



The Minutes were signed by the Chair upon completion of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising**

**a) To report matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda nor included in committee reports**

**Council Vacancies** - the Chair stated there were three vacancies on the Council at present and these had been advertised in the "Parishioner."

**b) To Do List**

The Clerk read out the list of outstanding items requiring the Council's attention and action. Councillors updated and the Clerk will follow-up on remaining items.

Clerk

**5. Finance to:**

**a) To be advised of the YTD Financial Outturn 2015-16** (Annex A)

JG advised S106 monies (income and expenditure) had been used for the new bus shelter and that these were not reflected in the separate budgets.

**b) To receive the RFO report and Approve Cheques** (Annex B)

The RFO gave an up-to-date report on the Council's finances and payments and receipts received since the last meeting.

**Proposal: To approve listed cheques and three tabled at the meeting. Proposed RM, 2nd RK, unanimous.**

**6. Items 6 & 7a Taken together. To receive a report from the Planning and Highways Committee** (Doc. 1)

**a) Planning Applications.** The Chair informed SNDC now emails notices of planning applications and decisions and does not email, nor mail the applications and drawings as previously. He has exchanged emails of complaint with SNDC and a new system of working will need to be agreed.

**Applications and decisions received since the last meeting.** The Chair reported there had been numerous planning applications and decisions (see Doc. 1)

**b) To receive information on the Bungay Neighbourhood Plan**

At the request of Cllr Green, Councillor Larkin reported that he and KW had attended the Bungay Neighbourhood Plan event on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Even though the event had been widely advertised in Ditchingham, no residents had signed the attendance book. The event was aimed for residents to convey their interest and volunteer to support and join the steering group. A great deal of work would go into the production of the Bungay Neighbourhood Plan and it would not be fair for Bungay to do this for Ditchingham without any support or interest. JG stated the plan would have increased difficulties with County Councils being in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Councillor Larkin advised; without any Ditchingham resident having any interest in the plan or the steering group, Ditchingham Parish Council should change their view of being part of the plan and to be excluded.

**Proposal: DPC to be excluded from the Bungay Neighbourhood Plan. Proposed AL, 2nd JG, unanimous.**

**c) Signage on the Highway**

The Chair spoke of the Emmaus signs which did not conform to the proposal agreed at the DPC July 2015 meeting, the present signs being ambiguous, poorly sited, in poor condition and the directional arrows incorrect. Councillors agreed to ask Emmaus to conform by Easter 2016 or that the signs are removed by that date. Clerk to write to Emmaus.

Clerk

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

**Proposal: Emmaus to conform to the signage conditions as set at the DPC July 2015 meeting by Easter 2016. Proposed JG, 2nd AL, carried.**

**d) Highway Rangers**

Minor maintenance. The Chair asked the Clerk to find out the scheduled date. RM gave the Clerk some new items.

**e) Green Lane** (see attached report for full details) – The Chair spoke of the issues with Green Lane being a PROW (Public Right of Way) and possibly a BOAT (Byways Open to All Traffic) and the limited obligations of DPC, NCC and Ditchingham Estates. Councillors discussed the issues raised in Parishioners Question Time. Cllr Green agreed to feedback to Ditchingham Estates.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8.33pm*

The residents expressed their views and confirmed that in the past DPC had laid the tarmac apron at the entrance (to Green Lane) as vehicles, including lorries turn there. They stated they wished the lane to be separated from the "car park."

*The meeting was reconvened at 8.40pm and most of the residents left the meeting*

Clerk

**7. To receive internal reports from Advisory Committees and Decision Committees**

**a) Planning and Highways** (Doc. 1).

**b) Local Development** (full report Doc. 2)

Councillor Bernard advised the Committee proposed the following:

**1. Hollow Hill Footpath** - DPC earmarks £7000 from future S106 money, in the case that the present application for a grant is turned down.

**Proposed RM, 2nd JG, carried.**

**2. S106 Monies** – DPC not to spend S106 monies for the sake of it - and request that further investigation needs to be undertaken into:

- a) FODS playground improvement proposals
- b) Playgroup requirements
- c) Support for further sports/skate board facilities
- d) Possible improvements to village hall facilities.

