

Minutes of Ditchingham Parish Council Meeting Monday 21st March 2016 at 7.30pm The Village Hall, Ditchingham	Action by:
<p>Councillors present: Keith Weston - Chair, Julian Green – Vice Chair (JG), Rev Reg Kirkpatrick (RK), Alan Larkin (AL), Colin Mison (CM), Richard Mulley (RM), Rebecca Wass (RW).</p> <p>Clerk/RFO: Sally Chapman.</p> <p>Also present: Two members of the public.</p> <p>Parishioner Question Time opened with the Chair welcoming those present and no questions were asked from the public.</p> <p>MEETING PROPER 7.35pm</p> <p>1. To consider Apologies for Absence Councillor Bernard and County Councillor Stone – apologies accepted.</p> <p>2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests & Consider requests for Dispensation DOI - 5b Councillor Kirkpatrick (The Parishioner Magazine’s Treasurer).</p> <p>3. To Confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday Proposal: Minutes to be ‘taken as read and agreed as correct’. Proposed JG, 2nd RK, unanimous. The Minutes were signed by the Chair upon completion of the meeting.</p> <p>4. Matters Arising</p> <p>a) To report matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda nor included in committee reports No issues.</p> <p>b) To Do List The Clerk read out the list of outstanding items requiring the Council’s attention and the Asset Register Report’s maintenance issues. Councillors updated the Clerk, who will follow-up on remaining issues.</p> <p>5. Finance to:</p> <p>a) To be advised of the YTD Financial Outturn 2015-16 (Annex A) Councillor Bernard had queried (through the Chair) if the Clerk’s salary was variable. Clerk to respond directly.</p> <p>b) To receive the RFO report and Approve Cheques (Annex B) The RFO gave an up-to-date report on the Council’s finances, payments and receipts received since the last meeting. Proposal: To approve payments and one payment tabled at the meeting. Proposed RK, 2nd RM, unanimous. The Parishioner - a letter from the editor was read out by the Chair asking for a contribution for the production costs. RM asked if all the villages (Ditchingham, Hedenham & Broome) contributed to the parish magazine and RK (The Parishioner’s Treasurer) confirmed they did. JG informed DPC had budgeted £750 for the Parishioner.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

