

Topcroft Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Topcroft Pavilion

Monday 13th January 2025 - 7.30 pm

Attended: Peter Rout (Chair), Step Dye (Vice Chair), Daphne Beckett, Nicola Eastell, Robin Frampton, Trevor Potter & Kathy Thomson

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer (RFO): Sally Chapman

Also present: District Councillor Martyn Hooton & one parishioner

PUBLIC FORUM

A. To Receive Reports from the County and District Councillor

County Councillor Barry Stone sent apologies and a report:

<http://topcroftpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/category/polices/meetings>

District Councillor Martyn Hooton gave a verbal report. Main points:

- **Food Waste:** in 2025, the UK government is progressing with its food waste collection strategy, requiring local authorities to introduce weekly collections. Businesses with more than ten employees will have food waste collected starting in April 2025, while households will follow from 2026. In Norfolk, this initiative necessitates 11 food collection lorries to manage 160,000 food bins, although only 8 lorries are currently available.
- **Recycling Centres:** The newly implemented recycling appointment system is progressing well, with no reported increase in fly-tipping so far.
- **Devolution:** The deal proposes changes to local governance structures, particularly for District and County Councils, and includes the introduction of a directly elected mayor. County and District Councils will continue managing their current responsibilities, such as local services, planning, and infrastructure. Parish Councils will remain unaffected at this stage. The Local Elections originally scheduled for 1 May 2025, may be postponed as over half of English County Councils are considering delays due to the UK government's devolution plans.
- The National Grid's proposed Norfolk pylons, part of the Norwich to Tilbury project, may be constructed entirely overground in Norfolk. This decision is primarily due to cost and the maintenance challenges associated with underground cabling in this area.

B. Public Forum – for Members of the Public

No questions

MINUTES

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declaration of Interests and Consider Requests for Dispensation

None

3. To Approve the Minutes and Decisions from the Meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024

[The Minutes from the Meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024](#) were confirmed unanimously as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Finance

a) To Receive the Financial & Budget Reports and Approve the Income & Expenditure

[Councillors Resolved unanimously the following Receipts and Expenditure:](#)

Signed

Date 17th March 2025

Topcroft Parish Council

Date	Ref.	Income	Receipts	Payments
11/11/2024	Transfer	From Saver Account - £500		
19/11/2024	16	NALC - gov.uk domain and mailboxes		£ 14.40
30/11/2024	S/O	Clerk's Salary - November		£ 153.08
30/11/2024	S/O	Bank Service Charge		£ 6.00
30/12/2024	S/O	Clerk's Salary - December		£ 153.08
31/12/2024	S/O	Bank Service Charge		£ 6.00
13/01/2025	17	Clerk's Expenses		£ 12.00
		Total	£ -	£ 344.56
			Total Restricted Reserves	£ 1,152.85
			General Reserve	£ 2,452.30
			Total	£ 3,605.15

b) Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Commemoration Fund - update

The Clerk has applied for a grant to support a village event.

c) Litter Pickers

Councillors Resolved unanimously to purchase 4 new Litter Pickers.

Action: Clerk

d) GOV.UK Email Addresses and Website Domain – update

The Clerk reported that the new gov.uk mailbox and website domain have been successfully installed and are working well. However, some Councillors have yet to log into their new accounts.

5. Planning Applications and Decisions

Applications

None

Decisions

None

6. Village Issues

a) Highways

- Drains/Potholes/Gullies Issues

Potholes were reported along all of Rookery Lane and at Bedingham Ford.

Action: Clerk

Flooding along Rectory Road due to a blocked pipe. Clerk to send letter and photograph to NCC Highways.

Action: RF/Clerk

- Road Weight Restrictions – update

Councillors discussed the road weight restrictions and Resolved that it was not worth pursuing further action, as they would not be able to prevent access for lorries.

- 30 mph Limits – update

The Clerk had sent a letter to Ben Goldsborough, South Norfolk's MP, who has confirmed that he has written to Norfolk County Council, requesting further consideration of implementing the 30 mph speed limit extensions.

- Church Road Water Leak

The water leak is still ongoing, and the landowner is aware that the ditch needs to be cleared.

- Church Road New Gateway & Filled Ditch – c/f

b) Footpaths

No issues reported.

Topcroft Parish Council

7. To Note Correspondence Received

a) East Pye Solar Consultation Feedback Form – *update*

The Clerk confirmed that she had summarised all the Councillors' comments and sent them to East Pye Solar before the consultation's closing date.

8. AOB (*For discussion only – the Council cannot make decisions on non-agenda items*)

a) **Trees:** Three trees have been planted on the roadside bank near Street Farm. Councillors expressed concern that they may be damaged by the county council's verge cutting. **Action: DB/NE**

b) **Mill Road:** A Cllr expressed concerns about the new entrance along Mill Road and the destruction of the hedges. **Action: Clerk**

9. To Receive Items for the next Agenda

a) Grants

b) Policies Review

10. To Note the **New** Meeting Dates

- Monday 17th March 2025 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 19th May 2025 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 21st July 2025 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 15th September 2025 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 17th November 2025 - 7.30 pm

The meeting ended at 8.53 pm