



All members of the town are warmly invited to attend

THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2018 AT 7.30pm IN THE LINCOLN HALL
(doors open at 7.15pm)

The Annual Town Meeting is NOT a Town Council meeting, but an occasion for members of the public to ask questions, make comments, raise issues with the Town Council and propose resolutions.

AGENDA

1. Welcome, and to Receive Apologies for Absence
2. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of 18th April 2017
3. Matters Arising
4. Address by Hingham Town Council Chairman including:
 - 4.1 To receive a summary report from the Chairman on the work of the Town Council during the past year and its plans for the future.
Draft copies of the 2017/18 accounts will be available at the meeting.
 - 4.2 Chairman's Award for Services to the Community
5. Guest Speakers
 - 5.1 Chris Tilley - Clayland Estates Ltd.
Speaking on "Parcel of land (Watton Road) proposed for development in the "Call for Sites" for the Greater Norwich Development Plan"
 - 5.2 Tony Abel and Paul LeGrice- Abel Homes Ltd.
Speaking on "Building 'The Hops' development within the Community of Hingham"
6. Open Forum to Discuss Matters Raised by the General Public
(Ideally notice of any resolutions should be sent to the clerk prior to the meeting)
7. To Receive Reports from Hingham Clubs, Societies, Charities and Organizations etc. (approximately 5mins each)
8. To receive Annual Reports from County and District Councillors
 - 8.1 District Councillor Yvonne Bandle
 - 8.2 County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury
9. To Discuss Any Other Business

Peter Eldridge

Chairman – Hingham Town Council
10th April 2018

Light refreshments will be served after the meeting

NB: Officers from Norfolk Constabulary are unable to attend the meeting this year.



REPORTS

1. HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
 2. HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES
 3. COMMUNITY CONNECTOR
 4. HINGHAM COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH
 5. HINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
 6. HINGHAM COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME
 7. HINGHAM BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
 8. HINGHAM LUNCHEON CLUB
 9. HINGHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME
 10. LINCOLN SOCIAL CENTRE
 11. HINGHAM CHARITY
 12. HINGHAM EDUCATION TRUST
 13. THE HINGHAM SOCIETY
 14. HINGHAM HISTORY CENTRE
 15. GARDENING CLUB
 16. MILL FARM ALLOTMENTS
 17. HINGHAM W.I
 18. HINGHAM SANTA’S GROTTTO
 19. HINGHAM AND HARDINGHAM ART GROUP
 20. ST ANDREWS HERITAGE FUND
 21. HINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
 22. ST ANDREWS CHURCH
 23. HINGHAM RECTORY BOWLS CLUB
 24. HINGHAM BOWMEN ARCHERY CLUB
 25. HINGHAM CRICKET CLUB
 26. HINGHAM TENNIS CLUB
 27. HINGHAM PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION
-
28. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR YVONNE BENDLE
 29. COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARGARET DEWSBURY

HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

The Council has again had a busy year dealing with a range of issues. Maintenance of the Town Council assets will continue to be ongoing, including maintenance of the cemetery, grass cutting of the towns open spaces, and the maintenance of most of the street lighting in the Town. We have also had to undertake a substantial amount of work on the large trees around town trees.

The Hops is being occupied, we welcome the new residents into the community, and are pleased to see them starting to take part in local activities. We have met them at the Christmas Fair and at various functions around town. The Hops development has increased the number of homes on the Council Tax Register. This means that the Council has not had to increase our part of the Council Tax as much as would have had to if those houses weren't there. For a band D we will now be asking for £66.16 an increase of £4.44 for the year. This works out at just over £1.27 per week. One of the reasons we have had to increase our take is that the money that the Government gives to South Norfolk Council has been reduced and therefore the amount of grant that they can give to the Town has been reduced by the same percentage.

We are also looking at the Greater Norwich Local Plan and adding our voice to the consultation. Whilst the council is concerned about the potential number of houses we may be asked to take, we are also concerned about various parts of the Town's infrastructure, or lack thereof. In this case we need to consider car parking, increasing the size of the cemetery, improvements to the existing facilities in the Town such as the school and sports centre

The Community Speed Watch have been busy during the year but could do with more volunteers to enable them to carry out more checks. The Council has also been trying to get the police to take enforcement action in the 20 mph area but so far, due to their lack of resources, there has only been very limited policing of the speed limit. The signage to extend the 20mph speed limit through the Fairland should be in place soon.

The Hingham Playing Fields Association have been successful in hosting several important indoor bowls events over the year and hopefully with more to come. The Tennis Club has gone from strength to strength.

Residents will have noticed that there is a new footpath across the Market Place. This project has been funded on a 50/50 basis between the Town Council and Norfolk County Council. The path and new dropped kerbs provide a better crossing point across the B1108 and better access to the bus stop especially for those using wheelchairs and buggies. The Council hope that in the longer term, this work will enable us to have a pedestrian crossing between the two sides the Market Place.

Again on the Market Place you will have noticed that the public toilets have been closed for refurbishment which is now complete. From 1st April the toilets will become the property of the Town Council rather than South Norfolk Council. By taking on ownership of the toilets the Town Council prevented their permanent closure.

Finally on the Market Place you will have noticed that the sign has been repainted. For this we have to thank the generosity of a local businessman, and the artist who has done a wonderful job restoring the sign.

Once again I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, the Town Clerk and handyman plus the County and District Councillors for their help and support both personally and for the Town. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who have helped with the organising and running of the various events in the Town throughout the year.

Peter Eldridge – Chairman of Hingham Town Council

Hingham Town Council DRAFT Accounts Year End 31 March 2018			
		RECEIPTS	
		2016/17	2017/18
		£49,000.00	PRECEPT £55,000.00
		£3,242.00	GOVERNMENT GRANT £1,861.00
		£36.08	BANK INTEREST £113.03
		£3,780.00	CEMETERY FEES £6,860.00
		£100.00	RECREATION GROUND LETTINGS £100.00
		£16,175.46	CIL £47,404.80
		£1,894.55	EVENTS £2,143.65
Bus shelter and SAM2 sign		£11,354.97	ICC PARISH PARTNERSHIP/HIGHWAY PROJECT £912.60
		£3,527.56	NCC GRASS CUTTING PAYMENT £3,616.29
all 2016/17 +2quarters for 2015/16		£5,140.44	SNC TOILET CLEANING PAYMENT £3,426.96
			S106 FUNDING FOR OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT £21,795.00
		£4,375.61	MISCELLANEOUS £143.36
		£98,626.67	TOTAL £143,376.69
for 2015/16		£4,230.13	RECLAIMED VAT £5,885.80 for 2016/17
		£102,856.80	GRAND TOTAL £149,262.49
PAYMENTS (N.B. NET FIGURE SHOWN FOR GOODS AND SERVICES)			
		2016/17	2017/18
		£18,858.12	STAFF COSTS £18,860.20
		£6,566.96	GENERAL ADMIN (EXCLUDING STAFF) £6,431.44
		£93.00	S137 £240.00
		£9,740.82	STREET LIGHTING £11,030.21
		£9,495.38	GRASS CUTTING £9,507.52
		£5,990.00	TREES £260.00
		£1,140.00	CEMETERY £1,079.66
		£1,708.00	EVENTS £1,086.20
		£4,616.87	NCC PARISH PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS £4,500.00 CIL USED
		£5,199.89	MISCELLANEOUS £5,897.47
			S106 FUNDING FOR OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT £21,795.00
			CIL (other than Parish Partnership) £5,250.00
		£63,409.04	NET TOTAL £85,937.70
		£5,885.80	VAT £9,070.43
		£69,294.84	TOTAL INC. VAT £95,008.13
Balance per bank statements 31 March 2018			
	Current account	£47,784.86	
	Tracker account	£111,507.12	
	High interest account	£12,158.36	
dormant account	Business reserve account (last	£186.80	
	TOTAL	£171,637.14	
	LESS Amount from		
	Unpresented Cheques	£70.00	
	ADD any unbanked cash	£360.00	
	Net bank balances as at 31/03/2018 reconciled with the cash book	£171,927.14	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book for the 12 MONTHS - 01 April 2017-31 MARCH 2018			
CASH BOOK			
	Opening Balance (as per bank reconciliation 31 March 2017)		£117,672.78
	Add Receipts 01 April 17 -31 MARCH 2018		£149,262.49
	Less: Payments 01 April 17 -31 MARCH 2018		£95,008.13
	Closing balance per cash book as at 31 MARCH 2018		£171,927.14
OF THE BALANCE THE FOLLOWING IS DESIGNATED OR RESTRICTED FUNDS			
CIL	£53,884.26	OF WHICH £7400 DESIGNATED FOR PARISH PARTNERSHIP 2018/19 PROJECT	
BUS SHELTER PLAQUE	£300.00		
CAR PARK DRAIN REPAIRS (FROM CHURCH)	£100.00	UNABLE TO UNDERTAKE AS NOT OWNERS OF LAND	
CAPITAL FUND	£10,229.89	STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENTS	
TREES	£3,740.00	UNDERSPEND ON 2017/18 - WORK ONGOING	
COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME	£2,076.50	REMAINDER FROM 2017/18 - INVOICE AWAITED	
EVENTS	£3,061.72		
TOTAL	£73,392.37		
IN ADDITION TO THIS THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS A RESERVES POLICY WHICH ALLOCATES ANY REMAINING RESERVES TO A SPECIFIC PURPOSE (FIGURES ADJUSTED ANNUALLY), INCLUDING A RESERVE FIGURE OF 1 QUARTER OF THE PRECEPT - TO ENSURE THE COUNCIL COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE SHORT TERM IF THE PRECEPT IS NOT RECEIVED			

HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

Events Working Party

Since the last Annual Town Meeting, the working party have arranged three events/markets in Hingham. Market in the Market Place in June 2017, Fayre on the Fairland in December 2017, and Easter Market in March 2018.

These three events have raised an income of £1,948.95, (through donations, stall fees and takings from Town Council stalls), with an expenditure of £1,092.24 (inc VAT) – a total of £856.71 has been added to the Events Fund – (raised through previous events) which now stands at £3,061.72 (with a further donation from the Co-Op to be added). The events expenditure has been for entertainments, refreshments and the purchase of a large amount of reusable equipment, in particular battery operated lighting. The events have been well supported by residents and visitors to the town – with the Christmas Fair being very popular.

A very big thank you must go to all of the volunteers that have generously given their time in helping with and organising these events. Three members of the Events Working Party have decided to step down due to work and family commitments. Any new volunteers that would like to help with the organising of the events, either before or on the day would be very welcome. A very big thank you also goes to the local businesses that have supported and donated toward these events and to District Cllr Yvonne Bendle and County Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, for their support.

The next event is the **Market in the Market Place, due to take place on Saturday 16th June 2018**- this event was originally intended to help the various Clubs/Charities and Societies in Hingham to raise funds for, awareness of and membership to their causes. The event has grown to include small business stalls, to give variety and encourage more visitors to the market. **The working party would like to encourage as many of the Hingham Clubs/Charities and Societies as possible to hold a stall this year to showcase what is available for residents of Hingham.**

With the funds raised and equipment purchased, we are well placed for holding future events in Hingham which raises a lovely community spirit and brings visitors to the town – but none if it will be possible without the help of volunteers.

Churchyard and Cemetery Working Party

Over the past year the Working Party have mainly focused on maintenance of the cemetery and churchyard. Contractors have been employed to straighten the worst of the leaning memorial stones in the cemetery and to undertake a programme of tree work, including reducing the height of the yew trees alongside the churchyard driveway. The planting at the entrance to the cemetery was unfortunately not very successful and an alternative planting scheme will be looked into.

Since the beginning of April 2017, there have been 13 Interments in the cemetery and 5 interments of ashes, numbers that are contrary to the reported trend that cremations are becoming more popular than burials. The Working Party have undertaken a review of the cemetery fees and the Town Council agreed to increase these to ensure the cemetery income significantly contributes towards the cemetery maintenance costs. A review of the cemetery plan was also undertaken and it became evident that there may not be as many plots for future use as previously anticipated. Bearing this in mind and to ensure that all future grave plots are allocated correctly, the Council agreed that no more plots are to be purchasable in advance (and are now only available to purchase when an imminent interment is planned). Looking to the future, the Working Party will be investigating all avenues for the future provision of a cemetery in Hingham.

From April 17 – March 18 the cemetery has generated £6,860.00 in fees, expenditure on the cemetery has been £ 4760.20. Expenditure on the churchyard and church clock has been £4586.52, the churchyard does not generate any income. These expenditure figures do not include staff time or insurance or the recent tree work which is ongoing.

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR REPORT FOR HINGHAM APRIL 2018

The Help Hub at Long Stratton was set up in 2014 and has gone from strength to strength. Barriers have been broken down between agencies, improving information sharing and joint working to support families

Over the past year within the Hingham area the role of the Community Connector has continued to evolve to meet the customer's (residents) needs in the most effective way. I have attended Council meetings, met with local Church leaders, visited schools and nurseries and local clubs; participated in police surgeries and had drop-ins at the local library.

I have worked with many residents on a 1-1 basis within the community to address their needs and/or refer them to the Early Help Hub for support.

To help improve health and wellbeing I am currently at Hingham surgery on a Monday afternoon as part of our social prescribing initiative.

Patients can be referred to a Connector by a GP, nurse or health care professional to access non- medical and community support services to improve their health and wellbeing. People engaged in social prescribing go on to become active members of the community – which is great as it helps in our objective to create communities which promote wellbeing and help each other. Whilst some residents will be helped directly in the local community some will be referred through to the Help Hub to receive multi-agency support. Over time it is hoped to have a Connector presence in all GP practices in South Norfolk.

I will still be active in the community, continuing to build up my knowledge of what is out there to effectively signpost and guide people to the right place.

With this in mind, if there is anyone who wishes to contact me whether for themselves or with regard to any club/activity they may be engaged in, my contact details are as follows:

Barbara Howard - Community Connector - Phone: 07890 599514 - Email: bhoward@s-norfolk.gov.uk

I would like to thank everyone concerned for their fantastic support over the past year which has allowed me to make what I hope is a positive impact within the community.

HINGHAM COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

We were formed as a Speed Watch team in 2017 and operate as one part of the National Speed Watch operation and work closely with Norfolk Police in our operations and support. A number of sessions were held in 2017 (approximately 8) and we have tracked and monitors 1000's of cars passing through nominated locations in Hingham. Advisory warning letters have been sent (by the police/Speed Watch operations) to many speeding motorists as a result of our roadside monitoring sessions.

We have had an off season over the winter but as we gain access to our roads again after the extensive snow and with the improving weather we are starting again with new sessions roadside for 2018.

Our list of initial volunteers numbered 10, but due to people moving away, health issues, etc. we are now a team of only 6. We need new recruits. Could you assist? Do you know of someone else who could help? Pass on the word. (Contact Barry on 07983589981 or 01953 797124.)

Over the winter I (Barry) have attended the Chief Constables "Summit at the Police's Wymondham HQ and also the Speed Watch AGM in Dereham. Both demonstrate that the Police value our operations and are listening to our ideas and input. A good sign for the future of Speed Watch. We have also just received our new radar gun equipment. This is both easier to operate and much lighter to use. It will be put to the test roadside very shortly!

On Saturday 5 th May there is a planned Speed Watch concerted effort across the county with the objective of as many Speed Watch teams being in operation on the same day as possible. You have been warned! We will be out then.....and before.....and after. Watch your speed. Join us, tell others, spread the word.

HINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher - Mrs Vickie Newrick

Email office@hingham.norfolk.sch.uk

In the year since your last annual meeting much has happened at Hingham Primary School. We have 7 classes established with approximately 170 children on roll. We have breakfast club from 7:30am and after-school-care to 6pm to support busy working families.

We continue to be resourceful and creative to ensure the children receive the very best education possible in these times of austerity. Our "Friends of Hingham School" work closely with us all to ensure that we fundraise to provide the best experiences and facilities. One of our key developments over the last year has been our Forest School provision. This year we have secured charitable funding and volunteer labour to establish a fenced area, an outdoor shelter, shed, trees, hedging and tools for the children to explore and learn outside. We are committed to the principles of developing confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment. Many of our children do not get the opportunity to risk-take and explore in the same way as children would have done in the past. The health benefits, both physical and mental, are numerous. Many thanks to The Town Close Estate Charity, The Ernest Cook Trust, Abel Homes, The Friends of Hingham School, The Woodland Trust, Norse and the staff and students of Easton and Otley college.

Through participation in the Strategic School Improvement Fund project lead by Sheringham Teaching School we are dedicated to improving our teaching and learning. We have been looking at gender differences in mathematics learning and using collaborative approaches to develop and enhance learning opportunities. Both staff and pupils have demonstrated excellent progress in applying these new skills that enhance the already good teaching in our school.

This last term we have reintroduced the Daily Mile which is an initiative to develop health and fitness in our children and community. The children (and their families if they wish) use the safety of the school field to have a run, jog or walk. The impact of this "run" before school has been noted by children, parents and the teachers. Children enter school ready to learn having burnt off their excess energy. We have also started some very successful sessions with the tennis coaches at Hingham LTA. The children are getting top-notch coaching and show real enjoyment of the sport. We hope to continue expanding opportunities like this.

Another area of continued development this year has been providing all the children with music opportunities. We have whole class ukulele lessons for children in Year 1 to Year 6 incorporating music skills. We also offer our children the opportunity to take up flute, clarinet, guitar and piano.

Our usual events and clubs have continued including: Summer outdoor performance; Sports day; choir performances at community events/venues; Christmas Nativity in the Church (albeit in January due to illness!); participation in sporting events locally and at county level (cross country running being a real strength); Spring musical performance; fundraising fancy dress days, cake sales and coffee mornings; school trips to a variety of places including museums and theatres.

We look forward to continuing some of the new traditions of Hingham School including holding our annual Grand Fete later in the summer (Saturday 9th June). Schools are forever changing and developing and we will continue to aim to serve our community as a centre for learning, support and friendship.

HINGHAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

Serving the communities of Hingham, Deopham and Hackford

ANNUAL REPORT

to the Hingham Town Council for 2017/2018

Introduction:

The Hingham & District Community Car Scheme supports people in our communities with essential medical journeys which cannot reasonably be made by public transport or where a person would have difficulty in using public transport. The Scheme is managed and delivered entirely by volunteers. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and are paid a standard rate for their mileage. They offer their time free.

The Scheme charges the passenger 50% of the mileage cost; the remainder is subsidised by SNDC (20%) and Hingham Town Council / Deopham & Hackford Parish Council (30%). [Norfolk County Council contribute £120 per year via SNDC]. Administration costs such as phone call charges and booking diaries are also reimbursed (50/50 SNDC and HTC).

SNDC make their contribution annually via a Funding Agreement. For 2017/17 this was £2,189, based upon previous year's grant. Hingham Town Council (and Deopham & Hackford Parish Council) pay quarterly in arrears in response to submission of a claim.

Review of the year:

The Scheme undertook **936** journeys during the year. This is an increase on last year. The majority of the journeys are to one of the three main hospitals (N&N; West Norwich and Spire) the next greatest number is to the Hingham Surgery. There are also regular visits to Physiotherapy, Cranial-Osteopathy, Chiropody, and Dental practitioners in nearby towns. With the changing methods employed by the Hospitals to deal with waiting lists, we now occasionally get requests to take people to hospitals further afield, such as Bury St Edmunds or King's Lynn. We try to establish a reasonable rate for these, but in some cases it has proved too expensive for the patient so we have referred them to the Hospital Car Service.

Our type of clients range from the long term ill, residents in the care home and the two assisted living premises in the town, the housebound at home, or those who are independent but temporarily unable to travel alone. A lot of clients recover, a number sadly die.

The scheme is now being excellently administered by **Mrs Caroline Boyce**, who I would like to personally thank for taking on this task from me. I found my year administering the scheme enhanced my contact with our clients - which was joyful and fulfilling, but trying to do both admin, driving and co-ordination was too much!!

Our finances are managed on-line by **Geoff Divers**, who receives the funds, arranges monthly payments to drivers and wrestles with the world of on-line banking. Continued thanks and gratitude for his vital contribution to the smooth running of the scheme.

New Drivers:

I would like to start by recording our sorrow at the death of **Anthea Iveson** last year. Anthea had been a stalwart and kind driver for many years and we all relied upon her extensive knowledge of the people in our community and her generous engagement with most of them. She is sadly missed.

I would like to thank our regular drivers **Trevor Nudds, Peter Hall, and Alan Juby** for their unfailing support and generosity in continuing to give their time to this vital service. I would also like to welcome and thank **David Trollope, Tony Boyce and Paul Mallett** who have now joined the Scheme, strengthening considerably our number of volunteer drivers. This helps ensure that we are able to respond to most requests. However, it would be good to have more drivers on our books, even if they are only able to offer a small amount of time, or only wish to undertake journeys around the local area.

As volunteers, no driver is ever pressured to take on any job.

If anyone is interested in contributing some time to the scheme, please get in touch with me.

Plans for 2018/19:

The new system of amalgamated funding from NCC/SNDC continues, though the reporting regime has been simplified for the coming year. Our annual funding agreement with SNDC/NCC remains the same (at £2,189). HTC have kindly budgeted £2,500 for continued support of the scheme in the coming year.

The Norfolk Community Transport Association (NCTA) has been closed during the year, with their role passing back to the Norfolk County Council. We will see whether this makes a material difference to the many small schemes across the county – who I believe gained most from meeting each other to share experiences.

Despite the many day to day issues, I still believe that this is a vital service to the people of Hingham & District, especially in helping those who can continue to live independently in our community with a little support. I know that the Neighbourhood Scheme, the Lunch Club, the Churches and the Surgery are all fully aware of the services we offer and I thank them for their support. I also believe that our joint efforts will continue to keep Hingham a particularly friendly and supportive town to live in.

Anyone wishing to book a Community Car journey should contact:

Caroline Boyce on 01953 853 107

May I remind people to give as much notice as possible when booking the service.

It is very difficult to organise a trip for someone in less than 48 hours.

Alison Lys
Scheme Co-ordinator

HINGHAM BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

CHAIR: Rev Colin Read

TREASURER; Mrs Pam Cooper SECRETARY; Mrs Heather Juby

REPORT FOR HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL 2018

We continue to meet on the second Saturday of each month at 10.30 am in the Hingham Sports and Social Club, Watton Road, Hingham. We are extremely grateful to them for the use of this facility free of charge.

There are around twenty members who meet regularly for coffee, conversation and confidential one to one chats when necessary. Birthdays are celebrated with a homemade cake and if there is no birthday to celebrate we still have cake!

We organise outings at least twice a year. Last Christmas we had a Christmas lunch at Wensum Valley Golf Club which was followed by a Carol Singalong. This Summer we are organising a trip to Pensthorpe with lunch.

We welcome anyone to just come along to our meetings or for more information to contact Heather Juby on 01953 850228.

HINGHAM LUNCHEON CLUB

Report to the Town Meeting 2018

The Luncheon Club was started many years ago to provide a reasonable meal for older and less able members of the community. It is run by an elected committee and both cooks and helpers give their services voluntarily. We meet twice a month at the Lincoln Hall and the hiring costs of the Hall are met by a generous local donor. Thanks to the good will of all concerned, we are able to keep the price of the meal low, currently at £3.50.

We cater for thirty people each time and there is usually a waiting list.

Two highlights of our year are the Summer Party, (or indoor garden party!) and the Christmas Dinner, when the school choir entertains us, after a meal with all the usual trimmings.

The committee would like to record their thanks to everyone who make the Club possible

If you are interested in helping with the Club or would like to put your name on the waiting list please contact Clare Lee 01953 798607

HINGHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

We have calls from people when they have need of our services.

Grocery collections.

Occasional dog walking.

Prescription collection.

Some gardening.

Home visits or just a friendly chat.

We started in January 2013 and although it is not always very busy we know it is appreciated when we do help people living on their own.

Ann Denman

Secretary

LINCOLN SOCIAL CENTREReport for Annual Town Meeting. 2018

The Hall has been well used by local clubs and private bookings over 2017.

Bop Tots , Cycling, Dance, Dog Club, Fit Steps, Gardening Club, History Centre, Town Council, W.I., Lunch Club, Yoga, Slimming World, and Youth Cafe are all regular users. There have been many casual bookings which has included a rise in weekend bookings such as Craft Fairs, Textile and Art Groups.

The lighting in the Car park has been improved, especially in the dark areas where security lights have been installed.

Dave and Annette Continue to keep the Hall maintained to a high standard and looking well kept for the users.

We all miss Anthea, who worked so hard for so many years for the Hall, and knew the building and its workings inside out, and had all the knowledge at her fingertips.

We are , at present, without a Chair Person, but while steady progress is being made, the Booking Secretary, Treasurer and another Committee member are holding the fort until another volunteer can be found to fill Anthea's shoes.

HINGHAM CHARITY REPORT TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. 2018

Hingham Charity was advised that government funding for S.S.S.I sites was changing, and that the Turf Meadows was probably too small to receive a grant. However, it was recommended that the land be rented out to the owners of Seamere and together there was a greater chance of receiving funding. To this aim a new agreement was drawn up and is now in place. The drawback of this agreement is that Hingham Charity, although no longer responsible for the upkeep of the meadows, will only receive an annual rent. The tenants have formed an association and have worked extremely hard to clear some of the vacant plots and cover them.

There has been some incidents of vandalism over the summer months, so the local PCSO was invited to talk about security, and some of the measures suggested have been put into action. The Association has acquired a secure lock up to keep the equipment they need secure. This is a new venture and a very positive step. It is hoped their enthusiasm will persuade others tenants to join and encourage interest from new tenants. .

Ruth Bateman (Clerk)

REPORT OF HINGHAM EDUCATION TRUST

The Hingham Education Trust was set up many years ago (1910), after the Hingham Grammar School was closed. It was then decided that the money invested from the sale of the Grammar School endowments should be allocated in grants to those in further education in order to further their careers.

The area of benefit is the same as the catchment area of the old Grammar School. The Board of Trustees includes representatives from the Town. District, County Councils and co-opted members chosen for their knowledge of the Education system.

Its income comes from the rent of 24 acres of land on the east side of Dereham Road (previously Grammar School land) and from investments, mainly in the Charities' Official Investment Fund.

Last year seven grants were made to university students, with two others attending local further education colleges. The Trustees have been very pleased to receive letters of thanks from recipients telling them about their studies and welcome this feedback.

Application forms are normally available from early August and must be returned by the second week in September.

Our sincere thanks must be expressed to Pam Chapman for having done many years as our Secretary/administrator Pam has had to retire because of ill health. I know Pam will be sorely missed as she kept us all up to date with total efficiency

THE HINGHAM SOCIETY

Report for Parish Meeting, April 2018

The Hingham Society was formed in 1972 and its objective is to “improve, protect and preserve the parish of Hingham”. It is managed by an elected committee and is affiliated to the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England). We monitor and comment on any planning applications which affect the town’s appearance. We try to ensure that new developments are in keeping with the surrounding buildings. Our programme of evening meetings and outings provide opportunities to discuss topics of local interest and to increase everyone’s knowledge of issues that concern them and the town.

This has been a patchy year for our programme, due to acts of God and last minute illness and bereavement. We had been looking forward to a talk on Oxburgh Hall and the King’s Room at the end of March, but serious floods absorbed the time of our designated speaker and the person who stepped in at short notice was not as prepared as she would have liked. RSM John Boyson gave a talk on the history and current usage of STANTA (Stanford Training Area) followed up by a visit.

In May we went to Foxley Wood for a two hour walk led by the Warden and then we had a talk by Paul Stancliffe of British Trust for Ornithology entitled “Follow that Cuckoo”. It dealt with common garden birds and the changing nature of gardens. And the cuckoo.

The annual litter pick took place in early June, and was very much a failure with only one member of the public attending. At the end of July we had a talk from Steve Beckett, Conservation officer at SNDC on “Hingham, does it need a conservation area?”

After a midsummer break, I led the annual footpath walk in September. The walk took in parts of Hardingham Estate, including the secluded Moat Farm, which is tucked away and unknown to many in Hingham. Unfortunately, in spite of excellent weather, the walk did not attract many participants. But we shall persevere again this year.

Our seventh quiz took place in October compered by Colin Reed with some panache. In November Lizzie Whitman opened her Bond Street shop and made a short presentation of her work. Lizzie operates an artisans’ cooperative and provides a shop window for craftsmen and women of the area to display and sell their work. Lizzie provided drinks and canapes and the evening was a great success, and a number of sales were made. We organised carols again in the Market Place with St Andrews Church in December, raising £122.45 for the East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices.

With a small group of volunteers we have kept the footpaths open this year, and we would like to thank the major landowners in the parish for the way they are managing informal permissive paths and keeping the field margins clear for walkers, with or without dogs. We owe them as well as the rest of the town a duty to ensure all dog mess is picked up and placed in the bins provided.

We continue to monitor planning applications and have written on several occasions to SNDC and other bodies seeking clarification or making criticisms. The new houses on the Norwich Road are still being built, and we are now in early stages of the Greater Norwich Development Plan, which will take us up to 2036 and could well involve building more houses in the town.

The Nature Conservation Group has been formed and made some progress towards the establishment of a wild flower meadow at the western end of the town playing fields. If interested please speak to Jane Mackie on 850462.

Our financial position is stable and at the beginning of this financial year (Jan 1 2018) we had a bank balance of £3,341. We shall endeavour to continue to develop our activities whilst maintaining a stable cushion. Membership last year was 542, a small increase on last year. We need the membership subscriptions and donations to sustain us. We are always looking for people to join our committee. Would anyone interested please get in touch with any member of the committee, or Tom Cowin, on 01953 852549.

Finally we would like to thank all those who have supported us over the past year, and look forward to their continued support in the coming year. Please remember to renew your annual subscription (still only £1) plus any donations you care to make. The programme for 2018 is now available and we hope you will find it interesting and come along to those things that interest you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tom Cowin - Chairman

HINGHAM HISTORY CENTRE

We've had another successful year; our Garden Party and donations raised a further £1000 and the website answered many queries from all over the world.

This year we intend to concentrate on raising money towards a building to house all our holdings which are presently stored in private homes all over town. Once we can sort, collate and catalogue everything we should have a much clearer understanding of what we have and where it is!

We continue to hold our regular Mardles on the last Wednesday of each month where 30 to 40 friends join us for a film or talk a chat and a cup of tea. Everyone welcome!

Carol Harris - Chair

GARDENING CLUB

2017 was a successful year although member numbers have been falling for a few years.

Talks in 2017 included Jim Paine talking about Oak trees, Simon White from Peter Beales roses on 'beautiful bulbs, Jim Bacon told us about the weather and Irene Woods showed us slides of beautiful dahlias. The trip to Walnut Tree Nursery was rained off but the tour and tasting at Elmtree Brewery at Snetterton was very successful.

Our annual plant stall in May generated lots of interest and some much needed cash. Our stall at the council market in June was also successful despite being hidden away in a corner. Lets hope this year we're to the front where we can be seen. Ian Bedford from the John Inness Institute gave an interesting talk about slugs and David Boulton's slide show was as professional as ever.

This year you've already missed Mary Sykes (composting), The Lady Mole catcher (see advert in the parish) magazine and Ian Roofe (jewels of the winter garden).

The spring show was on 7th April and hopefully it will have been successful.

Howard Norton is coming back on 10th April to talk about Delphiniums, May will see Lynn Pettitt talking about bees, July will be Jane Steward (Medlars), September – Simon White (Beales Nursery – Past Present and future), October – David Mason (wildlife of the Scottish Islands) and November is the AGM. In August we will be welcoming a local firm (BLS safety and training) talking about first aid. Apart from dialing 999 would you know what to do if someone had a heart attack in the garden, stuck a fork through their foot or collapsed in a heap on the compost heap. Come and find out. The trainer might even show you how to use the defibrillator.

Visitors are always welcome so please come and join us.

MILL FARM ALLOTMENTS HARDINGHAM ROAD, HINGHAM.

Mill Farm Allotment Association was formed in October 2017, we are based on Mill Farm Allotments, Harding Road Hingham. We are a small friendly group of allotment enthusiasts working together to support Mill Farm Allotments, to develop the area for wildlife also to improve and encourage wider community access to the allotments.

As an association, we have joined the National Allotment Association allowing us to make great savings on seeds and plants, and have access to a great support network provided by the National Allotment Association.

We are 'working in partnership with the trustees' to promote the allotments, encourage new tenants to Mill Farm and to recruit new members to join the association.

In our first year, we have created a Community Allotment with a metal container kindly supplied and installed by Bacons to use as a secure storage area and as hub to create a social area.

We have cleared several unused allotments in preparation for new allotment holders.

We have undertaken several successful fundraising events to raise funds for equipment.

Mill Farm Allotment Association are looking forward to a successful growing season in 2018.

REPORT FOR HINGHAM W.I.

2018 is a very important year for our WI as along with Hardingham, Hethersett, Barnham Broom and Ditchingham W.I.s we will be celebrating our 100th birthday. Our birthday meeting will be held in the Lincoln Hall on July 11th when our members and a few special guests will enjoy a delicious birthday tea. There will also be a service in the church on July 8th at 2.30pm.

Membership stands at 29 and we have had another busy year. We have planned a Strawberry Tea in June and a cake stall in September to raise money for our centenary celebrations.

On May 23rd we will be going to Fairhaven Gardens, this outing is open to everyone.

We decorated a window in the church at Christmas and will enter a scarecrow in this year's harvest celebrations. New members are always welcome so do come along and give us a try!

HINGHAM SANTA'S GROTTTO

For the last four years, Hingham Santa's Grotto has stood on the Fairland throughout December, providing a focal point for the young (and not so young!) people of Hingham as Christmas approaches.

Santa himself attends the town's Christmas Market every year, providing great excitement for local children, and a highlight of the annual Market.

The wooden grotto was originally constructed in 2014, created by a team of volunteers who gave their time and effort for free, and boosted by donations from local businesses. Councillor Yvonne Bendle was able to persuade South Norfolk Council to contribute a life-size statue of Rudolph!

Thanks to growing interest from the local community, in 2017 the Grotto was extended with the addition of Santa's Cabin and furnished with handmade items and donations including a stove, table, bed, comfy chair and of course a typewriter, for compiling his naughty and nice lists! And of course there is a 'Letters to Santa' post box where children look forward to posting their special letters to Santa.

The grotto has become a central feature of the town's Christmas Market, attracting people from across Norfolk to Hingham and bringing additional revenue to local businesses. Lighting has been an ongoing issue, as there is no electricity point available at the grotto - we are hoping to find a solution to this for Christmas 2018.

Hingham Santa's Grotto brings the spirit of Christmas to life, giving young and old the opportunity to experience the magic and joy of this special time of year. You're never too old to visit!

Of course, we rely on volunteers to assemble, decorate and look after the grotto during the festive period and new people are always welcome on the team - if anyone would like to help this year, please do get in touch with me.

Gaby Maltby - gabymaltby@gmx.com - 01953 853061

Chairman Hingham Santa's Grotto Committee

HINGHAM AND HARDINGHAM ART GROUP

Report April 2018

The Hingham and Hardingham Art Group meets fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon at Hardingham Village Hall. During these meetings, some members do figure drawing or work from a still life whilst others work on their own projects. Members use mediums of their own choice, perhaps pencil, charcoal, pastel, or collage, acrylic or oils.

We now have 28 members, so may need to start a waiting list or anyone who wishes to join. (Contact number: 01362 850365)

We have 3 workshops a year, usually lead by a visiting practitioner. Last May the topic was "Textures", lead by Malcolm Cudmore, then in October we had a "Light and Shade" workshop, lead by Kay Barker; in March, Nicki Saunders gave a workshop using Brusho inks with water colour. The three days were well attended and very enjoyable.

In August 2017, for our two meetings painting out in the open air, we visited College Farm, Thompson, and then Castle Acre and were fortunate to enjoy lovely weather on both days. We will be visiting College Farm again this year but our second venue is yet to be confirmed.

We held our AGM and annual lunch for members and their partners at Hardingham Hall on the 27th March this year; Jane Howard catered for us, producing a delicious meal.

Our London coach trip in April is to the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, where there is an exhibition on Monet and Architecture; as usual, any spare seats are offered to friends of the club or others interested in going.

Each year we hold our Annual Exhibition in Hingham. Last year was well attended and very successful and we are grateful to be able to use the Lincoln Hall again. It will be from the 6th to the 7th October, 2018, with the private view on Friday the 5th; we offer a warm welcome to those who would like to come and see our work.

Hilary Hodges Chair person

ST. ANDREW'S HINGHAM HERITAGE FUND

(a separate group from the main Church, raising funds for the ongoing repair of the fabric)

During the year from August 2016 to July 2017 our activities have been as follows:

1. Market stalls which run from April to September, which always do well.
2. The Christmas coffee morning also very successful.
3. The Curry lunch in May.
4. Soup and sweet lunches.
5. 2017 saw the gardens open around Hingham, which benefited us greatly.
6. In September The Academy of St. Thomas orchestra entertained us. This was a joint venture with the History group.

We are a committee of 12 and are always appreciative of any help if anyone wants to get involved.

Please phone me on 01953 851032 if you need more details.

Sheila Hawkins
Secretary

HINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH BOND STREET, HINGHAM NR9 4HA

Report for Hingham Annual Town Meeting 17th April 2018

Our regular Church services and activities continue:

Sunday Morning Service at 10.30 am give us a look, we are a friendly bunch and would be so pleased to see you and welcome you to our Church.

Bible Discussion Group is held on the second and fourth Monday in the month at 10.00am and is open to anyone who would like to join us in discussing the Bible and how it relates to us now in our everyday lives.

We hold special services throughout the year celebrating Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest Festival and of course Christmas.

We are also a sociable lot and hold a Coffee Shop with Market on the first Saturday of every month. 10am – 12 noon. Where you will find a selection of homemade cakes, bric-a-brac, books, jigsaws, jewellery, household items and rails of pre-loved clothes.

You can also enjoy coffee, tea and homemade cheese or fruit scones. We hold a bimonthly raffle for good causes. There is a Children's Crafty Corner so the little ones are busy while the 'grown ups' enjoy their coffee and scones!

During the year we hold a variety of fundraising events which are well publicised throughout Hingham and in the Community Magazine so come and join us for a fun evening.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who support our fundraising throughout the year.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

2017-18 was the year in which the new heating and lighting system went from being a theoretical possibility to a practical reality. It has changed the way that the church looks, and also the way in which it can be viewed and used. It is not perfect and when the weather is very cold you still have to wear outdoor clothing in church, but it takes the edge off the cold and if there are sufficient people in church it makes it quite warm.

The effect of the lighting has been quite transformational and even people who know the church well have been finding things they had previously not seen. It has also been accompanied by some new chairs which were very generously provided by an anonymous donor.

2017-18 has also been a year in which a number of new initiatives have begun or become more established. Our keep fit has expanded to two classes on a Thursday morning. Messy church has become established as a once a month event. More recently we have begun a monthly computer club and a monthly café with easy access for people in disability wheelchairs and parents and guardians with small children in buggies. In addition we have had midweek lunches for Lent and also in support of Heritage. This is all really significant as the guiding principle of putting the heating system has been to make the church more available and accessible for all.

If you feel that you could make use of the church for an event then please let me or one of the wardens know.

2017-18 has also been a year when we have welcomed Rev Sally Wallace Jones as curate. This is a training post for Sally, but she comes with a wealth of experience from teaching and church life in general and has already made a big impact on life in the church.

We have also had a number of large services including funerals, remembrance and Christmas services as well as welcoming the Bishop of Thetford to commission our heating system. But large events are not all that is significant in the life of the church and many smaller services and groups that meet to study the bible and pray all play a significant part in the life of the church.

Because of the focus on the heating and lighting we have not undertaken any major maintenance projects over the past year but this will change and we are looking at guttering, replacing the upper tower floor, prior to restoring the ringing chamber closer to the bells, and a major clean and polish to the church floor. In all of these we continue to co-operate with St Andrew's Heritage Group which has been doing great things in raising money for the Heritage Fund. All of these projects have only been achieved with the help of a lot of people. Naming names always runs the risk of causing offence so I am just going to express my thanks for those who: Were on the development group that delivered the heating and lighting project. Help with administration and financial matters. Help with hospitality through welcoming on a Sunday morning but also at weddings and funerals. Help with catering for events both regular and occasional. Help with flower arranging, cleaning and all activities that make the church look fresh and welcoming. Help with our sound system, delivering a very good quality of sound in both PA and recorded music. Help with all things musical including playing our organ, other instruments and singing. Help with our bookstall and books for sale. Help with all aspects of publicity. Help with pastoral work and visiting.

Finally the chandelier project has used up a lot of the historic resources of the church and although there is dedicated money set aside to put a toilet in which is our next aim, we will need to raise more money through fundraising and also through charitable organisations that give grants. In addition we need to look at our overall fundraising and stewardship as we are currently not able to fully pay our parish share and meet other essential commitments that enable us to function as a church. These two will become a focus through the coming year.

HINGHAM RECTORY BOWLS CLUB

We've had another good year with many new members joining us for the forthcoming season.

Many members have been working hard to up-grade our Club house (many thanks Geoff Brett). There is still a long way to go to bring it up to scratch but already in the last year we have hosted, christenings, birthdays and funeral teas and now have a Thursday Zumba group.

During the summer we hope to install a new heating system and new windows.

Our green is considered to be among the best in the county (thank you Barry Moody) which is the reason we attract touring teams and County games.

Everyone is welcome to come along and have a go with no commitment and no need (at first) to purchase all the gear. Call me: Colin Harris on 01953 850938.

Colin Harris - Treasurer

HINGHAM BOWMEN ARCHERY CLUB

Club Report 2018

We have enjoyed another great indoor season at the Sports Hall with large numbers of club members attending every Friday night. Several of our members travel all over the country to competitions and have had lots of success. We still have one competition left at the hall which we are looking forward to.

These events we host are well attended by archers across the county, and further afield, because the club is fun and relaxed and our venue is great!!

Emma Gaskin - Club Secretary (Emma)
hinghambowmensecretary@gmail.com - 01953 483805

HINGHAM CRICKET CLUB

Report for Annual Town Meeting April 2018

The 2017 season was a consolidation year for the club after promotion in the previous year, finishing fourth in the league. With an influx of new players the club are aiming for promotion this season under the joint captaincy of Jake Scent and Andrew Cooper. We will also be re-introducing a second team under the captaincy of Kevin Chilleystone. Steven Guy, last year's captain and leading runscore, is taking his level 2 coaching badge, which will mean the club can start coaching and running a youth section in 2019.

We would like to thank all our sponsors together with the Sports and Social club and the Hingham Playing Fields Association, without this support we would find it hard to continue.

The new season starts on the 28th April and after that, weather permitting, there should be a match every Saturday. We would love to see you there to support your team, have a cup of tea and chat with us and hopefully see an enjoyable match.

Anyone interested in nets or a game should contact Alan Juby on 01953 850228.

HINGHAM TENNIS CLUB

April 2018 Report for Hingham Annual Town Meeting

We're pleased to report a successful first year for Hingham Tennis with lots of members and non-members, young and old, enjoying the two floodlit courts at Hingham Sports Centre.

Since our last report in April 2017, we went on to win the LTA's National Club of the Year ! This is a significant achievement, especially for a small rural club and culminated in 4 of us attending an awards dinner at Wimbledon last July to collect the award and £5000! We haven't sat back though – we've continued to build on the momentum and hard work. Membership has been maintained at over 200 people, and an active schedule of Club activity which has been well supported by members.

Since the 2017 Annual Town Meeting we have hosted many events through the year, highlights including:

- Hingham Tennis' 1st birthday party – we held a bring & share picnic, and ran our AGM & 'Summer Slam' tournament.
- Our 'Great British Tennis Weekend' - an LTA supported initiative offering free tennis taster sessions. We combined it with the Wimbledon Ballot, a BBQ & mixed tournament.
- Ladies tournaments 'Girl, Set and Match' in Spring & Autumn, plus our popular men's tournament, 'Man Slam' where Wymondham club were invited as were friends of members.
- Numerous mixed adult tournaments, including 'May Madness', 'Halloween Trick or Treat', plus our Xmas indoor softball tennis tournament.
- Events for the Juniors – including Kids Halloween & Christmas Parties, plus Mini Tennis indoor Tournaments for older Juniors.

We continue to have a busy weekly timetable of drop-in club sessions and Junior club night for members, plus group lessons which anyone can turn up to. We also offer beginners lessons, cardio tennis (anyone wanting to keep fit is welcome!), plus children's lessons twice weekly. Our strong team of 4 coaches, support us in offering such a busy timetable.

In 2017/18 we have also offered free coaching to Hingham Youth café, and extended our very popular Friday night junior club, which sees many parents enjoy a social drink at the bar while the children play supervised tennis. We've also rolled out cardio tennis for children and youths and are looking to launch a Strength and Conditioning class soon. Booze & Balls (fun tennis games followed by a drink in the bar) also proved popular up until Winter.

Hingham Tennis is a friendly supportive club, with many members volunteering for jobs to support the small voluntary committee of 4. This includes a team of 25 who keep the courts clean through winter, and members who run a tennis ladder, and 'cake & tennis' morning.

Hingham Tennis has strived to meet member needs through 2017/18, guided by input from members completing the club's Spring 2017 survey. We offer very reasonable membership packages for all ages, or a pay and-play option for non-members. Membership and court bookings are taken online via our website.

We are planning a full calendar of LTA initiatives in 2018, including 'Great British Tennis Weekend' on Sunday 13th May - 11-2pm (everyone welcome for BBQ and to try tennis for free). Plus beginners tennis starts again in May. We're also taking part in 'Tennis for Kids' again this summer – a special course for children to get them into tennis. We'll also be hosting our first Family tournament (1 child + 1 adult) doubles on Sat 21st April.

Our vision for Hingham Tennis is that tennis should be enjoyed by anyone, no matter their age or ability, and that we want a friendly, inclusive club. Heading for our second birthday, we hope this is what the community sees, and we welcome everyone on court!

Finally, a BIG thank you from us to the volunteers and staff of Hingham Playing Field's Association and the Sports and Social Club for their ongoing support. Emily Cary, Lindsey Read Sue Crawford & Angela Jarvis Hingham Tennis Committee

For more info, visit www.hinghamtennis.co.uk or our facebook page.

HINGHAM PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION (HPFA)

for 2017/2018

Charity No: 286060

Introduction

The HPFA manages the play and sports facilities on behalf of the town. The HPFA is a charity, run by 4 trustees, volunteers who might not be involved in any of the Clubs. The HPFA Committee is made up of the these volunteers, a representative of each club, and representatives of other village interests, such as the Town Council, District Councillor, Team Rector, etc. The Committee meets monthly and club representatives attend when they can. We have one self-employed Bookings Manager/Caretaker (Mr Nigel Matthews) and a cleaner (shared with the Social Club), paid on an hourly basis.

The HPFA's job is to manage and maintain the fabric of the Sports Hall building; the two children's play areas and the playing fields as directed by the lease with the Hingham Town Council. HPFA pays £100 per year rent to the Council under the terms of the lease for the Sports Ground, last signed in September 1999 for a period of 50 years. The Play Area in Hardingham Street (The Welcomme Space) and the buildings and structures on the Playing Fields are owned by the HPFA.

HPFA income is received solely from fees charged to the Social and Sports Clubs and other users of the Sports Hall. All other income is from funding applications that we make ourselves to the Council, South Norfolk District and other funding bodies. This accounting year we have again made an operating loss. Our major outgoings are for the electricity and oil – the cost of heating and lighting an uninsulated building. We are therefore increasing our hire charges for the first time since 2014 from May 2018.

The Sports Hall and Playing Fields are used by 14 clubs and other groups, accounting for around 1,600 visitors each month. The balcony has attracted new users and the meeting room is now used by clubs and other groups regularly.

Maintenance Activities

Oil fired boilers / Sports Hall Heating Unit. The boiler has been serviced and improved to ensure that we are getting sufficient hot water and radiator heating. The Hall Heater has been serviced and we now have a token meter fitted so that clubs that require it can purchase their heating directly at £2 per 30 minutes. While this is an additional cost to those clubs, they are more directly aware of their oil usage, which has in turn reduced the overall oil bills a little. The heater uses £7 of oil per hour (at current prices), so we shall be increasing the token costs to £2 per 20 minutes from next autumn.

Electricity. Both the Tennis and Football floodlights are now linked to token meters at £2 per 30 minutes. This seems to work well and covers the costs of electricity. We continue to receive FITS income from the photo-voltaic panels on the roof which is now around £2,000 per year.

Play Areas: Management of the Play Areas at the Watton Road site and Hardingham Street continue to be problematic, with mis-use, vandalism and inconsiderate dog owners causing an endless round of issues which we have to resolve. Thanks to a grant from Tesco 'Bags of Help', we have renovated the Watton Road Playspace and provided an extra waste bin at the Hardingham Street 'Welcomme Space'. The Zip Wire and children's roundabout are awaiting renovation currently.

Pumped Sewerage System. Our major catastrophe this year was the failure of our nearly 30 year old pumped sewerage system, in December. This was a very serious problem, which we dealt with during the Christmas period, and we are extremely grateful to Panks Pumps Ltd. and Duffields Ltd, who made the system safe enough to avoid hazardous waste leaching into our grounds. Our clubs responded brilliantly in minimising their use of showers, toilets and water generally, while we sought funding to cover the installation of a new system. Our grateful thanks go to Hingham TC and South Norfolk DC who helped us cover half the £10,500 capital costs. This work will now be completed before the summer.

Club Updates

The Social Club: The club is doing well and offers a wide range of events every month, which are advertised in the Town Newsletter. The sports clubs are always welcome, as are any other visitors. The club is ready to welcome new members and anyone who would like to join (at a modest £10 per year) can take advantage of the discounted drinks prices! Anyone who would like to join should call into the club to find out more.

The Antiques Fair: The Antiques Fair (on the last Sunday of the month) has expanded considerably under the new management of Philip Crossthwaite. This successful regular event has led to problems with inconsiderate parking around the margins of the Sports Hall, and we have been working with the Town Council to try to resolve this. Philip has worked hard to marshal the parking around the area, but the Police are no longer able to support us (even in allowing us to use cones). I can only ask that residents try to be patient during the few hours once a month that this problem occurs, and if a car is clearly illegally or dangerously parked, please call the Police. In the longer term we are still aiming to expand the car parking at the Playing Fields, so that all visitors can park at the site.

Short Mats Bowls International Finals: A highlight of our year was the decision by East Midlands Short Mat Bowls Team to host the 2017 British Isles Top Team Championships between England, Northern Ireland and Wales at the Sports Hall. Apparently our venue is the only SM Bowls location in the UK which has a balcony - so spectators can watch matches from above the field of play!! The event was a great success with over 300 people per day attending.

The Egg Hunt: This event showcases the Welcomme Space play area and encourages families to use it regularly. It was a great success again this year, with over 50 children participating and around 30 adults. It was a happy afternoon, which has now become a regular annual event, linked to the Easter Market organised by HTC. Thanks to all who contributed cakes and provided the drinks. We raised £70 through donations.

Plans for 2017/18

The main driver for our activities continues to be upgrading our now elderly Sports Hall. We need to complete the replacement of the pumped sewerage system; complete the installation of LED lighting in the Sports Hall, extend the car park and improve the security and fabric of external doors and windows. This is always a difficult area to fund through grants, and puts increased strain on our income. We continue to be grateful to the Town Council and South Norfolk Council for their help and support where they can and we are determined to continue to provide good facilities for the people of Hingham and the wider community going forward.

Finally, thank you to all the Clubs who stay in touch with HPFA, to the trustees and committee volunteers who give their time to the administration and maintenance required to keep the facilities open, and special thanks to our Bookings Manager, Nigel Matthews, whose dedication to both the facilities and to the Clubs and other visitors has led to increased income from users.

Our AGM is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd May at the Sports Hall. We are seeking new volunteers to join our committee – why not attend to see whether you might join us!!

Alison Lys, Chairman

May 2018

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18 HINGHAM AND DEOPHAM

There are 380 Councils in England and South Norfolk Council is officially one of the highest performing. The respected Local Government Chronicle placed us in the Top Six Councils nationally at its awards ceremony, and we were the first public sector organisation in Norfolk to win the coveted Investors In People Platinum designation for the work we do.

Last year 1300 new homes were delivered in South Norfolk and more than 500 were affordable homes to rent or buy. That's nearly 1pc of the entire national total of new homes. There are now many more affordable homes locally than before the right to buy started and our housing team are finding two socially-vented homes for families every business day.

But new homes need to go alongside investments in the infrastructure that improves quality of life. At Wymondham a £4m investment in better leisure & fitness facilities has seen a 60% increase in the number of visitors and we now teach 2000 youngsters to swim each year. We're just about to start a similar £2m upgrade at Long Stratton on top of the completion of a new All-Weather pitch so that more people have the chance to lead healthier and active lifestyles.

It's not just about housing and infrastructure and strengthening the economy. We also seek to solve peoples' problems one family a time. A good example is the way we help people stay independent in their homes for longer. This sort of work saves the NHS a fortune. In the last 29 weeks we have had a staff member at the hospital as people are admitted to the ward. We identify the people who will be needing a little help at home when they get better: perhaps a hand rail in the bathroom, a wheelchair ramp or even something as simple as booster-feet under a favourite chair. We do this work whilst the patient is getting better so they can get home quicker. In that time, we helped 184 people, halved their average stay in the hospital, saved 725 bed-days (more than £181,000 at £250 cost per bed day) and life was better for each of these people as they recovered.

That's just one example of our work which covers preventing homelessness, sorting out debt problems, Social prescribing, helping youngsters find a rented home or ensuring that landlords keep their promises to tenants.

We mustn't also forget the work we do to help small businesses and this year we have been able to reduce the rates bills of the smallest firms by more than the Government expects so that, especially, rural pubs, shops & garages can remain open for longer.