<p>Proposal: To contribute £750 to the Parishioner Magazine. Proposed KW, 2nd JG, unanimous. To receive a report from the Internal Auditor (3rd Quarter) The Chair read out a satisfactory report from the Internal Auditor for the last quarter and thanked the Clerk for the upkeep of the books. Clerk to arrange a Finance Meeting for late April.</p> <p>c) Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (Doc. 1) The Chair spoke of the changes of the external audit and recommended the Council to remain in Group 1 of the new audit regime starting in 2017/18. Proposal: To remain in the new audit regime beginning 2017/18. Proposed KW, 2nd JG, unanimous.</p> <p>6. To receive a report from the Planning and Highways Committee (Doc. 2). Main points: a) Planning Applications -The Chair informed there are at least 20 PCs complaining to SNDC re the difficulties they are experiencing with the new planning applications system. Applications and Decisions received since last meeting - numerous see report attached. b) Giving Parish Councils the Right to Appeal Planning Decisions https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110489. The Chair asked for individuals to pledge their support.</p> <p>7. To receive internal reports from Advisory Committees and Decision Committees</p> <p>a) Planning and Highways (Doc. 2). Main points: Hollow Hill Footpath update - match funding has been agreed in support of the footpath scheme. NCC Highway Rangers - scheduled to visit and it appears they still have not done so. Clerk to chase. Green Lane - NCC will return later in the year to complete work on surfacing and to clear any vegetation considered to be creating an obstruction. Ditchingham Estates will make good the 'car parking' area. SNDC will make good the area vacated by the mini recycling centre. Street Furniture – to be repaired or replaced as required. The Chair would like to extend a vote of thanks to Cllr. Mulley who has volunteered his time in making good certain repairs. Mini Recycling Centre – being removed in April due to pressure from Green Lane residents. Chair to report in The Parishioner. Sandbags – Chair to ask if they could be sited at Village Hall.</p> <p>b) Local Development (full report Doc. 3) The Chair read Councillor Bernard's report on his behalf. Main points: S106 Grant update – the bus shelter base has been paid out of S106 monies. Meetings are planned with the Playgroup and Friends of Ditchingham Primary School to discuss contributions. No further development with the skate park grant. Community Website – name registered as: https://southnorfolk4villages.co.uk and expected to go live in April with the April Parishioner Magazine. Hollow Hill Footpath – 50% funding agreed in principal. P&H committee to progress. Ditchingham Yard and Table Top Sale 24th April 2016 - 19 Yards to be open, with stalls inside and out at the village hall. Defibrillator – grant received through Norfolk Community Foundation Trust/</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
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<p>Saracens Norfolk Fund and will be at the Nisa shop in a security cabinet. RW to organise a press release to local media.</p>	RW
<p>c) Maintenance and Environment (full report Doc. 4) Councillor Kirkpatrick gave his report. Main points: Maintenance Tenders – A meeting was held to discuss tenders and the contract was awarded to Clinks Farm for 2016/17. Clerk to contact. Allotments – Two residents on the waiting list and some owners of untended plots have been written to by the Clerk. Cemetery – another mole problem is being addressed. The Dip – the goal posts will be moved as the other goal areas are worn. Thwaite Road Play Area – repairs have been completed under the see-saws. The motorbike Springer to be replaced – various quotes received. Proposal: To replace Springer Motorcycle, approx cost £600. Proposed RM, 2nd JG, unanimous. Clerk to order. BMX Track – waiting for a quote for resurfacing. Dog on Play Area Update – The Chair informed he had reminded parishioners in The Parishioner Magazine of DPC’s policy on no dogs on the play area and the dangers of their faeces. Play Equipment Inspections and Litter Picking – The Council is grateful to Mr Paul Austin for his comprehensive work.</p>	Clerk
<p>d) Finance & Resources No meeting. No report.</p>	Clerk
<p>8. To consider External Reports</p> <p>a) County Councillor (full report Doc. 4) Councillor Stone gave apologies and send an extensive report. Chair covered main points verbally. Clerk to circulate full version to Councillors.</p> <p>b) District Councillor (full report Doc. 5) The District Councillor gave apologies and sent a report.</p> <p>c) Police (full report Doc. 6) The Police gave apologies and sent a report. CM reported bogus door to door sellers and burglaries. The Chair to report to The Parishioner Magazine.</p> <p>d) Others (by invitation) None.</p>	KW
<p>9. Issues not decided by Committees:</p> <p>National Association of Local Councils (NALC) – The Chair spoke of a recent meeting he and the Clerk attended. One of SNDC executive members reported NALC being in disarray and alleged financial irregularities. The Chairs and Clerks attending the meeting were unhappy with the ‘no right of reply’ from NALC. The Chair has agreed to write to NALC before renewing the subscription.</p> <p>Ditchingham Litterpick 7th May 2016 – JG has organised a litterpick and will place a notice in The Parishioner and make posters. KW to ask school for support and add info to Yard Sale map, RW to do a press release. Clerk to confirm equipment order.</p> <p>Defibrillator – A parishioner, Mr James Smith, has agreed to complete a weekly check of the equipment. Clerk to contact.</p>	KW JG/KW/ RW Clerk

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____

10. Correspondence

The Chair circulated some Good Councillor Guides.

11. Urgent Other Business

Village Maintenance - RM gave the Clerk a list to report.

12. Items for next agenda

None.

13. Confirmation of meeting dates:**Planning Committee meeting**

- Monday 18th April 2016 (if required)

Full Council meeting

- Monday 16th May 2016 - Annual Parish & Annual General Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

The following attached papers should be regarded as part of the minutes:

Annex

- A. YTD Financial Outturn 2015-16
- B. To receive a report by RFO and Approve Cheques

Documents

Planning and Highways Committee Report
Maintenance & Environment Committee Report
County Councillor Stone's Report
District Councillor Bernard's Report
Police Report

Clerk

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Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

Ditchingham Parish Council:						Annex A		
15-16 Out turn, Budget & Forecast		BUDGET	F'CAST			Outturn		
Year ended:		15-16	15-16			15-16		
Including transactions to 31/03/2016 for Quarter ending:						15-16 Qtr 04		
Out Turn	PrintMe	BUDGET	NEW F'CAST			OUT TURN	Out turn	
YR Ended		YR Ended	YR Ended	Variance		YR Ended	as % of	as % of
31/03/2015		31/03/2016	31/03/2016	FORECAST to		31/03/2016	Original	Revised
Fin Yr 14-15		Fin Yr 15-16	Fin Yr 15-16	ORIGINAL BUDGET		Fin Yr 15-16	Budget	Forecast
25,000	Precept	34,250	34,250	0		34,250	100%	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	5,040	229%	101%
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		4,622	-	-
300	Recycling	0		0		0	-	-
3,126	VAT	3,400	2,600	-800	ADV	3,336	98%	128%
38,867	Income	41,880	47,124	5,244	FAV	52,483	125%	111%
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		
49,701	Available Resources	55,260	71,730	16,470		77,089		
1,217	General Admin	2,700	2,000	-700	FAV	1,325	49%	66%
6,372	Clerks Employment Costs	6,000	6,000	0		5,433	91%	91%
380	Clerks Office Costs	500	500	0		380	76%	76%
0	Section 137	0	0	0		0	-	-
500	Parishionner Magazine	750	750	0		750	100%	100%
100	Allotments	250	250	0		100	40%	40%
3,617	Burial Grounds	6,000	5,000	-1,000	FAV	4,426	74%	89%
4,715	Village Maintenance	4,000	5,000	1,000	ADV	6,141	154%	123%
0	Honorarium	0	0	0		0	-	-
1,409	Play Areas	3,000	3,000	0		2,042	68%	68%
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	4,698	235%	188%
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	3,412	100%	131%
25,095	Expenditure	35,100	36,581	1,481	FAV	38,105	109%	104%
24,606	Reserves C/ Forward	20,160	35,149	14,989		38,983		
22,106	General Reserve	13,018	28,007	14,989	FAV	31,841	245%	114%
-142	Reserves expended	0	0	0		0	-	-
2,642	Play Area	5,142	5,142	0		5,142	100%	100%
0	Lychgate & HollowHill	2,000	2,000	0		2,000	100%	100%
0	New Strategies	0	0	0		0	-	-
24,606	Reserves (as above)	20,160	35,149	14,989		38,983		
27	VAT receivable	0	0	0		103		
24,633	Total Reserves	20,160	35,149	14,989		39,086		
21,964	General Reserve	13,018	28,007	14,989		31,841		
2,642	Ring Fenced Reserves	7,142	7,142	0		7,142		
24,606		20,160	35,149	14,989		38,983		
Yellow cells are non cash								

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

Other adjustments			
Grants			0
Grants VAT			0
Transfers			0
Grants			0
Grants VAT			0
Balance Bfwd. Saver account			20,097
Balance Bfwd. Community account			4,511
Total Receipts per cash book			52,483
Total Payments per cash book			-33,583
Balance per Cashbook			43,507 A
Non Cash			-2,500
Play area contribution			0
Play area net spend			0
Non cash Adjustments (to reserves)			-2,500 B
Reconciliation with Bank			
Reserves as above			<u>41,007 A+B</u>
Cashbook Community account	40918.04		40918
Cashbook Saver account	4512.35		4512
Balance at bank			<u>45,430 C</u>
Difference (uncleared receipts/payments)			-1,923 A-C
Non cash Adjustments			-2,500 B

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

Ditchingham Parish Council

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Ditchingham Parish Council - Annex B			March 2016
Finance Report: Payments & Receipts, & Balances at bank			
			£
Current account cashbook balance (as reported at last meeting)			39,125.60
Payments issued since last report			
Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
18/01/2016	101411	Mrs Mulley January's salary	69.33
18/01/2016	101412	Clerk's January's Expenses	30.54
18/01/2016	101413	Mr R Mulley - village maintenance	11.15
28/01/2016	S/O	P. Austin January's Salary	130.65
28/01/2016	S/O	Clerk's January's Salary	488.70
28/02/2016	S/O	P. Austin February's Salary	130.65
28/02/2016	S/O	Clerk's February's Salary	488.70
16/03/2016	101414	Mrs Mulley February & March salary	138.66
16/03/2016	101415	Mr P Forder - Vermin Control	100.00
16/03/2016	101416	NPTP Councillor Training - RW	45.00
16/03/2016	101417	Glasdon - litter bin	168.75
16/03/2016	101418	Clerk February expenses	51.60
16/03/2016	101419	Ladywell Payroll	108.00
16/03/2016	101420	Mr P Austin - 3rd Qtr Internal Audit	20.00
16/03/2016	101421	Community Payback - village maintenance	270.00
16/03/2016	101422	Clerk March expenses	47.94
16/03/2016	101423	Community Action Norfolk subs	20.00
Total			2,319.67
Receipts paid in since last report			
15/01/2016	deposit	Mr R Basey-Fisher Burial	550.00
26/01/2016	S/O	Vat Return 01/10/2015-31/12/2015	1732.16
01/02/2016	deposit	Mr/Mrs Bemrose Memorial Tablet	110.00
26/02/2016	deposit	Broads Authority S106 monies (Bus Shelter base)	650.00
04/03/2016	deposit	Mr Victor Sayer - Cemetery reserved plot	400.00
04/03/2016	deposit	Tim Costello - Memorial	200.00
Total			3,642.16
Cashbook balance			40,448.09
Last Statement Balance 4th March 2016			40,918.04
Unpresented cheques from 2014-15			100.00
Unpresented cheques from 2015-16			969.95
Uncleared receipts			600.00
			40,448.09
Cashbook balance (as above)			
Business Saver Account			
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			4,512.35
Total balance in both accounts			44,960.44

