



# Little Ellingham News

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Issue 71 – December 2022

## Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Council will be on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Old School Hall**, beginning at 7.30pm. Parishioners are welcome to attend all Council meetings, where they are allowed to speak, but only during the Open Forum, which is for a short time usually at the start of the meeting. Look out for the agenda displayed during the previous week.

## Please support your Parish Council

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 there will be local elections for town and parish councils. Little Ellingham Parish Council is made up of 5 volunteers who all live in the village and represent the parish on various matters. It is effectively the third tier of local government, the other two being Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council.

Parish Councils affect the lives of villagers in several ways. For example, the Council deals with maintenance of the Greens, helps ensure footpaths and other rights of way are accessible, liaises with the County Council over highway matters, oversees management of the village hall, comments on planning applications, and contributes to planning policy.

The Council meets every two months, normally on a Wednesday evening, and meetings usually last for no more than an hour or sometimes a bit longer

### Your Councillors are:

Peter Griffiths (Chairman), Alex FitzGerald (Vice-Chairman), Jo Shad and Stuart Knight

All can be contacted via the **Clerk**: Mrs Melanie Eversfield  
18 Kings Road, Coltishall, Norwich, NR12 7DX  
Email: [little.ellingham@gmail.com](mailto:little.ellingham@gmail.com) Tel: 07731413312  
[www.littleellinghampc.info](http://www.littleellinghampc.info)

**District Councillor:** Sarah Suggitt  
Email: [sarah.suggitt@breckland.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.suggitt@breckland.gov.uk)

**County Councillor:** Ed Connolly  
Email: [ed.connolly.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:ed.connolly.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk)

**The Council's website is:**  
<https://littleellinghampc.info>

### Give us your thoughts on this newsletter

The Parish Council is wanting parishioners' thoughts on the value of the newsletter. Please either complete this form and put in the village hall's letter box or email/write to the Parish Clerk (details above)

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The editor Melanie Eversfield, email: [little.ellingham@gmail.com](mailto:little.ellingham@gmail.com) welcomes your comments and village news about events, etc.

depending on the how much business there is to discuss. Agendas and supporting papers are circulated by the Clerk, Melanie Eversfield, a week in advance, but there is seldom an excessive amount of paperwork to read beforehand.

Outside the usual pattern of meetings, there may be occasional planning applications to comment on, or external meetings which Councillors are delegated to attend, for example the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel.

Despite this relatively modest time commitment, there is a lot of satisfaction to be gained from making a significant contribution to our local environment for the benefit of the whole community.

Please feel free to talk to Melanie Eversfield or the current chairman, Peter Griffiths, if you would like to know more about the Council's work.

### **Pilgrim Foods Update and Complaints Process**

Pilgrim's Foods Masters complaints process operates in the same way as before. So, if any parishioners do experience an issue with Pilgrim's Food Masters, report these on the usual phone number 01953 852600. In the past some parishioners have also emailed Paul Dauny at Kerry Foods with issues and this route can also be used to log any concerns. Paul's new email address is [PAUL.DAUNY@pilgrimsfoodmasters.com](mailto:PAUL.DAUNY@pilgrimsfoodmasters.com).

All complaints should be logged by Pilgrim's Food Masters and reviewed by Breckland Council in order to understand the impact on our local community.

To ensure the Parish Council still has full visibility of concerns raised, we would ask that you email a brief summary of the issue to the Parish Clerk or Chairman on the following email addresses.

We will continue to keep a record of all complaints which we will use to discuss and follow up actions with both Pilgrim's Food Masters and Breckland Council.

Parish Clerk – [little.ellingham@gmail.com](mailto:little.ellingham@gmail.com)

Chairman – [peter.griffiths@afiweb.net](mailto:peter.griffiths@afiweb.net)

## **Little Ellingham Parish Council – Annual Report 2021-22** **Part one**

The first meeting of the year, in May, took place by Zoom, as had all the meetings in 2020-21, but from July onwards, as the Covid pandemic began to recede and after the enabling legislation had expired, meetings returned to being in person.

On the whole 2021-22 was a relatively quiet year for the council, but the following issues are worthy of note:

- The council agreed to the construction of a village gateway on the Attleborough Road, transferred funds to Norfolk County Council so that the work could be put in hand, but await notification as to when this will happen
- After flooding at Christmas 2020 caused by a blocked drain taking stormwater from Church Avenue, Church Lane and part of Attleborough Road, the council has had regular contact with Norfolk Highways to discuss how a recurrence can be avoided. Initially, it was thought that linking the two stormwater drains in Church Road would alleviate the problem, but this has proved not to be technically possible. It seems therefore that the only solution is for the blockage to be removed, and this is the responsibility of the landowners whose property the drain crosses. So far, the two landowners involved have denied any responsibility, but this is a matter for the County Council to resolve, and we hope that Ed Connelly will encourage officers to apply pressure so that any risk of further flooding is removed
- During the course of the year, the Kerry Foods business at Rookery Farm was acquired by Pilgrim Foods. The community liaison scheme remains in place, and there is regular contact between the council and Pilgrim Foods, especially when there are complaints about odour, noise, light pollution, breaches of the weight limit, litter etc
- Gressingham Foods disposed of their site in Wood Lane, and the new owner is in the midst of implementing an extant planning consent for two new poultry sheds

## Annual Report 2021-22 - Part two

- A band of newly recruited volunteers has breathed new life into the village hall, putting on community events, encouraging more bookings and generally raising its profile. Particular thanks are due to Mel Little, Sheila Hassock, Linda Bell and Sarah Drewery. The council has also overseen a programme of repairs, correcting a number of defects dating from when the hall was built, in particular preventing dampness and ingress of water
- Acquisition of a defibrillator, fixed to the front wall of the village hall, and provision of training in its use and in CPR
- As regards general administration, the council has approved a number of revised policies, including those covering the Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations.