**Proposed KW, 2nd JG, unanimous.**

**3. Community Website** - DPC contributes £478 to the set up costs and design of a new Community web site, £1000 being contributed by the District Councillor's fund. **Proposed KW, 2nd RK, carried.**

**c) Maintenance and Environment** (full report Doc. 3)

Councillor Kirkpatrick gave his report. Main points:

**Allotments** – Two residents are on the waiting list. AL stated some new allotment holders have not used their allotments as yet and asked for a 6 month review to be added to the Allotment Policy when reviewed.

**Cemetery** – well maintained and will investigate if an older part of the cemetery from the Lychgate to the new part can be used in the future.

**The Dip** – well used and the 'Grind rail,' brought to the site by users, have gone, but unauthorised equipment will be monitored. The goal posts can be moved again as the other goal positions have recovered.

**Thwaite Road Play Area** – the major jobs on the list have been completed and the goal area still needs to be reseeded. The BMX track need to have the surface replaced as it is not suitable at present. The motorbike Springer has rotted.

**Maintenance Tenders** - Tenders have been received for grass cutting 2016 season (based on previous years schedules.) M&E Committee will meet soon

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:



<p><b>Bungay Neighbourhood Plan</b> - letter from resident objecting.  <b>Big Litter Pick Poster</b> – JG agreed to organise.</p>	JG
<p><b>11. Urgent Other Business</b>  <b>Village Maintenance</b> - RM gave the Clerk a list to report.  <b>Land between Ditchingham Dam and Road</b> – RM reported of the state of this land and queried who the owner was. The Chair informed NCC has not been able to find out.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>12. Items for next agenda</b> None.</p>	
<p><b>13. Confirmation of meeting dates:</b>  <b>Planning Committee meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 15th February 2016 (if required)</li> </ul> <p><b>Full Council meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The meeting closed at 9.25pm</b></p>	
<p><b>The following attached papers should be regarded as part of the minutes:</b></p>	
<p><b>Annex</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. YTD Financial Outturn 2015-16</li> <li>B. To receive a report by RFO and Approve Cheques</li> </ul>	<p><b>Page</b> 408 409</p>
<p><b>Documents</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning and Highways Committee Report</li> <li>2. Local Development Report</li> <li>3. Maintenance and Environment Report</li> <li>4. County Councillor Report</li> </ol>	<p>410 413 414 415</p>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

