

THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON THURSDAY 14TH MAY 2025 AT 7:00pm.

1. Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair
Cllr. Graham Ward – Vice Chair
Cllr. Hazel Collins
Cllr. Paul Collins
Cllr. Steven Morphey
Cllr. Nat Bacon- apologised
Cllr. Robert Flindall
Cllr. Daryl Ash

Apologies for absence:

District Cllr. Tom Daly
District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock

Members of the public:

One member of the public was present

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Katie Graham
Honor Houlding- Clerk/RFO

2. Annual Reports

a) Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council

Cllr. Stephen Brett delivered the annual report, beginning with thanks to the County and District Councillors for their continued commitment, and to all volunteers for their invaluable contributions throughout the year. He highlighted several key achievements, including the refurbishment and installation of new noticeboards and the planting of fruit trees in Eastbridge Playing Field, with thanks extended to Cllr. Hazel Collins and Cllr. Daryl Ash for their efforts.

The Heritage Trail has seen strong progress, moving steadily towards completion. The Council has also initiated the process of developing a Theberton and Eastbridge Neighbourhood Plan, which will help shape the future of the Parish. Communications with Sizewell C remain ongoing, ensuring local concerns continue to be voiced.

The Council's website has seen a redesign to assist in improving accessibility and engagement in the community. Closer collaboration with the Community Council has been established, with biannual meetings strengthening the relationship and fostering joint initiatives.

Cllr. Vanessa Davies was welcomed as a new member during the year. In support of local energy efficiency, thermal imaging surveys have been introduced to help residents assess insulation in their homes.

The council thanked the Clerk for their dedicated service. The member of the public expressed appreciation to the council for its strong representation of the community and work as a council.

b) Suffolk County Council

County Cllr. Richard Smith summarised the Suffolk County Council Annual Report which is attached as **Appendix I**.

c) East Suffolk Council

District Cllr. Katie Graham summarised the Annual East Suffolk Council Report which is attached as **Appendix II**.

Cllr. Katie Graham provided an update on the council strategy for simpler recycling, which includes the introduction of kerbside glass and Tetra Pak collections, as well as food waste collection to reduce methane emissions. The aim is to

cut general waste and move to three-weekly bin collections. The proposed system involves five separate bins, raising concerns about storage, particularly in urban areas. Efficiency savings from the scheme may be used to fund the existing £50 per year green bin collections. The rollout is expected to begin in April 2026.

A parking review strategy has been introduced, keeping the first 30 minutes of council-run parking free while increasing rates to generate tourism revenue. Additional income will be used to upgrade parking meters and install more electric vehicle charging points.

A £500,000 resilience fund has been established in response to the impact of Storm Babet. In discussions about litter picks, questions were raised about whether dead animals should be included, due to health and safety concerns. There was mention of deer being displaced onto beaches as a result of the Sizewell development.

Councils were encouraged to gather evidence from parishes affected by NSIPs, including issues around Temporary Road Closures. While 20mph limits are not enforced by police, the introduction of 30mph zones has been effective in reducing speeding.

It was stressed that NSIP vehicles must use the designated routes. Sizewell C has stated that monitoring cameras will be installed by the end of May 2025.

d) Theberton and Eastbridge Community Council

The minutes from Theberton and Eastbridge Community Council AGM held on the 2nd of April are attached as **Appendix III**.

e) St Peter's Church, Theberton

The St Peter's Church, Theberton Annual Report is attached as **Appendix IV**.

f) Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group

Cllr. Paul Collins explained that the Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group is currently on hold, and all associated records are now stored at the Suffolk Archive Office.

g) Stop Sizewell C

Cllr. Paul Collins provided a summary of the Stop Sizewell C works including their involvement in the imminent decision of the current judicial review. Stop Sizewell C is expected to continue until at least early autumn, 2025 based on the final investment decision, which is anticipated in June 2025.

3. Annual Reports from any other groups

None.

4. Next Meeting

To agree the date and time of the next meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 13th of May 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Jubilee Hall.

Honor Houlding

Parish Clerk

Meeting ended at 7.40pm

Appendix I – Suffolk County Council Annual Report

2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE TOWN COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCILS

OF BLYTHING DIVISION, SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD SMITH, MVO

It has been an eventful and momentous year, my fifteenth as a County Councillor and my eighth representing Blything Division.

Last May the Leader of the County Council, Councillor Matthew Hicks, reshuffled his Cabinet and asked me to become his Deputy and also to bear responsibility for Finance, Economic Development and Skills. As I had previously held the Finance portfolio, I was pleased to resume responsibility for that crucial area of Council work which will spend, in the 2025/26 financial year, a net £803 million delivering its services throughout Suffolk. I was also pleased to be able to continue with my responsibilities for Economic Development and Skills, both of which are vitally important to all our futures.

Last year saw the demise of the New Anglian Local Enterprise Partnership, which had successfully steered business spend from Government to Suffolk and Norfolk. It has been replaced in Suffolk by a new Suffolk Business Board, who work under the brand 'Suffolk Economy' and the leadership of its dynamic and much-respected Chair, Mark Pendlington, a businessman and former High Sheriff of the County, who initially agreed to chair the Board for its first year, but has recently been persuaded to continue his chairmanship for one further year. The Board also keeps its eye on initiatives for up-skilling young people and those already in the workforce. I work in close liaison with the University of Suffolk and our three further education institutes, Suffolk New College, East Coast College and West Suffolk College to co-ordinate efforts to produce a skilled workforce which meets the demands of today's world of work.

Many of you will have heard from me how tight local government finances are. Suffolk County Council spends 77 pence of every pound on social care and services to people who are disadvantaged in one way or another. To keep elderly people in care homes who can no longer pay their fees, to provide caring accommodation to adults with a wide range of disabilities, and to keep young people safe and properly safeguarded costs huge sums of money, in our case considerably over £300 million pounds this year. The care sector has been widely affected by the Government's rise in the National Minimum Wage – which must be welcomed – but also by the rise and widening of the scale over which Employers' National Insurance is paid – which most certainly is not. The care sector initially looked to us to pay for their extra costs, but we simply are not able to do so, nor should we assume responsibility for extra costs imposed by central government action. So the situation and prospects for this year in the sector are a matter of concern.

The County Council wants to spend more money on maintaining the road network than it is able to do. While many of us do not use the care services, we do all use the roads. Resurfacing and mending of potholes all costs money, and that money is rationed severely. However, we try to do our best with the resources available and thanks to a relatively mild winter there have been fewer potholes occurring, but they are still annoying to the motorist when they do open up, and we try to fix them as quickly as possible. To that end we have brought in two 'dragon patcher' machines to help. They dry the road and the sub-surface before effecting a permanent repair, and they have made a difference. But their cost has been £3 million, so we need to assess their effectiveness before taking a decision to pay to use them again next winter.

This time last year we were negotiating a local government devolution deal with the then government. The new government, elected in July, cancelled those negotiations, and a few months later started again with their own plans, with which we are faced now. They want to see a Mayor covering Suffolk and Norfolk elected in May 2026 to sit at the table of the Council of Nations and Regions, through which most money for local government will be distributed. Their plans also mean the abolition of both our District Councils and the County Council - to be replaced, I hope, with one Unitary Authority for Suffolk. Preliminary figures, and I stress they are preliminary, shows that if Suffolk ends up with one Unitary Authority, savings of around £110 will be realised over the next five years. But the view of our District Councils (and I will let them elaborate on this for themselves) is that Suffolk should have either two or three Unitary Authorities. Two authorities would still save money over a five year time-span, but ninety per cent less than one

authority – around £10 million. And if we had three – East Suffolk, West Suffolk and a Greater Ipswich which would probably take in Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Needham Market, then this option would cost you and I as Council tax payers at least £50 million over five years, with considerable extra costs continuing into the future.

All councils had to put their initial ideas to Government by 21 March, and we now have until 26 September to work up a full, detailed business case. The Government will then make their decision before the end of this calendar year. Undoubtedly we now face six months of political controversy about which of the various options is right for Suffolk but, ultimately, we will have to do what the Government tells us to do. My final point for the moment on this subject is that I hope we find some really top-class candidates for the post of Mayor, as we need a figure who is a hard-hitter for our two counties on the national scene.

Elsewhere, taking decisions is never easy, and sometimes our influence is not great. Here I mention the LionLink and Sea Link projects to which we are opposed, but to which our opposition does not count for as much as it should. The final decision is in the hands of Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy, and he has been over-riding local opposition and approving every project that goes across his desk. The Sunnica wind farm in West Suffolk was a terrible project which was recommended for refusal by the Planning Inspectorate. He approved it. So, I fear, that the projects affecting our area will also ultimately be approved, whatever the feelings are in the local area where the full effects will be felt – be they cables coming ashore under Walberswick beach or the building of one or more giant converter stations on high ground just outside Saxmundham. As to the effects of a yet-to-be sanctioned Sizewell C, I am almost lost for words. No final investment decision has yet been taken, although I suspect we all know that you and I as taxpayers will end up funding it. The developmental works are already proceeding at a vast pace, and from my own anecdotal, unscientific experience, the traffic along the A12 in the month of March has been not far short of what we usually experience in high Summer.

Finally, I want to say a few words about Libraries. Suffolk Libraries have run the service over the last 13 years, but the back-office costs have grown from single figures up to 33%. We could not reach agreement with them during extensive negotiations, complicated by the legalities of the procurement process, and the County Council's Cabinet agreed in March to bring the Library service back into house. Last year we gave them an emergency loan amounting to an extra 12% and we were not convinced that they could keep to their budget in future, over 92% of which is supplied by the County Council. My Cabinet colleague laid out in very great detail all about the process and negotiations, and this is now all on the public record to counter certain mis-information which has been circulating. Our guarantee is that all 45 library sites will remain open, at present opening hours. In addition, new mobile library vans will be purchased to guarantee the continuance of the service to villages across Suffolk, and we will invest in bringing the IT systems up-to-date. I firmly believe our libraries have a very bright future, not just for the borrowing of books, but for their continued development as community hubs encompassing many useful social and economic functions. The transfer of responsibility takes place on 1 June.

Without the advent of local government reform I had planned not to seek re-election and to retire on 1 May this year. Those plans are now on hold and I will continue to serve as your County Councillor until the government-defined end-of-term of this administration. We know the Government has postponed elections by twelve months, so retirement still beckons before too long! I am proud to represent Blything Division, but retirement still looks tempting...

Richard Smith, MVO
County Councillor for Blything Division
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Skills
Suffolk County Council

April 2025

Contact details: richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk

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East Suffolk Council has agreed a historic, new approach to recycling collection, and with it, a commitment to greatly improve environmental outcomes for the district.

This will see all households supplied with an additional wheelie bin or other container to separate paper and card from plastics, metal, cartons (including Tetra Pak) and glass bottles or jars. A weekly food waste collection service was also agreed.

This extra collection service allows the Council to adopt a three-weekly residual waste collection service, rather than the current fortnightly arrangement, without a reduction in the overall combined capacity of household bins.

Working together in response to Government legislation, Suffolk's district and borough authorities - Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils - are all reviewing their waste and recycling services to meet new nationwide 'Simpler Recycling' requirements by 31 March 2026.

In September, East Suffolk hosted the final stage of the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain for Men. The final stage started in Lowestoft, and residents lined the streets to watch the race as it passed through Beccles, Framlingham, Aldeburgh and many more towns before moving on to Felixstowe for the finish. Felixstowe also showed wonderful support in the lead up to the final stage with their Love Felixstowe festival, which proved to be a huge success with local residents.

Last summer, East Suffolk Council set up a series of roadshows, in a variety of locations across East Suffolk, aimed at connecting with the local community.

At each location, councillors and senior officers were on hand to listen to any concerns or questions from residents. Residents were also asked to fill out a survey about their local area. The roadshows proved to be a success, with good levels of attendance and plenty of people stopping to speak with us.

The information gathered from the roadshows and survey will help us create better outcomes for our residents and communities and shape the future of East Suffolk.

Last winter, a network of venues offering residents a warm, safe space to socialise over the winter reopened for the third year. East Suffolk Council's Warm Welcomes (formerly Warm Rooms) scheme saw more than 20 libraries, churches and community hubs providing a warm space and an opportunity to connect with other members of the local community. Warm Welcomes provide a safe and welcoming space where residents, including people who may be struggling with the cost of heating their homes, can come to meet with others and access information about additional support available.

Meanwhile, numerous organisations across the district provided fun and enriching activities and food as part of a programme of experiences for children and young people over the Christmas holidays. The HAF programme is overseen by Suffolk County Council and coordinated locally by East Suffolk Council. Holiday activities are varied and can introduce young people to new experiences and skills, from filmmaking to drama and teamwork to problem solving, as well providing opportunities for physical and social activity.

Our innovative new Youth Council entirely comprising young people from across East Suffolk met for the first time this year, ensuring the ideas and concerns of younger people are heard.

In November, 32 young people were elected to the new East Suffolk Youth Council. Following an induction day on Monday 18 November at which the new Youth Councillors were 'sworn in', the first Youth Council meeting took place at Riverside in Lowestoft on Monday 9 December.

The Youth Council's first motion, saw them call upon East Suffolk Council to devote greater resources and attention to youth safety and well-being. The Youth Councillors emphasised the impacts of social media and the Covid-19 pandemic upon youth, and the need for improved youth activities, services and support.

East Suffolk Council has secured a provisional allocation of £5.9m to help improve the energy performance of social housing as part of the Government's Warm Homes Plan. The Council was named amongst the local authorities and housing associations offered a total of £1.29bn to retrofit properties, across 144 nationwide projects, under the latest wave of the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund.

In a report submitted to government on Friday 21 March, Suffolk's five district and borough councils united to present an interim plan which would revitalise local government and put the needs of local communities first.

The Councils said: "Our joint proposal demonstrates that a one size fits all mega authority will not solve the existing issue of large countywide services that will continue to drain money, require improvement and potentially lead to further cost cutting. Crucially, more than one unitary authority is the best way to meet these issues and would ensure strong democratic representation as one would be too remote for residents to be heard.

This ensures that services are designed and delivered in a tailored way built on local knowledge to meet the unique need of an area, its residents and businesses. It creates new councils able to deliver both value for money and better outcomes. It is about starting with a blank page and not simply bolting existing council services together. It makes sure the 'local' stays in Local Government for Suffolk."

An innovative new commercial development has opened its doors in the heart of Lowestoft's PowerPark energy hub. Delivered by East Suffolk Council, The Nexus is home to 16 modern business units for office and light industrial uses – positioned at the forefront of the region's renewable energy sector. With allocated on-site EV parking, the site includes units varying in size creating potential for a cluster of clean energy sector businesses and enhancing ongoing investment in the area, with easy access to the Port of Lowestoft, OrbisEnergy and East Coast College's Energy Skills Centre.

A new fund has been established to provide immediate, short-term financial support to East Suffolk communities affected by future emergency events.

Last year, as part of the 2024-25 Budget setting process, East Suffolk Council created a Resilience Reserve in response to the severe disruption caused by Storm Babet. Now, Cabinet members have agreed how this £500,000 pot will be managed, through a newly established Resilience and Emergency Response Fund (RERF).

The RERF is designed to ensure East Suffolk Council can be more flexible and responsive to cover reasonable additional costs incurred by town and parish councils during an emergency event.

In the aftermath of Storm Babet, East Suffolk Council established the East Suffolk Flood Recovery Group, that provided a physical presence in Framlingham and Wickham Market to assist and deal with affected residents enquiries and clean up in the aftermath.

Examples of support that could be provided by the fund include temporary accommodation costs for up to 48 hours, disposal costs for damaged furniture, carpets or flooring, and support for voluntary groups to assist and co-ordinate recovery activities.

East Suffolk Council is supporting the efforts of The Deben Climate Centre to deliver "a radical and ambitious plan to regenerate the Deben River for people and nature".

The Centre is an expanding coalition of residents, academics, local community groups, charities and organisations which plans to regenerate the River Deben Catchment through widespread community action.

The Centre's programs to date have focused on testing water quality on the Deben, and several lecture series highlighting the local effects of Climate Change, the global food security crisis, and the startling loss

of species and habitats.

Deben Climate founders Professor Peter Hobson and Eamonn O’Nolan said: “Ours is a radical and ambitious plan to regenerate the Deben River for people and nature and it is built on the collective will of a partnership between local people, community environment groups and other key stakeholders such as farmers and land-owners.

“We are thrilled to work with East Suffolk Council, and we recognise that successful projects like this require the support and expertise of skilled Local Government officers and members.”

Plans for a major development which will reinvigorate Lowestoft’s town centre have been given the green light.

The Cultural Quarter project, which when complete will be known as Battery Green, is one of five transformational regeneration projects which received £24.9m from the Government’s Towns Fund in 2022 and will see the redevelopment of East Suffolk Council’s current Customer Services Centre and the former Battery Green multi-storey car park.

Designed by Norwich-based architects Chaplin Farrant, the development will provide a new cultural and community hub with studio space for creative businesses together with a leisure complex and restaurant. The Cultural Quarter project is just one of many regenerative projects underway in the town, with a new seafront complex being built at Jubilee Parade and improvements at Royal Plain, Royal Green and South Quay Wharf.

More than 80,000 people have logged onto free Wi-Fi while visiting East Suffolk towns during the first two years of a project to boost connectivity and business.

The Digital Towns programme was launched by East Suffolk Council in June 2022 to support market towns through the installation of free public Wi-Fi, digital footfall counters and marketing platforms.

As well as more than 80,000 free Wi-Fi users, Digital Towns has attracted 20,000 promotional email subscriptions and logged millions of movements on footfall sensors designed to provide more insight into shopping habits to help towns and businesses improve the town centre experience.

Subsequently collected data has provided the impetus for new town websites, marketing resources and bids to extend free Wi-Fi zones.

East Suffolk Council has developed a Tree and Hedgerow Strategy, seeking input from residents, community groups, and experts to identify key priorities and requirements for tree and hedgerow planting and management of existing trees across the district.

Currently, forests cover just 12% of land in the UK, whereas Europe’s total land area has forest cover comprising 47%. The Tree and Hedgerow Strategy would aim to enable 250,000 trees to be planted across East Suffolk, increasing canopy cover by 1%.

Landowners play the key role in protecting and planting trees and will be invited to suggest spaces suitable for tree planting. Ongoing work to map the tree canopy in East Suffolk will be completed, creating a map of council-owned land where there are opportunities for tree planting and feeding-in to Suffolk’s developing ‘Local Nature Recovery Strategy’.

East Suffolk Council has pledged to extend its support for town centres with the launch of a new programme designed to foster long-term prosperity and sustainability. Cabinet members approved an additional revenue budget of £537,000 to support delivery of the new Town Development Programme over three years from this month.

The renewed pledge builds on the work of the East Suffolk Towns Revitalisation Programme in delivering evidence-based actions plans, resources, and grant support for 12 key towns and villages to develop locally

identified priorities since 2019. East Suffolk Council secured £900,000 of external funding and invested £270,000 for the programme to support town centres through delivery of covid recovery and resilience assistance, town apps, websites and branding, skills and training, capital improvements, and events development.

Funding of over £400,000 has been agreed to extend a scheme which helps young people in East Suffolk to find employment.

At a meeting of East Suffolk Council's Cabinet on 1 October, additional funding of £420,000 was approved to extend the Youth Employment Service (YES) from April 2025 to March 2028. Additionally, £190,000 in external funding has also been secured from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) which will support the creation of an enhanced service to help young people with more challenging needs.

Delivered by Inspire Suffolk on behalf of East Suffolk Council, YES is an innovative project supporting local young people aged between 16 and 24 who are not currently employed or in education to receive job coaching, skills and employment training by providing bespoke online and face-to-face support. It also offers access to other support services and programmes.

East Suffolk Council is investing £1 million in car park infrastructure, including new contactless payment terminals, EV chargers, new cycle racks and signage, as well as introducing a suite of new parking tariffs in the district.

As part of an annual review of its fees and charges, the Council agreed to retain the 30 minutes free parking available in many council-owned car parks and to introduce several new tariffs to reduce congestion at peak times of the year.

To reflect the increased number of visitors coming to the district from further afield during the summer, new seasonal tariffs are being introduced in car parks in popular tourist destinations. Parking fees haven't risen in four years, and over that time the council has carried the cost of inflation. Parking in a council-owned car park still compares favourably with other similar locations, with council-owned car park fees being approximately 20% cheaper than alternative parking options, and our new charges still compare favourably to other tourism destinations and our neighbouring councils.

Other changes include the option to park for longer in short-stay car parks and reduced parking prices in car parks out of town centres to encourage people to park further afield and walk into town.

Contactless payment terminals will be introduced to give drivers more choice when paying for parking. This will be in addition to paying through a parking app or with cash.

East Suffolk Council has pledged more than £64million towards delivering quality key services for residents while continuing to invest in projects for the benefit of local communities.

In February, East Suffolk Council agreed a balanced Budget which allows for vital day-to-day services to be delivered alongside programmes developed to help improve the quality of people's lives.

The annual Budget is set against the framework of a Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to ensure effective management of resources and support delivery of the Council's strategic action plan, Our Direction 2028.

More than £64m has been budgeted within the Council's General Fund to pay for services such as planning, leisure, housing and environmental services, waste collection and parking.

The Council is committed to securing a balanced budget, not just through setting council tax, but by utilising opportunities to deliver service efficiencies and generate additional income, while maintaining an appropriate level of balances and reserves in case of significant variations or emergencies.

A balance budget will be achieved for 2025/26 by using reserves, currently estimated at £5.3m.

Meanwhile, a council tax premium on second homes, to be introduced from April, could generate around £9m in East Suffolk.

Appendix III – Theberton and Eastbridge Community Council AGM Minutes – 2nd April 2025

**AGM Minutes for Community Council
Held at the Jubilee Hall on
2nd April 2025 at 6:00pm**

Community Council Present: Steven Nicholls (Outgoing Chair), Shell Moulton, Ruth Brown, Chris Whitewick, Angie King, Sally Ginger, John Keeble

Apologies: Steve Brett Parish Council

Representative of PCC: Daryl Ash

Members of the Public: 15 members of the public (Names available on request)

Previous AGM minutes 17th April 2024:

Signed by Vice Chair Shell Moulton along with retiring Chair Steve Nicholls

Retiring Chairman's Report:

- There have been 10 fundraising events over the past year; however new volunteers are needed at any future events to enable growth.
- The position of HMC (Andy Hall) resulted in many improvements to the Hall over the past year. Thanks were expressed to him for all his work.
- Policies and procedures have been brought up to date by (SN) to enable funding applications to be sought from the Sizewell C community fund.
- Finances have remained stable; however there is a need to be mindful of how funds are spent going forward.
- Several outstanding improvements within the Cottage and Hall need to be implemented.
- 10 year fire inspection has been completed with some minor improvements noted that need to be implemented ASAP.
- When a new chair has been appointed, the bank mandate will need to be changed ASAP.
- The tenancy agreement has been updated by our solicitor.
It has now been signed by the caretaker and includes a description of the roles and responsibilities required for the caretaker role.
- The inspection of the caretaker's cottage is outstanding at this time and needs to be completed, as does the service of the boiler for the cottage.
- All digitised records will be passed to new chair when appointed or Vice chair in the interim.

Steve Nicholls:

As outgoing Chair, I would like to thank all members of the committee for their continued support in providing a great facility for residents of Theberton and Eastbridge. I have enjoyed my time as a resident of the village and as chair but I have to relocate for my work and wish you all well for the future.

In response - Thanks were expressed to Steve for all his work and dedication.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth Hall

- Less funds have been raised this year as less events were held due to a lack of volunteers.
- Incoming funds £3500+
- Outgoing funds £13K+
- Business account currently £2630+
- Community Account £16.782
- There are two other accounts, two small investments, and a small float of cash (figures available from the treasurer).

Thanks were expressed to Ruth for her commitment to the hall and the village. She does a great job under challenging circumstances.

Matters Arising:

In response to Simon Ilett , Steve Nicholls (outgoing Chair) gave a verbal description of the roles and responsibilities for the position of chair and committee members.

Election of officers

Appointment	Nomination	Nominated by	Seconded
Chairman			
Vice chairman	Shell Moulton	S Nicholls	C Whitwick
Treasurer	Ruth Brown	S Moulton	C Whitwick
Secretary	Sally Ginger	S Moulton	R. Brown
Hall Management	Interim position Martin Frost		

**Martin Frost has kindly offered to try out the role of Hall Management for an interim period. Andy Hall will be contacted and asked to provide a handover to Martin.*

Remaining committee members are:

John Keeble and Chris Whitewick

Any Other Business:

- A discussion on how best to manage the hall and the cottage going forward took place in the open forum.
- Concerns were raised as to the lack of volunteers and the difficulty in attracting younger generations to become involved in the running of the hall.
- Simon Ilett mentioned that the community payback scheme may be able to help and is happy to liaise with Shell (vice chair) if she would like to know more.

The outgoing chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM and for their offer to help as volunteers at future events.

Meeting closed at: 19.30

St Peter's Church, Theberton - 2025 Annual Report

The Diocese of
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
Of
St Peters Church Theberton and Eastbridge
Suffolk



For the year ended 31 December 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

Church Address:	Church Road Theberton Suffolk IP16 4SA
Priest in charge:	Revd. Tim Rogers
Address:	The Rectory The Street Darsham Suffolk IP17 3QA
Telephone:	01728 668951
Banker:	HSBC Bank UK
Address:	20 High Street Saxmundham Suffolk IP17 1DB
Independent Examiner:	Mike Hemmings Middleton Suffolk IP17 3NN

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

PCC Member's Name	Term of Office Ends
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Rector:	Revd. Tim Rogers
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Curate:	Vacancy
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Retired Clergy:	Revd. Susan Warne
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	Revd. Christine Brooks
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Lay Elder:	Christina Neal
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Church Wardens:	Simon Ilett	APCM 2025
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	Nicholas Cooper	APCM 2025
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Deanery Synod

Representative:	Christina Neal
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Elected Members:

Sally Ilett (Secretary / Electoral Roll Officer)	APCM 2025
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Nick Ward (Treasurer)	APCM 2025
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Nicholas Cooper (Safeguarding)	APCM 2025
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Christina Neal	APCM 2025
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Stephen Beaumont	APCM 2025
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All regular church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Peters PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Church Membership	2024	2023
Electoral Roll – Resident:		17
Electoral Roll – Non-Resident:		3
Average Weekly Adult Attendance Communion:		12
Average Weekly Young Persons Attendance:		0
Average Weekly Adult Attendance Taizé/Healing:		12
Official Offices		
Baptisms	0	2
Weddings	1	0
Funerals	1	1
Interment of ashes	0	0

MINISTRY

- Reverend Tim Rogers continues as Rector of Yoxmere after being installed on 28th September 2020 and we thank him warmly for his ministry and support to our parish.
- We are grateful to Reverend Susan Warne for all their support during 2024.

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Annual Report:

Parish highlights included the following.

- During the year we were blessed with fifteen Holy Communion and thirteen Morning Praise services. Many thanks to the Clergy and Lay members who took these services and also the congregation attending.
- Thanks to Patricia Cooke for the playing our pipe organ at many church services throughout the year. It is so lovely to hear our organ played on a regular basis and so beautifully.
- There were thirteen Taizé/Healing services during 2024. Thanks to Tina Neal for preparing the Taizé service sheets throughout the year and for the thoughtful wording provided in the Taizé service sheets. Thanks too to the PCC members who took these services.
- Nicholas Cooper continues to be our Safeguarding Officer. Many thanks to Nicholas for keeping up to date with the regulations and prompting the PCC to complete follow-up training as required.
- January 7th – Plough Sunday Holy Communion Benefice service, forty-four people in attendance.
- March 31st - Easter Sunday service was held, twenty-two in the congregation.
- August 25th - The Annual Animal Service (Taize) was held in the churchyard; this happy occasion was a remarkable success with twenty people attending.
- September - Harvest Festival Service held at St. Peters Theberton.
- November 10th - Our Remembrance Sunday and wreath laying service (Taize), forty people attending. Thanks to Tina Neal who wrote and printed the service sheets. Our thanks to Beverly Smith who co-ordinated donations for the British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- Thanks to Joan Harvey, we are lucky to have Joan in our midst keeping an eye on the flowers and making our church look so beautiful.
- December 7th & 8th - Christmas Tree festival with over thirty beautifully decorated trees of all shapes and sizes. Huge thanks go to all the contributors and Joan Harvey for organising it all.
- December 11th Carols around the Christmas Tree, a well-attended event; folks in fine voice mulled wine and nibbles were served.
- December 24th – Christmas Eve Nativity service, with carols, and readings amongst the beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Lovely to see children attending together with one hundred and thirty-five adults.
- December 25th – Christmas Day service, eighteen people in attendance.
- This year donations were made to several charity organisations, these included funds for the following: Suffolk Historic Churches, Suffolk Guild for Ringers, Round Tower Trust, Salvation Army and to the Trussell Trust. A donation was also made to the Bat Conservation group.
- Thanks to our Church Wardens, Simon Ilett and Nicholas Cooper. We thank them for their contribution to the work of our parish.
- During the year the treasurer Nick Ward, Church Wardens and PCC have ensured the Parish Share was achieved.

BELLS

Our thanks again go to Julia Brown our Bell Captain. Over the year the ringers have endeavoured to ring church bells for every service. We are grateful to all the various people who come from Knodishall, Benhall, Kelsale, Bungay, Yoxford and Theberton to make ringing possible. We are lucky to have one of the best rings of six bells in the area.

FUND RAISING

June 29th - Teddies from the Tower - this was really a fun event well supported by the local community with the many children watching their teddies fly from the top of the tower. Refreshments were provided by our church community, and the afternoon was heralded a success.

CLEANING AND FLOWER ROTAS

To the helpers who regularly clean the church building, and flowers that are arranged so beautifully for services; we give our sincere thanks.

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

May -The Church Pipe Organ – Great Pipes were cleaned and refurbished together with the annual tuning. The work was carried out by Tim Artiss of The Suffolk Pipe Organ Company.

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

We are grateful for the groundwork support from Megan Rowlands Placement Co-ordinator, East of England Probation Service, and of course to the support guys.

The churchyard has been kept tidy while allowing certain areas to be left for wildflowers to bloom and seed. The grass has been kept short in other areas for access and management.

The Churchyard maintenance is carried out on a voluntary basis and our appreciation, and huge thanks are due to Colin Harper.

POLICIES

Health and Safety

The church building and churchyard are regularly inspected, and a report is considered by the PCC. Qualified persons inspect electrical items and fire extinguishers. There is a Health and Safety Policy for the church and activities.

PHOTOGRAPHIC MONTAGE

The photographic montage has been added at the end of this report to illustrate some of the items referenced in the text.

ANNUAL REPORT

The annual church report is compiled and written by Nick Ward and proofread by Sally Ilett. Simon Ilett approves the report for St Peters Church Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf.

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Simon Ilett

Church Warden

PCC St Peters Church Theberton - accounts summary sheet for year ending 31st December 2024

PCC St Peters Church Theberton and Eastbridge Year End 31.12.2024 INCOME			PCC St Peters Church Theberton and Eastbridge Year End 31.12.2024 EXPENDITURE		
	2024	2023		2024	2023
Balances B/fd	£		Payments		
Current	343.32		Parish Share	7,787.94	4,324.06
Deposit	5,811.95		Anglia Water re Utilities Water	80.33	54.11
Total funds B/fd.	6,155.27		Total Gas & Power re Utilities Electric	747.26	488.34
Income			Ecclesiastical Church Insurance	1,728.76	1,855.19
Church Cash £2104.94 and Cheques £130 Collections	2234.94	3020.99	Colin Harper re Mower parts / fuel/ Xmas Tree	182.14	82.74
HSBC Deposit Account (monthly donations)	3,410.00	3,326.25	Beacon Lights - misc. lighting items	0.00	69.48
Interest deposit account	104.18	94.18	Chubb - Annual Fire extinguisher service/purchases	195.95	68.19
Gift Aid - donations (JRP, MES) Restricted Fabric	650.00	0.00	Donations - Suffolk Historic Churches	50.00	100.00
Good Box card reader donations	273.74	456.28	Donations - Suffolk Guild of Ringers	30.00	30.00
Church activities (funerals)	212.05	1,070.00	Donations - Round Tower Church Trust	30.00	10.00
HMRC Gift-Aid Tax reclaim	1,121.78	4,238.31	E-Bound AVX Ltd Alarm Subscription and related costs	735.60	844.80
Suffolk Historic Churches	20.00	253.71	Suffolk Pipe Organ - Great Pipes refurb and tuning	1,269.35	168.85
Payroll charitable giving	530.00	160.00	Ben J ATHERTON Hedge trimming & Graveyard strimming	0.00	525.00
Yoxmere administration refunds	938.00	0.00	Mrs JA Harvey New hoover (refund)	0.00	89.00
CBF Deposit Fund	5,000.00	25,500.00	Spire Property Consulting fees (Quintennial Works 2023)	0.00	2,775.06
Ecclesiastical Insurance payment re stolen GoodBox	158.00		Tyrrell Builders - (Quintennial Works 2023)	0.00	16,112.84
Total receipts	14,652.69		G Knights 5 yearly electrical condition report/rectify and c/yard	0.00	3,782.63
Balances B/fd	6,155.27		Devlin Plummer East and other church Windows	0.00	25,968.00
Receipts	14,652.69		Anvic Silver Ltd Invoice 3598 - Silver challis repair	0.00	222.00
	20,807.96		Patricia Cooke - Organist Fees	650.00	725.00
Less payments	-14,698.29		Ellis Ropes Ltd Invoice No 112735	0.00	66.00
Total C/fd	6,109.67		HSBC Bank Charges (Current Account)	75.56	77.49
Balances C/fd			Salvation Army / The Trussell Trust Donation	300.00	250.00
Current	1,387.52		East Midlands BusIRE 13959 (replayment due to over payment)	0.00	3,781.40
Deposit	4,722.15		Leiston Press Invoice signage	32.40	80.00
Final Total	6,109.67		Linsell Electrical invoice - Lady Chapel power point	0.00	129.60
			N & H Ward Reimbursement for RAB donation	225.00	44.00
			Treeform Invoice - Church yard pine & oak trees	0.00	2,500.00
			Yoxmere Administral Memorial stones and expenses	528.00	630.00
			Bat Conservation Survey	50.00	0.00
			Specialised Canvas272518/3	0.00	141.55
			Transfer to Fabric account	0.00	300.00
			Total payments	14,698.29	66,295.33

The independent Examiners Report was carried out by Mr Mike Hemming 24th April 2024; a letter of confirmation is included below.

Thatched House
Yoxford Road
Middleton Moor
Saxmundham
IP17 3LN

Mr Nick Ward
The Treasurer
The Parochial Church Council
St. Peters Church
Theberton
Leiston
IP16 4RU

24th April 2025

Dear Nick,

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST PETERS CHURCH THEBERTON

I have conducted a review of the accounting records for the year ended 31st December 2024 provided to me and compared the accounts presented with those records.

I can confirm that no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with the current Charities Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the currently applicable Charities Act have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Thank you for once again for providing me with such well-presented accounts

Yours sincerely



Michael Hemming