

# **WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **JULY MEETING 2023**

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

It is becoming increasingly evident how the role of a District Councillor differs to that of a Parish Councillor. Being directly elected by the residents to represent the Ward places specific responsibility on our shoulders. However, while we do our best, we are not always able to sort things out ourselves; we will frequently need the help of the officers. Our role though, puts us in a better position to identify the appropriate officers and help people navigate through a system which can seem daunting and confusing.

#### **Community Awards**

James and I were fortunate to attend the South Norfolk Community Awards ceremony at Glen Lodge, Bawburgh. Our Harleston Ward had four shortlisted nominations across the eight categories. Congratulations to Peter Bee and Glynn Jordon who won the prize for 'Inspiration of the Year' for their work in fundraising, collecting donations and driving to Lviv to support families affected by the war in Ukraine.

A specific congratulations to Lua Leggett, your Parish Clerk, and her nomination for fundraising, arranging local events and befriending vulnerable residents in Wortwell. Congratulations also to our other nominees: Chris Lown for fundraising for Guide Dogs for the Blind and his work with Exchange 2; and Harleston Information Plus for everything they do for our local community. They, together with all nominees, deserve our appreciation and applause. They are all winners to me.

#### **Grant Funding**

The Rural Services Network publishes a monthly update of available sources of grant funding. I have been able to make some local groups aware of potential opportunities. James and I have received requests for funding from our member's ward allowances. We are aware of other requests in the pipeline, and we are working together to best allocate the funds.

#### **Updates from South Norfolk**

The sale of South Norfolk House was to be discussed at the Council meeting on 23 July, however this item was deferred while Long Stratton Town Council applies for an Asset of Community Value protection order on the building. It was stated that this may unfortunately have an impact on the finances of the Council as additional costs will be incurred until the building is sold.

I attended an online briefing session arranged by South Norfolk Council and the local Police about vehicle related anti-social behavior. The Police and the Council are both receiving an increased level of calls relating to vehicle nuisance. There are proposals under consideration to address this widespread problem. The topic will be raised at a Town and Parish Council Forum to be held on 1 August, and will be followed by a public consultation to gather views.

## **Nature Recovery**

Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council have been formally appointed by Government as one of the responsible authorities for preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for their respective counties. This means that they will be working together to help improve wildlife habitats and reverse the decline of biodiversity across the region, working with local communities to develop a tailored nature recovery strategy for their areas. I am in contact with the Norfolk County Council Cabinet member responsible for the Strategy and I am promoting the successful 'Nature Recovery in Harleston' project as a bottom-up element for inclusion in the overall Strategy. I look forward to presenting this project to Wortwell Parish Council with the hope that we can include the entire parish. Nature does not recognise parish boundaries, why should our local recovery plans?

## **Plans for Wortwell**

I am glad to see progress being made with the feasibility study for the village energy sustainability proposals. This is a very exciting and bold environmentally friendly initiative. It has my support and I look forwards to hearing more as the discussions progress.

## **Open Surgery**

I held my first Open Surgery where it was great to talk with so many people. Being able to help people with their questions and concerns has been emotionally rewarding. Every 'thank you' makes all the hours worthwhile. I will hold my next surgery on 12 August, as the second Saturday of the month, at Harleston Information Plus on Exchange Street between 10:00 and 12:00. I may see you there.

Cllr Trevor Graham  
South Norfolk Council  
Member for Harleston