

During the year, the following local groups, all volunteers has served us well and later this evening you shall receive their individual reports. At this point, I would like to express my sincere thanks for all their advice, help and support which is greatly appreciated. My congratulations to you all for your sterling work last year and my best wishes for a successful forthcoming year.

Reports from Local Groups

- a) Highways – Carl Watling
- b) Hoe Common – Dick Malt
- c) St Andrew’s Church – Hoe PCC
- d) Village Hall – Management Group / Events Committee
- e) St Margaret’s Church – Worthing PCC

PLANNING – overall, this parish has dealt with 7 Planning applications excluding the current Breckland Local Plan. Of these applications, decisions were: 1 granted, 4 withdrawn, 1 refused and 1 pending to 02.11.2023 Worthing Barn.

A further update relating to Breckland Local Plan under item 6d will follow.

PARISH MEETINGS – During the past year, this parish has held 7 parish meetings, using the Village Hall - Hoe and also, St Margaret’s Church – Worthing venues. This has enabled an increase in attendance and participation from Worthing which is very encouraging although a slight decrease in attendance from Hoe.

Throughout the year, communication has improved, in particular, ensuring all agenda’s, minutes of meetings and any related documents are distributed to each household in addition to using parish noticeboards and website. It is also encouraging that across the parish electorate (currently 120 Hoe / 85 Worthing), 100% emails addresses have been recorded for Worthing and close to 50% for Hoe.

Overall, having a 2nd venue for parish meetings coupled with email contact details and each household receiving up to date information, this has developed into a more inclusive parish.

Earlier in the year, individual parishioners had raised their concerns around service delivery and the lack of providing equitable opportunities which led to examining how a Local Governance Review would help. Some voting took place which determined that the Parish Meeting did not want to change its current status at that time. As we go forward, this needs to be kept under review.

Currently, The Parish Meeting has some “freedom” when reviewing and making decisions on most parish matters. However, the Local Government Act 1972 with various sections of the act for e.g. Part 111 item 18.1 electoral votes – one vote only, decisions reached on majority voting, casting votes. Schedule 137 which prevents a parish from spending precept money on property (fabric of a church building) relating to the affairs of the church held for ecclesiastical charity. Minutes of meetings Part III item 19.1 and Section 150 item 2, the parish meeting shall be paid by the parish of community council.

From time to time, we are all challenged with our decisions, to understand how this impacts on us all and where we rely on advice given via NALC and/or Breckland District Council. Ultimately, we aim to find the right answer and reach for the most equitable and reasonable solution to all our queries.

POLICIES – In addition to the Parish Planning Policy and Procedure, we introduced the Complaints & Compliments Guidance paper and hope both these documents will assist in dealing with particular difficult queries or concerns. This will be kept under review.

WORTHING VILLAGE FLOOD DECEMBER 2020 UPDATE:

With slow contact and progress being made through the Environmental Agency (EA), Norfolk County Council (NCC), Norfolk Flood forum and Central Government to address the impact and devastation suffered by 11 homeowners in Worthing, an initial meeting was set up in September 2022 to evidence what actually took place. An Interim report was then produced listing up to 19 options ways to reduce flood risk, ranging from doing nothing, do minimum work, discontinue an option or consider an option and cost. A second meeting is now scheduled towards the end of this May 2023 to narrow down what is possible and affordable. I hope to report back in August with further news.

I would like to take this opportunity of Thanking Trevor who assisted and guided me through the process of contacting the various agencies. I know Worthing parishioners were very grateful for his input.

Celia Daniel – Chairman / Date: 10th May 2023

APPENDIX 2.