## Annex A: YTD Financial Outturn 2015-16

<b>Ditchingham Parish Council:</b>								<b>Annex A</b>
<b>15-16 Out turn, Budget &amp; Forecast</b>		<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>F'CAST</b>				<b>Outturn</b>	
Year ended:		15-16	15-16				15-16	
Including transactions to 08/01/2016 for Quarter ending:							15-16 Qtr 04	
	PrintMe							
Out Turn		<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>NEW F'CAST</b>				<b>OUT TURN</b>	<i>Out turn</i>
YR Ended		YR Ended	YR Ended		<i>Variance</i>		YR Ended	<i>as % of</i>
31/03/2015		31/03/2016	31/03/2016		<i>FORECAST to</i>		31/03/2016	<i>Original</i>
Fin Yr 14-15		Fin Yr 15-16	Fin Yr 15-16		<i>ORIGINAL BUDGET</i>		Fin Yr 15-16	<i>Revised</i>
								<i>Budget</i>
								<i>Forecast</i>
25,000	Precept	34,250	34,250	0			34,250	100%
0	Inflation increase	0		0				-
0	More dwellings	0		0				-
0	HollowHill footpath	0		0				-
2,604	SN Transition monies	0	2,951	2,951	FAV		2,951	- 100%
0	Interest	5	10	5	FAV		0	0% 0%
2,675	Burial fees	2,200	5,000	2,800	FAV		3,780	171% 76%
255	Allotments	275	275	0			245	89% 89%
1,933	Recreation Grounds	1,750	2,038	288	FAV		2,038	116% 100%
0	Honorarium	0		0			0	- -
2,974	Miscellaneous	0	0	0			3,972	- -
300	Recycling	0		0			0	- -
3,126	VAT	3,400	2,600	-800	ADV		1,604	47% 62%
<b>38,867</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>41,880</b>	<b>47,124</b>	<b>5,244</b>	<b>FAV</b>		<b>48,840</b>	<b>117% 104%</b>
10,692	General Reserve	10,738	21,964	11,226			21,964	
142	Ring Fenced Reserves	2,642	2,642	0			2,642	
10,834	Reserves B/ Forward	13,380	24,606	11,226			24,606	
<b>49,701</b>	<b>Available Resources</b>	<b>55,260</b>	<b>71,730</b>	<b>16,470</b>			<b>73,446</b>	
1,217	General Admin	2,700	2,000	-700	FAV		1,020	38% 51%
6,372	Clerks Employment Costs	6,000	6,000	0			3,967	66% 66%
380	Clerks Office Costs	500	500	0			285	57% 57%
0	Section 137	0	0	0			0	- -
500	Parishionner Magazine	750	750	0			0	0% 0%
100	Allotments	250	250	0			100	40% 40%
3,617	Burial Grounds	6,000	5,000	-1,000	FAV		4,326	72% 87%
4,715	Village Maintenance	4,000	5,000	1,000	ADV		5,427	136% 109%
0	Honorarium	0	0	0			0	- -
1,409	Play Areas	3,000	3,000	0			1,911	64% 64%
0	Increased Play reserve	2,500	2,500	0			2,500	100% 100%
0	New Strategies (web site)	2,000	2,000	0			0	0% 0%
0	Charge Against reserve	0	0	0			0	- -
3,126	Play area maintenance	2,000	2,500	500	ADV		4,568	228% 183%
249	Bus Shelter	0	300	300	ADV		3,650	- 1217%
125	Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000	0			67	7% 7%
0	Xfer Reserves (Lychgate & HollowHill)	0	2,000	2,000	ADV		2,000	- 100%
1,192	Insurance	1,000	1,181	181	ADV		1,181	118% 100%
2,093	VAT	3,400	2,600	-800	FAV		3,333	98% 128%
<b>25,095</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>35,100</b>	<b>36,581</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>FAV</b>		<b>34,334</b>	<b>98% 94%</b>
<b>24,606</b>	<b>Reserves C/ Forward</b>	<b>20,160</b>	<b>35,149</b>	<b>14,989</b>			<b>39,112</b>	

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

## Annex B: RFO Report and Approve Cheques

Ditchingham Parish Council - Annex B				January 2016
<b>Finance Report: Payments &amp; Receipts, &amp; Balances at bank</b>				
				£
<b>Current account cashbook balance (as reported at last meeting)</b>				<b>35,951.13</b>
<b>Payments issued since last report</b>				
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
	16/11/2015	101403	Mr P Forder - Vermin Control	60.00
	28/11/2015	S/O	P. Austin November Salary	101.35
	28/11/2015	S/O	Clerk's November Salary	414.30
	17/12/2015	101404	Clerk's backpay	237.80
	17/12/2015	101405	P. Austin salary balance from S/O (Dec)	29.30
	17/12/2015	101406	Mrs Mulley December salary	69.33
	17/12/2015	101407	Clerk's December Expenses	68.75
	17/12/2015	101408	P. Austin 1st quarter internal audit	20.00
	17/12/2015	101409	Mr R Mulley - village maintenance	15.97
	17/12/2015	101410	Cawthorne Electrical - bus stop inside light	57.00
	28/12/2015	S/O	P. Austin December Salary	101.35
	28/12/2015	S/O	Clerk's December Salary	414.30
<b>Total</b>				<b>1,589.45</b>
<b>Receipts paid in since last report</b>				
	06/11/2015	deposit	HMRC VAT Reclaim 01/07/16-30/09/16	1129.44
	30/11/2015	deposit	Broads Authority S106 monies	3599.98
	08/01/2016	deposit	UK Power Network	34.50
<b>Total</b>				<b>4,763.92</b>
				<b>39,125.60</b>
<b>Cashbook balance</b>				
				<b>39,682.55</b>
<b>Last Statement Balance 4th January 2016</b>				
				100.00
Unpresented cheques from 2014-15				491.45
Unpresented cheques from 2015-16				34.50
Uncleared receipts				
				<b>39,125.60</b>
<b>Cashbook balance (as above)</b>				
<b>Business Saver Account</b>				
Balance c/f				4,510.62
Interest 08/06/2015				0.61
07/09/2015				0.56
07/12/2015				0.56
Balance 4th January 2016				<b>4,512.35</b>
<b>Total balance in both accounts</b>				<b>43,637.95</b>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

## Doc. 1 Planning and Highways Committee Report

### DPC Planning & Highways ADVISORY Committee report January 2016

1. Councillors should be aware that **South Norfolk Council have revised their mechanism of consultation on planning notices** and no longer send paper copies of plans to local parish councils as consultees (in a bid to meet paper saving targets, they expect local clerks, councillors and public to use online portals), as a consequence, with no plans available the P&H Committee has not considered any applications for recommendation or otherwise. The Council is in discussion with SN seeking to find a workable alternative. If no such alternative can be identified this Council must determine what approach longer term may be required with regard to consideration of planning notices.
2. The Clerk maintains **planning details on the Council's website**. As of the date of drafting this report (17/01/2016) the web site reports that the Council has been notified of the details listed below. This list might not be fully comprehensive and Councillors are advised to check the planning portals of both South Norfolk and the Broads Authority respectively.

#### **2. a Applications since the last meeting:**

07/01/2016 Ref 2016/0024  
Location: 43 Loddon Road Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2RA  
Proposal: First floor rear extension  
Application Type: Householder

02/12/2015 Application Number : App Type : 2015/2610  
Discharge of Condition  
Parish : Ditchingham  
Grid Ref : 633352 291894  
Location : All Hallows Farm Drapers Lane Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2JW  
Proposal : Discharge of conditions 3 and 4 of planning consent 2015/2020 – External Materials and Archaeological Monitoring  
Applicant : Mr Martin Wallace, All Hallows Farm  
Agent : 8 Drapers Lane Ditchingham Bungay Suffolk. NR35 2JW

02/12/2015 Application Number : App Type : 2015/2665  
Discharge of Condition  
Parish : Ditchingham  
Grid Ref : 634057 291145  
Location : Land Rear Of 43 Loddon Road Ditchingham Norfolk  
Proposal : Discharge of conditions 5, 9 & 10 of planning application 2015/1352/F – surface water drainage, external materials & ground levels.  
Applicant : Mr Sidney Buggs, 43 Loddon Road, Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2RA  
Agent : Mr Darren Broughton, 9 La Rochelle, The Loke, Ditchingham Bungay NR35 2QS

02/12/2015 Application Number : App Type : 2015/2720  
PD Change from Barn to Dwelling  
Parish : Ditchingham  
Grid Ref : 632987 291670  
Location : Agricultural Storage Building Off Free Lane Ditchingham Norfolk  
Proposal : Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (QA)  
Applicant : Miss A High C/O Agent Agent : Miss A High 52 South Green Park Mattishall Dereham NR20 3JY

#### **2.b Decisions since the last meeting:**

Appl Number : App Type : 2015/2507  
Works to trees in Conservation Area  
Parish: Ditchingham  
Applicant : Adam Welstead  
Location : Scudamore Place Ditchingham Norfolk

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

Proposal : T – 650 – London plane – Remove the damaged section of the stem down to the two opposite branches below the tear wound and reduce the two opposite branches by 40%. Reduce the adjacent lower branch to the north at 6m from the ground level by 4m to bring in line with previously reduced branches. Reduce the limb leading of the central stem. future remedial works will need to be carried out to allow canopy to re-establish with safe form.

Decision : No objections

Delegated Date of decision : 27 November 2015

3. To receive information on the **Bungay Neighbourhood Plan**. Councillor Alan Larkin to present verbal report and to invite Council's comment and response to consultation matters. A decision is required on the geographical extent of the plan (maps showing 3 options to be tabled).

#### 4. Highways matters

**4. a** At the November 2015 meeting we advised that **NCC highway rangers** are proposing to visit Ditchingham in the near future. They do not appear to have done so yet. The Clerk is asked to investigate the schedule and advise any additional works required.

**4. b** The Chair [of this committee] requests that Councillors again consider the **directional and advertising signage for Emmaus on the B1332 and on the A143**. As currently implemented the signage is poorly sited and ambiguous as to direction (including arrows on the reverse of signage effectively pointing in the opposite direction). Additionally the signs are poorly maintained, over recent weeks signs have been left blown flat, suspended by one fixing, and dirty. The Chair requests that the Council clarifies the arrangements by which it will (or not) continue to support this signage.

**4. c** The Council has received a number of enquiries and representations from a resident (purporting to represent residents more generally) concerning the state of **Green Lane**. The Council's understanding is that Green Lane is a PROW (Public Right of Way) and possibly a BOAT (Byways Open to All Traffic). The Council is not an expert in either of these definitions, however for the purpose of this report the terms may be considered analogous. In summary the resident is concerned that the state of the carriage way is inadequately maintained and that either the landowner, or a public authority, but not residents are responsible for maintenance.

Generally, the area can be categorised as:

- Green Lane, a narrow strip of land running adjacent to the properties from Loddon Road, through to the Old Yarmouth Road;
- The car park being the area used for parking currently for the mini recycling centre (to be removed in April 2016), Heath users, and occasional overflow parking for the village hall; and
- The hard paved area adjacent to Loddon Road.

The Council's view is that the surface of both PROW and car park is entirely serviceable at the current time for use as intended. The Council acknowledges that residents may have a different expectation of what passes for serviceable.

Following various exchange of correspondence between parties the outcome is that:

**Ditchingham Estates**, the land owner has no obligation to maintain the area, (other than to remove obstruction from the PROW). The Estate, as a gesture of goodwill, is prepared to offer a loadall machine and driver to fill potholes using material if it is provided by others.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

**Norfolk County Council** state that normally they would inspect the PROW once every five years and ensure it is not obstructed. Unfortunately it appears that [the well-meaning] actions of a former resident in improving the surface by spreading road planings has changed the nature of the track and turned it into an unbound surfaced route, and NCC's line in such instances is that those who have improved the track for their own purposes (i.e. the residents) are responsible for maintaining it. Exceptionally however, it is agreed that, on this occasion, NCC will carry out some scarifying, filling and compaction to improve the surface of the PROW but it is unlikely though that, in the future, we will have the funds to maintain it to this standard. Any works will be limited to the PROW and not extend to the car park. In their investigations NCC also noted that there are a number of trees and bushes planted in the PROW in front of 2a that represent an obstruction of the PROW and should be removed

**Ditchingham Parish Council** is not aware of any responsibility it has to maintain either area. Its view is that it should not use precept monies collected from the wider community to improve amenity of private land and/ or to benefit residents of Green Lane [who can reasonably be assumed to have purchased properties informed of access ownership & maintenance] disproportionately.

The Council further observes that it falls to residents in the first instance to ensure that access to their private properties is optimised to their satisfaction. DPC will liaise directly with Ditchingham Estates from time to time to ensure that access to the PROW is unobstructed, and will liaise with NCC with regard to commissioning the exceptional (gratuitous) works to the PROW with the land owner in respect of the car park area and any possible delineation between this and the PROW. DPC will also write to the occupier of 2a to request that any planting forming an obstruction the PROW is removed.

DPC hopes that this report clarifies the position with regard to maintenance of Green Lane and anticipates that this concludes correspondence on this matter.

**Julian Green**  
**Chair Planning & Highways Committee**

## **DPC Planning & Highways DECISION Committee report January 2016**

The DPC Planning & Highways FULL Committee has not met since the last meeting.

**Julian Green**  
**Chair Planning & Highways Committee**

---

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

## Doc. 2 Local Development Report

### Ref S106 Maltings Funds

#### Proposal from the Local Development Advisory Committee

The committee proposes the following motions.

1. The PC allocates unto £7000 from future S106 moneys, in the case that the present application for a grant is turned down.
2. The PC - do not spend S106 moneys for the sake of it - and request that further investigation needs to be undertaken into
  - A. FODS playground improvement proposals
  - B. Playgroup requirements
  - C. Support for further sports/skate board facilities
  - D. Possible improvements to village hall facilities.
3. The PC contributes £500 to the set up costs and design of a new Community web site, £1000 being contributed by the District Councillor fund.

Please see the review of possible projects below:

Review of proposals following public consultation on possible projects for the S106 Ditchingham Maltings funds. For the sake of transparency here are review and comments to all proposals.

- 1. Hollow Hill Footpath proposal.** Abt £14,000
- 2. Supported by a petition.** DPC has allocated 50% from parish funds and have applied for a NCC grant for the balance. In the event that this application was not successful, £7000 could be allocated from future S106 balances.
- 3. Skate board park,** New ramp £18,000  
Further support required for this project to see level of interest. Technically there is the space and ongoing maintenance costs should be low.
- 4. Friends of Ditchingham School.** New play area with sails for summer shade. Proposal reviewed and not supported as it stands, there must be a permanent legacy, which would be used throughout the year. We will consult with FODS committee to see what alternatives could be supported.
- 5. Solar Panels on Parish Hall** - £15,000  
Proposal dropped as new feed in tariffs are no longer financially viable and time limit made it impossible to complete works in time.
- 6. Pavilion Maltings Sports centre extension and new changing rooms.** £40,000  
Project still not got majority funding, so no time scale possible.
- 7. Steps to Youth Shelter/Dip** - £800  
Permanent steps project should be covered by Parish maintenance budget, as too small for S106 moneys.
- 8. Extension to Village Hall** - £30,000  
Requested proposal from the Village Hall committee for improvements to the Hall which could improve facilities and usage.
- 9. Basket ball Hoop** -£1800 possible expansion into larger court.  
Support for this needs to be gauged. RW volunteered to ask local youth.
- 10. Playgroup expansion.**  
KW to ask whether there are investment opportunities, in new facilities for the eventual move to the DPS
- 11. Defibrillator** - up to £2000

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

Project too small, District Council has advised that this would be eligible for a grant. Site has been confirmed at the Nisa Store. Project going ahead with DC grant.

**12. Music for dementure support. £500**

Project too small. Debenture support charities have shown an interest.

**13. St Mary Church Roof repairs - £ 20,000**

Reviewing with BA whether this is an applicable project.

**14. Table tennis tables / Badminton equipment upgrade - £2000**

Project too small, to be considered within Parish / Hall budgets.

**15. Upgrade Village Hall cooking facilities.**

Not allowed.

**16. Benches on old railway footpath. £1200**

Too small - to be reviewed by PC.

**17. Pirnough Street footpath - sorted by development path of Maltings.**

Traffic calming Ditchingham Dam - NCC responsibility.

**18. Ramp to footpath A143 - too small, to be considered by PC.**

**19. Falcon Meadows nature reserve - Broads Authority turned down request.**

---

## Doc. 3 Maintenance and Environment Report

### Report from Maintenance & Environment Committee

### Tabled Chair's Report for 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Parish Council

#### **Allotments:**

The allotments continue to be well used and we still have people wanting to use them

#### **Cemetery:**

The cemetery continues to be well maintained. Because of the plan we have of the old part of the cemetery not being clear, there are a number of plots that could be utilised. We have already allowed one burial to take place. Are councillors happy that we look at individual requests and investigate if there are others that could be used?

#### **The Dip:**

The Dip is being well used even through these cold months.

The 'Grind rail' that was being brought onto sight is gone but we will continue to monitor the use of any unauthorised equipment.

The goal posts can be moved again in the spring as the other goal positions have recovered.

#### **Thwaite Road Play Area:**

This continues to be very well used and much appreciated by many young families.

The large climbing frame has now been replaced and the major jobs on the list have been completed.

The goal area still needs to be reseeded.

The BMX track that we resurrected is still clear but we will have to get prices to have the surface replaced as it is not suitable at present.

#### **Tenders:**

We are awaiting tenders for maintenance and grass cutting when these are in the committee will meet to consider them and review our obligations for the parish.

#### **Inspections:**

The council continue to thank Paul Austin for the through job he does on the play areas inspecting the equipment and the litter picking.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

## Reg Kirkpatrick Maintenance & Environment

---

### Doc. 4 County Councillor Report

#### Margaret Stone - County Councillor for Clavering

Parish Council Report - January 2016

[margaret.stone@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.stone@norfolk.gov.uk)

01508 499 389 home number

#### Key issues

Firstly, may I wish you all a healthy and happy new year.

This is usually a quiet time in local government and there have been no important changes to report to local parish councils. We will have the outcome of local consultations about budget proposals soon and also be in a position to see what changes in both national funding and council tax will make to local plans. Details of Government funding are at the bottom of this report but it is still unclear what will be the impact on council tax. The suggestion from government is for a 2% ring fenced additional increase to support social service on top of any other increase proposed by County Council. There has been no increase in Council tax for about 7 years, but with reductions in government grants, this is seen as the only alternative to help support services.

#### Winter hospital pressures:

Our hospitals have been on black alert on and off for some time and to reduce pressure we are asked to only attend A&E if there is an emergency which cannot be dealt with either by the local surgery or if out of hours, through dialling 111 or attending the walk in centre, now located adjacent the Shopping Mall on Rouen Road

**Winter gritting Campaign** – We have had a very mild winter so far but if it changes, you might like to be aware of daily updates and useful advice will be shared using the #NorfolkWinter hashtag on Twitter and on the Norfolk Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/norfolkcc](http://www.facebook.com/norfolkcc)), including the gritting updates. The gritting routes are reviewed every year and amendments made as necessary; people can check which roads are on the council's gritting routes for the 2015/16 season by looking at the map at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting). On the same map people can find the locations of the more than 1,800 grit bins in the county that will be filled by the County Council and which people can use on public pavements and roads.

**Finances** – Norfolk County Council continues to consult residents on a package of budget proposals for the coming year and the consultation remains available on its website until 14 January. Local people can also make their views known by

**Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement**, was announced on 17th December 2015.

The Settlement Funding Assessment for 2015-16 was £279.113m, in 2016-17 the provisional settlement sets out a headline reduction of £28.733m to £250.380m, equating to a reduction of -10.29% year-on-year.

At the same time, the Government has made a number of changes to the funding model for 2016-17, including changing the way in which reductions in funding are allocated to different types of Authority. This system is based on assumptions about Local Authorities raising Council Tax in line with CPI inflation (1.2%) and also taking full advantage of the additional discretion available to levy a social care precept of 2%.

This means that the Council's overall position following the Provisional Settlement announcement reflects a worsening by £4.349m when compared to previous

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date:

assumptions. No Council Tax Freeze Grant is on offer for 2016-17. The implications of the Settlement will be reflected in the budget-setting process during January and February 2016.

## **Future Years**

The government is offering a 4 year settlement which will help with long term financial planning but it does mean further reduction in income. This means that there is an expectation of Council Tax rising to fill the shortfall both from the County (where a 4% increase is likely since the announcement ring fences a 2% increase for extra Adult Social Care costs) and the district. It is also likely that the Police precept will increase by 2% as well. No decisions have yet been made however.

## **Highways Issues**

I have been asked to request Parish Clerks report minor issues directly to Highways on [highways@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:highways@norfolk.gov.uk) or telephone 0344 8008020 where the call centre will then log all the details and ensure it goes to the correct department.

DRAFT

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date: