

NARBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday, 6th March 2023 at 7.00pm in the Church Room,
All Saints Church, Main Road**

Present:	Chairman	Cllr P Wilkinson (also District Councillor)
	Councillors	Cllr P Bailey
		Cllr H Pipe
	Parish Clerk	Mrs S Porter
	Member(s) of Public	0

AP1/23 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Cllr Wilkinson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AP2/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from the Vice Chairman, Cllr D Williams (illness), Cllr S Davey (illness), Cllr S Greeno (illness) and Cllr J Reynolds (illness).

The apologies were accepted.

It was noted that County Cllr E Colman had now left Norfolk County Council.

AP3/23 Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 4th April 2022 (AP1/22-AP8/22)

Proposed – Cllr Pipe

Seconded – Cllr Bailey

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 4th April 2022 are approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

All in favour

The Chairman, Cllr Wilkinson, duly signed and dated the minutes of the meeting.

AP4/23 Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman, Cllr Wilkinson, reported the following:

The Parish Council has been active in supporting the residents of Narborough with Narford. We have co-opted new Councillors this last year, who we will continue to train and support.

The Council recognised the historic Platinum Jubilee event of our late Queen Elizabeth II, with presenting special commissioned Jubilee coins to the pupils of the Narborough Primary School, elder residents, residents who volunteer at the Narborough Museum and Bone Mill, both historic assets for Narborough, and the wider area, along with Community Centre volunteers all receiving coins too.

The Council contributed to the Late Queen's Green Canapé by planting an oak tree, located at the Community Centre. Thank you, Gareth Hill, for helping me with this task.

The Parish Council purchased a defibrillator to support the Ambulance service in case of an emergency, but we hope this will never be used.

The Council is continuing with its programme to change the remaining soda street lights to LED; this will help with cutting the service and maintenance costs.

It was brought to the Council's attention that residents had identified problems with dog fouling and litter in Narborough.

Chairman Signed Dated

The Council showed due diligence and purchased ‘don’t let your dog foul, pick up poo’ signs, along with litter picking sticks and safety bibs and a programme was assembled for volunteers to come together to litter pick.

The Council is looking forward to recognising the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III and there will be a presentation of commemorative Coronation mugs to our young residents.

The Council continues to work closely with local authorities and outside bodies to bring resident and village issues to a satisfactory conclusion.

AP5/23 Clerk’s Finance Report 2022/2023

The Clerk circulated a financial summary of the year-to-date accounts, period ending February 2023, and reported that the finances were in a healthy position. A large disbursement, worthy of noting, for £7,500.00 + VAT had been paid in July 2022 for the football pitch renovation; this expenditure had been made from earmarked S106 reserves.

AP6/23 Annual Village Reports from Representatives of Local Groups, Clubs & Organisations

AP6.1/23 Narborough Bone Mill

In the absence of a speaker, the Chairman, Cllr Wilkinson, read a report submitted by the Narborough Bone Mill (Appendix 1).

AP6.2/23 Narborough Local History Museum

In the absence of a speaker, the Chairman, Cllr Wilkinson, read a report submitted by the Narborough Local History Museum (Appendix 2).

AP7/23 Annual Village Reports from Councillor Representatives to Outside Bodies

AP7.1/23 Narborough & Narford Community Centre

Due to the Chairmanship of the Narborough & Narford Community Centre changing hands during the past year, two reports had been received. The Chairman, Cllr Wilkinson, read a report in his capacity as Narborough Community Centre Management Committee Chairman for the period January 2022 – October 2022 and in the absence of a speaker, read the report from the current Chairman (Appendix 3).

AP7.2/23 Icen Partnership

Cllr Williams was not present at the meeting and no prior written report had been received.

AP7.3/23 Sports & Social Club

In the absence of a speaker, the Clerk read a report submitted by Cllr Greeno, as Secretary of the Sports & Social Club (Appendix 4).

AP7.4/23 Swaffham SNAP

The Chairman, Cllr Wilkinson, read a report in his capacity as the Council representative for the SNAP meetings (Appendix 5).

AP8/23 Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

**Narborough Bone Mill
Annual Report March 2023**

The bone mill ground bones for fertilizer in the 1800s, the water wheel can be seen from the Nar Valley Way footpath starting from River Close, about a mile downstream. Volunteers are there most Thursdays when visitors can cross our bridge and look around the site and visitor centre. We also have public open days twice a year in May and September.

2022 has been a busy year, we completed our wildflower meadow project, funded by a Norfolk Community Foundation grant. This transformed a wasteland area into a landscape which was seeded last Autumn and should flower in late Spring 2023. We bought all the equipment needed to create and maintain the wildflower meadow which is kept securely off site. We bought insect hotels and a picnic bench and replaced the shipping container with a wooden shed which we built using a lot of re-used materials, this gives better views of the meadow. Two metal detectorists explored the area before seeds were sown and a number of finds were discovered including a hinge post, belt buckle and the metal centre from a grinding wheel. We added a new room to our visitor centre with recent finds on display, plus slideshows and pictures of our work creating the wildflower meadow.

The Green Community Grant project, funded by Breckland Council, involved installing nest boxes for many species of birds, reptiles and mammals, some have nest cameras so we were able to watch Great Tits and Jackdaws raising their chicks. The grant also provided bird food and feeders so we regularly feed the birds and see a wide variety. We installed multimedia screens in our visitor centre to show videos of the water wheel turning and slideshows of our work. We have illuminated shelves to show finds discovered on site. All electrics are powered by solar panels which we installed recently. We bought cycle pumps, tools and repair kits and fitted a cycle rack to encourage cycling. We have a log store, log splitter and battery chainsaw to supply logs for wildlife habitat and our woodburner stove. The latest work involved making an insect habitat and small greenhouse from re-used materials. Both grant funded projects are now complete.

Our open days in May and September were well attended, we had the water wheel turning over all four days and the weather was good, we repaired our seized swinging footbridge in time for the open days in September. The next open days will be Mills Weekend on 13 & 14 May 2023, we plan to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation at this event as well.

We had a recruitment drive which brought us two more volunteers, Anne Marie who does gardening and looks after displays in the visitor centre, and Ryan who joins us during school holidays and weekends doing a variety of jobs, including metal detecting demonstrations at the open days. We welcome new volunteers, please contact us through our website if interested.

In February we installed a Kingfisher nest tunnel in the river bank and last year we put Grey Wagtail boxes beside the river. We see lots of wildlife, including Herons, Egrets, Hares, Barn Owl, Buzzards, Grey and Pied Wagtails, Lizards, Red Kites and Water Vole.

2023 got off to a bad start for us, as our riverside wall collapsed into the river and we are unable to clear or repair it until better weather, as the track to the mill is too slippery to get the digger there at the moment. We will be fundraising and organising repairs soon.

For more information or to contact us, please see our website www.bonemill.org.uk.

**Graham Bartlett
Project Coordinator**

**Narborough History Society/Museum Group
Annual Report March 2023**

The museum continues to open every Thursday (10.00am – 3.00pm) and on the first Sunday of the month from April to October.

In addition to the 10 - 15 volunteers who attend each week, we have welcomed over 500 visitors in the last 12 months.

Apart from the museum displays, the workshop in the barn is used for making bird boxes, hedgehog houses etc, for sale. The recently opened bird hide is proving very popular.

The final part of the project is to obtain a portable building for use as a research and reading room, where visitors can study the collections of books, photographs, documents and articles relating to the area's rich history.

The committee is extremely grateful to those who have donated artefacts and materials, or have given their time to help us get established on the new site opposite the old railway station.

David Turner (Curator and Treasurer 07769 602601)
Stephanie Ellis (Secretary)
Dennis Greeno (Chairperson)

**Narborough & Narford Community Centre
Annual Report March 2023**

January 2022 – October 2022

2022 was the year the Community Centre recovered from Covid 19. The local community groups and clubs were back up and running as before Covid, 20 weddings and parties used the Centre, benefiting the income for the Social Club, tenants of the Community Centre. The Social Club recovered from the Covid 19 shutdown, benefiting from 3 months' free rent and subsidised by the Community Centre for a further 2 months. £12,500 in Breckland discretionary grants, secured by the Community Centre Management Committee, put the Social Club in a positive position to continue trading.

The Management Committee organised a very successful Jubilee celebration for our late Queen Elizabeth II.

At short notice one of the most successful Narborough Village Fairs was held during the summer, despite the rain, the only day it rained all summer.

A Community Meet and Eat project was launched, serving meals and drinks, supporting residents in making sure if they chose, that residents could have at least 1 hot meal a week.

Up to November 2022 the Community Centre was in the best financial position that it has ever been in. A lack of maintenance for a decade was rectified, the field area has never looked better, with benches provided for residents to use, a new perimeter security fence was erected with thanks to Narborough Parish Council securing funding, the Parish Council also released S106 funding of £7,500 for refurbishing the Narborough Football Team's pitch, and a newly refurbished shed which now houses the Community Centre's own ride on grass cutting machine.

Can I thank all the former Management Committee, and volunteers for their support.

**Peter Wilkinson
Chairman, Management Committee 2018 - 2022**

October 2022 – to date

This report pertains to the period from October 2022, following the change in Management Committee at the Community Centre.

The priority for the Committee since October has been getting to grips with the finer details of running the Centre, with the aim of keeping it central to village life and securing its future.

Some of the small tasks completed so far include updating our Safeguarding policy, and receiving a grant from British Sugar to purchase children's tables, chairs and high chairs for the hall.

The weekly activities continue to be successful, including the always popular bingo, and Meet & Eat on a Tuesday. We're working on better promoting the Centre as a venue for events and celebrations, with a new Google Search page in place, and continuing to tweak the website and Facebook content.

Events for the community are an important aspect of what the Centre offers so Save the Dates are in place for the Annual Village Fair and Christmas Fair, we're trialing a monthly Chess & Draughts Club, a car boot & Easter Egg Hunt, and we've applied for a grant towards a Coronation celebration.

We continue to work with the Social Club, with the aim of both parties thriving going forward and benefitting the community. Discussions are under way with regards to tenancy renewal and future joint events.

**Jon Reynolds
Chairman, Management Committee**

Chairman Signed Dated

**Sports & Social Club
Annual Report March 2023**

Over the past 12 months the Club has been able to operate outside of covid restrictions. Jacky has continued to be the Club Steward managing bar staff and cleaner.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in January 2023 with no change in Chair, Treasurer or Secretary, a new Vice Chair was elected and 3 new Committee members welcomed. There were changes to our opening hours and also Membership fees which will be payable from July 2023.

West Norfolk Radio streaming live from the Club has been a welcome addition. They stream once a fortnight on a Sunday evening with 2 live acts performing. These have been enjoyed by both regular members and also members of the public.

We have also continued to support the Coffee mornings in conjunction with the Community Centre; monies raised have helped with further events which have been enjoyed widely.

Narborough Sports and Social Club has been affected, as so many other hospitality venues have, by the cost of living crisis. We are trying to ensure we stay competitively priced in comparison to other public houses but have had to adjust pricing based on increased beer and spirit costs.

We have continued to host 2 pool teams and have a new Narborough team in the Narbeck Billiards League who use the Snooker room on a Monday evening. We have recently invested in the recovering of both the Snooker table and downstairs pool table.

The former Community Centre Committee supported and paid for new fencing around the patio area as the old wall was a concern for all. Jacky has spent time planting new shrubs and flowers in this area making it more welcoming.

Narborough Sports and Social Club are looking forward to working with Narborough Community Centre on joined up events. The new Community Centre Management Committee has worked with us regarding the tenancy agreement and also to support the building being at the heart of the village with events which benefit all.

Sarah Greeno
Secretary / Council Representative for the Sports & Social Club

**Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP)
Annual Report March 2023**

The Saver Neighbourhood Action Panel is made up of town and village representatives from across Breckland. Narborough is a member of the Swaffham panel, with the town and villages of Necton, Sporle, North Pickenham, Ashill and Beachamwell.

Priorities are set by the representatives present at the meetings. We hear the problems that are happening, then debate which are the most serious for the police to respond to as a priority.

Narborough has had its fair share of antisocial behaviour this last year, which has been responded to by the police. On the whole antisocial behaviour has subsided, although I am working in Narborough at the moment with the police and the Victory/Flagship housing antisocial behaviour team to ensure issues do not rise.

Any non-emergency issues that residents or Parish Councillors have, that need police intervention, please contact me, and I will take them to the next available SNAP meeting.

Peter Wilkinson
Council Representative for the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel