

TACOLNESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Tacolneston held at Tacolneston Village Hall on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs R. McClenning (Vice-chair), K. Darrell, L. Pincher, J. Hooper and E. Taylor.
Parish Clerk/RFO: D. Wickham
District/County Councillor B. Duffin & 9 members of the public.

1. **Welcome and receive any apologies for absence.**
Cllr McClenning welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Cllrs Gulliver and Gowing.
2. **To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th June 2021.**
Having been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, it was unanimously agreed that the minutes were a correct record.
3. **To receive the Parish Chairperson's report.**
Cllr Gulliver's report was read in her absence by Cllr McClenning (see attached).
4. **To receive reports from any local clubs and organisations.**
Tacolneston Football Club had submitted a report, which was read by Cllr Taylor (see attached).
Tacolneston Bowls Club currently has 8-9 players, mostly coming from surrounding villages. Whilst this number is sufficient to pay the bills, the club would like to encourage more members.
Tacolneston Good Neighbours has not been needed much since its inception, surprisingly. The group plans to relaunch after taking advice from South Norfolk Council.
All Saints Church, Tacolneston. Cllr Hooper reported that the synod is in a difficult situation – the future of the large number of churches in Norfolk cannot be taken for granted. He noted that churches are not just for worship and encouraged the community to support the church to avoid losing it.
5. **To receive reports from the County/District Councillor.**
County/District Cllr Duffin delivered reports from each council (see attached). He hoped to arrange meetings with Parish Council Chairpersons to discuss the National Grid pylon proposals in the near future.
No response had yet been received from Planning Enforcement in relation to the telecommunications mast outside the school, so Cllr Duffin will chase this up with them.
6. **Opportunity for members of the public to discuss general parish issues.**
There was none.

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Meeting ended at 19.35

Parish Chairperson's Report

Following the Parish meeting and annual general meeting of Tacolneston Parish Council last June a flexible and informal list of the councils' priorities for the village for 2021-2022 was drawn up. These priorities were based on the views of the villagers as expressed in the meetings. I consider that the council has worked well towards achieving these priorities and is in a good place to make more progress over the next year.

Our first priority was to improve road safety in the village. Under the leadership of Lennie Pincher, the SAM2 speed monitors have been installed. Stephen Sparrow and others volunteered to move the monitors, and these are now doing much to maintain a steadier speed for traffic through the village. The council liaised with the police over managing the problems caused by Two-Wheel-Tuesday and these problems were lessened last year.

The second priority was to maintain and improve the village hall and recreation ground. Under Beth Taylor's leadership, great strides have been taken to improve the facilities, with the provision of shelters, picnic tables and benches and a thorough refurbishment of the hall. Unsurprisingly this has resulted in much improved use of the hall. Beth has been particularly successful in applying for grants which have placed the hall on a firm financial footing. Increased usage of the hall has increased revenue and will allow for continual improvements in the future. Lennie Pincher, Katie Crowson and Wes Kent have all worked alongside Beth to improve the facilities in the hall and on the field and we recently welcomed Simon Harrington to this team. The planned installation of CCTV will ensure that the improved facilities are maintained and safe from the vandalism.

Our third priority was to improve other village amenities. To this end two additional 'dog-poo' bins have been installed. The 'telephone' box on Norwich Road has been repaired, shelved, and is now serving as a swap shop for books and jigsaws. The village footpaths have been maintained through the work of a team of volunteers, walking the paths and reporting issues to Norwich County Council and I am delighted that Wes Kent has agreed to put himself forward as the new Footpath Warden. As yet no decision on the future of the bus shelter opposite the Pelican has been made.

Our final priority was to improve communication with the village. To try to achieve this we have increased our use of the Tacolneston Times to communicate with Parishioners. Dan Wickham, the parish clerk has refreshed and updated the Parish Website which is now fully accessible.

We were delighted to receive the plaque from the Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk commemorating the work of all those in the village throughout the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been mounted and is displayed in the hall acting as a reminder of how, when things were really bad, Tacolneston pulled together to provide for the most vulnerable in our community and through doing so improved the lives of many.

I would like to thank the work of all the councillors in achieving many of our objectives this year. All have generously volunteered their time and energy to improve village life and I would like this to be recognised here. It is hard to remember that Dan has only been with us for just over a year. He has made a huge difference to the smooth running of the council, and we have benefited much from his expertise and judgement.

I would also like to thank Barry Duffin, our county and district councillor for his support of the village. Barry has supported us in obtaining grants that have benefited the village financially and also through his advocacy for the council and for the parishioners. His actions and influence have made very real differences to the village.

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Finally, I would like to thank the villagers for all that they do to improve life in our village. Village football, fitness classes, church services, craft clubs, live music events, barbecue evenings, car boot and garage sales, fetes, snowdrop and pumpkin trails, all combine to make Tacolneston a vibrant and rewarding place to live. Thank you.

Tacolneston Football Club Report

April 2022 saw the conclusion of the 68th year of Tacolneston Football Clubs existence.

Following 2 Covid abandoned seasons, this past year has shown what a big effort everyone has had to give to complete an uninterrupted fixture list.

Attention to the playing surface, including complete overseeding; slow release fertilizing; vertical draining and regular cutting has resulting in a very noticeable improvement, not only visually but in "playability". The result of these improvements has enabled the senior of our two teams to gain promotion to their highest ever standard of amateur football..... to date !!

To maintain the pitch surface improvements, the regular attention to cutting and line marking has been placed in the hands of local man Chris Brook.....so the future is in safe and knowledgeable hands.

Having purchased and positioned a Storage Container, to enable the football accessories / paraphernalia to be moved out of the "overflowing" changing rooms, it is our hope to use the additional space to enlarge the changing area(s), by means of internal wall remodelling. It is also hoped that this will go some way to improve the latest SNDC audit comment of "not being a very inviting environment".

County Council Report

70% of Norfolk streetlights converted, or work underway to convert to LED

96.7% of highways inspections completed within timescale

99.6% of dangerous highway defects dealt with within timescales set out in the Transport Asset Management Plan

94% of Looked after Children (LAC) with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan

Completed 51,000 Adult Social Care Assessments for 20,700 people.

The 2022/23 Budget

A **£464 million** net revenue budget, a **£25m increase** from last year, with increased spending across key service areas and capital programmes, along with a 2.99 per cent Council Tax rise has been agreed to enable Norfolk to build back better after the pandemic.

Adult Social Services will see an additional **£35.4m** of investment, against savings of **£10.5m**, **Children's Services** will receive **£23.2m** of further investment, with a further

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£10m this year for the **SEND School Programme**, with £12m against planned savings and **Community and Environmental Services** will see an additional **£11.2m**, against savings of £3.5m.

Within Community and Environmental Services there will be the **£10m pothole fund** to draw upon, **new recycling centres** across the County, **£5m on library upkeep** and extension of services and **£12m on the Better Broadband project**.

There has been substantial **Beryl Bikes and E-Scooters** uptake during the past year, with the average journey being over 3.5km (taking multiple car journeys out of the City) and multiple Local Cycling, Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPS) plans being developed across the County (including Greater Norwich, King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Dereham).

These commitments are in keeping with my Conservative Groups 2021 Manifesto pledges to deliver a better future for Norfolk through:

- Protecting valued services
- Investing in care services
- Strengthening community resilience
- Leading on economic development
- Supporting families and young people
- Caring for our environment

District Council Report

My member ward grant of £1000 is available for small projects where I haven't helped before.

CAF -Community Action Fund is increased to £150,000 this year mainly for small parishes with little or no CIL - forms from me. Close 4th July

East Anglia Green Energy Enablement - Pylons - please join Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk Pylons facebook site and website. This is a group that has been formed to combat this project, the information on it is excellent. sign their petition online. They want all local groups to continue but to feed back into them as they feel a united front for the 3 counties will be better than lots of small groups.

It has the backing of 4 MP's at present, who want to, not stop it but to get it re-routed into the sea to form a ringmain around the UK.

There is a public exhibition at Palgrave VH on Sat 14th May 10am - 4pm, it would be good to get this meeting overrun with members of the public to show the feeling about this project.

Happy to take questions

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