

PORINGLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st May 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Poringland Community Centre.

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| 1. | Attendance and Apologies for Absence | ACTION |
| | There were 23 attendees and the meeting was chaired by Tim Boucher, Chairman of Poringland Parish Council. Also in attendance was the Clerk to the council. Apologies were received from Norfolk Police, Vic Thomson (Norfolk County Councillor), David Hewer (Parish Councillor), David Gooderham (Parish Councillor) Pete Dean (Head Teacher, Poringland Primary School) and Lesley Sanders. | |
| 2. | Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd May 2018 | |
| | The minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd May 2018 were approved after a proposal from Chris Walker and a second from James Landshoft. | |
| 3. | Matters Arising from the Minutes | |
| | None raised. | |
| 4. | Parish Council Reports | |
| a) | <u>Chairman's Report</u> | |
| | Tim Boucher gave his report (Appendix 1). | |
| | Q) Is possible to amend the Neighbourhood Plan as a result of the recent oversubscription at the primary school which has resulted in Poringland children not being able to attend the reception class at Poringland Primary School? | |
| | A) John Joyce advised that the plan is already seeking to influence the direction of planning, with a 'pause' proposed to allow infrastructure to catch up with development. | |
| | The Clerk advised that the plan must not be perceived as anti-development as this would be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework and would not allow the plan to pass the 'basic conditions' test. | |
| | John Henson further explained the details of the proposed 'pause' in development, which would not be contrary to the housing allocation to Poringland over the period of the local plan. | |
| b) | <u>Financial Report</u> | |
| | The Parish Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer presented the financial report (Appendix 2). | |
| 5. | Reports from Village Organisations | |
| | Tim Boucher advised that the school and a representative from Norfolk County Council's Education department had been asked to attend the meeting, but neither party was available. | |
| a) | <u>District Councillors</u> | |
| | Lisa Neal reported that this year she had been appointed the cabinet member at South Norfolk Council for Regulation and Public Safety. It was a challenging role but | |

it had enabled her to learn a lot. She had also spent a substantial amount of time looking at local issues within the ward. She was also vice chairman of the planning committee at South Norfolk Council. Previously the council had had no five year housing land supply so it was very difficult to deny development because planning policies could not be relied upon. As a result of the council achieving a five year housing land supply, South Norfolk Council's planning policies were now deemed as in date and Gladman Homes had withdrawn its appeal against the council's decision to refuse planning permission for development on Burgate Lane.

She also sits on the Greater Norwich Local Plan committee, which is the local plan for Norwich City Council, Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council. Figures for development are received directly from the government. The results of a recent call for sites is now being reviewed and is expected to go out for consultation in December. Other policies in the plan will include energy, design, flooding and employment. 7,200 homes are due to be built in the three districts by 2036. It was noted that Poringland had already had its fair share of development so it was hoped that there will not be any future large scale developments in the parish. Consideration is to be given to spreading the housing out so that rural areas could benefit from development.

As a result of reduced government funding, South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council are now working together as they provide similar services and economies of scale can be achieved. A new joint Managing Director has been appointed.

It was noted that South Norfolk Council has no power to influence the decisions of the school and education authority over the admission of primary school pupils, but will support the parish in this matter as much as they can. She had spoken to Norfolk County Councillor Vic Thomson who had advised that there will be another school and potential sites are already being assessed. An application for funding had to be sent to Central Government, and they will not consider any application until the existing school is full. The frustrations of the people were understood, however the councillors are public servants and volunteers and there have been some very hurtful comments posted online and slanderous emails sent to councillors. This is not acceptable and will not help resolve the matter.

John Overton confirmed that the matter of school admissions is that of one for Norfolk County Council. He had emailed the head teacher to attend this meeting but the head teacher was not available. He had also invited the Leader of Norfolk County Council but had not received a response. He had however, received an email from the Chair of Governors, in which concerns had been raised about a second school having an adverse impact on the existing school. He reminded the meeting that the county education system is a consultee in the planning process. South Norfolk Council made 3.8 million bin collections in 2018/2019, which includes 1,300 assisted collections from those who are unable to move their bin to the highway. 850 fly tips were attended to, and statistics show that the charges implemented by Norfolk County Council for disposing of certain types of waste had made no difference to the level of fly tipping.

£6 million has been invested in leisure facilities over the past 5 years. There have been full refurbishments of Wymondham and Long Stratton Leisure Centre and

investment is to be made in Diss. There were previously 55,000 visitors to the sports centres per annum, subsequent to investment this was now £77,000. The new soft play area at Long Stratton is proving very popular.

In the future, South Norfolk Council is looking to invest in new business at the Norwich Research Park.

Q) Would there be a possibility of a soft play area at Framingham Earl Sports Centre?

A) John Overton advised that the operation of Framingham Earl Sports Centre is being reviewed. It has been running at a loss, and now the school has transferred to academy status, the debt has been moved to the Trustees and the Trustees want it resolved. Promotion is to be considered as a lot of people do not realise it is there.

Q) With reference to planning, the design of the houses on the Milestones development is very disappointing.

A) John Overton responded that at the time of the consultation the development was in Bixley. John Henson advised that Poringland was only entitled to a 'neighbouring parish consultation'. It was only after planning permission was agreed that it was established that the development was going to form part of Poringland parish.

Lisa Neal quoted from South Norfolk Council's Director of planning, who had advised that the design code for this development states:

"As there is no architectural style of significance in Poringland, a pastiche of a 'traditional' style residential development would not contribute to the sense of place in this location as it would have no local relevance or reference.

Therefore a more contemporary design approach for the form and detail of the buildings is proposed, but which references the more agricultural rather than civic location of the site.

The proposed buildings would be simple in form, reflecting the utilitarian character of farms and agricultural buildings. This would also reduce any visual impact of the development on the distant views towards the site. Windows to be larger/ fewer to avoid too 'domestic' an appearance of the buildings and detailing would be simplified to reduce the visual clutter of the buildings.

The materials would be typical of rural buildings in South Norfolk: red brick, metal cladding, clear finish/ untreated timber cladding."

Q) A pot hole had been reported on St Mary's Road (corner of Rectory Lane) six weeks ago. When a repair was instigated, the remedial works were very poor

A) John Overton offered to take the details and follow up with Norfolk County Council.

Q) John Henson requested that the street cleaner, which is often seen to the north of the village, be more present in the south of the village.

A) John Overton advised that the street cleaner had worked on the south of the village today. It had just taken four trips to complete the work.

Q) Is there a timescale for the new school?

A) Lisa Neal responded that this would be approximately three years. John Overton advised that two possible sites had been identified. Tim Boucher and John Overton will meet with the head teacher to obtain further information on a short term solution.

Q) The current school is struggling for space, is there a short term solution?

A) Lisa Neal advised that the school is not keen on modular buildings due to the loss of play space. John Overton reported that money was paid by Norfolk Homes for a MUGA at the school. This has not been built therefore it could be investigated that the developer could be approached to change the s106 agreement to release the money for other purposes.

Q) Why can't the school use the playing field?

A) Lisa Neal advised there would be safeguarding concerns. John Henson advised that the school could not have exclusive use of a public field.

Q) Why was the second school not built when originally mooted?

A) Lisa Neal advised that there were not enough children to make both schools viable. In lieu of the new school, Norfolk Homes provided £1.8m to improve the existing school.

Q) Why was Brooke allocated a new school?

A) Lisa Neal advised that the existing school was in a poor state of repair. Tim Boucher added that the new school was withdrawn when the large proposed development was refused.

Q) Could the new school be a junior school and the existing school be a first school?

A) Tim Boucher advised that this could be investigated.

Q) What is being done to stop a similar problem happening with the high school?

A) Tim Boucher advised that the Parish Council has previously raised this, and the problem with the primary school should alert the education authority into taking action.

It was noted that the County Councillor had reported the admissions criteria for the primary school at the previous Parish Council meeting and he had not issue any personal comments. He should not have been subjected to a personal online attack for only stating the facts.

b) County Councillor

The Chairman referred to the written report provided by Norfolk County Council which had been issued to all attendees (Appendix 3).

c) Strategic Six Group

James Landshoft spoke on behalf of the Strategic Six Group which involved member villages of Poringland, Stoke Holy Cross, Caistor St Edmund, Trowse, Bixley and Arminghall. Discussions at these meetings affect all the parishes and mainly covers traffic, transport and infrastructure. There is a dedicated highways committee that meets with Norfolk County Council to discuss specific concerns. They have also discussed the loss of bus routes through Arminghall, Bixley and Trowse. Norfolk County Council and First Bus have given assurances that the network will be in place. It is hoped that a single operator will provide a better service.

James Landshoft Left The Meeting

d) No report available

e) Welcome Home and Memorial Playing Field Trust

John Overton reported that the Parish Council is in the process of starting more regular meetings of the Trust, beginning with the annual meeting on 5th June. This will be held at the pavilion at 7pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

Over the past year, a new heating system had been put in place. The new boiler is connected to the gas supply rather than the old storage heaters. This was part of the criteria required by the football club to enable them to be eligible for promotion.

A deep clean of the building had recently taken place.

Tim Boucher advised that the pavilion was available for anyone to hire.

Q) Could the defibrillator be moved outside?

A) John Overton advised that the defibrillator belonged to the football club and there were security concerns about moving it outside.

Q) Is there anything being done about the mud and excess surface water on the approach to the play area at the playing field.

A) Trevor Spruce advised that the drainage problem had been resolved in this area. He will review again when it rains to see exactly where the problem is.

f) Fuel Allotment Trust

Tim Boucher read a report from David Gooderham, attached at Appendix 4.

g) Sand and Gravel Charity

Chris Walker gave a report of the activities of the Charity, attached at Appendix 5.

h) Men's Shed; and Tree Warden

Henry Gowman provided a report on both groups, attached at Appendix 6.

Q) Tim Boucher queried where the figure of £250,000 as a cost for the proposed

new Men's Shed had come from.

A) Henry Gowman responded that this had come from the Parish Council. Tim Boucher clarified that that was an estimate and it was dependent on the size of the building. Henry Gowman added that the membership of the group is likely to grow substantially as will the input into the local community.

Tim Boucher confirmed that the Parish Council would not meet with the architect for the Community Land Project until the land transfer is secure.

Henry Gowman congratulated the Parish Council on the appointment of the new clerk.

Q) Would it be possible to plant trees to provide shade in areas where children play.

A) Henry Gowman will look into this.

6. Parishioner Questions and Comments

A member of the public expressed her thanks to the Parish Council for all their hard work over the past year.

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

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX 1.

The Parish Council has had a very busy year and has faced many challenges.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has worked tirelessly on the Neighbourhood Plan, bringing together the priorities of the community into a document which we hope will eventually become part of the policies which will determine planning permissions in the future. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this process during community events and the most recent consultation. We are now in the process of submitting the document to South Norfolk Council who will review it to ensure that it meets the 'Basic Conditions' which are a set of conditions laid down in law which the document must adhere to. Once South Norfolk Council has agreed this, they will re-consult on the document, and then it will be put before an independent examiner. Once agreed by the examiner, the document will be put to referendum, where the people of Poringland will have the final say over whether the document is adopted.

The most difficult decision was to close the cemetery to new burials after a report from the Environment Agency raised concerns about the high water table in this area. The Parish Council will be reviewing the situation to see if there are any alternative areas in the village suitable for burials, as we understand that local people wish to be buried in the parish where they lived.

The Community Land Project has not progressed as swiftly as we would have liked due to a delay in the transfer of land from Norfolk Homes to the Parish Council. However, we are expecting some positive news on this very soon and are then looking to finalise plans with the architect so that the appropriate planning permissions can be sought.

Frustrations have been expressed over the behaviour of irresponsible dog owners, primarily over their unwillingness to pick up after their dog. After consultation with local dog owners, signage will be installed in the village detailing various aspects of responsible dog ownership. This includes the necessity of a dog to be under proper control and also encouraging members of the public to report dog owners that do not pick up after their dog. All public open spaces are covered by a Public Spaces Protection Order, put in place by South Norfolk Council. South Norfolk Council have the power to fine dog owners who do not pick up after their dog, so the more people who report problems, the more likely South Norfolk Council is to enforce this power.

The community centre has been very busy and has increased both the number of events and the size of events this year. Last year events were held to appeal to different demographics in the local area, and included a craft fair, a princess party, Frankie's Guys (a Jersey Boys Tribute), The Jukebox Rogues and the sell-out George Michael Tribute.

The village fete was very well attended by the community and with more attractions to be provided at this year's fete we hope that this year will be equally, if not more successful, so please note the date of 13th July in your diary.

The indoor car boot sales are now very well established, and building on the success of these we are running a village garage sale on 15th June. The deadline to sign up for this is 17th May, so please support this event.

Events at the community centre made a total profit of £6,000 in the last year, however it must be stressed that the primary function of these events is for community benefit. Some events, such as the village garage sale are run at no profit to the Parish Council.

The community centre recently hosted a presentation by Paul Hetherington from 'Buglife' about the importance of pollinators. The Parish Council has shown great support for the increase in pollinators and is supporting the 'B-Line' project being run by the Bergh Apton Conservation Trust to create a pollinator corridor along the River Chet, the source of which is location in Poringland.

As a Parish Council, we continue to work with other local authorities to ensure that Poringland is represented. We continue to work closely with South Norfolk Council, particularly in planning matters, to ensure that our concerns are heard. Similarly, we work closely with Norfolk County Council, primarily over highway matters, so that our projects are considered.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Council team for all their hard work this year, which concludes the four year term for the Parish Council. Steve Aspin and David Gooderham have chosen not to stand as a parish councillor for the next term and I would like to thank them for volunteering their time for the benefit of the community. Joining the Parish Council team shortly will be John Hodgson and Carl Pitelen and I'd like to welcome them to the team and look forward to working with them in the future. The Parish Council intends to begin the new term with a questionnaire for the village to establish the strategic direction for the next council term, so please get involved and have your say.

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			

Taken from Un-Audited Accounts

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 2018-19
 Cllr Vic Thomson

In some ways this year has seemed to go by very quickly. I have highlighted some of the issues we have dealt with in the last 12 months.

Mobile coverage

NCC commissioned a survey of the actual mobile coverage of major mobile companies. Want to know what the mobile phone coverage is like in your area? Check out our interactive maps to find out www.norfolk.gov.uk/mobilemap

Highways

We have had lots of traffic management on B1332 through the year and we should now be coming to the end of the major roadworks through Poringland. Although the repairs meet the standard criteria for repairs, we need to push to get resurfacing work through the village.

This would be a major project and involve more roadworks and traffic management but in the long term should be worth it.

I have already put forward 2 projects for future funding that affect Poringland.

Crossing by Poringland Church

Refuge on A146 for the right turn from A146 onto the B1332

They have passed the very first stage and have been passed by our NCC Highways engineer.

Still plenty to do and updating the traffic information at least quarterly will be worth submitting.

Poringland School

This coming September the reception class is over subscribed for the first time and some families are having to cope with difficult problems around their children's placement.

For the last 5 years the reception class as always been under subscribed even with the amount of new development in Poringland. In 2018 the reception class was full for the very first time and work was started to look at a second school in the catchment, unfortunately too late to accommodate the 2019 children. There will be a new school and work will continue to get a new school as soon as possible.

Walking

Norfolk is full of interesting walking routes and information is coming out all the time.

There are new books and maps like West Norfolk Coastal Treasures and there is also a map in the style of Harry Beck (underground map) highlighting the Norfolk Trails.

All of the route maps and information about each route can be found and downloaded on the Norfolk County Council website, including .gpx map files that can be loaded into the walker's Ordinance Survey app. Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/coastaltreasures for more information.

There is a new interactive map that shows all the walks in Norfolk and can be found at:

Norfolk Trails interactive map: <http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/trails/>

Flytipping: Paying someone to take your waste

If you are asking anyone other than your District

Council to collect any waste from your home:

Ask to see their waste carrier licence issued by the Environment Agency. Anyone removing waste from your property must have a licence.

Ask what is going to happen to your waste. You have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent someone dumping your waste unlawfully. A legitimate, professional waste carrier should not object to these questions.

Record the vehicle registration numbers of any vehicle used by a private waste carrier to take your waste away. If waste is found dumped illegally and traced back to you investigators will be able to trace the registration.

Ask for a proper invoice and receipt. Residents have ended up paying again to have their fly tipped waste removed and disposed of correctly.

We need the help of our communities to stop fly tipping.,

Public Health

Norfolk's Chief Fire Officer Stuart Ruff said: "Every five days, someone dies from a fire caused by cigarettes or smoking materials in the UK

Dr Louise Smith, Director of Public Health at Norfolk County Council, said: "As well as being a fire risk, smoking remains one of the most important causes of early death and health inequalities in Norfolk.

Re Use Shop at Bergh Apton Depot

Bergh Apton recycling centre is getting a reuse shop for the very first time

Our popular reuse shops help to make sure good quality items are not thrown away and are given a new home instead. Providing new and bigger reuse shops means we can boost the range and number of things people can donate and buy. It's marvellous to see how popular the shops are and it's always great fun to have a look to see what bargains you may find."

To find your local reuse shop visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/reuseshop

NCC services

Norfolk Community Services Directory

<https://communitydirectory.norfolk.gov.uk/>

Passenger Services There have been changes to bus services mainly due to withdrawal of operators.

The 87/88 route will be run as the 41.

First will run from Monday to Saturday and Konnect will do the Sunday route as the 41.

Timetables of the services are on the websites of the bus companies and new service is being monitored by NCC Passenger Services.

SCAMS

This is still a major problem costing Norfolk residents thousands of pounds and massively under reported by people caught in the scams.

There are too many to mention in this report but you can register for alerts or to check a scam at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/search?searchFor=Scams>

APPENDIX 4.

BRIEFING FOR PORINGLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019

Poringland Fuel Allotment Charity

The Charity is 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 £670,000 of which around two-thirds is invested in the stock market in low risk income based funds. The balance is invested in a buy to let property and some grazing land.

In the 2018/19 financial year, the total income from investments and interest earned was around £28k and total expenditure around £25k of which over £21k was on grants.

The Trustees have recently redefined their Objectives which are now as follows :

To distribute its income to those living in the parish of Poringland who are in need through hardship or distress.

This will include:

- Winter fuel payments to those in need,
- Emergency grants to those in hardship or distress,
- Grants to students to support the cost of their further educational needs, and
- Grants to community organisations for projects which provide sports, leisure, educational or related facilities primarily benefitting Poringland residents.

There is scope for the level of grants awarded to continue to increase in future years and the charity is always willing to consider requests from Poringland residents in need of help. Further details are available from the Clerk to the Trustees, Lesley Sanders, on 01508 492155.

The charity will shortly become an incorporated body.

The Trustees in 2019 are unchanged and are :

Alison Randall – Chair

David Gooderham – Treasurer

Robert Parsonage

Peter Sayles

Sheila Hoyle

Andrew Wright

Annual Parish Meeting – 1st May 2019

APPENDIX 5.**2019 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 2017/18 year, the latest available, we received income of just under £1,600 from our various investments and interest earned. During that period, we awarded grants totalling £1,600 to local organisations. As at 30 June 2018 our funds stood at over £62k.

Since June last year we have awarded further grants to local organisations totalling £400.

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 2019

APPENDIX 6.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PORINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL

TREE WARDEN

This has been another busy year and as usual, it has been a job that involves mainly dealing with people who are anxious about trees.

As there is not a Tre Warden in a couple of adjoining parishes, I have also been giving advice to those householders or the Parish Councils.

Case Study: An old detached village house has a large Walnut tree growing in the garden. The neighbouring property had an extension built some 10 years ago. The roots of the tree are now interfering with the foundations of the extension. The owner of the Walnut is has received demanding letters from the neighbour's insurance company. I have advised that it would have been evident at the time of the construction of the extension that the nearby tree would continue to grow and that exploratory roots of the tree would have been visible at the time of the extension being built. The fault thereby lies with the neighbouring properties architect, or builder (for putting in inadequate footings), or South Norfolk Council Planning Dept/Building Control for allowing development so near to a major tree. This dispute is ongoing between insurance companies. An application is being made for the tree to be protected.

Case Study: A new development of houses was built with a line of existing trees along the rear boundary, belonging to a property behind. These trees have grown over the years and the branches are now tapping at the windows of the new houses. The owner of the trees is unable to afford to have them attended to and neither is the most affected owner of one of the new houses. After discussions, the row of houses most affected are pooling their resources to have the work done with the permission of the owner of the trees.

Case Study: A village play area was planted with inappropriate trees which were then neglected. I am in the process of carrying out a survey and it is probable that some new trees will be planted through a planting scheme run by South Norfolk Tree Wardens, which I chair.

Case Study: A local resident to the play area on Victory Avenue in Poringland, encouraged he dog to savage three large Oak trees within the play area. Two of these trees were so damaged that they had to be taken down. It is intended that these trees be replaced.

The future: Climate change is happening faster than anticipated and is having an adverse impact on some species of trees, which coupled with invasions of foreign insect species and fungi is not good news for our trees. South Norfolk Tree Wardens have acquired generous funding from Busseys in Norwich and through connections with the Tree Council and other leading authorities on trees we will be keeping abreast of research and continue to give appropriate advice on the planting of suitable trees for the future.

PORINGLAND AND DISTRICT MENS SHED

The Parish Council were recently given a copy of our Lottery Funding bid and so councillors are aware of our wide connections and work carried out within our community and the beneficial effect that the project is having on the well-being of Men Shed members and beyond.

There was a visit yesterday 30th April, to our Shed by the Eastern Area representative of The Lottery Fund, who was clearly impressed with the project and all that we have accomplished over the last 4 years and appreciated the need for Men's Shed to find a permanent and secure base. A repeated question however, was why a new Shed is going to cost some £250K, when the Lottery had funded other Shed buildings at £50K and £75K. It was explained that we were constrained with the design of the Shed building by the wishes of the Parish Council. There is therefore, a distinct possibility that our

bid may be rejected on cost grounds, though of course we will do our utmost to make a strong application.

Signed: Henry Gowman
Parish Tree Warden and Chair of Poringland and District Men's Shed