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

DPC Planning & Highways ADVISORY Committee report March 2016

1. The **Planning and Highways Committee has not met since the last meeting.**
2. Update on **South Norfolk Council consultation on planning notices by Parish Councils.** It appears SNDC have attempted to resist entering further the foray they created by changing the consultation process by parish councils on planning. However after some widely circulated correspondence the Chair has now received acknowledgement and responses from Sandra Dinneen and Tim Horspole (Chief Executive and Director of Growth and Localisms at SNDC respectively), and John Fuller, Leader of the Council.

The chair has a meeting set up with Tim Horspole and others to discuss our concerns in early April and a tele-conference with John Fuller. The Chair, through this meeting is requesting that the District Councillor for the Ditchingham and Broome Ward (Brendan Bernard) actively supports DPC in addressing these matters. Councillors should also be aware that our own concerns are voiced by many other councils in South Norfolk and the chair is engaging with some of these councils in sharing advice and updates.

Given the situation on consultation on planning the P&H Committee has not returned any consultation responses since the last meeting. Councillors are reminded of the 'petition', link as provided in the Agenda.

3. The Clerk maintains **planning details on the Council's website.** As of the date of drafting this report (21/03/2016) 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.

3.a Applications since the last meeting:

07/03/2016 Reference 2016/0452
Alternative Reference PP-04862599
Application Received Thu 25 Feb 2016
Application Validated Fri 04 Mar 2016
Address 16 Norwich Road Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2JL
Proposal Single and two storey rear extensions to dwelling
Status Pending Consideration

05/02/2016 Application Number : App Type : 2016/0243
Householder
Parish : Ditchingham
Grid Ref : 633918 290749
Location : 4 Norwich Road Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2JJ
Proposal : Extension and alterations to existing dwelling
Applicant : Mrs Tracey Kellett, Bridgewater Barn, The Common, Metfield, Harleston. IP20 0LP
Agent : Mr Patrick Bradley, 129 Beccles Road, Bungay Suffolk. NR35 1NX

02/02/2016 Application Number : App Type : 2016/0110
Householder
Parish : Ditchingham
Grid Ref : 632575 291734
Location : The Little House Free Lane Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2DW
Proposal : Proposed extension to link garden office to the main house
Applicant : Mr Phil Kilby, The Little House, Free Lane, Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2DW

26/01/2016 Application Number : App Type : 2016/0047
Full
Parish : Ditchingham
Grid Ref : 634320 291453
Location : Ditchingham Voluntary Controlled Primary School Rider Haggard Way

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2RE
Proposal : Re-location of Broome & Ditchingham playgroup from Ditchingham Village Hall into a new modular building on the Ditchingham Church Of England Primary Academy School Site including fencing
Applicant : Ms Charlotte Todd
Ditchingham Village Hall Loddon Road Ditchingham Bungay Suffolk NR35 2RA

3.b Decisions since the last meeting:

Appl Number : App Type : 2015/2610
Discharge of Condition
Parish: Ditchingham
Applicant : Mr Martin Wallace
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
Decision : Approval of details – Approved
Delegated Date of decision : 25 February 2016

Appl Number : 2016/0024
Location : 43 Loddon Road Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2RA
Householder
Parish: Ditchingham
Applicant : Broughton Developments
Proposal : First floor rear extension
Decision : Approval with Conditions
Delegated Date of decision : 16 February 2016

Appl Number : 2016/0110
Location : The Little House Free Lane Ditchingham Norfolk NR35 2DW
Householder
Parish: Ditchingham
Applicant : Mr Phil Kilby
Proposal : Proposed extension to link garden office to the main house
Decision : Approval with Conditions
Delegated Date of decision : 19 February 2016

Appl Number : App Type : 2015/2720
Location : Agricultural Storage Building Off Free Lane Ditchingham Norfolk
PD Change from Barn to Dwelling
Parish: Ditchingham
Applicant : Miss A High
Proposal : Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (QA)
Decision : Withdrawn
Date of decision : 18 January 2016

