

Matlaske Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 08 March 2023 at 7.30pm St Peter's Church, Matlaske.

Councillors Present: Cllr Sara Buxton (Chairman), Cllr Marion Shepherd (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Richard Amis, Cllr Ian Fitzpatrick-Swallow

In Attendance: Mrs Emma Childs (Clerk)

1. To Consider Accepting Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Felicity Rushmer, Cllr Dick Fiddian

2. Public Forum

a) To receive questions or comments from the parishioners:

None

b) To receive the reports from the District & County Councillors:

a) County Councillor

Electronic report received from Cllr Eric Vardy

- **Children's Services**

Inspectors have praised Children's Services at Norfolk County Council, judging the authority as "good" and highlighting "exemplary" and "exceptional" areas of practice. In an inspection report recently published Ofsted said "significant improvements" had been made in services for children and their families, recognising stable and determined leadership, investment in services, and "compassionate, warm and committed workers and carers."

Inspectors said children's "voices, wishes and feelings shine brightly" in case records and described children and young people's participation as a strength of the authority. The report follows a two-week inspection in November, the first full inspection of its kind since 2017, when Norfolk was judged as "requires improvement."

Known as an Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS), the inspection looked at the support the council offers children and families from before birth through to adult life. The judgement relates to all services from early help and prevention, to more specialist support for families with the greatest needs.

In the report, inspectors said: "Significant improvements have been made in services for children and families since the last inspection in 2017. A stable and determined children's senior leadership team, endorsed by councillors, has been innovative, establishing a shared practice culture and new ways of working which have transformed services."

Inspectors said that "the vast majority of children in Norfolk receive high quality services and have good relationships with their social workers, which is leading to continued improvements in their circumstances." Ofsted described support for care leavers as demonstrating "exemplary practice" and said children in care are provided with "exceptional services." In essence Ofsted has recognised the huge progress we have made in recent years, which is testament to the tremendous effort of all those working across the service. I want to thank all of our staff and carers for their dedication and commitment to Norfolk's children and young people and for the role they have played in this Ofsted judgement.

Ofsted said that adoption services remained a strength, independent reviewing officers are "strong advocates for children" and planning and decision making for babies needing early protection was a "particular strength."

They also highlighted the “effective support” of the Targeted Youth Support Service, in diverting children away from criminal exploitation and the skilful work of the social workers taking calls where there were concerns about children (known as the Children’s Advice and Duty Services).

Inspectors described the Executive Director of Children’s Services as an “exemplary leader” and recognised the strength of partnership working in the county.

They said further improvement was needed in the response to children aged 16 and 17 who present as homeless; the recognition and response to neglect, and the support and decision-making for children placed with family and friends.

Sara Tough, Executive Director of Children’s Services at Norfolk County Council, said: “This report reflects the huge effort of all of our staff in improving services for children and young people in the county. It has taken a huge amount of work and has come amidst a global pandemic and when public services are under significant pressure which makes it all the more impressive. This report shows that outcomes for children are at the heart of everything we do and the work we are doing is helping to improve the lives of children and families across the county. Ofsted recognised our commitment to participation, our efforts to listen to children and young people and the strength of our social work practice, which is based on developing strong and effective relationships with children, families and our partners. We are ambitious for every child and young person and will continue to build on this positive inspection outcome, to help make Norfolk a county where all children and young people can flourish.”

- **Norfolk to benefit from new Family Hubs and Start for Life funding**

Children and parents in Norfolk are to benefit from a new cradle to career approach to family support.

The government has just announced that Norfolk County Council will be one of 75 local authorities receiving some of the £302m new Family Hubs and Start for Life funding. It means the county will receive approximately £6m to further develop its prevention and early help services for families with children and young people up to the age of 19 (25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities).

This is not about introducing a new service or opening new buildings but to allow the county to further develop support for families. Using a whole family approach, the Family Hubs network will give families a single access point to support services that are integrated across health (physical and mental health) and social care as well as voluntary and community organisations and education.

Whilst there will be at least seven physical Family Hub sites in existing community buildings, which families will be able to walk into, services will be delivered largely on an outreach basis. The Family Hub approach will bring together a wide range of services so that families can access support in the spaces and places that they live and visit, such as libraries and community buildings.

The Family Hubs network will provide simple access to ‘Start for Life’ services, providing the best support for babies in the first 1,001 critical days from conception to the age of two, setting them up to maximise their potential for lifelong emotional and physical wellbeing including:

- Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships support for families who are expecting a baby or have a baby under the age of two
- Infant feeding support services
- Parenting support for parents of children aged 0-2
- Home learning environment support for parents of children aged 3-4

The County Council want Norfolk's children to flourish and have the very best start in life, no matter their background or circumstances, so we're really pleased to have been identified as one of the authorities to benefit from this programme. Family Hubs can provide families with advice and support across a whole range of family issues spanning the 0-19 (25 with SEND age range). Family Hubs will enable the join up of different agencies supporting families in the county, including from across social care, health, education, and the voluntary sector.

"Family Hubs will support all families across the county, with a focus on reducing inequalities in health and education outcomes for babies, children, and families, which includes support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, and support in preventing parental conflict. These are areas where we know the earlier we can help families, the greater the impact on children's futures."

Norfolk County Council Budget for 2023/24 approved by councillors

Norfolk County Council has set its latest budget, which tackles spending pressures and protects key services. The budget approved today includes:

- A net spending increase of £29.6m to meet rising costs
- A Council Tax increase in line with the Government's cap of 4.99 per cent – 2.99 per cent for general Council Tax and two per cent for the adult social care precept. This would increase the County Council's share of band D bills from £1,516.95 to £1,592.64.
- A "significant proportion" of the £59.7m savings coming from "doing things better for less", including £17m from the first phase of a strategic review of the council

£133m for highways and transport in Norfolk over the next year

Carbon-cutting transport schemes are set for a £29 million boost in Norfolk, despite the tough financial climate.

b) District Councillor

Apologies for Cllr Butikofer, who was unable to attend

3. To record declarations of interest and approve any requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests or other interests:

None

4. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 January 2023

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 January 2023 previously circulated to all members. Unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Action: SB to include details of the Community Connectors in the next Newsletter and to post a leaflet on the Noticeboard. - Complete

Action: SB will arrange for a plaque to be placed by the tree, commemorating the Jubilee - Ongoing

Action: SB to write a piece for the newsletter thanking Derek and inviting anybody interested in becoming a potential new Councillor to come along to the meeting on 08 March 2023. - Complete

6. Finance

a) To Review the Financial Update 2022/23 as of the 28/02/2023

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|---------|
| i) | Barclays Community account | £732.75 |
|----|----------------------------|---------|

b) To Approve Payments

| | | | |
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| i) | Mrs E Childs | Wages | £249.60 |
| ii) | HMRC | Wages | £62.40 |

All payments approved.

7. Correspondence

a.) General Correspondence

Bottle and Paper Banks

All Councillors to promote the use of the bottle and paper bank as this helps raise funds for the Parish Council.

8. Planning

a) To Comment on and Recommend/Object any Current planning applications

Ref. No: TW/23/0433

Remove leylandii trees, some are split, some touching power lines, roots to be removed by arborist plans to replace with hedging.

Land At The Rear Of The End Peg Wickmere Road Matlaske Norwich NR11 7JH

Parish Council were pleased to hear of this application as it will improve the appearance of the area dramatically.

b) To receive an update on any previous planning applications:

None

9. Other Matters

a) To discuss the King's Coronation picnic

Monday 08 May at 3pm – bring your own picnic, cake and bubbly will be provided.

Joan's Silver Pin are going to play.

b) To confirm the changes in Voter ID for the May elections

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. Accepted forms of photo ID

You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling station.

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- A Blue Badge
- Older Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Oyster 60+ Card funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Freedom Pass
- Scottish National Entitlement Card
- 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- War Disablement SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Proof of age
- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Other government issued documents
- Biometric immigration document
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- National identity card issued by an EEA state

- Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
- Voter Authority Certificate
- Anonymous Elector's Document

You will only need to show one form of photo ID. It needs to be the original version and not a photocopy.

How to vote in person

1. Check where your polling station is, and go to vote between 7am and 10pm on polling day.
2. When you arrive at your polling station, a staff member will ask for your name and check that you are on the electoral register.
3. From 4 May 2023, if you are voting in an election that requires photo ID, you will need to show photo ID to vote. They will ask to see your ID, check that it's accepted, and that it looks like you. A private area will be available should you choose to have your photo ID viewed in private. This might be a separate room, or an area separated by a privacy screen, depending on the polling station.
4. The staff member will cross your name off the register and give you a ballot paper listing the candidates you can vote for. You might be given more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election taking place in your local area on the same day.
5. Take your ballot paper (or papers) to a polling booth, so that you can cast your vote in secret.
6. Read the instructions on the ballot paper carefully. Some elections use different voting methods, so you need to make sure you fill in each ballot paper correctly.
7. Complete your ballot paper using the pencil provided in the polling booth. You can also use your own pen if you want to. Don't write anything else on the paper, or your vote may not be counted.
8. If you make a mistake, don't put your ballot paper in the ballot box. Ask the polling station staff for a replacement ballot paper, and fill it in again.
9. Once you're done, fold your completed ballot paper and put it in the ballot box.

c) To pass a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge

By signing the Pledge, the council is agreeing that the council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors
- Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy
- Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example the local Local Council Award Scheme
- Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

Council agreed to sign up to the civility and respect pladge

d) To discuss Councillor Recruitment

A massive thank you was extended to Cllr Richard Amis, following his decision to step down as a Councillor, for his service to the Parish Council.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Matlaske

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.