Hoe and Worthing Parish Accounts Summary to Year End 31st March 2023

	Parish	Hall	Total	
Bank Balance Brought Forward 01/04/2022	£3,523.39	£2,223.34	£5,746.73	£5,746.73
Add Income:-				
	Parish	Hall	Total	
BDC Hire		£0.00	£0.00	
Craft Group		£220.00	£220.00	
Donations	£0.00	£10.00	£10.00	
Exhibitions/Fetes		£0.00	£0.00	
Grants	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	
Other Meetings (excl. Repair Café)		£707.50	£707.50	
Parties		£0.00	£0.00	
Precept	£1,800.00		£1,800.00	
Repair Café		£387.51	£387.51	
Singing Group		£0.00	£0.00	
Talks		£0.00	£0.00	
<i>Income Total</i>	<i>£2,300.00</i>	<i>£1,325.01</i>	<i>£3,625.01</i>	<i>£3,625.01</i>
				Sub Total
				£9,371.74
Deduct Expenses:-				
	Parish	Hall	Total	
Anglian Water		£170.50	£170.50	
Bank Charges	£30.00	£32.35	£62.35	
Chairman's Expenses	£163.97		£163.97	
Church Donations	£1,808.00		£1,808.00	
Electricity		£27.10	£27.10	
Hall Repairs and Maintenance		£92.99	£92.99	
Miscellaneous - Secretarial at AGM	£60.00		£60.00	
Norfolk Association of Local Councils	£30.00		£30.00	
Parish Liability Insurance	£441.73		£441.73	
Septic Tank		£435.00	£435.00	
<i>Expenses Total</i>	<i>£2,533.70</i>	<i>£757.94</i>	<i>£3,291.64</i>	<i>£3,291.64</i>
Net Balance at 31/03/2023	£3,289.69	£2,790.41	£6,080.10	£6,080.10
This is represented by:				
Bank Balance at 31/03/2023 per bank statement				£7,138.10
Less: unrepresented cheque number 100154	£1,058.00		£1,058.00	£1,058.00
Net Balance				£6,080.10

APPENDIX 3

My Highways Report for the Parish has changed very little since I last briefed, however, below is summary of events and actions that await responses from local authorities etc:

Highways Report Summary

1. There are essentially 4 focus projects that concern the Parish, the safety issues on B1146 (NR19 2QR), Vattenfall Indicative Mobilisation area, issues of excessive speed and increased use of Manor Farm and Hall Road by HGVs and the Vattenfall

B1146 - Holt Road

2. Since the Site meeting on 15 Sep 22 at the NR19 2QR properties, attended by NCC Highways, Police Traffic Management Officer (TMO), Cllr Bill Borrett and residents, no further progress has been made. You will recall that the Highways officers promised to conduct a further survey of the area, with a view to installing or replacing signage and methods to enhance speed reduction and improve safety; none of this work has taken place. The TMO was requested to instigate a new SDR Laser monitor survey of the road usage and vehicle speeds, as was conducted in Apr 21. He subsequently reported that the Safety Camera Manager would repeat the survey in Q2 of this year, following a 2 year anniversary of the first analysis. We should expect a fresh survey at any time. It is noteworthy, however, that the visits by the Safety Camera van have fallen dramatically this year, which naturally reduces the deterrent factor for speeding motorists.

Vattenfall Indicative Mobilisation Area Compound - B1146

3. The Environment Agency Flood Zone (Norfolk) Map (Page 8) shows that the Vattenfall wind farm cable route will run parallel to the land boundary at Rabbits Foot Barn and an Indicative Mobilisation Area Compound (No MA3) appears to be planned for the field entrance opposite one of the Barn's residential entrances. This will be a works depot for the excavation and heavy plant equipment for the cable laying operation. The document - Norfolk Bores Offshore Wind Farm Traffic & Transport Plan refers to the activity on the road between Rabbits Foot Barn and the Site entrance, but there is little information on the impact and mitigation of the Compound and vehicular activity, other than vehicle flow estimates. Mr Patchett has been expecting a Site visit from Vattenfall representatives since Sep 22 in order to provide more detail on the perceived activities within the Mobilisation Area and the likely impact it will have on the road and residents.