4. To receive an update on the **Hollow Hill footpath**. Match funding has been agreed in support of the footpath scheme. Councillor Keith Weston to present verbal report.
5. At the January 2016 meeting we advised that **NCC highway rangers** were scheduled to visit Ditchingham in the near future. It appears that they still have not done so yet. The Clerk is asked to investigate again the schedule and advise any additional works required.
6. NCC has done some preliminary on the **Green Lane** BOAT and will return later in the year when the weather is more accommodating; this includes clearing any vegetation considered to be creating an obstruction. In addition, Ditchingham Estates will make good the 'car parking' area using materials provided by others (tbc). It is understood that SNDC will make good the area vacated by the mini recycling centre.
7. The Clerk maintains a schedule of **Street Furniture** (benches, bins, etc). These assets are repaired or replaced as required from time to time in accordance with policy and delegated budgets. The Chair would like to extend a vote of thanks to Cllr. Mulley who has volunteered his time in making good certain repairs.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

Julian Green
Chair Planning & Highways Committee

DPC Planning & Highways DECISION Committee report March 2016

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

Julian Green
Chair Planning & Highways Committee

Report from Maintenance & Environment Committee

Tabled Chair's Report for 21st March 2016 Parish Council

Committee Meeting:

The committee met on Thursday 18th February 2016 to look at the quotes for grass cutting.

There were only two quotes and two members of the committee declared an interest so did not take part in the vote.

This year's contract has been given to 'Clinks Farm'

The committee also discussed any other areas that we might take responsibility for and it was decided that at present there were none.

Allotments:

In general the allotments are being well tended. We have written to a few holders asking if they are going to work their plots and have had a positive response.

Cemetery:

The cemetery continues to be well maintained. We were contacted again by a member of the public who has a relative in the ashes plot that there was evidence of moles. The problem has been addressed again and we will monitor the situation.

The Dip:

The Dip is being well used and relatively little litter being left around.

The gaul areas are becoming worn again so within the next few weeks we will relocate the nets.

Thwaite Road Play Area:

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

As reported in our last meeting we have now had the repairs carried out to the areas under the 'See Saw' & 'Multi See Saw'

We are grateful to Councillor Weston who tried to find a supplier for the top only for the 'Springer Bike' but with no luck. We will order the complete unit and remove the remaining section or if possible turf over that site and relocate the new one.

Inspections:

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

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

Reg Kirkpatrick Maintenance & Environment

County Councillor Stone's Report Annual County Council Report for Parish Councils 2016

Breaking news:

Devolution Deal Announced (March 2016)

As announced by the Chancellor in his budget this week, local council leaders in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have agreed a deal with the government – to devolve significant powers to local level.

The deal has been produced after months of negotiation with authorities across Norfolk and Suffolk, and latterly, Cambridge and Peterborough. The New Anglia LEP is also a signatory.

The current offer includes:

- Over £1 billion of new money to support economic growth over the next 30 years
- £65m per year for the next 5 years – then £30m thereafter, at this stage.
- The region will take control of millions of pounds of multi-year consolidated and devolved transport budget
- New powers over infrastructure, developing skills for employment, and improving our health and social care system
- £175 million of capital grant for the East to deliver an ambitious target of new homes in line with national targets.
- The deal would also include the creation of a combined authority for East Anglia, chaired by a directly elected Mayor supported by a cabinet made up from leaders from the partner authorities.

The draft agreement suggests a combined authority be set up across the four authority areas in East Anglia, but councils would still keep their sovereignty and deliver local services. It would see the transfer of significant resources and powers from central government to the region but at this stage specifically for infrastructure, housing, economic development and jobs and skills.

Between now and the summer, each council in East Anglia will have the chance to debate the draft agreement.

Main Story:

Vital services saved in council budget (February 2016)

Fire stations and recycling centres were saved from closure in February this year as the county council agreed its budget for 2016/17.

The Labour-led council had proposed partially to fill a projected budget gap of £42million for next year by cutting the fire service and recycling centres, as well as libraries, road maintenance, museums and a raft of front-line services.

Although in opposition, the Conservatives remain, by far, the biggest Group on the council. Ultimately, we believed that enough was enough, and we had a responsibility to put politics to one side for the good of Norfolk, and to protect the front-line services. So, we agreed to participate in the final weeks of budget preparation. We went into negotiation with the Labour leader armed with a series of proposals, aimed at making the budget stronger and more sustainable, and restoring the front line services that had been proposed for closure. The Conservative proposals that went into the final budget were as follows:

- Reverse the closure of fire stations
- Restore Norfolk Arts Service grants
- Reverse Norfolk Museums Service lone-working proposal
- Reverse Museums Service redesign
- Reverse saving on Norfolk Record Office - search room, new archives and conservation work
- Restore Norfolk Record Office - opening hours and specialist archive work
- Restore Libraries materials spend and associated staff
- Historic Environment service
- Highways maintenance standards
- Re-open Docking recycling centre
- Restore bank-holiday opening at recycling centres
- Restore full-time opening at Ashill, Heacham and Morningthorpe recycling centres

And finally:

- Create a new pot-hole and small projects fund £1.5million – this is to ensure not only good quality roads, but, crucially, a good standard of road safety – cyclists and motorcyclists are especially vulnerable to pot holes.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

All these proposals were agreed. This means that, next year's net revenue budget for the county council will be 339million. A big proportion of this budget will be derived from council tax: the county council's share of this is being increased by 3.99% (including 2% specifically for adult social care services). This amounts to an increase of £45.72 a year for a Band D household.

Other news

Parish Partnership Scheme (March 2016)

Funding of £380,000 for 122 small scale highway projects across Norfolk was approved by councillors last week.

The money, from the county council's Parish Partnership scheme, will be matched by Parish and town councils who were invited in June 2015 to put in bids for funding for schemes important to their local area. This comes on top of the £1.5million pot-hole and small-projects fund proposed by the Conservatives in the budget and mentioned above.

The most popular bids have been for vehicle activated signs, which has seen 44 applications for signs which in most cases are to remind drivers of their speed. This year the Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership contributed £80,000 towards these bids, boosting the total available Parish Partnership funding to £380,000. Other popular schemes are Trods with 24 bids put in for this simplified, lower-cost alternative to footways. And helping to promote safety at schools will be part-time advisory 20mph speed limit signs with flashing warning lights installed outside 12 schools.

Norfolk Youth Parliament elections (February 2016)

Norfolk youth parliament elections are taking place between 14th and 20th March 2016. Thousands of young people are expected to vote and select the nine members of the youth parliament who will represent their views locally and nationally. Results of the election will be announced at a specially event on Tuesday 22nd March from 5pm to 6.30pm, in the Edwards Room, County Hall. The event will give the winners a chance to meet their new colleagues, county council officers and, of course, county councillors. All councillors are invited to attend this event and meet the winning candidates and, hopefully, next generation of politicians. Could anyone keen to attend please contact Ben Dunne, consultation and involvement officer, on 01603 495102 or 07867 907966, or via e-mail at: ben.dunne@norfolk.gov.uk

Roads, Transport and Infrastructure News

Government visit to see NDR work progress (March 2016)

In March, Patrick McLoughlin MP, the Secretary of State for Transport, came to see the route of Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) and declared himself pleased with the progress made in preparing for the main start of works later this month. He visited the line of the road where it passes through the City of Norwich Aviation Museum on the northern edge of Norwich Airport. He was also briefed on progress in establishing a Norwich Aviation Academy at the airport. He commented that he was: "...pleased to see that work is now underway on this important scheme which will help deliver 10,000 new homes and 12,000 jobs."

The road, when it opens, will be a 20km dual carriageway running from the A47 at Postwick, south-east of Norwich, to the A1067 north-west of the city, and is currently the country's biggest local authority-promoted road building project.

The road is expected to be open to traffic by early 2018.

Meanwhile, 2015 saw the lowest ever number of people killed on Norfolk's roads, but no room for complacency (January 2016)

The road casualties figures for 2015, released by the Norfolk Road Casualty Reduction Partnership, show that fewer people have died on Norfolk's roads over the last year than ever before. The statistics show that the numbers of road users suffering fatal or slight injuries reduced compared with the previous year, although serious injuries increased.

Norfolk road casualty statistics - 2011-2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fatal	43	39	40	39	33
Serious	312	314	352	340	352
Slight	2,136	2,011	1,999	2,199	1,990
Total	2,491	2,364	2,391	2,578	2,375

Access to high-speed broadband doubles in Norfolk as first Better Broadband contract completes ahead of schedule and under budget (October 2015)

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

185,885 mainly rural homes and businesses have been given access to fibre-enabled broadband, thanks to the first Better Broadband contract – completed ahead of schedule. Originally due to finish this December, it was announced at the end of October that the first Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) programme contract completed three months early, reached more properties than anticipated and made significant savings.

