

## March report for Parish Council

### Council Tax

Plans for a balanced budget and a 2.99% Council Tax increase were agreed by full Council on February 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a long debate, the meeting started at 10am and ended at 3pm.

### Fire Service

Our Fire Service was very busy at the end of February responding to all the problems caused by the three storms, Dudley, Eunice and Franklin, that moved across the county. This included clearing 275 trees from the roads and dealing with unsafe buildings and flooding.

Chief Fire Officer Stuart Ruff retired at the end of February and Tim Edwards has replaced him as Interim CEO for the next six months. We are still awaiting the Government White Paper on the future of the Fire Service which was originally going to be published early last year. Hopefully it will be published within the next six months.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service has been working with the Home Office and National Fire Chiefs Council to launch the Fire Kills campaign which aims to educate people on the common causes of house fires and how to prevent them. The campaign runs until March 13<sup>th</sup>. For specific advice people can visit [www.ohfsc.co.uk](http://www.ohfsc.co.uk) and complete their own home fire safety check or look at <https://fireengland.uk/fire-safety>.

### Hethersett Post Office

The lease on the premises used by Hethersett Post Office for many years has expired and the Postmaster would like to retire. Whilst the community looks for new permanent accommodation NCC agreed to set up a temporary Post Office in Hethersett library. The Post Office will continue to operate from there until new premises and Postmaster are found.

### Norfolk Against Scams partnership

NCC Trading Standards, the Police and various businesses and community groups work together to warn local people about scams and how to avoid them. There are some speakers available to talk at local groups on line or in person and we welcome any information about any new scams people are aware of.

### Easter holidays

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun will provide activities for 5 -16 year olds across Norfolk during the Easter Holidays (April 4<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>) The scheme is part of the HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) programme which is delivered in partnership with Active Norfolk and provides free activities for children eligible for means tested, free school meals. There will be a range of dance, drama and sports activities. [bnhf@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:bnhf@norfolk.gov.uk).

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships

Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division

South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward