

NCC Annual Report

M Dewsbury <mdewsbury@hotmail.co.uk>

Mon 12/04/2021 16:11

To: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk <clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk>; marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com <marlingfordandcoltonpc@gmail.com>; gtmeltonpc@gmail.com <gtmeltonpc@gmail.com>; Heidi Frary Clerk <barfordpc@gmail.com>; Alison Doe <hinghamtc@hotmail.com>; deophampc@gmail.com <deophampc@gmail.com>; barnhambroomp@gmail.com <barnhambroomp@gmail.com>; kimberleyandCarletonForehoe@googlemail.com <kimberleyandCarletonForehoe@googlemail.com>; Bev Long <clerk@bpcrwparishcouncil.info>; morleyparishclerk@gmail.com <morleyparishclerk@gmail.com>; Helen Frayer <wicklewoodpc@outlook.com>

Norfolk County Council Annual Report 2021

Last year I wrote my annual report in April and finished it by saying 'dealing with the Coronavirus has completely disrupted the council's work and budget plans. We have responded to current needs and, like everyone else, we have no idea how long this will continue or when we will be able to get back on track.'

I don't think any of us imagined that we would not be emerging from this for a full year. We will be balancing the budget this year because the Government has assisted with the financial demands of the pandemic but it has been a very different and difficult year. For the last year staff have been working from home and many who had face to face roles, which had to cease, have been helping our other services, or the NHS with whatever needed to be done to help local people and businesses. They have delivered medicines and groceries, helped with testing and vaccinations and answered phone calls for assistance.

The Fire Service has driven ambulances, taught others to drive ambulances and set up and run a new mortuary when there were not sufficient to cope.

Museums, libraries, Records Office were closed but they set up and ran virtual visits, activities, etc to assist with the wellbeing of children and adults sitting at home.

Adult Learning put their courses on line and developed many new ones, to help people who had lost their jobs develop new skills and acquire qualifications as well as provide activities to support peoples' mental health and wellbeing.

The council funded and distributed 5,000 laptops and tablets for children who needed them to do school work at home and art packs were also supplied to keep them occupied and interested. Libraries set up a phone line to support families who were struggling with home learning and how to use the new digital devices.

Customer Services has assisted with the test and tracing to warn people who have unknowingly been in contact with people with COVID and we believe this service will need to continue for at least another year.

The council's usual work continued maintaining roads, supporting vulnerable adults and children and responding to emergencies such as the flooding during the winter.

The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance has been set up to identify the causes of some of the flooding and help rectify them.

Libraries are about to open again. Recently they have assisted people to complete the Census on line and will be stocking the lateral flow tests in libraries and on mobile libraries when they start coming round again.

A new grant scheme called 'Go Digital' was launched in December to enable micro, small

and medium sized businesses to make better use of digital technology by providing funding and one to one support and advice to help support the local economy.

Work has begun on two new recycling centres one to the north and one to the south of Norwich and some major road schemes are about to start in Gt Yarmouth, Downham Market and Stalham. The Long Stratton bypass has also been agreed.

The Member's Highways grant of £6,000 will be increased by £4,000 this year and extended to include environmental projects. The council has also agreed to plant one million trees over the next five years to reduce our environmental impact and meet our target of zero carbon by 2030. Parishes are asked to help identify areas where trees are required.

This is just a brief overview of some of the work of the council. I am always around to answer questions or help with any problems that arise and I endeavour to attend all Parish Council meetings but occasionally I have two or more meetings on one evening and cannot attend everything. The Parish clerks know they can contact me anytime and I am happy to help.

Margaret

Annual Parish Report South Norfolk Council - Annual Review

In a year that has been dominated by the Coronavirus it is perhaps inevitable that my annual report focuses primarily on how this has impacted on the work of South Norfolk Council.

"I believe that the mark of a good Council is not just what it does when times are good, when the sun is shining and all is good with the world. The mark of a good Council is how it steps up when the chips are down. It's how it responds to unexpected events. How it keeps on an even keel when buffeted by squalls all around."

"Nobody could have foreseen the nature or extent of the Coronavirus Pandemic. But lack of foresight provides no excuse for a lack of response. Our public demands and expects more than that. The truth is that, whilst nobody could have predicted a pandemic, South Norfolk Council has been best prepared to provide the help our residents and businesses desperately needed."
John Fuller, Leader South Norfolk Council.

Having a strong financial foundation built up by shrewd financial management has left your District Council best placed to deal with the present and future challenges. Although South Norfolk has suffered significant loss of income due to the closure of leisure centres and other income generating services during the periods of lockdown, our strong financial foundations have enabled us to weather the storm in the current year by drawing upon our healthy reserves. In fact, this Council now has shrewdly marshalled millions in revenue reserves to weather the storm having increased council tax by less than half the inflation rate over 15 years.

Delivering Council services during this crisis has been particularly demanding. Yet despite the obvious difficulties faced our Council, staff have gone above and beyond their normal duties to ensure the services that we all rely on have been delivered largely as normal.

In addition to the day to day running of Council services South Norfolk Council have contributed to the massive effort to keep our communities safe and protected. The help hub has served as the focal point for delivering help to very large numbers of families and individuals who have required special assistance for our District Council, in providing housing and hardship payments. Our Covid Support Officers have provided reassurance and advice to ensure our communities have been protected.

Local business, particularly in the hospitality sector, has been very badly impacted by this pandemic and sadly there have been some inevitable job losses. However, thanks to an unprecedented financial package from Government some of the worst effects have been avoided. The District Council has been very proactive in distributing grant assistance to help alleviate the financial pressures caused by lack of business opportunity and the extra financial burdens of operating during this Covid-19 crisis. In total nearly £45m has been distributed by South Norfolk Council to local businesses since April last year, which represents one of the highest percentage levels of grant distributions by any Council locally.

Lockdown and other restrictions have led the Council to explore new ways of working. For our staff this has led to widespread home working and an increased reliance on technology. For Councillors the chance to meet in the Council Chamber for meetings has been replaced by

virtual meetings of the Council using Zoom. To allow public participation these meetings have also been live streamed by YouTube. This has led to some interesting challenges particularly for meetings like Planning and Licensing.

South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council now have a fully operational 'single officer team' serving both Councils. Working more closely together offers both councils increased capacity and resilience, together with greater financial stability whilst taking advantage of commercial opportunities to deliver better value for our residents. Our taxpayers expect a local government that moves with the times and innovates, while retaining and attracting the most talented staff, offering them positive futures and career development opportunities.

Finally, although all these things work on a district-wide basis we're delivering locally too. We still offer community grants and everything we do aims to make Better Lives and Stronger Economies for everyone whilst keeping the cost down with a dedicated team of staff members and Councillors working with the other parts of Government to improve lives one family at a time, one street at a time and one place at a time.

Cllr Richard Elliott
Wicklewood Ward
South Norfolk Council

Head Teacher's Report for the Parish Council, April 2021

What a strange year this has been! When I reported to you all last year COVID was only just taking hold of the world and I certainly did not anticipate the impact that it would have on the education of our children. The daily routines within the school have had to change significantly. The children are in year group 'bubbles' and stay in them for the whole of the school day, including when they attend Breakfast Club and After School Club. We now have staggered start and finish times; staggered break times; staggered lunch times; different drop off and collection points; sanitising stations everywhere, staff wearing masks; and staff wearing visors. Children have been in school; not in school; a few days in school; with their friends; and not with their friends! And this has not just happened once, but twice with many of these routines still in place. I am sure that I am not the only one who has everything crossed that we will not have to repeat it ever again.

Inevitably this has had an impact on the curriculum and teachers had to carefully plan work that children could complete whether they were in school or learning at home with the support of their parents. We learnt a lot from the first lockdown, listened to parents' feedback, and adapted during the second one. We also put a lot of thought into the wellbeing of our children and this was at the forefront of everything we did when we welcomed the children back into school in September, and then again in March. This is still key in our daily planning. The children have all shown amazing resilience, as have the staff and parents!

Staff continue to work tirelessly to provide innovative, engaging and exciting ways for the children to learn, embracing change and trying new things for the benefit of all stakeholders. The School Council and Eco-Council have not been able to meet as they would normally do but we are hopeful that both will get up and running again during the Summer term. There has also been an impact on the sporting events that we love to participate in and again we are hopeful that they will soon be able to resume.

Although we were unable to have the usual Christmas activities, we hope that we brought a few smiles to the parents and grandparents faces. The Reception Class shared their Nativity online and instead of a Carol Service we put together a compilation of performances from all year groups which was also shared online. Unfortunately, our Christmas fayre was a victim of the pandemic, however we are hopeful that we may be able to have a Summer event towards the end of the academic year.

The school motto, 'Be the Best You Can Be' continues to embody everything that we do, and works alongside the school values of Respect, Understanding, Courage, Happiness, Empathy, Friendship, Responsibility, Acceptance, Self-belief and Thoughtfulness.

Wicklewood Primary School and Nursery continues to be a thriving village school and I am so proud to be the headteacher. The staff, children, governors and parents have been incredibly supportive of one another during this unprecedented time and I cannot thank everyone enough.

Please stay safe.

Julia Brooks
(Headteacher)

Wicklewood Poor Firing Allotment Charity

Report to Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 12th April 2021

- The Income of the charity in 2020 was £206.37
- At Christmas 2020 the charity made grants of £100 each to two applicants.
- The charity's assets are held in 398 COIF Charities Investment Fund Income units which at 30th June 2020 had a value of £6659.38
- Mr Gerald Neeve stood down as chairman and as a trustee in December 2020.
- Mr John Gray was elected chairman at the December meeting.
- The Trustees are actively seeking a replacement trustee.
- As the number of elderly applicants keeps decreasing the trustees are considering as to whether applications can be broadened to help families in the village who are in need of financial help.
- The trustees would welcome the views of the parish council on this matter.

MJW Gamble

Secretary and Treasurer

05.04.21

OVHCT Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2021.

Owing to Covid -19 restrictions no report was given to the Annual Parish Meeting in 2020.

The financial statement for the Year ending 31 March, 2020 is attached, together with the financial statement for year ending 31 March, 2021.

The trustees met in June 2020, the planned meeting for December 2020 was cancelled owing to Covid restrictions, a meeting was held in early March 2021 by ZOOM .Trustees normally meet twice a year in June and December to coincide with the receipt of dividends, but held a special meeting in March 2021 to replace the cancelled December 2020 meeting.

Current Trustees

Parish Council Nominative Trustees

Mr. Richard Goodings (re-elected chair September 2019) until September 2024
Mr. John Lowe (nominated by Parish Council from 1 July 2019 until June 2023)

Co-optative Trustees

Mrs Janice Plunkett (until December 2023)
Mr. Anthony Cook (until June 2024)

Ex-Officio Trustee

Re. Mrs Shirley Holt (representing Priest in Charge of High Oak Benefice)

Charity set up in 1976 using proceeds from sale of Old Village Hall

Capital is invested in Government Stock redeemable in 2028 yielding an annual income of £268.54 with capital growth.

Value of Stock (at end of tax year 2020 is £4475.85)

Income is distributed by way of grants.'for the charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Wicklewood and the neighbourhood thereof for which provision is not made out of rates, taxes or other public funds/ (Trust Deed para. 21)

During the year the charity has made grants totalling £275.00. (For the year ending 31 March 2020 (£300.00.) The balance carried forward as at 1 April 2021 is £7.06. The trustees always distribute the bulk of the income received.

Groups that benefited include High Oak Music Group, Wicklewood Brownies, Rainbows and Guides (as separate units) and the volunteer group looking after the garden by the village sign.

The current Chairman - Mr. Richard Goodings was renominated by the Parish Council for a period of 5 years until September 2024.

The minute book and financial records are kept by the Clerk - Peter Woodrow. This report and the financial statements for 2020 and 2021 will be issued to the Parish Council Clerk for the April 2021 Annual Parish Meeting by Zoom.

Peter Woodrow (Clerk) 31 March, 2021

2020

WICKLEWOOD OLD VILLAGE HALL CHARITY

Financial Statement for the year ending 31 March 2020

INCOME

Balance in hand

Community A/C 43.79

Business Saver Account. 1.19

Income Received

7 June 2019 134.27

7 Dec 2019 134.27

313.52

EXPENDITURE

Grants

10 June 2019

High Oak Music Group 50.00

Village Sign Garden 50.00

Open The Book Group 50.00

9 Dec 2019

Wicklewood Brownies 50.00

Wicklewood Rainbows 50.00

Christmas Santa Group 50.00

Balance in hand

Community A/C 12.33

Business Saver A/C 1.19

313.52

Balance c/f 1 April 2020

Community A/C 12.33

Business Saver A/C. 1.19

13.52

Peter Woodrow (Clerk)
31 March, 2020