More than 80% of households and businesses in the county can now buy a superfast broadband service (24 Megabits per second and above), nearly double the number who could receive these speeds three years ago before the BBfN programme got underway.

The money saved as part of the first contract will now be reinvested in the next phase of the BBfN programme, which is due to bring faster broadband speeds to even more remote parts of the county. Planning work is already underway and the first services are due to be available from December 2015.

The first areas set to benefit from the second BBfN contract are parts of Burgh St Peter, Barnham Broom, Barford, Bawdeswell, North Creake, Dereham, Ashwellthorpe, Bradwell, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Shropham, Hanworth, Starston, Harleston, Hickling, Sea Palling, Thuxton, Cawston, Bradenham, Southrepps, Gunthorpe, Ridlington, East Ruston, Weasenham St Peter, Little Fransham, Topcroft, Woodton and Wymondham.

People can check whether their home or business can receive superfast broadband by visiting the [Better Broadband for Norfolk website](#) which is updated as new broadband services become available.

Children's Services – a mixed picture Council's children's services under the spotlight after new 'inadequate' rating from Ofsted (December 2015)

In December the government announced that a special commissioner would be coming in to help improve children's services in Norfolk. This comes after the county council was given another 'inadequate' rating by Ofsted. Dave Hill is the executive director of people commissioning (including children's services) at Essex County Council, and has been working with Norfolk's staff for the last few months now with the aim of helping the council develop better ways of working and, most importantly, better outcomes.

In their report, Ofsted highlights under-developed services for children in, and leaving, the council's care.

It is to be hoped that the commissioner will be able to help bring about the much-needed improvements. The ultimate sanction, would be to place the children's services in a self-governing trust, if he felt the leadership was inadequate. There will be more updates on this in the coming months.

However, good news on GCSE results for Norfolk's pupils (October 2016)

Norfolk's schools have narrowed the gap on the national average at GCSE for the second successive year, according to provisional results published last autumn. Early results suggest that Norfolk has climbed 35 places up the national league tables over the last two years, with a 16 place jump since 2014. Today's statistics show that 53.8% of students achieved five A* to C grades, including English and maths - compared with 52% on the same day last year* (an improvement of 1.8 percentage points). Progress in maths in Norfolk is particularly strong – 67.3% of students made expected progress in the county, putting Norfolk above the national average of 66.6%.

The news follows rapid improvements in both assessment results for five-year-olds and phonics results for six-year-olds this year. Reading performance for seven-year-olds has also gone above the national average for the first time.

Rise in number of Norfolk's young people in education or training (February 2016)

Norfolk has seen a big rise in the number of 16-18 year olds now in education, employment or training, it was revealed earlier this year. There are 1,128 more young people in the county participating in further education and training compared to May last year. Since that time, there has been a significant increase in the two areas of greatest challenge: increasing participation at 17 and reducing the number of unknowns. The pace of improvement for participation at 17 has increased at such a rate that it is now in line with the national average. In addition, the participation of 16 year olds is now well above the national average. The number of unknowns has also reduced from 16.1% in May 2015 to 6.8% in December 2015 (national average is 10.6%). The average percentage of 16-18 year olds classed as NEET (not in education, employment or training) for November 2015-January 2016 was 4.2%, which is now in line with the national figure. Advice for young people on education and training options in Norfolk is available at www.helpyouchoose.org or through the helpline on 0344 800 8022.

Joint venture helps vulnerable families stay together (September 2015)

An innovative project which aims to help Norfolk families stay together by providing vulnerable parents with targeted mental health support has had a successful first six months, with no babies on the scheme coming into care.

The Norfolk Parent Infant Mental Health Attachment Project (NPIMHAP) has seen a team of therapists, psychiatrists, social workers, health professionals and family support workers liaise to provide parents with a specially tailored package of support designed to improve their relationship with their baby.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

A joint initiative between Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) and Norfolk County Council, it works specifically with mums at risk of post-natal depression and psychosis, as well as those who have difficulty forming attachments with their children. It was launched in response to the high numbers of children aged under two who are in care in Norfolk, and has been made possible by a £625,000 grant from the government.

New short-breaks service launched to help reduce numbers in care (March 2015)

A new service was launched early last year in Norfolk to help reduce the number of children in care and support families to stay together. Norfolk County Council's new 'short-breaks service' provides access to leisure and educational activities and time away from home for those at risk of coming into care. Building on the short-breaks services already provided for children with disabilities, it gives young people an opportunity to have much needed breaks in a specially designed home in Norwich. The service means children aged from six to 17 get to spend time away from home, with access to a range of support. The service was inspired by a successful scheme in Blackburn, which has helped to reduce the number of children coming into care by giving families respite, particularly when their children have challenging behaviour.

Norfolk County Council and Barnardo's join forces to support children at risk of sexual exploitation (June 2015)

A service to protect and support victims and those at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) was launched in Norfolk last June. Norfolk County Council joined forces with national children's charity Barnardo's to create the initiative, which provides help and advice to 'at risk' vulnerable children and young people. Barnardo's is the leading agency in the UK providing specialist support to sexually exploited children and young people. For more than 20 years the charity has been protecting those at risk of child sexual exploitation, but it is the first time that the charity has worked directly with young people in Norfolk at risk of CSE. The main aim is to identify and protect children deemed at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and to help those who are victims of CSE. Young people using the service will have keyworkers who can help them to understand risks and keep themselves safe. They will be referred to the service either via the county's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or via early help services in the county.

Waste news

Norfolk/Suffolk waste deal extended (May 2015)

The inter-county deal, which sees some of Norfolk's waste dealt with at Suffolk County Council's new energy-from-waste (EFW) plant was extended for a further four years, in May last year, to last until 2020. The extension was agreed as part of Norfolk County Council's work to secure four years' worth of waste services, using facilities that are already up and running inside or outside Norfolk, to replace its current arrangements which end this year that deal with the 210,000 tonnes of rubbish left after recycling (residual waste) that Norfolk generates each year.

Social Care

Social media used to dispel myths in social care (February 2016)

Social workers took to Twitter at the start of February to raise the profile of the work they do in Norfolk. The day-long event aimed to give people in the county, and further afield, a true picture of what is involved in the daily life of a social worker. A number of professionals working in social care across Norfolk were featured across the council's main social media platforms, going about a typical day's work – tweeting their activities using the account @NorfolkSW. Those whose lives are touched by social care were also encouraged to record and tweet their own views. One aspect highlighted on the day was the county council's recently-adopted 'Signs of Safety' approach to social work. Funded by the county council and the government's Innovations Fund, the project trains social workers to work more closely with families developing their strengths and helping them to keep their children safe. Norfolk's current social worker recruitment campaign is running until 31 March 2016. For more information visit www.norfolk.gov.uk

District Councillor Bernard's Report

Main Issue for Parishes in S. Norfolk is the change in Planning approvals procedures, due to the digitalisation of the procedure and the lack of suitable equipments and cost provision to download planning applications, plans and relevant paperwork. A number of Parishes have complained, including Ditchingham and it is hoped that a compromise can be reached with the Executive, to ensure that Parishes are in a position to fulfil their legal obligations and open government.

Main issue for the District Council has been the proposed devolution of the east anglian powerhouse.

Key parts of the deal include:

- A new, directly elected Mayor who will act as Chair to the East Combined Authority

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

- Responsibility for a multi-year, consolidated and, devolved local transport budget
- Responsibility for a new Key Route Network of local authority roads
- Control of a new additional £900 million funding allocation over 30 years
- Powers over strategic planning and housing, including £175 million for housing over the next 5 years to deliver an ambitious target of new homes.
- Responsibility for chairing an area-based review of 16+ skills provision and devolved 19+ adult skills funding from 2018/19
- Opportunity to work with government to co-design the new National Work and Health Programme to focus on those with a health condition or disability and the very long term employed.
- £50 million for a Centre for Food and Health Research in Norwich.

Further transfer of powers is expected, but there is a 6 months review/negotiating period when a lot can change.

Otherwise there is a review of Parish Boundaries, Ward Boundaries and Constituency Boundaries which has started and likely to involve significant changes.

The SNDC is reluctantly raising its part of the Council Tax by 3.3% for the coming year, having done it for the last 6 years, Band D council Tax for SNDC will be rising by £4.32.

Police Report – Ditchingham Parish Council Meeting

21 March 2016

Update on SNT Members

Inspector PROVART
Sgt HEATH
PC REEVE
PCSO NIGHTINGALE

Crime statistics - from 18 January - 20 March 2016

Over the past 3 months there have been **8** crimes in Ditchingham these are as follows:-

4 x Theft
1 x Burglary Dwelling
1 x Criminal Damage
1 x Common Assault
1 x Malicious Communications

There were **4** other recorded, these are child at risk reports and non crime domestic reports,(2 at same location).

Priorities; - ASB/ Noise – Cars / Motorcycles - Patrols conducted Green Lane / Village hall evenings / weekends.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: