

Oxborough Parish Council

Correspondence received and made for meeting 13 July 2022

a) Norfolk Police (see website)

1. Email update from Paula Gilluley: "... monthly parish newsletters will now be published in line with local SNAP Priority Setting Meetings. However, you can still access crime data in your local area through the national police website www.police.uk/pu/your-area/norfolk-constabulary."

b) Breckland Council (see website)

1. Lisa Oakley (Senior Economic Development Officer):

a) The Woodland Trust is offering free tree planting packs for community groups, parish councils, sports clubs, residents associations (as long as it is not-for-profit organisation), please see details here: Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust

b) To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee NCC is giving people in Norfolk the chance to apply for tree packs that are up to 50% off their original cost. Applications are now open and ready to collect between December 2022 to February 2023.

2. Notice of Vacancy form duly completed and promoted on website and notice board. Deadline is 14 days from 27 May 2022. Alex Elliott (Electoral Services Officer) confirmed that no requests to hold an election were received, PC to proceed with co-option and inform BC of name and address when known.

c) NCC (see website)

1. Invitation to respond to consultation: NCC has produced a revised version of the adopted Local List, The NCC Local List for Validation of Planning Applications Consultation, Draft 2022. In line with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) timescale there is an 8-week consultation period (16 May to Monday 11 July 2022) to allow for your comments and feedback. <http://eplanning.norfolk.gov.uk/Planning/Display/LLCON/2022/00012>.

2. Email from Cllr Fabian Eagle: "In recognition of the Queens Platinum Jubilee I have decided to allocate some of my members Highways/Environment budget to purchase two of these Swift Towers to go villages that feel they have the appropriate place and populations of Swifts and House Martins in their village."

2.1 Mr. Charles Howard-Vyse requested one for Oxborough: "...No doubt a suitable location could be found in the village, eg close to the church on the edge of the Green, and in some small way a swift tower would be a welcome offset for the much missed beech tree".

3. Jubilee trees for Norfolk - application open. "Trees come in packs of 10, 20 or 125 and can be split up and planted in different locations across your community. You can apply here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/jubileetrees"

d) Email from Mr. Miles Griffin regarding Public Footpaths within the Parish, and the local landowner responsibilities: "I am referring specifically to FP3 on the Eastmoor Rd, and FP10 off the Stock Ferry Rd toward Oxborough Ferry. The signage at both is no longer in place, and the footpaths have not been reinstated following ploughing". This was sent onto Cllr Monson, and he responded with the confirmation "footpaths will be mowed and levelled in the next two days to permit walkers to walk with ease across the fields again on the designated paths".

e) Email from Julie Wood, Secretary OVH, requesting permission to display banners on the village green railings, promoting the Open Gardens 18-19 June. Application form duly completed.

f) Beech Tree

1. Mitigation requirements means that Torc Ecology need to install a tawny owl box on a nearby suitable tree. "I am still trying to source a tawny owl box for Tuesday. I am hoping we can get one from a colleague of ours. The price of the box will vary depended on the type of the box c.£50 - £100.If we have to get one from a retailer then it will likely be £100 - £150"

2. Email from James Parry: "...As the resident pair of tawny owls have now lost their traditional nesting site, can consideration please be given by the PC to the erection of an appropriate nest box in the lime tree on the pound? This would need to happen during the summer so that the birds get used to it through the autumn and winter ready for the 2023 breeding season". Clerk acknowledged email and explained that the ecologist had considered the lime tree but that there was evidence of existing bird nests, so it was unsuitable. They selected the sycamore tree located at the entrance of the village hall carpark.

3. Email from Chris Heatley: "...If Dr Stump does not possess an endoscope long enough to reach fully into the hollow in the tree, he should obtain one of sufficient length to do the job properly. Not having the correct tool for the job is not a valid reason for him to conveniently assume the presence of Bats and decide to leave a monolith against the direct instructions/wishes of the PC and the person who is footing the bill for the work...Will Dr Stump be offering a very significant reduction to the bill if the tree is only partly cut down?"

4. Email from Dr. Stump, explaining the reason why the beech tree is recommended to be maintained as a monolith: "Upper canopy is free of cavities and bats, lower canopy will be retained on the recommendation of the Ecologist due to the fact that whilst no bats have been found, the cavities are so deep that a full inspection is not possible, therefore retention of the tree to a monolith as recommended by Rory Hobbs, RH Tree Consultants Ltd and Shaun baker from Torc ecology. How far we remove the tree is governed by the timing constraints and the inability to carry out appropriate surveys to determine the bat roost status of the tree. Due to the short window, we are unable to undertake further surveys"

5. Email from David Hotchkin: "Now that the 'monolith' has to be accepted as the current state of the tree for some time to come (because of the legal situation regarding bats) then I would suggest that the tree surgeon is the best person to work out how it should be shaped, and that they should now be left to their own devices to complete the work. It may not

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- turn out to be aesthetically pleasing to some, but we will just have to live with it - perhaps for a few years. At least, the work has addressed the safety aspects that were of the greatest immediate concern.”
6. Email update from Torc Ecology (Shaun Baker): “...Our responsibility is to you the client and the contractors that we advise, and in this regard we have sought an appropriate route to navigate the legal implications of potentially disturbing bats and their roosts (and nesting birds) based on the identified need to make the beech tree safe with regards public health and safety (as documented within the Bat and Nesting Bird Method Statement). As RH Tree Consultants report recommends that the tree be reduced to a monolith to make it safe, given the uncertainty with regards the presence of bat roosts it would be reckless to damage or remove the existing cavities and the existing Bat and Nesting Bird Method Statement could therefore not be relied upon to provide any justification for mitigating circumstances should a bat be harmed, injured or killed, and/or a bat roost(s) be damaged or destroyed”.
7. Email from David Hotchkin: “...With regard to Mr. Shaun Baker's latest (very detailed) email upon the subject of the beech tree, I wish to make something fundamentally clear: Under no circumstances whatsoever am I prepared to sponsor any exercise undertaken by the Parish Council, and involving my direct financial support, which might be unlawful and which may subsequently result in prosecution”.
8. Email update from Dr. Stump: “...Rory Hobbs, RH Tree Consultants Ltd, has determined that the tree, once reduced to a monolith would in fact be currently deemed safe but action in the future stated in his report would need to be acted upon in the required timeframe. To reduce the risk further as discussed previously, we will create a natural exclusion zone and hibernaculum beneath the remaining stem wood of the tree. This will offer a superb opportunity as an educational feature for owl and bat watching for the locals and their children/ grandchildren. I am pleased that this compromise has been sought and a positive step forward can be taken to complete the works legally, safely and responsibly.” Tree report from RH Tree Consultants, extract: “19. Re-Survey Frequency and Zoning. Given the population of trees on site and the proximity of high occupancy targets areas (such as footpaths and highways), it is of my opinion that as a minimum, the trees on this site be surveyed by a qualified arboricultural consultant at a frequency on no greater than every 3 years in a leaf on, leaf off rotation so as to fully assess the tree through its annual stages.
9. Email from Chris Heatley: “... I ask how we are supposed to remove the wood without using chainsaws? Dr Stump has left most of it in totally unmanageable pieces, some of which weigh several hundred pounds. Providing the PC make it abundantly clear that chainsaw users act entirely at their own risk I do not see that it presents a problem for the PC”.
- g) Letter of resignation from Cllr Linda Holloway... “With health and work commitments as they are, I feel I am unable to give the PC the time and dedication it deserves”.
- h) Email from Gooderstone clerk, Judith “the bridge at Gooderstone, by the Anglian Water works - there is always a massive flood during the winter on the 'Oxborough' side. Is there anything the PC can do about this? It looks like it's a serious ditch-digging operation, but of course, it's private land”. Cllr Monson commented that this had always been a problem as Anglian Water sewage works are between the area that floods and the river. He offered to take another look see what the levels are like. It is really the responsibility of the NCC Highways to come up with a solution, but he may be able to help by draining it through the hedge into his field. Cllr Allison message: “Serious flooding either end of the bridge has been a problem for years. Highways could easily solve part of the problem by a small channel on the east side of the road being dug to drain one side of the road into the ditch that runs from the cottages into the river on Jean Mason's boundary. The east side is more of a problem as its boundary is Ian Monson's field which is higher than the road and the ditch doesn't go down that far. Ian could drain it into his field but that area is usually quite wet in the winter anyway and it's right by the style. There may also be a covenant preventing this”. Cllr Monson inspected the area and concluded “the only solution is for Highways to fill it right in with road planeings so that the water can run off across the road and into the river at the old ford”.
- i) Email from Elaine Stapleton: Are you aware that the hedge on the green is being cut back at the moment by someone with a large hedge trimmer? Is this person employed/authorised by the PC? I thought that it was not allowed to cut hedges at this time of year as the birds are still nesting. The hedge is located adjacent to the property of Mr. & Mrs. Chris Heatley.
- i) Email from Mrs Lee England: Please thank the Parish Council and yourself for letting our charity FTRescue hire the green and hall. We had great weather, good attendance and everyone had a lovely time and we managed to make some funds for our rescue. I hope everything was ok with how we left the venue. Thank you once again.
- j) Anglian Water New Proposed Pipeline - Land ownership query received from Vula Oppio (Asst. to Sarah Hill Consultant to Savills) - forwarded onto Cllrs Chapman and Monson.
- K) Ryston Runners (contact Sue Tuff) request permission to place 8 x portaloos (as in previous years) on the village green for the Wissey ½ marathon event being held 4-9-2022.
- l) Armed Forces Covenant: During the last 12 months, your town or parish council signed the Armed Forces Covenant Pledge. Thank you for doing so and showing your support for the armed forces community. Providing you have published the pledge on your website, you are eligible to apply for a Bronze Award under the Ministry of Defence's Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. I'd like to invite you to complete the online application and receive the electronic award within the coming weeks. You will then be able to add the Bronze Award logo to your email footers or letterheads and promote the Covenant to the wider community.
- M) Rural Market Towns email from Corporate Director, David Inman: The Rural Market Towns Group (RMTG) can help you to deliver improved outcomes for your communities through shared collective pressure and learning from others in membership. Provide you with resources, connections, rural knowledge, and experience, that enables the representation of your Town to inform policy and generate improved outcomes for your residents and business communities.

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- n) Letter from Heather and David of The Granary, Hall Farm Barns, expressing their thanks to the PC and all those involved in organising the Oxborough Jubilee celebrations: ‘...it was a lovely afternoon and really so good to see families relaxing in the sun and enjoying the pleasure of one another’s company’.
- o) UK Power Networks quote for disconnecting the power from the telephone box - £1243 plus VAT - completion date 23 March 2023.

Planning

- 1. 3DC/2022/0132/DOC OXBOROUGH Excavation Site, Oxborough Road PE33 9QH. Discharge of Condition No 11 on 3PL/2021/0248/F (Discharge Conditions)
- 2. TRE/2022/0126/TCA (Swallows Stoke Ferry Road) Tree works application to fell diseased blue spruce. Decision from Breckland Council-no objection. Decision - permission granted.
- 3. Online Enforcement Reference: OWEC2697 (Hall Farm House) ‘...install a further 6 solar panels on the Red House side of the barn’. ENF/167/22/PAR, Alleged Breach: Unauthorised Works.

Accounts

(NB: AGAR completed and emailed to external auditor 26-5-2022)

a) Payment:

- 1. TSB bank fees
- 2. £8976.23 Dr. Stump invoice for felling the beech tree - payment to be ratified.
- 3. £1986.00 Torc Ecology Ltd invoice for ecology works - payment to be ratified.
- 4. £403.80 CGM grass cutting(x8) plus herbicide treatment.

b) Receipts

- 1. £8,226.23 from Mr. David Hotchkin - donation for felling the beech tree.
- 2. £100 - Ryston Runners Wissey ½ marathon (4 Sept 2022)
- 3. £1,936.00 from Mr. Hotchkin - donation towards the ecology fees (Torc Ecologist)
- 4. £60 - Oxborough Village Hall - hire of the village green for the Open Garden weekend in June.
- 4. Invoice raise for £700 - Oxborough Farms Ltd (Mr. Ian Monson) - donation towards traffic management costs regarding the beech tree.

Highways

- 1. Temporary closure of C122 Beachamwell Road in the Parish of Beachamwell because of power cable installation works (STRO6652). 14 June 2022 (1 day only).
- 2. Temporary Traffic Order affecting the U33255 The Street from 550m east of its junction with Clarkes Lane for 20m eastwards in the PARISH OF GOODERSTONE because of new water connection works. The road will be temporarily closed (except for access) from 21st to 23rd June 2022 for the duration of the works expected to be about 3 days within the period.
- 3. Tree and Countryside General Enquiry submitted by clerk, requesting a copy of the TPO (2007 No. 28) on the lime tree located on The Pound, which has a quantity of deadwood at the crown. This land (and tree) is owned by NCC. ENQ-571442-R0K1S3.
- 4. Rangers visit scheduled for July - Clerk reported a number of issues: ENQ900209628 / ENQ900209655 / ENQ900209656 / ENQ900209657 / ENQ900209658/ENQ900209660
- 5. NCC"Parish Partnerships" scheme for local highway improvements. All bids to be submitted by 9 Dec 2022 to ppschemes@norfolk.gov.uk. E.g.: Small lengths of formal footway / Trods/ Improved crossing facilities / Improvements to Public Rights of Way