As ever, as chairman, I've been grateful for the support of fellow councillors, notably Stuart for taking a lead on many matters affecting the village hall, but also the defibrillator and CPR training. To Alex for keeping a close eye on the finances, for developing a net revenue expenditure calculation and for coordinating matters relating to this year's jubilee, and to Carol, who, sadly, had to resign due to other commitments. Thanks also are due to Melanie for keeping us in order at all times.

### How to report Highway problems

Residents can report problems relating to the Highway online via Norfolk County Council's website at the address below: -

<https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>

Things such as potholes, pavements, trees and verges and flooding can be reported. Please do not assume that someone has already reported the issue you come across. You can also check the website above to see if it has already been reported.

## Summary of Parish Council Accounts 2021/2022

### Receipts

	<u>2020/21 (£)</u>	<u>2021/22 (£)</u>
Precept and Shortfall Grant	4,400.00	4,500.00
Grants	1,300.00	0.00
VAT Reclaim	1,355.08	422.31
Misc. Incl. RIX Petroleum	237.24	229.89
Bank Interest	2.41	0.36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,294.73</b>	<b>5,152.56</b>

### Payments

	<u>Actual</u> <u>2020/21 (£)</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2021/22 (£)</u>
Clerk's Salary & Expenses; Training	2,590.03	3,018.19
Insurance	282.93	324.78
Audit Fees	50.00	50.00
Grass Cutting	308.00	242.00
Subscriptions	99.56	80.00
Hall Hire	0.00	60.00
VAT	422.31	131.14
Contingency	45.00	342.99
Misc. Incl. Grants/Projects	2,203.94	1,927.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,001.77</b>	<b>6,176.24</b>

### Bank Reconciliation

<b>Opening Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021</b>	5,107.69
Total Income	5,152.56
Total Expenditure	6,176.24
<b>Closing Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>	<b>4,084.01</b>

# Keep Warm and Well this Winter



Available for FREE  
In all Norfolk Libraries

Visit your local library to pick up FREE bags of winter essentials

## Keep Warm and Well Bag (adult or child)

A bag contains: Gloves, socks, scarf, blanket, hot-water bottle and hat.



Thermal vests on request in a range of sizes to fit adults and children.

## Toiletries Bag

Adult bag contains: Deodorant, bodywash, shampoo, toothpaste. Toothbrushes on request.

Child bag contains: Shampoo, bodywash, bubble bath, toothpaste. Toothbrushes on request.



## Tricky Period

Bag contains: 1 x pack of regular pads and 1 x pack of super or night pads.



If you can't see what you need, please ask a member of staff.  
We will also have free hot drinks available during staffed library hours.

## Local Council Award Scheme



Your Parish Council is in the process of applying for Quality Award under the Local Council Award Scheme.

The Local Council Award Scheme has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The Award Scheme provides encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector.

The Quality Award demonstrates that a council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further. To achieve the Quality Award a council demonstrates that it meets all requirements of the Foundation Award and has additional evidence of good governance, effective community engagement and council improvement. Due to the level of this achievement, a council with a Quality Award can also be eligible to use the general power of competence.

Watch this space for details of whether we have been successful or not.

## Little Ellingham Village Hall

Little Ellingham Village Hall is an excellent venue for events, including wedding receptions, parties, committee meetings and club activities. If you know of anyone looking for a venue in the coming year, you may like to consider your local village hall. Notable features are:

- 90m<sup>2</sup> of actual hall area, with minimum dimensions of 7.5m and 12m
- Well equipped kitchen
- Separate bar facilities
- Ample on-site parking area

Bookings can be from individuals or organisations, both on a long-term basis or separate one-off events.

We believe we have an exceptional facility and would encourage people to view it to discover what Little Ellingham Village Hall has to offer. For further information about booking, please contact **email [LEVillageHall@gmail.com](mailto:LEVillageHall@gmail.com)**

The Village Hall Committee would also like to remind residents that there is a bottle bank and clothes bank in the village hall car park for everybody's use. The Village Hall receives a payment for these, so please support your local village hall by using both banks and help raise much needed funds.



## Meeting Dates 2023

The Parish Council usually meets on the first Wednesday of every other month, however this is subject to change. The 2023 dates have been set as below:

Monday 9th January  
1st March  
Thursday 11th May (Annual Meeting)  
5th July  
6th September  
1st November

## Dogs in the countryside, Farmland and Little Ellingham

- Keep your dog under close control.
- You and your dog should both keep to the line of the path.
- Always carry a dog poo bag and clean up after your dog both in the countryside and on pavements. Fouling is illegal, including in the Churchyard and the Common.
- Please keep your dog on a lead when livestock are in fields.







## LITTLE ELLINGHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITY

### GRANTS

#### **THE RELIEF-IN-NEED CHARITY**

The Relief in Need Charity exists to provide support to those Little Ellingham parishioners who find themselves in need of help with heating costs or with long-term sickness or disability related expenses.

#### **THE TOWN LANDS AND EDUCATIONAL CHARITY**

Students under 25 years of age who are undertaking further education, and are resident in the parish of Little Ellingham may apply for a grant towards the cost of equipment, books, stationery, etc.

Other school leavers who may need equipment when training for a profession or trade may also apply. Proof of expenditure should be submitted with applications in both cases.

To apply for either a Relief-in-Need or an Education grant please submit brief details of why help is needed by email to [parochialcharity@gmail.com](mailto:parochialcharity@gmail.com) or in writing to Richard Baker, Chairman, Little Ellingham Parochial Charity, White Lodge Farm, Little Ellingham NR17 1JW. By 31 March 2023

All applications will be treated equally and in strictest confidence.