Villages

4. Mr James Keith raised his concerns regarding the speed that vehicles were being driven through the villages and suggested that the Parish consider installing traffic calming measures in the form of faux verge gates that would display village Name and speed limit. Enquiries with Glasdon Gateways revealed the cost of the devices and verge proportions required for the gates to be fitted; I believe Mr Keith has also provided the Parish with quotes for the Glasdon Gateways. On the advice of NCC Highways Engineers, it was recommended that the Parish consider buying a set of SAM2 speed indicator devices that can capture vehicle volume and speed data, the devices are also portable. Such data capture evidence could be passed to Police for further investigative action. The manufacturer, Westcotec, provided a quote (Jan 23) of £1000, per unit, this cost could be match-funded with NCC.

Manor Farm & Hall Road

5. This matter was raised by Mr Keith, who highlighted the increased number of HGV vehicles that appeared to be using the aforementioned roads to link with other primary routes on the other side of the Parish. You have received copies of the email conversations with NCC Highways Engineers, who have commissioned a survey of the use of the roads and offer proposals that could be introduced to mitigate the problem. We are awaiting the outcome of the survey.

6. I will apprise you of any further developments as they occur.

Kindest regards - **Carl Watling MBE** (May 2023)

Appendix 4. Hoe Common

Several successful winter work days extended the dead hedge on the northern boundary where pollarding the old hawthorns and crab apples has resulted in a good amount of regrowth, revitalizing the hedge. The dead hedge re-establishes the boundary and provides useful habitat.

A start has been made on reducing the amount of seedling holly in the woodland where very dense clusters of trees had begun dominate.

For a few weeks in the coldest part of the winter five Herdwick ewes were on the Common, following the trial visit of two Norfolk Horns in the preceding summer. The Herdwicks have returned this week. Grazing appears to be having a beneficial effect on the vegetation with an increase in grass cover. The sheep also graze seedling birch which are a perennial nuisance.

A sizeable area of seeding birch was pulled up with the tree popper. Bracken rolling continues once or twice a year with the horse-drawn roller. Gorse regrowth was cut back with a forage harvester.

Last summer's drought had a severe effect on the largest patches of heather which have not yet recovered.

Our 10-year Higher Level Stewardship agreement ended last year and has been extended to 2028.

We wish to thank our volunteers who put in such enthusiastic effort on cold days: Wendy & Clive, Alan, Jane and Rhys, as well as Glenn Anderson for topping the gorse.

Hoe Common Trustees
May 2023

HOE AND WORTHING COMMUNITY HALL REPORT APRIL 10th 2023

This building is a jewel in the crown of our two villages. It had been managed and maintained for the community since 2012 by a group of 8 people from both villages (Danny Danson, Simon Brock, Alan Hughes, Suzanne Stephan, Chris Danson, Carl Watling, Phil Cane, Susan Malt) acting as 'an arm' of the Parochial Church Council.

Over a decade this group brought diverse skills and knowledge from their working lives and interests to the successful commercial management of the Hall. It resulted in a decade of great community connection.

Now times have changed. A new form of organisation is needed. The Hall can now only apply for grants if it owns the building or has a very long lease from the owners of the Hall (the Church).

In mid June the new Vicar for Hoe, Rachael Dines, will be in post and it is she who will be negotiating with the Diocesan Board. There will be the chance for another small group of people to join together in expanding the opportunities this very special place offers to our villages and the area around us.

In the meantime hiring out, maintenance, refurbishment and mowing (thanks to Simon Brock) are ticking over.
Susan Malt

APPENDIX 6 ANNUAL REPORT FOR HOE & WORTHING CIVIL PARISH MEETING THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAINT MARGARET, WORTHING

During the year, the following has served:

PASTORAL SCHEME: Heart of Norfolk Churches Group (HONC) is made up of 13 parishes, which Worthing St Margaret is part of. Originally only 6 churches were grouped together however since 2017 this has formally developed into a Team Ministry incorporating the former Foulsham Group, Bawdeswell and Foxley. Initially, the HONC group was led by one Team Rector, two part time Team Vicars and one Licensed Lay Minister. In recent years, 2 churches within the Group (Bintree & Themelthorpe) have changed their status and are managed by the Diocese of Norwich Churches Trust. There is further difficulty in 4 other churches with no PCC i.e. Foxley, Twyford, Billingford & Guestwick, however, this function is temporarily being managed by our Team Rector. Since March 2020 we have all struggled with Covid – 19 pandemic and coming out of this pandemic, we have all managed to keep most of our churches open and functioning relatively well. Although with the cost of living crisis has impacted heavily where most churches have seen a reduction in income, there is still enthusiasm and energy to support our parishioners with pastoral care where needed. The Mission and Ministry work continues to be supported and supplemented with one Lay Licensed Minister and three Authorised Worship Assistants.

CHURCHWARDEN: Mrs Celia Daniel

ELECTED MEMBERS: Mrs Celia Daniel continues as PCC Secretary & Joint Fabric Officer. Celia has also taken on the responsibility of Treasurer until another member of the parish steps forward to take on this very important function.

The PCC is also supported by three co-opted members to the committee, Mrs Miranda Smith dealing with the church electoral roll, Ms Sharon Colk with Fundraising & Events and Mr Danny Danson for Building/Fabric Matters. We wish to express our sincere thanks for their commitment to St Margaret.

Background: In carrying out a variety of responsibilities, the contributions of the Churchwarden Celia Daniel, (who has a 'formal' responsibility in the Church) are gratefully acknowledged. Celia Daniel also works as Secretary with other responsibilities as mentioned above. Thanks are also expressed to Sharon Colk, Nancy Blake, Katie Mayes, Tracey Green, Christine Skipper and Miranda Smith for their less formal but recognisably important support with cleaning and with flower arranging in the church.

CHURCH SERVICES It is normal for Worthing to regularly receive 1 Holy Communion Service and 1 Morning Prayer Service each month.

The return of normal Sunday Worship to St Margaret's after the pandemic is welcomed. Actual Sunday services were 21 whereas normally 24 services would be scheduled. 2% of our opening hours is represented with:

1 trial following an Iona Liturgy Service / 1 x funeral / 1 x Wedding / 1 each for Harvest Praise & Remembrance Sunday
And 1 Carol Service attended by 24 parishioners and 3 children leading the story-telling of "The Coming of the Christmas Lamb - By Barbara Anderson"

These as presented to the Church of England Statistics for Mission. On occasions, when covering Worthing Service Plan, Licensed Minister Norman Johnson and Celia Daniel also lead services for which we are grateful.

Holy Week is usually supported with 30+ Students taking part in the Student Cross pilgrimage route to Walsingham.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE figures for normal services totalling 21 for the year, following the pandemic, we saw an increase of 33% from the average of 7 per service to 9 per service. To maintain this attendance is partly due to some churches within HONC not open fully.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL The church electoral roll for Worthing is 8 thus representing 100 parishioners in this Parish although sadly lost one member last year.

BUSINESS Although the PCC met formally on 1 occasion last year, several ad-hoc briefings took place with the Rector and committee members. In addition to these, the Church Warden is involved with the Benefice Finance Committee and the Civil Parish of Hoe & Worthing focusing on both villages. It is hoped this work will produce a more cohesive and settled community over the next two years or so.

CHURCH FINANCES Our grateful thanks to our independent examiner for this important function and certifying the parish accounts as correctly maintained. The Church's activities are under-pinned by finances and the Treasurer with the PCC has the responsibility of ensuring that the finances are dealt with according to the regulations which apply to the Church as a charity. The work of the Treasurer Celia Daniel is hereby gratefully acknowledged. The committee members together with our local and neighbouring communities are thanked for their fund-raising and financial support during this past year which, given the cost of living conditions endured by all, was tremendous.

FABRIC OFFICERS' REPORT The fabric of the building is monitored regularly by Celia Daniel and supported by Danny Danson – Building/Fabric Officer whose help is gratefully acknowledged. A small group of skilled parishioners have worked tirelessly to support the building with minor repairs and maintenance of St Margaret's. We wish to acknowledge our sincere thanks to Richard Crisp, Danny Danson and John Phillips.

The Heating in St Margaret's is provided using 3 x Infra-heating & lighting units which were originally installed in 1929. The heating has failed; therefore these units need to be replaced with 3 x Chandelier units that comply to current day codes

of practice. These will cost in the region of £19,750. The units have been viewed and informally approved by DAC, but grants and funds need to be in place before a faculty is raised and work commissioned. In the meantime, we acknowledge our grateful thanks to St Andrew's Church, Hingham, for donating 3 temporary standalone units to heat the church which all our visitors thoroughly appreciate.

The management of the church yard is supplemented with the support from Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company (NSCRC) Community Payback Unit (CPU) and funded by the Hoe & Worthing Parish. In addition, the continued support from John Phillips in managing the churchyard has made this area easier & safer to access. The PCC wish to express our thanks for his help in this area and also the continuing support from Hoe & Worthing Parish.

WORTHING PARISH INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT and FUTURE NEEDS (in no order of priority).

CHURCH SERVICES – to stay relevant and respect the mix of generations in Worthing, a blend of Modern Common Worship formats and the introduction of Iona Community services are used in our services. St Margaret's does not have an organ for the provision of music; however, an electronic keyboard is available to use on occasions to support the programme of worship and other special services. Until Wi-Fi becomes available in our location the provision of an iPlayer and CDs for music continues to be our main source for all music and hymns provided by the Celia Daniel. We gratefully acknowledge and gives thanks to Celia Daniel who also arranges the refreshments after services and the supply of heating when required prior to church services and other events. Harvest Praise as a normal Sunday Service is well attended and led by Norman Johnson. The congregation contributes to produce that is distributed to the Food Bank in Dereham.

Worthing continues to work together to remember and commemorate those lost and loved ones in wars past & present and remain committed to supporting the work of all charities.

The passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II in September was difficult for many parishioners and clearly impacted enormously across the Nation. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

OTHER FUNDRAISING

The Norfolk Churches Trust Bike/Stride last year. Given this is an outdoor event, we welcome cyclists and walkers from around the district. And, approaching Christmas time, St Margaret's PCC encouraged the Benefice congregations and parishioners to get involved with our annual Samaritans Purse appeal. Over 40 Christmas shoeboxes were despatched to children around the world. Our thanks go to everyone from North Elmham, Swanton Morley and Worthing who supports this very important piece of work.

COMMUNICATION We are also incredibly grateful to the editors of The Elmham News and The Link Up monthly booklets, and Danny Danson for providing website support for Worthing which is vital to regularly publish Worthing News. The parish also links up with the Round Towers administered by Michael Pollitt which offers potential benefit to many visitors wishing to appreciate our heritage, pray or quietly reflect in the church / grounds; thank you to all. The production and distribution of posters and flyers, and the electronic distribution of the Norwich Diocese e-news, HON e-bulletin and Facebook page all together enhance communication together with the use of the church and parish notice boards generally.

OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES The remaining 98% of our volunteering time is used across the Region. Special thanks are expressed to all Worthing parishioners and supporters from the Group and across neighbouring villages who supported fundraising events this past year. The Annual Easter Sunday Duck race packed with families and toddlers in push chairs, May Cream Tea afternoon, Christmas themed event "Christmas Spirit" including a Christmas Raffle closed 2022, all being very popular.

We held an Open Air event – with a twist! During the 2022 school holiday, we held Bear Grylls "Soul Fuel for Young Explorers" over 5 afternoons, bringing young people together, camping, reading and discussing in turn. This setting in the church yard required erecting a tent, having an artificial "campfire" to roast marshmallows and encourage discussion but ending the week with wildlife and wild flora research and face painting. Our hope is to build on all events and bring together those that would not normally attend a typical Sunday Service but experience something different and supportive.

CHILDREN and VULNERABLE ADULTS OFFICER

The Safeguarding named person for Worthing St Margaret's is Sharon Colk.

Celia Daniel – Church Warden

Date: 10th May 2023