

# **KIMBERLEY AND CARLETON FOREHOE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024, St Mary's Church, Carleton Forehoe, 7pm

### **Minutes**

1. Apologies  
Received from Graham Mann, Margaret Dewsbury, Richard Elliott
2. To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023  
The minutes were agreed JF propose, JS seconded, all in agreement.

3. Parish Council Reports
  - a) Chairman's Report

'I would like to record my thanks to fellow councillors and our clerk Maria whilst I have been unwell. However, I must pay special tribute to Jane for standing in for me and chairing the meetings. She has made sure that the council runs smoothly; has attended meetings in connection with the NDR and dualling of A47 with Graham and kept everyone informed of the progress being made. Her tenacity has also ensured that the change of name with SNDC to Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe Parish Council has come to fruition. '

JF circulated a report , Appendix 1

- b) Financial Report

Staff costs have increased with appointment of the new Clerk. There has also been the additional cost of the new website which was needed when the old provided changed it's pricing. As a result it was needed to increase the precept by 8%. The Parish Council maintains adequate reserves for any unexpected eventualities.

4. Reports from Outside Bodies
  - a) District Council – Richard Elliott  
A report was circulated and in appendix 2
  - b) County Council – Margaret Dewsbury  
A report was circulated and in appendix 3

5. Reports from Village Organisations
  - a) Kimberley Fete Committee  
Joy Smiley gave a report which is in appendix 4
  - b) Carleton Forehoe Fen  
Jane Fraser gave a report which is in appendix 5
  - c) Kimberley Church  
Joy Smiley gave a report which is in appendix 6
  - d) Carleton Forehoe Church  
Jane Fraser gave a report which is in appendix 7
6. General Parish Issues  
None

Meeting closed at 19:23

## **Appendix 1**

Chairmans report for Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe Parish Council

In May last year Joy Smiley was voted Chair of Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe Parish Council, with Jane Fraser as Vice Chair. Robert Alston, Jack Hornby and Graham Mann were voted councillors.

The Council has met 4 times this year and two items have dominated the agenda for local people, the proposed Norwich Western Link Road plus dualling of the A47 from North Tuddenham to Easton and the changing of the Council's name to include Carleton Forehoe. The Council is part of the A47 Taskforce, supported by George Freeman MP. The Taskforce's purpose is to work collaboratively with key stakeholders, to reduce the negative impact of increased rat running through the parishes of Barnham Broom, Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe and Wymondham, as a result of the Norwich Western Link Road plus dualling of the A47 from North Tuddenham to Easton. On behalf of parishioners, your councillors have agreed possible mitigation with South Norfolk District Council and National Highways. Feasibility studies and preliminary consultations will take place this summer, so please respond. Further formal consultation will take place in 2026.

Previously the Parish Council's formal title was Kimberley Parish Council and in February this year the title was changed, by South Norfolk District Council, to Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe Parish Council.

The two churches in the parish, St Peters and St Mary the Virgin continue to be at the centre of village life, with regular services and fund raising events,

such as the successful Kimberley fete. As the Church of England continues to divert resources away from rural churches, the pressure on local parishes to increase financial support grows.

The parish councillors wish to thank Norfolk County Councillor, Margaret Dewsbury and South Norfolk District Councillor, Richard Elliott, for their regular attendance at meetings, their support and contribution, particularly to the A47 Taskforce and the renaming of the Parish Council. Thanks also to Maria Hutson, our clerk, for all her hard work and expertise.

Jane Fraser  
20/05/24

## **Appendix 2**

### **Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe Annual Parish Meeting Report May 2024**

South Norfolk is proud to be an entrepreneurial District Council that is run in a business-like manner and reflects a vibrant and dynamic local economy. We are proud of everything we do and strive to be the most efficient, highest performing and technologically advanced Council in Norfolk. Thanks to the last 17 years of prudent Conservative leadership, financial management and innovation, South Norfolk Council has been able to continue enhancing the services provided, while maintaining some of the lowest levels of Council tax in Norfolk, frozen at £165 for a band D property in 2023/24. With inflation running at close to 10% for much of last year this was a particularly welcome bonus for residents.

The Council's 2024/25 budget was set in February and recognising the continuing inflationary pressures on the Council a modest £5 annual increase was agreed for a band D property. This means all the 87 services delivered by your local District Council will be delivered to each household for just £170. Yet again the Council has set a balanced, affordable budget that does not draw from reserves. There have been efficiencies year on year without the need for cuts, instead the Council is doing more each year to address real problems, like a further £100k investment to support the Council's role in flood prevention and doubling the investment for struggling families through the Household Support Fund.

At a time when nearly all local authorities are facing financial crisis, South Norfolk has, through good management, been able to find additional income and efficiencies. We continue to set out bold plans for much needed improvements to local infrastructure. This includes a five-year capital programme totaling £97 million all funded without the need for new borrowing. The capital programme will provide a range of critical improvements to the

social and environmental infrastructure through our district including new medical centres in Hethersett and Diss, a new leisure centre, a refurbished swimming pool, provision for weekly food waste collections from 2025, the long-awaited Long Stratton bypass and continued investment in building new local affordable housing through our Council owned property development and management companies and much more besides!

Perhaps the greatest challenge faced by the Council in the last twelve months has been the need to invest in additional temporary accommodation to avoid rising homelessness and to reduce the rising costs of bed and breakfast accommodation. This has led to further investment in the Council's housing stock for temporary accommodation, supported by much welcome funding from Government. Through its 'Help Hub' the Council continues to help 500 households a month address the cost of living and the challenges life sends.

Shortly after the May 2023 elections the Council's staff moved to new office accommodation at the Horizon Centre on Broadland Business Park. This is a joint venture with Broadland Council as the one team of staff service both councils. The new accommodation is 84% more energy efficient than the old South Norfolk and Broadland offices which were both due for major structural maintenance work in coming years. The new accommodation has not only led to huge environmental improvements and substantial cost savings but has also increased staff efficiency as the 'one team' now operate from a single building.

We have continued to invest in our world-leading science base at the Norwich Research Park to provide new employment premises and create job opportunities for businesses to expand in Wymondham, Long Stratton, the Waveney Valley and along the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor. As a Council, we are committed to supporting our local business economy and attracting more visitors to our local towns and high streets, whilst ensuring we protect and preserve the special character of our market towns and villages. As an example, we are currently working with the Town Council in Wymondham to enhance the town centre creating a safer, greener and cleaner place to shop, set up a business or simply relax - a £1m investment in our most local town.

But it's not just about big projects, the Council continues to invest in smaller local projects. Here in these local rural communities small grants from my Member's ward grant have funded some much needed facilities at neighbouring village halls. In the current year the Community Action Fund has been increased to £150k, which means local community groups can apply for grants up to £20k to improve facilities in the community. These kinds of local projects make a real difference.

The Council continues to set out sensible and deliverable environmental policies designed to protect our precious environment and improve the quality of life of residents. We continue to address fly tipping and will always take legal action against offenders where we have good evidence. Our new office is equipped with 2500 solar panels and is heated using air source heat pumps. Every decision we take is aimed at moving towards a greener world in a sustainable way. Our job is to help everyone to go green and as part of that we committed in the last year to providing EV Charging points for every village or parish council that wanted them.

We have our in house refuse collection and recycling teams and have made steady progress in improving recycling rates throughout the district. South Norfolk remains fully committed to reducing its carbon footprint and is amongst the greenest councils in Norfolk.

Helping residents to stay fit and active is a key policy objective for the council. We provide leisure services throughout the district and locally in Wymondham we are so fortunate to be able to provide the full range of gyms, pool and pitches to help people stay fit and active. Unlike many other Councils in South Norfolk, we run our leisure services in house. We have committed to year-on-year investment and have seen a steady growth in membership and leisure centre use since the Covid closures of 2020. We offer a premium service at a highly competitive rate, ensuring everyone who wishes to stay active can access our leisure services at an affordable rate.

Finally, our continued collaboration with Broadland District Council has allowed us to gain the benefits of working over a much bigger scale and responding to challenges at pace for the benefit of our residents. We will continue to invest in the infrastructure that supports our economy to prosper and protects local quality of life, while striking the right balance between the need for growth and delivering the services that our residents value the most. Despite the challenging financial climate, we continue to have high ambitions for the area and its significant opportunities and potential. Our top priority is working with you, and our partners, to deliver services right first time.

Cllr Richard Elliott  
Member for Wicklewood Ward  
Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

## **Appendix 3**

NCC report for Annual Parish Meeting

Council Tax

NCC agreed a Council Tax increase of 4.99% (that is 2.99% for general services and 2% increase for Adult Social Services). Overall the budget will provide an extra £60million for Adult Social Services and £35 million extra for Children's Services. This is necessary because the demand on these services increases every year.

The Rise Up children & mental health and wellbeing programme supported over 10,000 children in its first year.

### Devolution

The Council also agreed to accept the £600 million, (over 30 years), Devolution Deal offered by the Government. This will ensure we have extra funding and the power to decide how it should be spent. The deal will include having a Directly Elected Leader who will be elected in May 2025.

### Highways

Twenty-seven new gritters have been purchased to help keep the main roads safe during the winter months. The service has been working hard dealing with the results of the flooding as well as the usual potholes etc. This year there were 118 bids for Parish Partnership funding. NCC is helping all of them. The joint investment in these schemes will total £1,040,586. Generally contributions are 50/50 but very small parish councils only have to contribute 25%.

### Flooding

The Leader and the Chairman of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance went to London to lobby ministers for more funding to stop flooding because Norfolk is the 10th most at risk of surface water flooding, out of 149 authority areas. The discussion also included how to capture the excess water for use in times of drought during the hot summer months, and extra support needed for coastal erosion as Norfolk has one of the fastest eroding coastlines.

### Bus Services

Norfolk received funding from the Department of Transport to improve local bus services. As well as providing extra buses the plan is to expand some routes and increase the frequency of services on key routes. Bus fares have been kept low and from February 1st people holding a disabled concessionary travel pass have been able to travel free of charge at any time. Previously they were only allowed to travel free at off peak times.

### Waste disposal

Until the beginning of this year people had to pay to dispose of DIY construction and demolition waste. From this year waste from small scale projects in up to 100 litre bags can be disposed of free of charge. This is limited to four visits to a tip within four weeks. Traders must continue to pay for all waste disposal.

## Environment

As part of the aim to plant one million trees over five years to help reduce carbon emissions in the area the council has also been growing trees at Gressenhall to sell to other organisations. Last May the council also adopted a Climate strategy which includes retrofitting our buildings, sustainable transport and developing a green economy.

The Council is also preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy and is one of 48 local authorities working with the Government on supporting nature.

## Public Health

The Council's Public Health Strategic Plan commits to delivering a new programme of tobacco control and Stop Smoking initiatives to help people stop smoking and create smoke free environments. Although E-cigarettes (vaping) is a useful tool to help people stop smoking they are not good for adults or children who have never smoked. It is illegal to sell vapes to under 18s and the council has been working with schools on preventing children from taking up vaping and providing guidance on dealing with vaping incidents.

## Adult Education

The Adult Learning Service was rated "Good" following it's Ofsted inspection. One third of courses are now provided on line to cater for people unable to travel to them. The Construction Centre on the edge of Norwich is doing well and there will be Adult Learning Centres in the new Community Hubs being developed in Kings Lynn and Great Yarmouth.

## Fire Service

The Fire Service was also rated "Good" after it's HMI inspection. It has worked hard dealing with wild fires and flooding as well as other incidents over the last year. They also do a lot of prevention and protection work, advising people on how to keep their homes and businesses safe from fire.

## Libraries

As well as providing books, information and free internet access our libraries also provide a variety of activities for all ages, from Bounce and Rhyme for babies to Knit and Natter for older people plus a warm space in which to meet. The Summer Reading Scheme for school aged children took place as usual as did the Holiday Playschemes.

Norfolk County Council continues to provide a wide range of services to support adults, children, businesses and organisation.

## **Appendix 4**

### **Kimberley Fete**

We were very fortunate to have lovely weather for the fete which was very successful raising £4.000 which has been distributed to Kimberley church and other charities.

## **Appendix 5**

### **Carleton Forehoe Fenland Report for PCC AGM, May 2024**

- On 12/5/23 we had a site visit from 2 of our advisors, Sam Brown (Norfolk Wildlife Trust) & Andy Hine. They were both happy with our management & the work we've carried out, following the advice given by the drainage board the previous year, & gave suggestions for future work going forward.
- The change of bank to Lloyds is working well
- The access from the corner on Low Rd has been stopped by the landowners as they had problems with unlawful access to their fields, but we can still gain access from the Glebe Farm drive & field track (historically parishioners used both entrances)
- On 19/7/23 County Wildlife Site 165 the Tiffey River Corridor (north bank of Tiffey) was re-surveyed by Andrina Wormsley for NWT, from the western end at Carleton Forehoe bridge to the eastern end which includes the Fenland . The entire site continues to pass the criteria for CWS, & there were no further management suggestions for the Fenland & Eastern end. Andrina provided a very comprehensive plant list. All surveys, site visits & advice given re-affirms our management strategy of minimum intervention, maintaining the status quo, with some clearance & opening up to increase biodiversity at different habitat levels.

The Fenland AGM was held on 28/11/23 in the office at Reymerston Rectory. The Fenland Charity accounts can be viewed on the Charity Commission website.

## **Appendix 6**



Church of St Peter, Kimberley.

We have had 11 services this year plus a Group Service and our Christmas Carol service. The average attendance for services is around 16 people. The Carol Service was very well supported and the collection of £430 was sent to Warchild uk. The cutting of the grass and hedges and general churchyard maintenance is carried out by Alex Mutimer and we would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued assistance towards the cost of this which is much appreciated.

## **Appendix 7**

St Mary the Virgin, Carelton Forehoe

Mary the Virgin continue to be at the centre of village life, with regular services. As the Church of England continues to divert resources away from rural churches, the financial pressures increase. The church undertook a successful litter pick in the spring.