

PRESENT: Mr E J C Wiley (Chairman)
Mrs K Bartram
Mr R Claxton
Mr R Cossey
Mr J Dixon
Mr G Edwards
Mrs M Palmer
Mr A P Skipper
Mr A Townly

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. The Chairman allowed public participation.

010110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Councillors Bensley, Hamilton and Vincent.

020110 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2009. These were agreed and signed by the Chairman after clarification of Agenda item 121209.

030110 MATTERS ARISING. The Clerk reported that he had written to the Govt Highways Department giving our objections to the A47 trunk road at Postwick interchange side roads and slip road. He had also received acknowledgement of our objections from the Minister of Transport. 7.5 weight limit signage – this on-going saga continues. All other matters were agenda items.

040110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

050110 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS. The Chairman reported that he had replied to a complaint regarding inadequate lighting on the old hospital site.

060110 CORRESPONDENCE AND ADMINISTRATION. The War Memorial Trust were holding a Conference on 4 March 2010 entitled "Looing After War Memorials". The Clerk reported that Councillor Townly had reported a fault with the flood lights at Thorpe End Pedestrian Crossing, this had been checked out. A letter had been received from Little Plumstead Village Hall Management Committee requesting permission for a sign to be positioned on Salhouse Road directing visitors to the Village Hall in Crowes Loke. Councillor Edwards would investigate this request further. An email had been received from the Norfolk Assocn of Councils regarding insurance liability relating to Parish Council grit bins. There is no liability on the Parish Council if the Council purchased the bin and agreed its location with the County Council, the County Council had filled the bin, the Parish Council had not designated an individual to spread the grit. However, this will not stop people trying to sue but the highway is not the Parish Council's responsibility. PCSO P McAllister attended the meeting and updated the minimal number of crimes that had been reported.

070110 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE. The Clerk reported the following items of **INCOME** Bank of Ireland interest, £0.03, Gt & Lt Plumstead Scout Group £10.57, Gt Plumstead Village Hall - £23.95, Gt Plumstead Bowls Club - £107.14 - Contribution to Water Charges. The following items of **EXPENDITURE** were approved by the full Council: I Bishop, salary and expenses 1.10.09-31.12.09 - £1415.17. HMRC Income Tax and NI Contributions £366.42.

081010 PLANNING APPLICATIONS. The Norfolk County Council had informed us in the case of District Council applications an adopted list of validation requirements was applicable.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: The following application received no objections from the Councillors
20091591 – Little Badgers, Norwich Road, Little Plumstead – erection of single storey side-link and conversion of part garage to habitable accommodation – no objection.

090110 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT. County Councillor Mackie was unable to attend and sent the following report:-

New Year:

Firstly, 2010 has got off to a difficult start due to the weather conditions. The County Council currently has enough salt mix, the Council has a PFI contract with a major supplier and has recently received a considerable delivery via the Kings Lynn Port. All A and B roads as well as those important C roads will be gritted. Some may have seen that the Government has intervened to aid those Councils which have been less prepared than Norfolk. In effect they will be taking our grit. Paths have never been gritted in the past, I know that has been a cause for concern, but we just do not have the capacity to cover 2000 miles of paths in addition to roads.

The total cost is so far over 1.2 million and will have to be factored into the Council finances as some emergency contingency. Also there will have to be a major assessment of the damage to the roads and repairs required.

As some may be aware, the County Council does run a policy if Parish Councils have grit bins and they inform the Council we will fill them. The plastic bins can be bought from the County Council if the Parish Council was interested in that option for the future.

There has also been questions raised about the number of schools which have been closed, 381 out of the 441 we have in the county. This will be reviewed at the Childrens Services Panel. The primary cause has been that so many head teachers and staff live increasingly long distances from their schools.

Council Tax:

On 18th Jan the Full County Council will decide its precept for the financial year 2010/11. We are facing growing demands for our services given the economic downturn, in addition to the dampening the Government has imposed, it has once again withheld 21 million from our entitlement.

As a whole the County Council has 40m per year cost pressures, from general inflation, fuel inflation, an increase on our insurance, contribution to the building schools for the future programme and payment of interest on our capital borrowing.

We are responding to this challenge via Norfolk Forward, a major reorganisation of the County Council, looking at staff numbers, use of buildings, shared services and getting better value for money from our third party spend. We have already made considerable savings over the last year, 22m. Our manifesto commitment was to have two years at or below inflation and two at zero percent increase. We will be working to balanced budget, which will enable us to deliver the statutory services residents expect.

The recent Audit Commission stated that Norfolk has good use of resources, ensures value for money and has good financial processes. Above all we are responding well to the economic downturn and none of our services are being rationed. In 2011/12 onwards we will face even harder decisions to make, as we expect no grant increase from central government, even grant cuts.

The Council will be aware of the plans and timetable of the proposed street light changes. Please make your views known as part of the consultation process. All Parish Councils should have been issued with the timescale and locations of street lights which may be included. The majority so far have been positive to the suggestions.

Local Government Reorganisation:

This week the Government shared a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government which has put the unitary council debate at the forefront of our minds. The department has given two options for change to the Minister, the first is a Norfolk wide unitary council and the second is Norwich unitary (on boundaries which would not see Broadland or South Norfolk go) and the rest being a Norfolk County Council. This also means that Norwich could incorporate some parts of Broadland.

The government has asked for consultation to be returned by 19th Jan, with a Ministerial recommendation to be made early Feb. The plan is then to place this as Parliamentary Orders (in my mind) ram it through parliament. They also plan to then hold new county council elections in May! (We all know what else might be happening in May).

The prospect of reorganising all services in Norfolk in a matter of a few months is madness, however we live in strange political times. The Leader of the County Council is meeting Ministers on Wednesday along with Leaders from the other district councils. I am very happy to discuss this with councillors in more depth as we hear more news.

Little Plumstead Primary:

Nothing to report, work continues to deliver this school within the timescales already shared.

Highways Matters:

I followed up the points raised at the last Parish Council meeting. New lines will be placed at the school when the weather permits. I am pleased to report that the drainage situation on Church Road has been placed on the works programme for 2010/11.

Discussions continue regarding the Highways Agency fee for inspecting the sign on the A47. This now totals several thousands of pounds. I will keep the Council updated with progress.

100110 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.

The last full Council meeting was held on Tuesday 1st December 2009. The Extraordinary Council Meeting scheduled for 22nd December 2009 was cancelled. The next scheduled Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th January 2010, at BDC Offices at Thorpe Lodge, starting at 7pm.

Unitary - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) –Concerned by the proposals, need to act now - Have your say, do it before 19th January. E-mail – NorfolkStructures@communities.gsi.gov.uk Write - Unitary Structures Team, DCLG, Zone 3, J1 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London. SW1E 5DU.

After the consultation period finishes on 19th January 2010 it is expected that Secretary of State will announce his decision, this would still allow enough time to get Orders through Parliament and there is a suggested implementation date of 1st April 2011.

More information can be found on the website www.broadland.gov.uk/lgr

Planning Decisions

20091364	Rear Extension (Revised Proposal)
Location	Treetops, 46 Woodland Drive, Thorpe End
Applicant	Mr A Valori Planning Officer: Mr M Thirkettle
Decision	Full Refusal 21 December 2009

20091435	Flat to Pitched Roof
Location	Managlade, Church Road, Great Plumstead
Applicant	Mr M Francis Planning Officer: Ms S Sale
Decision	Full Approval 17 December 2009

Next Planning Committee – 13th January 2010

- Next Planning Committee will be on Wednesday 13th January – on the published agenda there are no items affecting to our Ward.

Appeals Panel – 14th January 2010 – TPO Little Plumstead Hospital

- Purpose is to hear and determine objections to making of a Tree Preservation Order at land at the former Hospital site.
- Meet on site at 9:30am to inspect trees subject to the order.
- The Panel will then convene at Great Plumstead Village Hall at approximately 10:30am for the formal hearing.

For Information – Pending / Outstanding Planning Applications

20090886 Brook Farm	Development of Sustainable Urban Expansion Comprising 600 Dwellings, Link Road, 14.6HA of Employment Land for B1, B2 or B8 Purposes, Local Centre (Including 1035M2 of A1 Retail/Community Hall), Site for Railway Halt and Associated Open Space (Outline)
Location	Land at Brook Farm & Laurel Farm, Green Lane, Thorpe St Andrew
Applicant	Lothbury Property Trust Company Ltd Planning Officer: Mr B Burgess
Decision	13 th July consultation until 5 th August 2009 – Outstanding

20091566	Two and Single Storey Side Extension
Location	22 Woodland Drive, Great Little Plumstead
Applicant	Mr & Mrs T Aldous Planning Officer: Miss M Bowen
Decision	4 th December consultation until 27 th December 2009

20091591	Single Storey Extension Linking Dwelling to Garage and Part Conversion of Garage into Habitable Accommodation
Location	Little Badgers, Norwich Road, Little Plumstead
Applicant	Mr & Mrs P Quantrell Planning Officer: Miss M Bowen
Decision	11 th December consultation until 3 rd January 2010

110110 PARISH PRECEPT 2010/11. After discussion of a point raised by Councillor Cossey the item on Village Halls/Shelters/Parish Projects was adjusted to £2650 and £250 allocated to web site expenditure. The Precept was agreed as £22,465.

120110 THORPE END – PROVISION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT. Councillor Bartram updated the meeting and was investigating funding and any planning implications. Councillor Townly would obtain a plan of Padgate.

130110 THORPE END – PROVISION OF BUS SHELTER (Nr St Davids Church). Councillor Townly said the scheme was proceeding and funding details were awaited. It was agreed that this could be finalised at the February 2010 meeting.

140110 SELF HELP GROUP – LITTLE PLUMSTEAD. Mr Lanyon presented his vision and ideas and agreed he would lead the group. This would be advertised on the Web Site and Councillor Cossey would ensure its inclusion in the Church & Parish Magazine as soon as was feasibly possible.

150110 GREAT PLUMSTEAD – PROVISION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT. Meetings were continuing and Councillor Palmer would update at the next meeting.

160110 PARISH NEWS ITEMS.

The following items for inclusion were agreed:

Little Plumstead hospital site

The parish council shares the expressed concerns of residents of this area; especially with regard to the non-maintenance of amenity areas, particularly with regard to the lack of grass-cutting.

Whilst neither the parish, nor district councils have any legal jurisdiction in these matters, residents may be assured that the strongest representations have been made to the administrators handling the affairs of Cofton, now in liquidation.

The council has reason to believe that, before too long, Cofton's former interests will be taken on by another company and the present difficulties might then be resolved.

Precept for 2010-11

There will be a 2.9% increase in the parish council precept for the next financial year, which means an average increase of only 52p per household. The biggest problem the council has had to contend with is the almost total collapse of interest, on the limited reserves held. Over the past two years this has fallen from just over £1,300p.a. to virtually nil, for the current year.

Additional bus shelter – Thorpe End

The council has agreed to this proposal in principle and will now be making application for grant-funding, on which this project depends.

Play area – Thorpe End

Padgate is the preferred location for any new play equipment and grant-funding will now be sought. Here again, such funding is essential for this project to go ahead.

Crime in the Parish

During November/December 2009, only two crimes were reported in the parish, both in Little Plumstead. If you have concerns, have anything to report, or have any query, you should contact PCSO Paul McAllister, or a member of the team based at Acle police station, on 01493 333262, or e-mail mcallisterp@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Glass recycling

By placing your discarded bottles, jars etc in the recycling bin at Little Plumstead Village Hall you aid the funding for the hall.

By using the bin behind the bus shelter in Great Plumstead you aid the community as the income from this bin goes into parish funds.

Council Website

This is the principal vehicle for the parish council to let parishioners know of its activities.

On it you can read and, if you wish, download and print-off all council meeting agendas and minutes. There is an events' diary with full details of what's going on throughout the parish. Any local club, group or society can have their activities displayed on the site at no cost.

There's a page with comprehensive advice on planning procedures. You'll find information on how to contact your ward councillors and the Parish Notice Board with information of interest to residents. All this and much more is to be found on **your** website:-

www.greatandlittleplumsteadparishcouncil.co.uk

Next meeting

8th February - Little Plumstead Village Hall at 7.30pm.

All parishioners are welcome to attend and have the opportunity to address the full council on any local matters of concern to them.

170110 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS. There were no matters.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Date of next meeting Monday 8 FEBRUARY 2010 at LITTLE PLUMSTEAD Village Hall at 7.30 pm.