



Minutes of Pulham Market Parish Council Meeting, held at Pulham Market Memorial Hall, Pulham Market on Monday 11th September 2023, commencing at 7pm

Present: Cllr S Hewitt, Cllr A Ford, Cllr M Alexander, Cllr S Herschel-Shorland, Cllr A Schwier and Pietrzak
Parish Clerk Mrs L Shulver
District Cllr's C Hudson and D Thompson
The foot path warden, also attended as a representative of the Coronation committee SH
Members of the public – 1

2023-24/84 To receive apologies for absence. Council accepted apologies from County Cllr Wilby.

2023-24/85 To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from members on any items to be discussed and to consider any dispensations.

Cllr Hewitt declared an interest in an item of correspondence received.

2023-24/86 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2023. **Council unanimously agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting held on 10th July 2023. Cllr Hewitt signed a hard copy.**

2023-24/87 To receive reports on matters of interest to the parish from District and County Councillors.

District Cllr Thompson provided his report, copy attached

District Cllr Hudson congratulated Pulham Carnival Committee on their successful 51st Carnival.

He noted condolences following the passing of Frank Allen, who had actively contributed to community/charitable groups and activities within the village.

Cllr Hudson reminded councillors of the new improved bus service within the village, to advocate the use of this service. Traffic congestion has been noted on meeting/passing of the new service buses, this is being addressed.

South Norfolk Council are currently promoting Solar Together Norfolk, an innovative scheme offering high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage. Details are available on the District Council Website at

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/help-stay-existing-home/saving-energy-home/6>

County Cllr Wilby provided a report. Copy attached

2023-24/88 A member of the public attended the meeting, correspondence had previously been submitted, this will be addressed during the meeting. SH attended the meeting as the footpath warden and as a representative of the coronation committee, both matters will be addressed during the meeting.

Cllr Ford asked if it was compulsory for a member of the public to notify the Clerk if they wish to attend a meeting. The Clerk advised it was not compulsory but if a member has a specific enquiry, it would be sensible to raise this with the Clerk in advance so she may investigate or arrange for appropriate information to be available for the meeting. Council requested wording be changed on the agenda to reflect this. **Action Clerk**

2023-24/89 Correspondence received on dangerous condition because of unattended footpaths and overgrown hedges, Julians Way, and paths to Mill Lane and Mill Close. The clerk has notified Saffron, it was noted the strip of overgrown dividing land accessed from footpath to Mill Lane has been cut back once. The Clerk will again contact Saffron and highlight the overgrown brambles, also noting the end of the bird nesting season and the opportunity for the housing trust to now cut back the recycle area and remove the dead trees. The Clerk will update parishioner. **Action Clerk**

Correspondence received on overgrown ditch near Copperfield Court. The Clerk has circulated an email response form GO at NCC, advising of the delay in addressing the piping and covering of this area, noting the overgrown condition will be cleared. Council noted the remedial clearing work has been carried out.

Correspondence received on social media interest on use of money raised by Coronation Committee. This is a matter for consideration by the Coronation Committee not the Parish Council. A further update from the Coronation Committee is on the agenda.

Correspondence received on noise disturbance from the Falcon ph 14/7/23. Councillor Hewitt contacted licencing department at District Council and procured permitted licensing hours for all licensed establishments in the village. The Clerk will thank the parishioner for bringing their concerns to the attention of the Council and advise that Councillors have acquainted themselves with current permitted licensing hours. Both District Councillors are happy to receive notice of concerns from parishioners on noise and licensing matters. **Action Clerk**

Correspondence received on concerns relating to CCTV, condition of and general public safety within the grounds of Pulham Market Memorial Hall (*Cllr Hewitt declared and interest*)

Council are aware signage has now been erected on information relating to the CCTV. The PMMH are currently carrying out improvements to the hall, they will be further discussing this matter at their next meeting on 21st September, Council will request feed back and highlight the urgency to address securing the back garden and not allowing access to general public until improvement work is completed. The Clerk will respond to correspondence and include this matter on the October agenda for further consideration.

Action Clerk

2023-24/90 The Clerk (and Councillors where necessary) to provide an update on the matters arising from the July meeting and provide any other information on actions that have been undertaken since the last meeting.

The following actions have been completed;

- Councillor training took place on 24/7/23
- All work identified has been reported for the attention of the highways rangers/
- The litter pick has been awarded £220 for taking part and a prize in the prize draw. Consideration of use of this money is included later in the agenda.
- GC has completed the annual clean of the playground equipment

Outstanding actions;

- The first in-person Town and Parish Summit here at The Horizon Centre, NR7 0WF on **Thursday November 9th from 9:30am – 12:30pm**. This invite is open to Parish Clerks and Chairperson and/or Councillors. More details to follow.
- Beckvale CC – Cllr Hewitt has been communicating with Dan Goodwin at SNC communities, Cllr Scanlan at PSM pc and ZC current admin for the Scheme. A meeting will be organised to look to review resurrection of the scheme, administration and increasing current signatories for the account. Action Cllr Hewitt.
- Pride in Place – Cllr Hewitt has made an initial claim for funding for the repair to surrounding boundary and land belonging to the parish council. PMMH have also made a claim for funding towards ongoing improvements. The administrator for the Pride in Place initiative has requested claims from both parties are combined. Cllr Hewitt will continue to work with the hall committee on this matter and the item will be included on the October agenda. It is believed that should this claim be successful a commitment from the Council will be required of approximately £1,500.00. If this commitment is approved by Council at a future meeting, it could be considered from the PMMH budgets. **Action Cllr Hewitt**
- Ditch near Copperfields development has been delayed because of staff absence but the matter is anticipated to be addressed in due course.
- Overgrown Lime trees causing obstruction by bus stop: Peter Thompson NCC sending letter to property owner. The Clerk will chase **Action Clerk**
- Outstanding ground maintenance work by Saffron will again be requested by the clerk **Action Clerk**
- The Clerks Annual appraisal will take place in September **Action Clerk/Cllr Alexander/Cllr Schwier**

Documents /Deeds

Cllr Ford is currently collating documents she holds. A meeting will be organised between Cllr Ford and the Clerk to discuss and commence initial enquiries on registration of the village green. **Action Cllr Ford/Clerk** This matter will be included on the October agenda for consideration by Council

Grounds Maintenance

Cllr Hewitt, Alexander and Herschel-Shorland had a successful meeting with TOPS and a quote for additional work was requested. A quotation has not been received. Cllr Hewitt provided an advertisement for general maintenance contractor working locally. Council requested the Clerk, chase TOPS and procure a second quote from the contractor for same work. The Clerk is also aware of a parishioner who may be interested in a handy man vacancy, for consideration later in the agenda. Council requested the

Clerk procure an hourly rate for this applicant. **Action Clerk – to include a meeting with TOPS/Cllr Alexander and Herschel-Shorland.**

Saffron have ordered a bench, they will install when received.

Burial Grounds

The emptying of the container is ongoing. All paint has now been disposed of at the County Council Waste amnesty event.

A request has been received for council to consider an alternative layout in the burial ground (head to head/foot to foot) Council request the Clerk respond with thanks for the request, Council do not feel this would increase capacity or provide better use of the grounds but would be happy for future attendance if the applicant would like to address council in person. **Action Clerk**

Council requested the Clerk make enquiries about Cemetery training for all councillors **Action Clerk**

Playfield/Equipment

Cllr Hewitt and Alexander met with Playdale, and requested a quotation for replacement of the roundabout, seesaw and swings. Quotation procured is approx. £10,000 for install and £15,000 for equipment. Cllr Hewitt is currently procuring further quotes and working with District Cllr Thompson looking to make an application from the Community Action Fund. Cllr Herschel-Shorland will look to see if further grant funding is available for the Council to make application for. **Action Cllr Hewitt and Cllr Herschel-Shorland.**

Footpaths

The footpath warden provided a report, highlighting persistent problems with footpath 5,6 and 7. Council requested the clerk formally contacts relevant contacts at the District and County Council to procure responses on this matter. **Action Clerk**

Contracts/Legal

TUFC have paid rent for 2023/24 period and would like to extend their contract for 2 years taking them to summer of 2026. Council requested the Clerk respond and advise they are happy in principle but cannot currently provide a charge for this period. Council will be looking at their budget for 2024 in the coming months. **Action Clerk**

Councillors have read and understand the legal cover offered by current Insurance provider.

Parish Assets

SHS/SH to audit and provide report **Action Cllr Hewitt and Cllr Herschel-Shorland.**

Signs

SAM

Retrospective ratification is included on the agenda for repair required to the SAM over the summer. Cllr Hewitt asked for

a request for a parishioner to take over the monitoring of the SAM equipment, be included in the Diary/Parish Report
Action Clerk

2023-24/91 Planning working party to provide recommendations on each new planning application presented, full council to consider and ratify comments and verdicts to each application

2018/0111 2018/0112 – Outline Planning Permission – **Council submitted no comment –remains pending consideration.**

2022/0949 - Farm diversification project for 16 acre field to maize maze, cut flowers and play area. Seasonal opening to school holidays.

Location: Land North Of Ashleigh Farm Wood Lane Pulham Market Norfolk – Following site visit and consideration of amended plan submitted by the applicant – Submitted support provided no objection raised by highways - 23/07/22 – All amended documents available on the LPA site **Further comment, if required to be submitted by 13/7/23**

No further comment

2022/2255 – Change of use of existing building to dwelling and erection of ancillary cart lodge for use as domestic garaging.

Location: Agricultural building north of Gresham Farm, Semere Green, Pulham Market.

Submitted support with conditions 13/12/22

2023/0003 – Erection of new dwelling and garage

Location: Land South Of 23 Mill Lane Pulham Market Norfolk

Submitted support 11/1/23

2023/1211 Change of use from swimming pool enclosure to residential dwelling including new garaging Location Grid Ref 621254 287725 Land East Of East Of Tennis Court Bush Green Pulham Market Norfolk – **Submitted support if application meets requirements 14/6/23**

New applications

2023/1958 Erection of 4 new industrial buildings – **Submitted neutral stance, requesting that in determining this application South Norfolk District Council are satisfied that there will be: No adverse impact on the surrounding countryside and environment. Further, the total number and size of units at the premises is proportionate and acceptable. Appropriate measures are put in place regarding hours of operation and type of usage for the proposed industrial units.**

2023/2266 Walnut Tree Cottage, Erection single storey extension, revised design to permission 2020/1348 **Circulated to councillors, no objections raised submitted support 14/8/23**

2023-24/92 To consider coronation committees proposal to deliver a commemorative cairn. **SH advised that upon further investigation the committee have concluded that a Cairn is not viable. The committee would like to improve the small area around the village sign with a low maintenance commemorative theme. Cllr Pietrzak reminded Council that an ongoing request to provide a new tree remains outstanding for this area. SH advised this has been considered and could be amalgamated. Following the next coronation committee meeting, SH will be able**

to provide further information for Council. This matter will be included on the October agenda.

2023-24/93 To consider £220.00 prize received by Pulham Market Litter. **This money will be held for consideration at a future meeting, to provide an improvement project within the village.**

2023-24/94 To consider employing a handyman. **This matter was considered within matters arising and will be moved forward to the October Agenda**

2023-24/95 To consider TUFC request to extend their contract by 2 years. **This matter was considered within matters arising**

2023-24/96 To consider renewal of CAN membership. **Council ratified renewal for a further year.**

2023-24/97 To consider arrangements for Xmas Tree for the Green. Council requested the Clerk procure cost for MP Stephenson & Sons to provide a tree, to ask if delivery is available and as an alternative speak to DP with regards to collection. **Action Clerk**

2023-24/98 To consider comment on Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Proposed Public Space Protection Order. **Council received notice; no comment required**

2023-24/99 To receive update from NPFA **Council received update and requested the Clerk ask if the letter requesting further volunteers can be included for distribution to parishioners via parish diary/media platforms.**

2023-24/100 To consider increase in streetlight electricity tariff from 1st Sept 2023. **Council received notice of increase from Npower from £461.82 pa to £739.66. Council received document providing alternative options available to the Council, prepared by the Clerk. Council agreed to move to SSE for a 36month contract at £583.42 pa. Action clerk**

2023-24/101 To retrospectively ratify £40.00 to inspect and £168.00 to provide 2 replacement batteries for the SAM. **Council ratified this expenditure.**

2023-24/102 To received external audit notice of conclusion 2022/23 audit. **Council received documents, no recommendations have been received and the Clerk has displayed notices.**

2023-24/103 To receive the financial statement for August 23, to ratify income and expenditure of payments approved by Cllr Hewitt and Ford. **Council received financial statement and ratified approval of income and expenditure**

2023-24/104 To receive and ratify the Bank reconciliation for July and August 2023 and the Financial Statement for September 2023 and agree councillor authorisation.

Council unanimously ratified the Bank and Financial Statements and resolved them to be an accurate record of the Council's current financial position.

Action: Cllr Schwier approved the Bank reconciliations for July and August 2023 and Cllr Hewitt and Ford will authorise all payments.

