

# Topcroft Parish Council

## Minutes from Topcroft Parish Council

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at Topcroft Pavilion on  
Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Peter Rout (Chair), Trevor Potter (TP), Cathy Hipper (CH), Nicola Green (NG), Kathy Thomson (KT)

**Clerk/RFO:** Sally Chapman

**Also Present:** District Councillor Murray Gray and two parishioners.

#### 1. Apologies

Councillors Dye and Gifford – apologies accepted. County Councillor Stone.

#### 2. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held 11th May 2015

The Minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair of the Parish Council. [Proposed NG, 2nd TP – unanimous.](#)

#### 3. Matters arising

None.

#### 4. Chairman's Yearly Report

The Chair welcome all present to Topcroft's Annual Parish meeting and gave a summary of the year's events. Main points:

- TPC gave donations to Topcroft PCC and Topcroft Sports & Social Club (£1,000 each) and EAAA £100.
- New footpath noticeboard and map – grant from D.C. Murray Gray.
- Councillor Thomson completed the Councillor training and the Clerk passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration.
- Broadband improvement- although some Councillors disagreed.
- Topcroft Cricket Club won the SNDC Community Wellbeing Group of the Year.
- Thanked C.C. Stone, D.C. Gray & Councillors for their support and Mr Paul Rand for completing the internal audit.

#### 5. Finance Yearly Report

The Clerk gave a report on the Council's end of year accounts and budget and advised the total funds to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 were £ 3,828.26.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Topcroft Parish Council

## 6. District Councillor's Yearly Report

District Councillor Gray gave a report – *full report at end of minutes*.

A parishioner asked if there was an increase in fly tipping when the Morningthorpe refuse site was closed, as he had reported four incidents. District Councillor Gray stated he had not been aware of any increased fly tipping. Councillor Thomson said she had heard there was a lot at the refuse site gate.

## 7. County Councillor's Yearly Report

County Councillor Stone was unable to attend but submitted a report – *full report at end of minutes*.

## 8. Public Questions

None.

**The meeting closed at 7.56pm**

## District Councillor Report 2015-16

### Topcroft

Planning is a major issue for the public and there have been a few, mostly uncontroversial, planning applications in Topcroft in the last year. I have sent Parish Council members details of how to access information about Topcroft including Tree Protection Orders and Listed Buildings.

As regards planning policy, The South Norfolk Local Plan is nearing completion. 3 documents were adopted in the last year:

- The Site Specific Allocations – allocating new land for housing, though none in Topcroft, and reinstating development boundaries including Topcroft's.
- The Development Management Policies – policies to guide decision-making on planning applications; and
- The Wymondham Area Action Plan.

Still to be finalized are:

- The Long Stratton Area Action Plan now declared to be “sound” by the planning inspector and due to be adopted on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. I have been fighting to get a roundabout at Hempnall crossroads included in this plan, but this was deleted by the planning inspector and replaced by the words “junction improvements” - these to be decided by the County Council. So we now need to keep the pressure on the County to ensure that the improvements are a roundabout and I've already spoken to Alison Thomas, the County Councillor for Hempnall, and got her support for this.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Topcroft Parish Council

- The Gypsy and Traveller Plan, which has been delayed by a change in the government's planning definition of gypsies and travellers.

Having almost completed that Local Plan, SNC together with the Norwich and Broadland Councils is about to start the Greater Norwich Local Plan to 2036. The first stage is a "Call for Sites", asking landowners to propose sites for housing, employment, etc. This will run start next week and run until July.

SNC reluctantly raised its part of the Council Tax by 3.3% for the coming year, having frozen it for the last 6 years. Band D Council Tax for SNC will be rising by £4.32.

All Councillors now receive £1000 per year to spend on projects within their Wards. In Topcroft in the last 2 years I've helped to fund the new Parish Noticeboard. This year I have a further £1000 to allocate across the 5 villages I represent. Larger grants are available from SNC from the £30k Community Action Fund for the Tas Valley parishes.

SNC also has a Community Awards Scheme to recognize the work of volunteers within South Norfolk. Last year I nominated the Denton Composting Group and they won an award. This year I nominated Topcroft Cricket Club and they won as "Community Wellbeing Group of the Year".

Last year, the Council started collecting a wider range of recyclables and this has raised recycling rates to nearly 50%. This year, waste collection rounds are being changed from 6 June. As far as I can see, most of Topcroft bins will be collected on Wednesdays. You will each get a letter explaining this in the next 2 weeks.

During the year, I have continued to be a member of the Development Management Committee, the Environment & Planning Policy Committee, and the Gypsy & Traveller Planning Group.

Finally, can I thank the PC, Parish Clerk and Topcroft residents for their support during the year.

Murray Gray  
District Councillor,  
9 May 2015

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**Margaret Stone - County Councillor for Clavering**  
**Parish Council Report: Annual Parish update**

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## 23 Parishes in Clavering Division

Aldeby, Alburgh, Broome, Denton, Ditchingham, Earsham, Ellingham, Geldeston, .Gillingham, Haddiscoe, Kirby Cane, Hedenham, Hales , Heckingham, Norton Subcourse, Raveningham, Stockton, Thurlton, Thwaite, Topcroft, Toft Monks, Burgh Peter, Wortwell and Wheatacre.

## AGM Topcroft May 2016

2016: County Council report :

As your county Councillor, I can represent your interests on a range of issues, from Health and Well Being to Highways and amenities. I have 23 Parish Councils whom I support with similar requests.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Topcroft Parish Council

## **Council Tax:**

Increased by extra 2% predicated specifically for Social Care. General increase of 1.99% to maintain services

## **Changes at Norfolk recycling centre**

From 1st April until 30th September, with the exception of Mile Cross in Norwich, all recycling centres across Norfolk will be operating under the new summer opening hours timetable - open from 9am until 5pm. We have reinstated the recycling centre which were due to close

## **£9.7m road surface dressing programme starts**

## **Devolution**

3 Authorities are offered the opportunity of working together with devolved responsibility and the finances to support major Infrastructure programmes between the counties. Discussions continue. General public will be consulted prior to decision.

## **The offer includes:**

Over £1 billion of new money to support economic growth over the next 30 years. £65m per year for the next 5 years – then £30m thereafter, at this stage. The region will take control of millions of pounds of multi-year consolidated and devolved transport budget.

New powers over infrastructure, developing skills for employment, and improving our health and social care system.

£175 million of capital grant for the East to deliver an ambitious target of new homes in line with national targets.

The deal would also include the creation of a combined authority for East Anglia, chaired by a directly elected Mayor supported by a cabinet made up from leaders from the partner authorities.

It would see the transfer of significant resources and powers from central government to the region but at this stage specifically for infrastructure, housing, economic development and jobs and

## **Potholes**

Potholes are a familiar feature and recently County Council has agreed to put £1.25 million extra aside specifically for this and the Government added another £1.5 million in this last week. Highways prioritising this at the moment.

## **Highways locally**

Over the last year I have been asked to look at some Highways issues including replacement of Bollards, finger signs for pathways and road priorities. Not all requests are successful due to cost but all are looked at in detail to see where we can help.

## **Website**

We have created an improved website as of 1st April which make it much easier to report potholes and find out about services.

## **Broadband: Karen O'Cane**

80% have super fast broadband now. 97% by 2020. Just 3% will not achieve this because of isolated location. Government voucher scheme for those under 2 megabits per sec. Some schools don't have it and full council has agreed to look at special funding for some small rural schools. Extra cost £4,000-£11,000.

## **Recycling**

Several centres were targeted with closure or reduction in opening hours. All reinstated after full council but slightly shorter hours. Tyres accepted at cost of £4 each. Paint if solidified first

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Topcroft Parish Council

## **Parish partnership (local issues)** Funding continues for further year

Parish Partnership funding continues to be offered whereby county council will pay 50% of the cost of Speed Awareness monitoring equipment . There was some discussion regarding a speed reduction in the village, but not pursued or change of priority as cost of changing the road alignment was too high.

**Troads**( simplified low cost paths can be requested )

## **Flooding**

With exceptional weather over the last few years, flooding in specific areas has been a problem. Rangers attend all villages regularly and can clear drains and culverts

## **Health services:**

All Hallows' has been under threat for some time. , I was involved with a threatened immediate closure of some beds at All Hallows' over Christmas by South Norfolk CCG and managed to secure a reprieve so that patients and families as well as the management team had 6 months to look at alternatives. A good compromise has been achieved and the beds will remain.

## **GP practices:**

Although not a specific problem in Topcroft, many patients have complained that they are unable to get appointments when they want them. I have Chaired several Task and Finish Groups at NCC to look at the delivery of GP services, Stroke Services and Delayed transfer of care from hospital. As a consequence, the

- 1) Department of Health are looking at GP recruitment, training and retention of GPs.
- 2) Stroke services have improved significantly with more rapid diagnosis and treatment by specialist teams and the addition of more Consultants and nursing staff
- 3) Delayed discharges because of social needs have been reduced with the new Reablement service in the community and unnecessary admissions because of social rather medical needs reduced.

NB. I was Chairman of a task and finish group at NCC about the lack of GPs in our Rural areas. Following information gained in this, we have contacted the Department of Health, NHS England and the Health Minister to highlight the fact that the Medical School at UEA receives less funding to train doctors than places like Cambridge or London. We have asked them to take an urgent look at this anomaly as it discourages medical students to train as GP's. If we are to find doctors for Norfolk Surgeries we should be offering incentives to train and work here. We await a response

## **Safeguarding**

I been involved in supporting two families recently where there have been safeguarding issues with elderly relatives. The Safeguarding team have investigated and taken action

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_