

## **Scarning Parish Council**

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Scarning Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 15 April 2019.**

**All members of the parish are invited to attend. The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions thereon (although it should be noted that such resolutions will not bind the Parish Council ).**

### **AGENDA**

- 1 Welcome and apologies for absence
- 2 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held 16 April 2018
- 3 Members of the public to discuss and vote on parish affairs
- 4 To receive the Chairman's Report
- 5 To receive Scarning Primary School's Report
- 6 To receive the County Councillor's Report
- 7 To receive the Breckland Councillor's Report
- 8 To receive Scarning Playing Field Committee's Report
- 9 To receive Scarning Parochial Church Council's Report
- 10 To receive Conservation Volunteers' Report

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Wendy Brown  
Chairman of Scarning Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Scarning  
held in the Village Hall on 15 April 2019**

Present: W Brown (Chairman), T Abel, F Bradford, C Farnham, S Faulkner, P Page, P Page, M Steward. Mr W Richmond (Norfolk County Councillor) Mrs L Turner (Breckland Councillor) Mr P Hewett (Breckland Councillor). In attendance Mr N Hartley. Fourteen members of the public

1. Welcome

Mrs Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Magrath.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 16, 2018 were confirmed and signed.

3. Parish Affairs

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Mrs Brown delivered her report, a copy of which is filed with the minutes.

5. Scarning Primary School Report

Mr King delivered his report, a copy of which is filed with the minutes.

6. County Councillor's Report

Mr Richmond delivered his report, a copy of which is filed with the minutes.

7. District Councillor's Report

Mr Hewett delivered his and Mrs Turner's report, a copy of which is filed with the minutes.

8. Scarning Playing Field Committee Report

Mr Steward has been Chairman of the Playing Field Committee for fifty one years. In a short speech, Mr Steward thanked all those who had helped him over those many years. He noted that when he took over as Chairman in 1968, the Playing Field was self- funded from events

such as whist drives, darts matches, bingo and tennis, and it was only recently that the Parish Council had been asked to provide funding. He noted that Charles Hewson will be joining the Playing Field Committee and that Mr Hewson's wife will be the new Treasurer. There may, he noted, be a need for more parking on the playing field. The Committee's accounts currently show a balance of £7,085.63, with a grant of £3,500 to come from the Parish Council.

Mr Glister thanked Mr Steward for his many years of devoted service to the Playing Field Committee. In recognition of this, the Parish Council will be installing a bench on the playing field and the Parish Council's new Information centre/lending library, to be housed in the old red telephone box, will be named in his honour.

#### 9. Scarning Parochial Church Council

Mr Farnham delivered his report, a copy of which is filed with the minutes.

#### 10. Scarning Conservation Volunteers

Mr Walker delivered his report, a copy of which is filed with the minutes.

The meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

# Scarning Parish Council

## Chairman's Report 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

2018 / 2019 has been another year of rather mundane but necessary activities for Scarning Parish Council.

Our policies, standing orders and financial regulations have all been reviewed and found to be in order with only a couple of small alterations needed to bring them up to date.

After much correspondence and delays the bus stop near Black Horse Close was finally re-sited so that users could actually see the bus coming and it did not obstruct visibility when leaving Black Horse Close. The telephone box was eventually disconnected to enable its removal from the front of the village hall.

We hope to use the telephone box as an information centre and book exchange for the village and are looking for a suitable site to place it in the village.

Following a general lack of interest in the Village Newsletter the parish council decided to cease its production. It was resolved to produce a twice yearly contact and event sheet for the village instead.

Speeding cars through the village are a continuing concern and the parish council looked in to erecting village gateways to highlight the start and end of the village and hopefully make drivers more aware of the residents. Unfortunately there was insufficient space on both sides of the road for this sort of scheme so instead the existing flower boxes have been made bigger and more prominent . It is planned to have them attractively planted later in the year.

We have looked into the idea of changing the village street lights to LEDs but in view of the cost involved this will be done as the need arises.

Scarning Parish Council continue to support the group of volunteers who work on the water meadows. Despite several members leaving the group some new committee members have been recruited and it looks as though the volunteers will be able to continue with their excellent work. The Norfolk wildlife trust and Norfolk conservation group also give us invaluable support.

Plans are in place to start serious fundraising to enable us to purchase new fitness and play equipment for the water meadows play area. This has been delayed slightly as we had to ascertain that Breckland Council would be willing to renew the lease of the playing field which is due to expire in 2021.

This has been confirmed and we can go ahead.

Plans are also in place to stain the existing wooden play equipment and to improve the small 5 a side football goals with new matting.

Scarning Parish Council contributed towards a World War One commemorative display that Nick Hartley and Tim Farnham put on in the Church. Copies of Nicks World war One memorial booklet were on sale.

Scarning Parish Council continue to pay for the cutting of the grass in the churchyard and to purchase a Christmas tree for the village.

Other charitable donations have been made to the Big C, East Anglian Children's Hospice, Dereham Cancer Care, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Revitalise, Norfolk Accident Rescue, Dereham Meeting Point, Dereham Citizens Advice Centre and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Last but not least we have been pleased to welcome Phillip Page onto our council.

I would like to take this opportunity in this my final Chairman's Report to thank all of the Parish Councillors for their support and dedication, special thanks to Tim Abel for putting wood stain on the village sign and benches, to Michael Steward for looking after the speed awareness sign and Chris Farnham for his work as Internal Control Officer and for moving the telephone box. Thanks also go to Richard Allan for keeping the Village web site up to date and interesting, Ken Steward for managing the Village Playing Field on our behalf and of course my thanks go to our clerk Nick Hartley who does all of the hard work and keeps everything together.

It has been a pleasure working with you all.

## 15.4.19 Scarning VC Primary School Report to the Scarning Parish Council

Attendance at the school has continued to be a strength, with the last academic year's attendance above the national average. The rate of children who were persistently absent was well below the national average. At the time of writing attendance for this year should again be above the national average.

The 2017/18 academic year saw the children at Scarning generally attain levels that can best be described as broadly average. The amount of progress the children made from their various starting points was again broadly average. Areas of particular strength included Yr1 Phonics and writing throughout the school.

The school roll is now a shade over 400; over 25 up on the same time last year. September 2020 will see the roll increase to 425+ - it is not anticipated that the school will grow further from that point. For the third year in a row the school is over subscribed.

The new Reception classes have been handed over to the school and will be open for business at the start of the new term. We are delighted with them and they greatly enhance the provision for the very youngest children at the school.

A new trim trail for the children is being installed as I write and the area in front of the old school will soon receive a much needed spruce up with the development of a new garden.

Successful Church services have taken place at Christmas and at Easter. Thank-you as ever to the Church who make us feel very welcome on such occasions.

Sports, arts and cultural activities have continued to take place throughout the year. Highlights since my last report have included:

- *The continuing success of the Children's University at Scarning. (Over 40 children recently graduated)*
- *38 external sports events scheduled to have been completed by the end of the year*

- *Excellence Weeks based around a variety of themes e.g. 'Performance Poetry' and 'World War 1'*
- *A wide range of after school clubs including: forest schools, archery, computing and a whole host of sports clubs*

Parking at the pick-up and drop-off times continues to be a challenge. I will be writing to parents on our return to school; relaying a number of concerns that have been raised over the last few months - these include parking on the double yellows and zig zags; engines idling for long periods of time; the speed of traffic. We continue to talk regularly to the police; encouraging them to be as active as possible.

The school's leadership team has changed radically since the last Parish AGM, with Stuart Howell assuming the role of Deputy and Rachel Slade and Carolyn Johnson becoming, respectively, the English and Maths lead.

The school has continued to enjoy great support from the Secker Trust.

Nick King,  
Headteacher

# Norfolk County Council Annual Report

## The 2019/20 budget

In February 2019 Norfolk County Council agreed a £409 million revenue budget for 2019-20. This budget is balanced, is robust and allocates our resources across Norfolk's people and communities in the best way we can, while protecting frontline services.

The Council's Government funding has reduced by a total of £204m between 2010/11 and 2018/19 and its revenue support grant will fall from £39m to zero in 2020/21. During this period, the council has made savings of £364m, including efficiency savings of £246m. This has resulted in the difficult but necessary decision to increase the County Council's share of Council Tax by 2.99% this year.

The key points of the budget are:

A £409m net revenue budget - representing the Council Tax income which contributes to running the council and its services

The Council's share of band D bills will rise to £1,362.24 from April

Savings of £31.6m in 2019/20, rising to a total of £79.4m over the next three years

Examples of increased investment from April include £6m to address growing demand on adult social services, and £14.5m to tackle pressures on the looked-after children service

## £12.7m road improvement schemes nearing completion

In November 2018 Norfolk received an additional £12.694m from the Government to spend on road maintenance.

To date 125,000m<sup>2</sup> of worn out highway surface has been removed and replaced with 26,600 tonnes of brand new asphalt.

## Delivering the Western Link

The County Council is proposing to create a Norwich Western Link to improve travel between the A47 and Broadland Northway (formerly the Northern Distributor Road) and tackle transport problems in the area

The council published four shortlisted options for a Norwich Western Link - three new dual carriageway roads and a single carriageway upgrade to the B1535

The council is aiming to start construction on the Norwich Western Link in late 2022.

For more information about the project visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/nwl](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/nwl).

## Norfolk ranked fourth in national highways and transport survey

Norfolk has been ranked fourth out of 28 similar councils in a national independent survey which looks at satisfaction with highways and transport services.

The highest scores for the county were for traffic levels and congestion, and the condition of roads and footpaths. These are all things that people consistently say are important to them and in which Norfolk is ranked strongly compared to other councils.

Altogether 113 local authorities signed up for the 2018 survey. Out of the 28 county councils and larger unitary authorities in the peer group, Norfolk ranked in the top 10 for:

Condition of highways

Highway maintenance

Public transport info



Ease of access (for disabled people)  
Local bus services  
Community transport  
Pavements and footpaths  
Cycle routes and facilities  
Traffic levels and congestion  
Management of roadworks  
Traffic management

### **£11m boost for broadband in Norfolk**

Thousands more homes and businesses in Norfolk will be able to access Superfast Broadband thanks to Norfolk County Council securing an extra £11m funding.

Currently 92% of homes and businesses have access to download speeds of 24Mbps+ per second. The Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) programme is set to deliver 95% coverage across the county by the end of March 2020, but the council is not content to stop there. BBfN rollout started in July 2013 when only 42% of Norfolk properties had access to Superfast broadband.

To find out if superfast broadband is available in your area, visit [www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk).

### **Our approach to improving mobile phone signals recognised as national best practice**

Norfolk County Council has received national praise in Parliament for its approach to improving mobile phone signals in the county.

The Council's Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee commissioned a survey earlier this year on mobile signals across the county. The results were used to create an interactive map and more than 200 council owned sites have now been identified in areas of poor mobile reception. These are being offered to mobile operators as potential sites for new masts.

### **New Early Childhood and Family Service**

This year we launched our new Early Childhood and Family Service. We believe this will have greater reach to those more isolated children and families in need of help and advice, through increased local support, easier to access information and crucial outreach work while continuing to deliver services previously offered.

This commitment means adapting the way we deliver services in response to the changing needs of Norfolk's children and young people. This transformative approach is one we are implementing across all our services.

We will be moving, not removing, some services into libraries, nurseries and community centres, alongside our 15 new service bases. Crucially, this more efficient use of infrastructure means money can be invested on delivering the services that we know are needed and valued by you to a greater number of children and young people, across Norfolk.

### **£120m investment in special school places**

Norfolk County Council will be investing £120m in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision in the County

In March 2019 we secured Government funding of up to £17m to build a new 170 place school in the county for children aged 3-19 with complex needs.

We proposed plans to create more than 500 extra school places, in four new special schools plus specialist bases at mainstream schools.

We have approved an initial investment of £4.8m in the current financial year, to allow the first phase of work to begin as quickly as possible.

### **New homes for care leavers open after £5m investment**

The first of 11 homes for Norfolk's care leavers has opened this year, following £5m of investment from Norfolk County Council.

The County Council has worked with young people to make sure that the accommodation meets their needs and four of the homes are now finished.

When finished there will be a total of 25-30 beds across the 11 properties.

Without the new properties the young people would need to live in residential care or in placements with another provider, at a cost of up to £6,500 per week. The new homes ensure they have the right support, are able to learn to live in communities in a supported way and reduce the overall cost to the Council.

### **New services to help ensure no lonely day in Norfolk**

People affected by loneliness and social isolation in Norfolk can now turn to a comprehensive range of new services for help and support.

The new services include a county-wide network of "Life Connectors" who work directly with people to provide coaching, practical advice and support to help people make and maintain relationships and strong links within their community.

The new services include outreach, promoting volunteering opportunities and benefits, asset mapping and addressing rural issues such as transport and use of technology in order to support people to become and stay well-connected in their local area.

### **Celebrating the launch of the Carers Charter**

The Carers Charter was launched on 30 November at County Hall.

The event coincided with Carers Rights Day, a national campaign which brings unpaid carers, organisations and local communities together to help carers understand their rights.

The adoption of the Charter by the County Council is a bold, innovative and radical move designed to improve the lives of carers. They constitute an enormous and largely hidden resource saving the public purse billions of pounds a year.

For more information visit [carersmatternorfolk.org.uk](http://carersmatternorfolk.org.uk)

### **We are investing £29m in Housing with Care**

This year we announced £29m capital investment scheme to deliver 3,000 extra homes for older people in Norfolk over the next ten years.

Norfolk requires 2,842 extra care units by 2028.

Increasing the provision of extra care housing to match future demand will deliver approximately £4m gross revenue saving per year.

The Living Well Homes for Norfolk Strategy and Position Statement can be found online at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/livingwellhomes](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/livingwellhomes)

**WILLIAM RICHMOND**

**County Councillor for Dereham North  
(Including Scarning)**

Annual Parish Meeting  
2019  
Report from District Councillors  
Paul Hewett and Lynda Turner

Paul and Lynda continue to support all the parishes within their ward, on all issues, large and small.

Breckland Council continues to present a balanced budget moving forward, thanks to continuous review of income and expenditure. Savings in back office and shared services have contributed, together with an income of over £2M per annum from our investments – all helping council tax down – Breckland still has the lowest district council tax across the UK – whilst maintaining front line services.

Negotiations for large contracts, be they in-house or outsourced, are always long and diligent, obtaining the best value for service for residents and the council.

Unlike many other authorities we are still able to support the community with grants etc. to the tune of £1.4 in a community reserve. The Breckland Lottery is projected to raise £40,000 for good causes in the next year.

Other achievements include:

Market Town Initiative

Breckland Landlord Forum

Co-location of DWP to Breckland offices in Dereham and Thetford

National Awards shortlisting for our Breckland Training Services and our Silver Social project for older people

Continued work with Breckland Bridge  
Snetterton (Employment site) Power Project  
Regeneration Team  
Submission of Local Plan  
First phase of Thetford SUE started  
Outline permission for 4000 houses for Attleborough SUE given  
Innovation Den  
Shopappy app – encouraging folk to shop locally  
Breckworld app – fronted by Stephen Fry – in top 20 listed tourist apps

### **Scarning PCC report to Scarning Annual Parish Meeting - April 2019**

2018 saw some important developments for Scarning Church. The PCC decided that it would adopt the recommendations from the Diocese that churches should be open and accessible whenever possible. The church is now open daily for visitors. Although this might be risky in terms of potential damage, it is important to be confident and welcoming - so that is what we are doing.

We are pleased to have paid our full parish share to the Diocese. Unfortunately we are not in a position at present to complete the refurbishment of the windows but hope to do so in the next year or two. There will be a programme of minor repairs in the next few months.

You may have noticed that there is a new notice board in the approved Diocesan livery. We hope that it will be straightened at some point but it is set in concrete. It is unfortunate that the notice board has a slight upward slant and the wall a slight downward slant which exaggerates the issue.

Inside the church we have installed a much improved heating system in the nave and chancel.

The PCC is very grateful to the Parish Council for maintaining the church clock and funding the grass cutting in the churchyard. This is not made any easier by the activities of moles but last season the contractor did his best to counteract their efforts.

At Christmas the centre of the village looks very special with the lights on the Village Hall and the Christmas Tree in the churchyard. Again, thanks to the Council for funding the tree.

Our band of bellringers continues to thrive and the bells are rung regularly. The team also carries out regular maintenance on the bells. Last July there was a very popular tower open day where visitors had the chance to climb to the bell chamber and have a taster ringing session.

We are delighted to have visits from Scarning School twice a year - with the younger children coming for a special service at Christmas and the older ones at Easter.

Our curate, Dominique Turnham has just completed her curacy and has begun her second maternity leave. We are sorry that we will be losing Canon Sally Theakston, our Team Rector, in the summer. Sally has been here for ten years and the process to find a successor is already under way. Sally and her husband, Michael, have played a huge part in the life of the parish and we wish them well for the future.

The monthly coffee mornings held in the Village Hall on the second Saturday go from strength to strength. The bacon butties are renowned. We are very grateful to everyone who helps and attends - the coffee mornings have become part of the fabric of village life as well as raising funds for the church.

Talking of the fabric of life, 2018 marked the centenary of the end of the First World War which tore apart so many families. There were several elements to the church's commemoration of the centenary:

The Village War Memorial is now a listed monument.

We have arranged for a plaque to be fitted to the church wall showing that the churchyard has two Commonwealth War Graves.

The PCC led the campaign to install a new flagpole as part of the village's tribute. Grants were received toward the flagpole from Breckland Council, the Village Hall Committee and Dereham Round Table.

Breckland grant aided a display in the church, and there was a special concert on 10 November with proceeds split between the Royal British Legion and the church.

In 2014, Dereham Rotary Club presented local churches with mats seeded with poppies from France. The poppies are an impressive strain and have self-seeded. They will provide a fitting reminder for many years to come of the sacrifice of so many lives.

Sue Rockley  
For Scarning PCC - 11 April 2019

## Scarning Conservation Volunteers / Scarning Water Meadows 2018/19 report.

Management of Scarning Water Meadows (SWM) has followed much the same pattern as previous years:

1. Controlling rank growth by cutting and clearing on Lucy's Meadow with volunteers and helped by two sessions by the Mid Norfolk Conservation volunteers Group.
2. Cutting and removal of arisings on the some of the drier areas by contractor
3. On going battle against the alien species Himalayan Balsam. At leasts four pulling sessions were undertaken in 2018.
4. The two scrapes made in 2015/16 have been monitored due to having been invaded by crassula helmsii, an invasive species. No decisions made over any control so far.
5. Norfolk Wildlife Trust continues to give advice on management of SWM, which is part of a County Wildlife Site (CWS), to link with their sites north and south along the Dereham Stream.
6. Litter, dog mess and rubbish continues to be problem.
7. The paths around the site are well used.
8. There is still a need for local people to become involved and support the voluntary effort to maintain the area for the benefit of wildlife and as a place for enjoyment and exercise.
9. With retirement from the committee of Wendy Brown and Robin Braysheer a meeting was held recently and new members have joined. The bank account for Scarning Conservation Volunteers will continue with new signatories.
10. It would be really helpful to have a member of Scarning Parish Council prepared to join the committee once people are in place to maintain good liaison.
11. On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May the Dereham Branch of Norfolk Wildlife Trust are coming for a guided walk around the meadows and it would be a good opportunity for any members of SPC or any residents to come and familiarize themselves with the area. (7pm starting from Washbridge.)

Information on the Water Meadows is on the Scarning web site [www.scarning.info](http://www.scarning.info) , along with task dates and contact details.