The balance following presentation of the August and September Accounts transactions listed, will be £54,235.38

Approved August Accounts

Receipts

Date	Details	Amount
Aug		
06-Jul-23	Coronation Committee Deposit	515.00
10-Jul-23	Burial Fees CJ Alexander	180.00
25-Jul-23	Susan Wymach paid burial fees in error	180.00
04-Aug-23	Burial Fees R Hill	20.00
07-Aug-23	TUFC	450.00
16-Aug-23	UK power network	26.38
16-Aug-23	Bierton and Woods Ltd - R Rawlence Burial Fees	90.00
	Aug Total	1,461.38
	Sub Total -Cumulative Current Account Income	17,961.38
30-Jun-23	Interest	235.65
	Sub Total -Cumulative Instant Access Account Income	235.65
	Total Income 2022/23	18,197.03

Payments

Date	Payee	Description	Payment	Gross	Net	VAT
Aug	2023					
16-Aug-23	S Whymark Funeral Services	Payment made in error	B/Trf	180.00	180.00	
16-Aug-23	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit	B/Trf	378.00	315.00	63.00
16-Aug-23	CTS	Material Maintenance at playground/football pitch	B/Trf	237.83	198.19	39.64
16-Aug-23	SNC	Dog Bin Annual Charge	B/Trf	1,040.51	867.09	173.42
16-Aug-23	L Shulver	Clerks Admin Expenses	B/Trf	23.80	23.80	
16-Aug-23	L Shulver	Reimburse -Bitdefender Internet Security	B/Trf	54.99	45.83	9.16
25-Aug-23	L Shulver	Salary	B/Trf	577.00	577.00	
25-Aug-23	HMRC	Paye Mth 5	B/Trf	69.40	69.40	
17-Aug-23	N Power	Streetlights July	DD	34.64	32.99	1.65
	Aug Total			2,596.17	2,309.30	286.87
	Total Spend 2023/24			18,497.19	16,812.06	1,685.13

Approved September Accounts

Receipts

Date	Details	Amount
Sept		
25-Aug-23	SNC Big Litter Pick prize draw	220.00
08-Sep-23	Burial Fees P Manning	105.00
	Sept	325.00
	Sub Total -Cumulative Current Account Income	18,286.38
30-Jun-23	Interest	235.65
	Sub Total -Cumulative Instant Access Account Income	235.65
	Total Income 2022/23	18,522.03

Payments

Date	Payee	Description	Payment	Gross	Net	VAT
Sept	2023					
17-Aug-23	Crooks Powerwashing	Clean Playground equipment	B/Trf	275	275.00	
11-Sep-23	Wescote	SAM repair/Batteries	B/Trf	249.6	208.00	41.60
11-Sep-23	PMMH	Room hire Jule 10th and 24th	B/Trf	52.5	52.50	
19-Sep-23	N Power	Streetlights August	DD	34.25	32.62	1.63
11-Sep-23	L Shulver	Expenses	B/Trf	23.80	23.80	
28-Sep-23	L Shulver	Salary	B/Trf	577.00	577.00	
28-Sep-23	HMRC	PAYE mth 6	B/Trf	69.40	69.40	
	Sept			1,281.55	1,238.32	43.23
	Total Spend 2023/24			19,778.74	18,050.38	1,728.36

2023-24/105 To consider the date for the October Meeting. **Council resolved to hold the October Parish Council Meeting on Monday 16th October 2023. To be held in the PMMH, commencing at 7pm**

2023-24/106 The Clerk to provide and receive items for the next agenda.

Resolved to include;

PMMH update on improvements

Pride of Place – ratify required funds

Registration of Green

Consideration of GM/handy man within the village.

Further consideration of Xmas Tree and event

Further consideration of update from Coronation Committee

Items for the village diary and/or magazine:

Congratulation to Carnival Committee

New bus timetables

Bird nesting has now finished please attend to overgrown hedges etc

Care with fire risk following the hot weather

Request for SAM volunteer

Solar Together link to SNC website

Please report blocked footpaths

Update contacts on diary and website

The meeting closed 10.00pm

Signed.....

Date.....

**Cllr Delme Thompson
Report for Pulham Market Parish Council September 2023.**

Funding for Community Projects

Applications for Community Action Fund close on 22 September. Application window for next season TBC.

Town and Parish Forums

Zoom this Thursday, 14 Sept at 2pm (Invitation issued by email).

In-person Town and Parish Summit at The Horizon Centre, November 9th from 9:30am – 12:30pm.

Ukrainian & Afghan Families Scheme

Central Government has provided 1.4 million pounds towards purchasing up to 10 new homes for the purposes of housing Afghan and Ukrainian families. That money provides 40% of the total cost, with 60% coming from council finances. But after purchase we will own 100% of the properties that have been bought. The proposal is to buy a small number of properties in a number of different locations.

Nutrient Neutrality – Norfolk

In essence, Nutrient issues will not be a material consideration when assessing planning applications. It will require the Levelling Up Bill to receive assent by 7th November. More to follow.

Pylon Consultation

SNDC have lodged formal objections as part of the recent consultation, and will continue to fight the current plans.

Sale of South Norfolk House £250 - £750K Impact of recent events.

Given the level of wider interest in this matter and potential knock on effects for all South Norfolk residents, I wanted to update the Parish Council on some important recent developments.

Background / Recap

In May 2022 the decision was taken to sell South Norfolk House as part of the relocation to the Horizon Centre. The rules required the property to be marketed for use as an office for 6 months, before bids for alternative use could be considered. This was done, and no bids were received. Bids for other uses were then invited.

Throughout the process Long Stratton Town Council were kept fully informed and declined to bid for the property. In April 2023, 11 months after the decision to sell, a meeting was held to recommend acceptance of a bid to develop the property. At this meeting the town council requested additional time to scope a bid for a community hub – which would sit alongside two existing community centres in Long Stratton. SNC agreed to a 90-day extension for the community bidder to present their proposal.

In the following three months the community bidder failed to provide any proof of funding, confirm the legal entity that would complete the transaction, or provide any details of how the community project would be run as a viable concern. During this period additional bids from other parties have been received.

An external reviewer assessing all bids received concluded that the community project was un-proceedable.

A deadline of 30 June 2023 was set for all bidders to provide the required information so South Norfolk Councillors and officers could make a decision on the most appropriate bid to accept, at the full council meeting on 24th July.

Following the issuing of this deadline, Long Stratton Town Council submitted a formal application to have the building declared an asset of community value. On receiving such an application, the Council is duty bound to pause any sale, and undertake an 8-week process to consider the application.

Financial Impact

£63,000 running costs (minimal heating, insurance, security, maintenance) have been incurred during the 90-day extension granted to the Long Stratton community bidder. (Approx. £20,000 a month).

The 8-week pause required to review the asset of community value application will result in taxpayers funding an additional £40,000 of running costs.

If the application is granted, this will trigger a further 6 months grace period for the community bidder to provide proof of fund funds and project viability – adding a further £120,000.

If the application is dismissed, advisors estimate it is likely to be Easter 2024 before a sale to one of the waiting bidders could be completed now – meaning taxpayers will have funded a minimum of £200-250K additional costs as a result of recent events.

With the value of development land declining, risk of current bidders withdrawing due to the delay, and loss of interest on funds that would have been received from the sale last April, the true cost of affording the grace period to the community bid, and subsequent behaviour, is likely to be in the region of £500-750K+.

At the full council meeting on 24 July, there was consensus that while the Community Hub project is admirable in principle, every effort should be made to limit further costs to taxpayers.

Kind Regards
Cllr Delme Thompson

Fares on all Norwich Park & ride services will be even cheaper from this September, making it easier and more affordable to travel car free into the city centre by bus. The new fares will be introduced, thanks to money that Norfolk County Council has secured from the Department for Transport (DfT) to help improve bus services across the county. From Monday 4th September, passengers will be able to trave for one price at any time

of the day. The new fares have been designed to provide more flexible fare options for those choosing to travel independently, as a couple, as a family or with friends. The new fare coincides with the re-opening of Postwick park & ride, which further enhances the service, providing five out of town sites for those wishing to visit Norwich, from all major routes into the city.

Seventy new electric buses will be arriving in Norwich this autumn as part of a multi-million-pound investment in greener vehicles. Work has started to convert First Bus Eastern Counties Roundtree Way depot into an all-electric depot, which will make it just one of three of its kind in the country, outside of London. The new electric buses – 11 single-decker and 59 double-deckers will be made by Northern Ireland company Wrightbus. The buses will save 60 tonnes of tailpipe emissions each year. First Bus have invested £22.5m into the new fleet while Norfolk County Council secured a further £14.7m from the governments Zero Emission Bus Regional Area Scheme.

