

New parish councillor



In April we welcomed Mick Sutcliffe to the parish council. Mick has lived in the parish for over 40 years and has been involved in the village hall and social club since 2010.

With Mick on board, we now have 5 councillors out of a maximum of 11. This still leaves us low on councillors and makes it difficult for us to tackle all the issues we would like to. If you would like to find out more about becoming a councillor, please contact the clerk.

Meadows play area

Unfortunately, some more of the play equipment at the Meadows has been taken out of action for safety reasons. Following on from your feedback, we are working hard on some new play equipment and a possible pump track. Councillors have considered some quotes and have invited a potential contractor to attend the parish council meeting on 19 May, at the village hall, to present their ideas and to answer any questions you may have. Please join us.

Vehicles around the Common

Parishioners have contacted us raising concerns about vehicles speeding and parking issues in the Common area. We have made Norfolk County Council Highways aware of these concerns and have earmarked £8k for Norfolk County Council to carry out a study to help understand the issues. We will work with Norfolk County Council to understand what action can be taken. Please come along to future council meetings to have your say and to hear councillors discuss the issues.

Speed sign

We have been successful in obtaining a grant for the purchase of an additional SAM2 sign. The grant will cover 50% of the purchase cost.

Working with the speed watch volunteer group, we believe that the SAM2 sign has a positive impact on vehicle speeds. We thank all the speed watch volunteers for giving their time to take part, come rain or shine.

Minnow Way verges

We are aware Minnow Way verges are not being maintained. We are trying to resolve this with Norfolk County Council but please keep us informed of the situation.

Allotments

The water supply to all allotment sites has been switched on and repairs to Long Lane pipes completed.

Inspections have been carried out on all 4 allotment sites. At the time of inspection, some plots were not being cultivated. We are monitoring those plots but if you are not intending to cultivate, please could you let the council know.

Long Lane plots have been numbered using a trial system. Please let us know if you have any feedback.

The council have appointed a contractor to repair the fence around The Meadows allotment at a cost of £1,717. No date has been agreed for the work yet.



Devolution and Local Government Reform

Devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government. The proposal is for powers to be devolved to a new 'Strategic Authority' for Norfolk and Suffolk, overseen by a newly elected Mayor for the area.¹

The Government is reorganising two-tier areas in England (e.g. areas which have both a County Council and a District Council) to create more efficient and streamlined structures in the form of new Unitary Councils. Unitary Councils are a single tier of local government responsible for all local services in an area.¹

It is not known how this will impact the parish and the options open to the parish council. Please come along to our meetings and keep an eye on our website for more information.

¹ South Norfolk Council
<https://www.mulbartonpcinfo.com>