacted about the wording change, but the consultation is not restricted to these groups, so please feel free to go online and have your say.

Once the consultation stage is complete, it is hoped that the plan can move to referendum in late spring/early summer. All registered electors of Poringland will then decide whether to adopt the plan to help determine future planning applications in the village.

Woodland Colour Last month we reported the emergence of the snowdrops that our wonderful volunteers had planted in the community woodland (which runs adjacent to Victory Avenue) and other parts of the village. This month we're pleased to report that the daffodils are starting to show. We will hopefully have bluebells soon as well for a hat-trick of colour.



Food Savvy Unlocked The waste management team at County Hall is launching a 'Food Savvy Unlocked' campaign as part of this year's Food Waste Action Week which will take place from 1st March. The campaign aims to celebrate the food saving tips we've all developed during lockdown. They say "We are looking for case studies to showcase the positive food habits prompted by Covid-19 which will be sticking for life."



Go to <https://www.foodsavvy.org.uk/foodsavvy-unlocked> to find out more and submit your stories, for a chance to have the opportunity to win £50 worth of shopping vouchers and a food saving kit worth £50.

Village Gateway Funding The Parish Council has bid for funding from Norfolk County Council for two village gateways to remind drivers that they are entering a village and to stay under the speed limit. The total project cost is £8,284.22 and we hope to receive £4,142.16 towards this from Norfolk County Council as part of their Parish Partnership fund. Norfolk County Council will make a decision on 8th March, but the proposal has been submitted to their Cabinet with a recommendation to approve the project.

If agreed, there will be one gateway to the south of the village as you enter from Brooke, and one on as you enter from the Shotesham Road, the latter reminding drivers of the 20mph road they are entering.

Making Poringland's Voice Heard The Parish Council has been active in local and national consultations. We've given our opinion on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (the government document from which all planning policies stem from) and also the government's proposed Model Design Code. We've also responded to the Greater Norwich Local Plan, giving our support to the proposal to not allocate any further development sites in Poringland and the surrounding villages. Finally, we provided our opinion on the Norfolk Rural Strategy, a document which seeks to address the challenges and opportunities that rural Norfolk faces today. Councillors spend a long time working through these documents when they become available, but it is important that matters affecting our village are understood and we contribute to their shaping.

And Finally.... We continue to support the NHS by allowing the community centre to be used as a vaccine clinic. We are currently receiving a lot of calls about booking appointments for second vaccines. The Parish Council holds no medical records or appointment details so we cannot assist with these enquiries.

The NHS staff continue to work tirelessly to bring this service to our village, and the volunteers have been vital in streamlining the process. We would like to thank everyone who has been in contact to compliment the clinic – this has been really appreciated by those working within the setting. The set up of the clinic was recently recognised in the

national magazine of the Society of Local Council Clerks. A copy of the article is overleaf.

until next time - Keep safe

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PLAN UNLEASHED FOR THE NHS TO TAKE OVER VILLAGE HALLS SO MILLIONS CAN GET JAB

PORINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL



Faye LeBon, Clerk to Poringland Parish Council, shares how their council is supporting the national vaccination programme.

The news that vaccines against Covid-19 were being approved by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority was welcomed nationwide, bringing hope that we might look forward to going back to a way of life that would include seeing our friends and hugging family members. To vaccinate a whole population will be a challenge, but parish councils are contributing to the solution.

When the first lockdown commenced, Poringland Parish Council had previously indicated our biggest asset, Poringland Community Centre, could be used to support local medical, educational or social services if required. Therefore, when we were contacted for consideration for being one of the first community buildings to become a vaccination centre, there was no hesitation to support the community in obtaining their vaccines.

Poringland Parish Council has always maintained a good relationship with our local GP surgeries by releasing our community centre to host flu vaccinations. Using the community centre rather than a GP surgery as a vaccination centre meant that the local GP surgery can remain open and continue to support the community with their day-to-day medical needs.

After being accepted by NHS England, we had just three weeks to transform the building into a vaccination hub. We had already made numerous improvements to make our building Covid-19 secure. This included a one-way system, a reduction in touch points, installation of hand sanitisers and increasing both the cleaning regime and use of the ventilation system.



COMMUNITY CENTRE CHANGES REQUIRED

To become a Covid-19 vaccination centre needed further consideration. We would be servicing patients from a number of surgeries, a representative from the Police Transport Service visited the site to ensure our building was easy to find, with good highway access and sufficient parking.

FACT FILE: PORINGLAND

👤 Population	3802
<small>(2011 census, but now closer to 4500)</small>	
👥 No. of staff (FTE)	4.2
💷 Annual Budget	£227,355
💷 Parish share of council tax at Band D	£91.28
🗳️ No. of councillors	11

The police reviewed our security, gave us advice on personal safety and fitted higher level security devices where they deemed it necessary.

The building was remodelled to ensure there was adequate space to facilitate everything the NHS required, including space for patients to wait for 15 minutes after they had had the vaccine, space for NHS staff to make up the vaccine and to have a changing area. The community café was converted into a rest area for NHS staff.

A TEAM EFFORT

Parish Council staff were on-hand during this period to accept the numerous deliveries that were necessary, including IT equipment, PPE and vaccination-specific stationery. Councillors volunteered for roles, including car park marshals, supporting patients after their vaccine and providing the NHS staff with refreshments.

There was great relief when the vaccine arrived and was stored safely. This news enabled the booking process to commence and the next day members of the public attended our site to receive their first vaccination.