Encouraging more people to use the bus travel and other sustainable options is key to our ambitious aims of achieving net-zero in Norfolk by 2030. NCC has committed to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions on its estates by 2030, but within its wider area, to work with partners towards 'carbon neutrality'. This also supports the government's ambition for a net zero country by 2050. We will achieve this by implementing carbon conscious ways of working across our buildings and supply chain, putting in place the right infrastructure across the county to support the move towards net-zero; and by working together with partners to lead and inspire our colleagues, citizens, communities, and businesses to take action and play their part in protecting Norfolk for future generations.

NCC Hazardous Waste Events are back for 2023. A series of free drop of days are set to start in September to allow people to dispose of hazardous waste at some of Norfolk's recycling centres. Visitors to seven participating recycling centres will be able to drop off items including wood preservatives, insecticides, weed killers, paint, thinners, varnishes, and special cleaning products. To determine if a substance is hazardous, check product labels for words or symbols that indicate caution, warning, danger, poison or toxic. The first event is on the weekend of September 9th and 10th 9am-4pm at the Norwich South Recycling Centre which is the nearest for us in the south of the county. For all details and dates for the other events please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk

Congratulations to all the youngsters across the county (over 9,000) that signed up and took part in the Summer Reading Challenge organised by our library service during the Summer Holidays. The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year during the summer holidays and aims to support children's reading for pleasure and prevent a dip in reading over the six-week break. As well as supporting literacy, reading is a fantastic way to promote mental wellbeing and have fun.

Billingford Mill is having an open day to the public on Sunday 24th September, it is well worth a visit to find out more about this local landmark in the Waveney Valley.

Best Wishes

Martin

Along with many others I recently attended the official opening of The Toddler Play Area on Harleston rec. It was opened by The Lord Lieutenant for Norfolk, The Lady Dannatt MBE who made the day very special by commenting about Harleston's resilience throughout the Covid pandemic, the tremendous community spirit in the town and thanking the many local volunteers for what they do. There were many toddlers there to

help Lady Dannatt with the cutting of the ribbon and to show us all how they use and enjoy the new equipment. A special thanks to Harleston Town Council all its staff and everyone else involved with this project.

The final round of LED upgrades to Norfolk County Council's Street Lighting is underway, cutting CO2 emissions by over 200 tonnes a year. The work, which will replace traditional High Intensity Discharge (HID) lighting with the latest generation of LED lanterns, will take place over the next 24 months, and involve replacing 16,800 HID lights with LEDs. When complete, 100% of NCCs streetlighting will use low energy LEDs. The final phase of the move to low energy LEDs will save an estimated 1,099,032 kWh of energy per year, equating to approximately £380,000 p.a. at current electricity prices. This represents an estimated carbon saving of 227 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year as a result of the final stage of switching from HID to LED streetlighting.

With the bird nesting season over, people across Norfolk have a chance to do their bit to stop flooding and keep water flowing across their properties. Small, simple steps that ensure water can drain away from your home can cut down the likelihood of flooding, starting with tasks as simple as keeping drains, ditches, and watercourses clear and able to flow freely. After a year's growth, many ditches and watercourses will benefit from clearing branches, and cutting back new undergrowth. Now bird nesting season is over, early autumn is the prime time for property owners to put in a little work to keep their properties safe. Outside the home, if residents spot any blocked or broken drains on Norfolk's highways, they can report it via www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding allowing Norfolk's Highways Team to clear them and keep our roads open. Also now is the time of year to cut back your hedges and trees away from footpaths and the roadside so that people can use the footpaths safely and that vehicles can use the whole width of the roads.

Norfolk's £3bn tourism industry is to get an annual boost of more than £100,000 a year in the hope this will inject millions of pounds more into the county. County Hall agreed to the increased spend as part of hopes to become part of a new initiative that could unlock more Westminster cash which the county cannot currently bid for. Pete Waters, executive director of Visit East of England, said: "I would like to thank NCC for this investment in tourism services. This will ultimately benefit and support our local destinations and businesses, the stars in our tourism firmament." It is hoped the new initiative could create 9,700 further jobs connected to tourism and help make Norfolk one of the top destinations in the country for visitors.

NCCs award-winning Adult Education Services offers free part-time one-year courses for students aged 19 or over who do not have a 1-9 in GCSE English and/or Maths. Last year 111 people took GCSEs with the service, 84% of maths GCSE students achieved Grade 4 or above and 73% of English GCSE students achieved grade 4 or above. The service also offers a range of other courses including access courses for learners of all ages which are available on a flexible basis during the day, evening, or online. Find out more by visiting the Adult Learning Website.

Best Wishes

Martin