



Starston Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mrs Libby Alexander, 25 Hill Farm Road, Long Stratton, Norfolk, NR15 2WA
Tel: 07943 279946 Email: starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes of Starston Annual Parish Council Meeting held in the Jubilee Hall at 7.30 pm, Monday 17th July 2023

Present: Cllr P Astor, Cllr A Knowles, Cllr J Broadhurst, Cllr S Griffin, Cllr C Sparrow and Cllr A Leitch

Clerk to the Parish Council: Libby Alexander

Members of the public: 0

2023/62 To consider accepting apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllr K O’Keeffe were considered and accepted.

2023/63 To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from members on any item to be discussed and consider any dispensations.

No declarations were made.

2023/64 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2023.

Resolved to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting and for them to be signed by the Chairman.

2023/65 The Clerk to provide an update on the matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting and provide any other information on actions that have been undertaken since the last meeting.

- Draft Minutes from May meeting written and uploaded to village website.
- Prepared for and attended the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Parish Council piece for the July edition of Pigeon Post written.
- Submitted the Financial Annual return and posted documents required on the website.
- Amendments and updates made to the Parish Council area of the village website as required.
- Made bank payments approved at previous meeting.
- Submitted Event evaluation form as required as a condition of the Coronation Grant to SNDC.
- Submitted feedback on the Litter Pick as part of The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick Project to SNDC.
- Collated planning application comments from Councillors and submitted to SNDC.
- Set up new files (and spreadsheet) for new Council year.

2023/66 To receive reports on matters of interest to the parish from District and County Councillors.

Resolved for the meeting to be closed to allow reports from the District and County Councillors.

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The County Councillor, Cllr M Wilby, was not in attendance but had sent his report in advance of the meeting and it had been circulated to all members – see Appendix 1.

The recently elected District Councillor, Cllr D Thompson, reported the following (see Appendix 2 for full report):

- A range of grants are available to support Community projects.
- A grant of £250 had been awarded to Starston Youth Club from DCllr Thompson's member ward fund to be invested into games equipment.
- The consultation for the Pylon project to the west of the A140 was ongoing.
- Multiple complaints had been received from residents across the district regarding the installation of County Broadband.

District Councillor, Cllr C Hudson, reported the following:

- The 'Pink Tractor Ladies' had reached their £1m fund raising target following the event this year.
- Pulham Music Day had been held on The Green in Pulham Market in June which was a great event. DCllr Hudson had donated his member ward fund to this event as well as the Waveney Heritage Centre in Brockdish.
- The Community Action Fund had a new infrastructure fund which was going towards electric vehicle charging points at village halls.
- There will be a paint disposal amnesty being held at the Norwich South Recycling Site on 9-10th September 2023.

Resolved for the meeting to be reopened.

2023/67 Parishioner open forum.

Not required.

2023/68 To receive and ratify matters relating to the finances including the following:

a) Clerk's time sheet for May-July 2023

Unanimously agreed.

b) Finance statement for May-July 2023 and agree Councillor authorisation for payments:

i. Clerk's Wages for July 2023: £237.44
Unanimously agreed.

ii. Tax on Clerk's Wages for July 2023: £59.40
Unanimously agreed.

iii. Resident Support (Covid Grant): £19.43
Unanimously agreed.

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BANK RECONCILIATION & FINANCE DETAIL SHEET as at 11 JULY 2023

Date	Bank balance		Payments Total	Receipts Total	Bank Actual
11-May-23	13,231.94	Balance B/F			13,231.94
12 May - 11 July 23		Sub-total payments	1,943.26		11,288.68
12 May - 11 July 23		Sub-total receipts		0.00	11,288.68
		Bank Closing Balance			11,288.68
Earmarked Reserves					
			£		
Norfolk Community Foundation Covid 19 Grant			882.13		
			£		
CIL Money			589.35		
			£		
Neighbourhood Plan			1,613.01		
Warm Spaces Grant			£	-	£434.56 Donation to Jubilee Hall
Sub-total - Money Held			£3,084.49		
General Reserves i.e. Bank reconciled balance less monies held					8,204.19

Payments Details

17-May-23	Mrs C Hall	Internal Audit	85.00
17-May-23	SNDC	Dog Bins	132.72
	DM Payroll		
17-May-23	Services	PAYE Admin	120.00
17-May-23	Mr S Griffin	Website hosting fee	25.00
17-May-23	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's Wages	59.20

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17-May-23	Jubilee Hall	Donation for Warm Spaces Initiative	434.56
26-May-23	Mrs E Alexander	May Wages	237.44
30-May-23	BHIB Ltd	Insurance	398.15
16-Jun-23	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's Wages	59.40
28-Jun-23	Norfolk ALC	Annual Subscription	136.35
30-Jun-23	Mrs E Alexander	June Wages	237.44
30-Jun-23	Unity Bank	Bank Charges	18.00
Sub-total payments			1,943.26

Receipts Details

Sub-total receipts 0.00

Future payments to be approved by Council

Mrs E Alexander	July Wages	237.44	
HMRC	Tax on Clerk's Wages	59.40	
Mr S Griffin	Resident Support (Covid)	19.43	
Sub-total future payments			316.27

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2023/69 To receive a review/update on plans for the Litter Pick in May/September.

Cllr A Knowles reported that a small group of residents had participated in the litter pick on Saturday 27th May followed by refreshments in the Jubilee Hall. The event had been registered as part of the South Norfolk Big Litter Pick and an event evaluation form completed by the Clerk. Cllr Knowles questioned whether two litter picks per year were necessary in the village. It was resolved that the Youth Club would carry out the litter pick in September as part of their 'Act of Kindness' week, but that the Parish Council would run one again in 2024 as part of the South Norfolk Big Litter Pick.

2023/70 To consider matters relating to village maintenance, PROW and Highways, including the Parish Partnership bid.

The Clerk reported that she had not heard anything further regarding the SNDC Parish Partnership project for Quiet Lane signs and that she would contact SNDC for an update for the next meeting.

Action: The Clerk

A resident had reported to the Chairman that Bunns Lane was being used as a bridleway.

Cllr J Broadhurst reported that she was continuing to sort out the outstanding footpath issues (eg to reinstate a bridleway across land belonging to Gawdy Hall) and would hand over the Footpath Warden role to Cllr C Sparrow in August. Cllr P Astor suggested that Cllr Broadhurst give a full update on all footpath issues at the September meeting as part of the handover.

Action: Cllr J Broadhurst

Cllr Astor also reported that the 'Starston' sign from the A143 was particularly dirty and required reporting to and cleaning by the Highway Rangers.

Action: The Clerk

2023/71 To receive an update from the Emergency Plan Co-ordinator.

Cllr J Broadhurst reported that she had not received any responses from new residents who had received a welcome pack in May. The Clerk would provide a list to Cllr Broadhurst as to who had received the packs so that she could follow them up in order to update the emergency database. It was also suggested that the Clerk could include a reminder in the next edition of Pigeon Post.

Action: The Clerk

2023/72 To receive an update on tree planting matters.

Nothing to report.

2023/73 To consider any planning applications received.

None received.

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2023/74 To receive an update on the 'Warm Room' initiative.

Cllr J Broadhurst reported that this was now being held every second Wednesday of the month and was continuing to be appreciated by residents.

2023/75 Correspondence received – Norfolk ALC Councillor Induction Training.

Correspondence had been received from Norfolk ALC with details of Councillor Induction Training. It was suggested that the recently elected Councillors would find this opportunity beneficial. It was resolved for the Clerk to liaise with Cllr A Leitch and Cllr C Sparrow regarding dates and booking places.

Action: The Clerk

2023/76 The Clerk to provide and receive items for the next agenda, and confirm the date and time of the next Parish Council meeting, to be held on 18th September 2023 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.30pm.

Date noted.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.



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Appendix 1

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PINK TRACTOR LADIES for smashing through their £1m target for Cancer Research. A special mention for Annie Chapman for all of her hard work in organising such a large event that brings thousands of supporters out along the route to cheer them on. The weather was perfect and over 200 brightly decorated tractors and drivers took part, supported by a large back up team of helpers. It's always good to see the tractors arriving from 6.30am in the morning on Thorpe Abbots airfield lining up ready for the off at 11.30am. **WELL DONE ALL.**

Congratulations also to the Winners and Nominees for the recent South Norfolk Community Awards. A special mention for Peter Been and Glyn Jordon for winning the Inspiration of the Year Award. Peter and Glyn have gone above and beyond to support families affected by the war in Ukraine. These two friends of 40 years began fundraising and collecting donations in and around Harleston. They then decided that they would drive the donations the full 1,300 mile trip to Lviv themselves. Since the war began they have travelled to Ukraine on four occasions with donations and aid.

A new fleet of 22 Norfolk fire engines has been unveiled – featuring special sirens to alert drivers of soundproofed cars that firefighters are on emergency calls. Fire chiefs say that the fleet, part of 320m investment by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, will make it quicker and easier for firefighters to tackle blazes and other incidents across the county. The new, eight-crew vehicles, will be deployed across Norfolk over the next 12 months replacing existing engines which are reaching the end of their lifespans. The new appliance was launched at the Royal Norfolk Show, where the Prince of Wales was among those to inspect the new kit.

A summer of conversation is taking place in Norfolk, as the County Council ask people from across communities about the future of Adult Social Care. Entitled Conversation Matter, NCC is holding a wide-ranging engagement programme, asking people to shape its future priorities for Adult Social Care. Adult Social Care covers a wide range of activities to enable people to live independently, stay well and safe. Under the banner Promoting Independence, the council wants to support people to be independent, well and able to deal with life's challenges. With an aging population, people living longer with ill health, and proposed national reforms to social care in 2025, the council wants to make sure it has the right priorities to plan for the next 5 years. For all information visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/conversationmatter or pick up a hard copy of a survey at one of our libraries.

Norfolk's popular chain of reuse shops at 15 recycling centres help stop unwanted goods being thrown away, and sell the good quality items at bargain prices. A cut of the proceeds is donated to a chosen charity, which since April 2022 is Big C. Over the last year the reuse shops raised £22,177 for the Big C cancer charity, prevented 1333 tonnes from materials of being thrown away and saved an estimated 1270 tonnes of CO2. This is because materials are reused again instead of being transported away for processing or disposal. It also means that fewer new natural materials are required to make new products, as reused products are given a second life.

Best Wishes
Martin

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Appendix 2

Cllr Delme Thompson Report for Starston Parish Council, July 2023.

Investing in communities.

It was a pleasure to meet Anne and the team at the youth club in June and see first-hand the fun and fellowship shared as the children made bug houses and parents had a chance to catch up. Moments like these are precious for all involved, and I was very pleased to be able to support the youth club with a grant of £250 from my local member ward fund, which is already being invested in some great games equipment for the summer sessions!

Additional Funding for Community Projects

1. We've been asked to remind Parish Councils about the **Pride in Place - Capital funding:**

Grants are available to cover 50% of the total cost of a project, up to £25,000. Funding is available towards the cost of new or improved community facilities – such as:

- a. o *Funding towards a new community sports pitch.*
- b. o Funding towards a green infrastructure project.

Applications are due on or before **July 28th**. Please contact Andy.Sexton@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

2. Community Action Fund £1-15,000 for larger projects, with some match funding required
3. Community Ownership Fund to support purchase of assets (incl. land) for community use

Full details can be found here: [Community funding – Broadland and South Norfolk \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-funding)

Also

- Norfolk Community Foundation – Saracens Fund - Not run by the council, but the team recommended this one to me for something else I was looking at in Dickleburgh last week.

<https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/saracens-norfolk-fund/?area=south-norfolk>

They make awards up to £5,000 on a rolling basis.

SAVE THE DATE - The first in-person Town and Parish Summit will be held at The Horizon Centre, **Thursday November 9th from 9:30am – 12:30pm.**

4. Pylon Consultation

While this does not directly affect Starston, I am sharing a brief update here given the scale of local concern. I attended an online briefing last week as well as the in-person session in Diss and was deeply disappointed ta the lack of true consultation on offer. The exercise appears to be far more of a PR exercise than consultation with no credible discussion of different options that were considered – offshore Vs

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underground Vs Pylons etc, the costs associated with each option and rationale for the route now being proposed.

In light of the lack of credible comparison details, and somewhat dismissive tone to residents' objections, SNC and NCC are continuing to raise objections and call for a full and proper consultation.

5. Working with District and County Colleagues to address serious concerns re Country Broadband.

I have been contacted by a group representing multiple residents across numerous villages regarding poor service standards and alleged 'intimidating practices' from County Broadband, including promise of service but failure to connect for 2yrs, empty boxes installed at end of drive, but nothing else, and intimidating letters issued to elderly and seriously ill residents, which resulted in the Ombudsman's involvement.

Noting that Broadband is a County issue not District, I am in touch with members of the District Council Cabinet to ensure a robust and unified approach to investigating the issues raised and holding service providers to account.

This is even more important now, given that on the 3rd July it was announced that Norfolk had secured 150M through Building Digital UK, Norfolk County Council and City Fibre 'project [Gigabit](#)' to see 60,000+ homes and businesses connected to gigabit-capable broadband starting next year.

I will of course, keep the council updated.

Kind Regards
Cllr Delme Thompson