



# Parish Matters

The Newsletter of Poringland Parish Council

May 2021

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Dear Parishioners,

## Welcome to Edition 5 of Parish Matters!

We are pleased to bring you lots of exciting updates from the Parish Council, but we'd like to headline this edition by paying our respects to the Late Dougie Minns. Dougie was a former employee of the Parish Council and took great pride in litter picking and keeping Poringland clean and tidy. He will be greatly missed and our deepest sympathies extend to his family and friends.

**Councillor Vacancy.** There were no requests for a by-election to fill the vacant position on the Parish Council. As a result, the Parish Council can now co-opt a new member as soon as is practicable. We intend to do this at our council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May and are therefore inviting applications in writing from community minded parishioners, to the Parish Clerk by 5pm Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Candidates will be invited to attend the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May to give a short presentation on their reasons for applying. The successful candidate will be co-opted and invited to join the remainder of the meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact the clerk if you would like any further information.

**The Parish Council Returns to the Community Centre.** The government has ruled that it will not extend the legislation to allow Parish Councils to meet online after 6<sup>th</sup> May. As a result our Parish Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May will be back in the community centre. We have a Covid-secure building that is spacious and well ventilated. We also operate a one way system with ample hand sanitization points and a test and trace registration system. We are therefore confident that we can hold our future meetings in line with government legislation but with all Covid safety precautions.

**Neighbourhood Plan Update.** The Neighbourhood Plan was presented to South Norfolk Council's Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Cabinet agreed that the plan complied with the Basic Conditions of Planning and that a referendum can now be arranged. Unfortunately, there was insufficient time to arrange the referendum to coincide with Local Elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May, but anticipate it to be held in early July. At the referendum, local electors will be asked the question:

*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 setting up events to refresh parishioners' memories on the content of the NP before the referendum.

**Planning Application for Land East of Overtons Way** The planning application for nine dwellings and a commercial unit on the land east of Overtons Way went before South Norfolk Council's Development Management Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> May. The Parish Council had objected to this application for numerous reasons, most of which related to the lack of compliance with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan reflected the public's views of having commercial or community use on this land, and not having any more residential development over and above what has been allocated to us. This is due to the additional development the village has already had. Because of the weight the Neighbourhood Plan should hold, we were disappointed that the application was recommended for approval. However, we were grateful for the Development Management Committee for allowing us to put our case for refusal to them, and also for District Councillor Trevor Spruce to furthering our case. The committee subsequently refused the application. The recording of the meeting can be found on the Parish Council's facebook page.

## **Planning Appeal at Burgate Lane** The Parish Council was disappointed to learn that Gladman Developments has appealed the refusal of planning permission for up to 98 dwellings at Burgate Lane.

The Planning Inspectorate has denied Gladmans their request for a public hearing, and the appeal will therefore be decided on written representations. The Parish Council has been allowed to submit additional information to the Inspectorate, over and above its previous objections sent in September 2019 and March 2020. The new information that the Parish Council has provided is that of the decision statement being issued on the Neighbourhood Plan and the plan now holding significant weight. This information has been raised to the planning inspectorate and details of the Neighbourhood Plan policies that the proposal is in conflict with has also been provided.

## **Change of Parish Council Meeting Dates**

The Parish Council has always traditionally met on the last Wednesday of every month. This has been reviewed and concerns were raised about the number of months where this coincides with a Bank Holiday week. As a result, the 30<sup>th</sup> June will be our last Parish Council meeting on the last Wednesday of the month, and 4<sup>th</sup> August will then begin our new regime of holding meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month.

**The Café is Back.** The café at the community centre has been doing a super trade for outdoor service and takeaways since we were allowed to open again on 12<sup>th</sup> April. We are very grateful for the support of local people who have sat outside in the rain, wind and even hail in support of the café. We are hoping that restrictions will be lifted on 17<sup>th</sup> May to allow us to open for indoor service as well (subject to the rule of 6 or two households).



**And Finally.....** Representatives from the Parish Council will be meeting with representatives from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust on 24<sup>th</sup> May to look at land in our ownership to see how it can be better managed for the benefit of wildlife. With the community land, woodland and lagoons, we feel that there is an

opportunity to provide services to our parishioners and support wildlife in our parish.

*until next time - Keep safe*

### *Your Parish Councillors*

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