

Oxborough Parish Council

Correspondence received and made for meeting 14 Sept 2022

a) Norfolk Police (see website)

1. Residents across the county are being invited to meet with Police and Crime Commissioner Giles Orpen-Smellie to discuss any issues they may have about crime and policing in Norfolk. Giles' next 'Time to Talk' session where people are given direct one-to-one access to him, is due to take place on Friday 2 September 2022. The 'surgery-style' event will be held virtually or over the telephone, with people being allocated 15-minute slots to raise any questions or concerns.

b) Breckland Council (see website)

1. Tree Office, Hugh Coggles, confirmed the following concerning the Beech monolith: "as the tree remains it is still protected and no need to re-plant".

2. Lorraine Varney (Community Enabler)- offering free Mental health courses, see link to access dates, locations and to book a space www.breckland.gov.uk/article/17868/Mental-Health-Training

3. Local Plan (Partial Review) Regulation 19 Consultation. The closing date is 16:59 on September 23, 2022.

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/local-plan-review>. This stage of the process tests whether the Local Plan (Partial Review) has been prepared in a legally compliant and sound way. If responding you will need to tell us why the Plan does not meet one or more of the specific tests and how it should be changed so that it does.

c) NCC (see website)

1.

d) Pensions Regulator: confirmation that OPC has completed the re-declaration of compliance for OXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL with The Pensions Regulator under the Pensions Act 2008 (or, for employers in Northern Ireland, the Pensions Order 2008) on 11/07/2022.

e) Email from Bar Prichard concerning a damaged tree on the boundary of the green: 'The branch snapped off completely in wind a few years back and hooked itself over another branch. It is very close to live power lines and, I would suggest, is not a job for well-meaning volunteers. It will progressively rot and will inevitably fall at some point. The tree's root appears to be in the verge.'

f) Geoffrey Morley, facilities manager Oxburgh Hall, requested a meeting to discuss the condition of the verges adjacent to the wall.

f) Email from David Hotchkin: Raised ticket with NCC Highways: OPC has placed 'temporary' fencing on the triangular junction, on the grounds that the exhausts of vehicles parking there could set fire to the mown grass on the site. Initial small (ineffectual) placing on Wed 20 July '20 (1 day after Ashill fire) was removed on Sun 24 July and replaced on Mon 25 July by barrier around almost all of the site. I consider the Parish Council has acted 'ultra vires' and contrary to the Road Traffic Act 1980.

g) Councillors Allison, Chapman and Monson met at the Tea Room Oxburgh Hall with Geoffrey Morley (Facilities Manager NT) on 3 August. The discussion was primarily about the state of the road verge adjacent to Oxborough Hall along the Stoke Ferry Road and also secondarily along other sections of their boundary. BC Showed photos of the long grass and weeds with ivy growing up the walls and said that this was in great contrast to the neat practices of past years when the verges were regularly cut. The Head of outdoor operations said that for a number of reasons the NT have had to make changes to priorities and their management of the verges over the last two years since Covid in 2020. She said that the verges were in fact the County Council's responsibility, but they will tidy them up when they get a chance this Autumn. She also said NT policy now favours more natural wilding and as Oxborough is a rural area it was appropriate allow more natural growth. In reality the Trust is short of resources and staff since Covid and cannot sustain the same level of grounds maintenance as before. They would welcome local volunteers. It was agreed the NT would try and keep the verges at least tidy by the occasional flailing of the tops of the longer grass and wildflowers probably every 3 to 4 months if they could. Email (extract) from Head Gardener, Dea Fischer "As a compromise, we have agreed: (a) an Oxburgh volunteer will rough cut the entire width of the verge on the same schedule as the County Council would follow, being four times between May and September. (b) The first cut will be carried out once the current extreme dry conditions are relieved, which should be within the next two weeks. Otherwise, with our flinty soil, we risk striking a spark and causing a fire. (c) Cllr Chapman confirmed if we would top the verge in this way, he would volunteer to mow it at times in between".

h) The Clerk contacted NGF Play Ltd requesting advice on maintenance issues - response received "...The loose screw should have a nut attached so worth checking. On the video it looks like Torx heads which as mentioned previously are easy to obtain and are supplied in a lot of toolkits these days". The Clerk supplied RoSpa report and then Geoff responded with "All of the items are low risk and could just be monitored. The loose timbers are an unfortunate side effect of this hot weather but once tightened shouldn't cause any further issues. However the bolts on the fencing although low risk ought to be cut down. As such we will attend to all of these issues probably next week. There will be no charge for this".

i) Kay Wells from Gooderstone requested permission to take away a quantity of the wood chip left over from the beech tree felling.

j) The Clerk contacted Norfolk Community Foundation to enquire about the Household Support Fund - this had already been spent out, but there is the possibility of another round and someone will send an update when this is known. However, "Parish Councils cannot distribute monies or goods to individuals unless the PC has the General Power of Competence. Eligibility criteria for this includes...having elected members, a qualified clerk and holding an annual meeting. If your Parish Council is not eligible, households may be able to be supported through your local Village Hall, church or community centre, as long as they meet our eligibility criteria".

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Planning

1. Ref No: TRE/2022/0176/TCA Oxburgh Hall. Proposal: T1 poplar and T2 sycamore - fell to ground level - it is proposed to remove the trees as part of a parkland restoration project (Tree Work App CA)
2. Ref No: 3DC/2022/0132/DOC Decided 09-08-22 Decision DOC - COMPLETE. Location: OXBOROUGH Excavation Site, Oxborough Road, PE33 9QH. Proposal: Discharge of Condition No 11 on 3PL/2021/0248/F (Discharge Conditions).

Accounts

a) Payment:

1. TSB bank fees
2. NGF Play Ltd - £90 plus VAT - tighten up bolts on monkey bar upright.
3. RoSpa Play Safety - £73.50 plus VAT - first playground Annual Inspection.

b) Receipts

1. HMRC VAT refund £2165.09
2. Oxborough Farm Ltd - £750

Highways

1. ENQ900211398 - broken footpath sign on Oxborough Road (verge of Oxburgh Hall wall). Status update from NCC: We are investigating the problem - Defects are investigated by local teams as soon as possible and, if action is required, prioritised for repair taking into account the defect size, location and usage of the road or path in question.
2. Several emails sent to BC and NCC regarding the poor condition of the Lime Tree on The Pound - both Councils stating they are not responsible - Clerk has reapplied for remedial works to be carried out by NCC and another tree inspection has been programmed. Email received from NCC on 31 August:
“We are unfortunately slightly behind time with inspections, but the information has been re-circulated today and I have advised that you have requested an update for your next Parish meeting. Following inspection, a report with recommendations will be forwarded to the Highway Engineer who will arrange for any necessary works to be carried out and I will ask that a copy of the report is sent to you for information. Apologies for the delay and I hope this is helpful to you”. (Sharon Bland, Arboricultural and Woodland Technician).
3. Temporary closure of C42 White Hart Street in the parish of Foulden - UKPN pole replacement works (STRO6978)