Everyone knows that finances are tight in local Government so we have invested in becoming a low-cost operator. It means that our Council Tax is 20% less than inflation since 2007 yet we do more. As an example, 62% of our ten most popular transactions are now applied-for online via our website. It means that we have fewer administrators and can deal with problems faster and at times when it is convenient for our customers – even if the office is closed. These efficiencies are important, but they are not enough if we are to deliver the 86 services for residents. So that's why we are looking to do more with our neighbours in Broadland Council. Both councils have similar geography, scale, and outlook. We are seeing whether a single team that works for both Councils will benefit our communities in a way residents can recognise and relate to. Working more closely together offers both councils increased capacity and resilience, together with greater financial stability whilst taking advantage of commercial opportunities to deliver better value for our residents. Our taxpayers expect a local government that moves with the times and innovates, while retaining and attracting the most talented staff, offering them positive futures and career development opportunities. Our joint aim is for two strong councils, working together with the ambition and resources to make our combined area one of the best places to live and work in the country.

Finally, all these things work on a district-wide basis. But we're delivering locally too. We still offer community grants and this year I have been pleased to support the Hingham Playing Fields Association with a £1000 grant towards a replacement underground tank and submersible pump.

Everything we do aims to make Better Lives and Stronger Economies for everyone whilst keeping the cost down with a dedicated team of staff members and Councillors working with the other parts of Government to improve lives one family at a time, one street at a time and one place at a time.

Cllr Yvonne Bendle, Hingham and Deopham Ward
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2018 ANNUAL COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Council Tax

This year Norfolk County Council has agreed an overall increase of 5.9% to cover the increasing cost of services. 3% of this is for Adult Services as we have an increasingly ageing population needing care and support.

The County Council has invested an additional £25 million to support Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

Children's Services

Unfortunately the number of children coming into care is still increasing. We need more foster parents as we would rather place children in families than in residential homes. We have also invested in more social workers to provide more support for children and families to try to keep them together.

90% of Norfolk's schools are now judged as good or better by Ofsted.

We are going to receive an additional £2.7million, from the Department of Education, towards developing a new strategy to create more school places for children with special needs so that they can attend schools closer to their homes. This will reduce the high transport and placement costs.

Adult Services

We worked with community groups on a project called In Good Company to help reduce loneliness as it can lead to ill health and increase the demand on social care.

We have also recruited new care workers to help with reablement. This is a system that supports people coming out of hospital to ensure they can live safely and independently in their own home. It also helps reduce the delayed discharges from hospital and helps to free up availability of beds.

Public Health

Public Health have been doing a lot of work on suicide prevention and mental health via new ideas such as Creative Matters which was a partnership with the Theatre Royal which ran a series of workshops, performances and events focusing on men's health to help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health.

Norfolk has around 77 suicides per year, which is higher than the national average. It is often older men from farming communities who commit suicide. The campaign called, 'I am really (not) OK' aims to help people recognise their problem, talk about it, and accept help.

We have set up a new, confidential text messaging service called 'Chathealth' for 11 – 19 year olds to provide an easy way to talk to school nurses. Libraries also hold a section on health for teenagers. The number of teenage pregnancies in Norfolk is decreasing.

Staff who deal with the public are being trained to spot signs of domestic abuse and offer support.

Economy

We are looking at running several services from fewer buildings so have set up our own property company, called Repton Property Developments, to sell surplus property and reduce running costs.

Trading Standards

Trading Standards is inviting people to undertake training to protect their communities against scams. Some victims have lost many thousands but are often too embarrassed to tell people and obtain help. The Norfolk Against Scams Partnership wants to make people more alert to these dangers and encourage them to caution each other. Parish Councillors will be invited to undertake training.

Trading Standards is also keeping people, animals and businesses safe in other ways, eg. checking for illegal goods and substances. In 2017 they seized 160,000 illegal cigarettes.

Fire Service

Over the last year the Fire Service has attended 2037 fires, 748 road traffic collisions and 2300 special service incidents such as flooding, trapped people or animals, or assisting medical staff gain entry to premises.

Our Fire Service is one of the most economical in the country. At the moment the Police and Crime Commissioner is putting together a Business Case to try to show that the governance of the Fire Service should be transferred from Norfolk County Council to him.

Resilience

During the recent bad weather, the Beast from the East, snow storms etc., the Resilience team worked tirelessly with Highways, Fire Service and volunteers to rescue cars and people, keep roads clear and help with medical emergencies. When others could not get in to work, staff who had been working overnight at the Fire Service call centre, and were snowed in, stayed on and worked another shift because of the high demand for their service.

The Resilience team also helped residents whose homes were in danger of falling into the sea at Hemsby and helped them find accommodation, rescue pets, deal with all aspects of the emergency.

Highways

We have just agreed this years' Parish Partnership Schemes which will enable villages to put in safety schemes such as flashing signs, footpaths, trods, wig-wags, and bus shelters. The scheme will be run again this year.

Work on the Northern Distributer Route from Postwick to the Fakenham is nearly completed and we are currently considering the best route to join it to the A47.

Agreed dualling for the A47 is on track with preparation work commencing this year. North Tuddenham to Easton dualling should begin in 2021 and there are also plans to improve the Thickthorn junction with the A11.

The EDP recently called a meeting to promote the dualling of the whole of the A47. The Minister for Roads and local MPs attended and promised to do what they could to assist. The EDP is working with NCC to get local people to complete postcards saying why they think it is essential to dual the whole of the A47. These will be delivered to the Government to emphasize the case.

We have a new Casualty Reduction Working Group which is looking at how we can improve safety on our roads and reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured.

Broadband

We are continuing to roll out Broadband across the county. It was originally agreed that the Better Broadband for Norfolk programme would provide 95% of Norfolk homes and businesses with access to high speed broadband by 2020. We think we may do better than this.

Mobile phones

The new Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee is working to improve the quality and the coverage by putting masts on council-owned building to help overcome 'not spots'. The aim is to increase the county's mobile phone coverage to 98%.

Libraries

The Library and Information Service has won a national award called Libraries Change Lives for the second year running. Libraries have become Social Hubs providing scales for weighing babies, theatrical and musical performances and activities such as board games and knit and natter groups, as well as story telling for adults and children, to encourage social interaction and help combat loneliness. They also run activities for people with dementia, help people with IT and run craft sessions.

A new Business and Intellectual Property hub has been set up at the Forum providing information for new businesses and people needing information on how to set up a business.

As usual we ran our annual Summer Reading Challenge for children, we repeated a new writing competition, Write On Norfolk, that we began last year for 5 – 13 year olds and we also began another new scheme, Count On Norfolk, to encourage children to practice their mathematical skills in a fun way during the holidays.

Libraries also received a grant from Arts Council England to train volunteers to coach residents, aged 8 and over, who were struggling to learn to read. Individual reading sessions have supported around 600 people and we are continuing to support new learners and volunteers.

We are gradually extending our Open Library service to more branches. This enables customers to access the library outside regular opening hours.

Museums

The museum service has continued to bring in grants which have enabled them to put on successful displays such as 'Nelson and Norfolk' and 'Rembrandt: lightening the darkness' and we have just begun the excavation of the Keep at the Castle Museum in Norwich in preparation for its transformation so that people can see what it looked in Norman times.

The Museum Service has also run many events for schools during term time and for families during school holidays.

Preparation for the future

This year the County Council is launching its new vision entitled "Caring for our County". This together with a new operational plan called Norfolk Futures hopes to find new ways to supply the increasing demand for services. The focus will be on demand management, prevention and early help. We are hoping much more can be done via IT or email as this is much cheaper than phone calls or letters. Committee papers are no longer posted out to members we have to find them on the website and all departments are looking at ways of delivering services more economically.

Parish Councils

I endeavour to attend all Parish Council meetings but occasionally I have to miss one due to another meeting elsewhere. Parish clerks know that they can contact me anytime if there is a problem in the area that I can help with.

Margaret Dewsbury