

Necton Parish Council

Annual Report

April 2020 to March 2021

Our Councillors



Jean Bass
Chair
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Fraser Bateman
Vice- Chairman
07967 398010



Joe Sisto
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Alice Spain
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Mark Jennings
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Thirza Hicks
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Annie Turner
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Our Staff – office number 01760 721665

Necton Community Centre

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*Justine Luckhurst
Parish Clerk & RFO*



*Wayne Griffiths
Parish Assistant*



*Sue James
NRCC Cleaner*

Farewell to Liz Goddard our caretaker

Liz made the difficult decision to move onto to other opportunities that were closer to home and, sadly left us in March 2021. Huge thanks to Liz from everyone for her hard work and dedication in maintaining Necton. The Parish Council wishes Liz good luck in her new ventures.



Chairman's report

This last year has been challenging for both our community and the Parish Council. We have had to hold our meetings via Zoom and, while this enabled us to continue our work, we look forward to going back to public meetings.

Just prior to lockdown, the village was divided up into 9 areas and one area was assigned to each Councillor. I would like to record my sincere thanks to every Councillor for their support and enthusiasm in taking on this extra Council role.

This system has been very useful. We now have ensured that everyone has access to their own Councillor who has in depth knowledge of their area. When we recently had two zoom meetings to discuss flooding issues, the Councillors attending were able to give details and history of their own area's problems to George Freeman MP. My thanks to Councillor Curtis for her continued work on the flooding issues on the whole village.

Owing to the series of lockdowns we had been unable to complete some projects we had previously planned. However, we have now been able to complete the MUGA and my thanks to Councillors Hicks, Jennings and Sisto for their work on this project over the past two years.

Work on the Marlpit continues apace and my thanks to Councillors Bateman and Spain for their continued work on this project.

Our work on the Neighbourhood Plan is underway with our sub-committee being chaired by Councillor Spain with Councillors Barrett, Bateman, Curtis giving up a lot of spare time to progress the Plan. My thanks to all for their support.

The planned development by Vattenfall was refused at a judicial review. I would like to record the huge amount of work Councillor Spain has done, together with Councillor Bateman, including attending Zoom meetings to continue to state our concerns about this plan.

Our Clerk and Parish Assistant have had a very challenging year because of the restrictions but have worked extremely hard to ensure the smooth running of Council business and my thanks to them, on behalf of the Council for their all their efforts. They continue to be a real asset to the Council, especially in their pleasant and enthusiastic interaction with both the Council and members of the public.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to our caretaker, Liz Goddard and our Councillor, Frank Stopp. Both are moving out of Necton. I would like to welcome Annie Turner to the Council

Last but not least, may I sincerely thank all the Councillors for their support and help and I would like to personally thank Councillor Bateman for all his help and support as Vice Chair this past year. We are an excellent team of varied interests but share a common enthusiasm and support for the village. Hopefully we can move back to normality and discuss new ideas and plan new projects to improve and help the villagers of Necton.

Jean Bass
Parish Council Chair

What we did during the year

New & improved facilities

- Final tranche of streetlighting upgraded to low energy LED units
- The BT kiosk outside the Church was purchased, plans are to refurbish this in the forthcoming year.



- New noticeboards erected to replace the old ones, ensuring more notices can be put up and remain in a good condition.



- Replaced damaged bins.
- Community Garden behind the Community Centre almost completed, fences and raised flower beds painted.
- Car park at the Community Centre refreshed, pot holes filled to ensure the surface is more user friendly and parking bays reinstated with designated disabled parking areas.
- A Neighbourhood Plan sub- committee was formed, made up of Councillors and residents, this is a lengthy piece of work but ultimately will help shape the Necton of the future. Regular meetings were held via Zoom during the year.
- Agreed to allow Necton Area Trust, a registered Charity to commence works on the Marlpit in order to start clearing the site and making it safe. This will become a natural area for residents to enjoy.

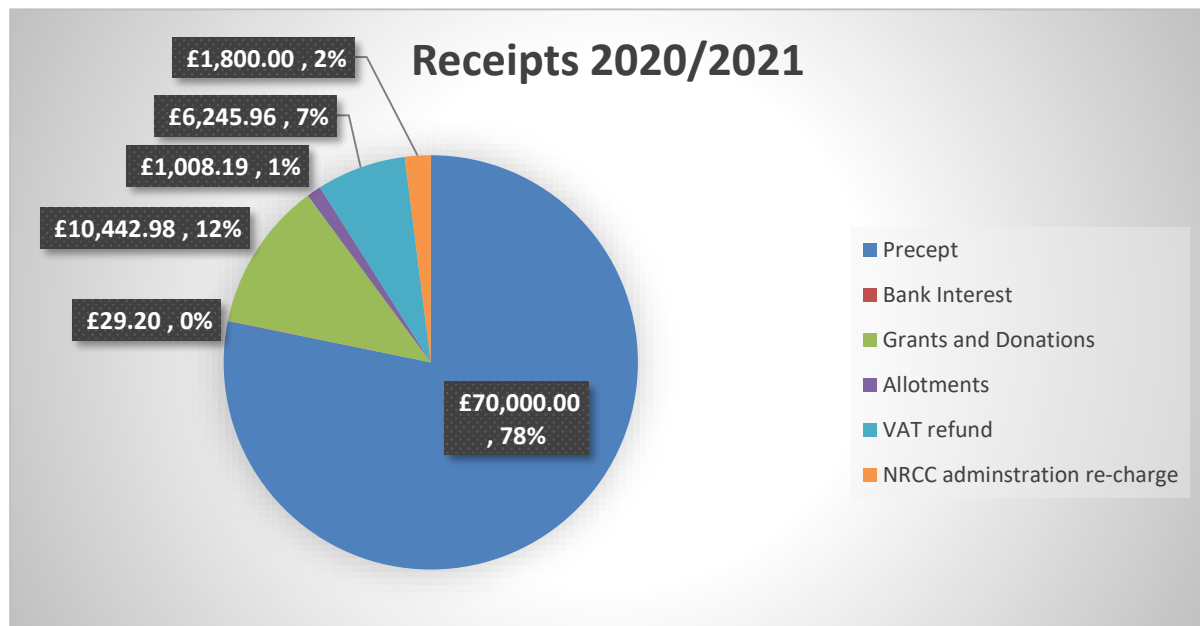


Continued development and community engagement

- Equipped our councillors with professional local government training
- Over development fears- keeping on the PC meeting agenda, meeting with Breckland Planning to keep the village voice heard and concerns registered.
- Councillors attended meetings and submitted evidence to relevant authorities and George Freeman MP in regards to the ongoing flooding and sewage issues in Necton. A Zoom meeting was held for Councillors and residents to attend with George Freeman MP in order for him to hear and understand the issues faced first-hand. Subsequently Necton PC were invited to join George's Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership. Necton's issues have now been brought to the attention of Lord Dannatt who is now chairing a Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA).
- The PC liaised on a regular basis with Norfolk County Council to report and arrange repair of various pot holes and similar issues.
- Supported the Vanguard Judicial Review brought forward by Ray Pearce – noting the Judicial Review was successful in overturning the Secretary of State's decision to consent to the Norfolk Vanguard wind farm in its present onshore configuration.

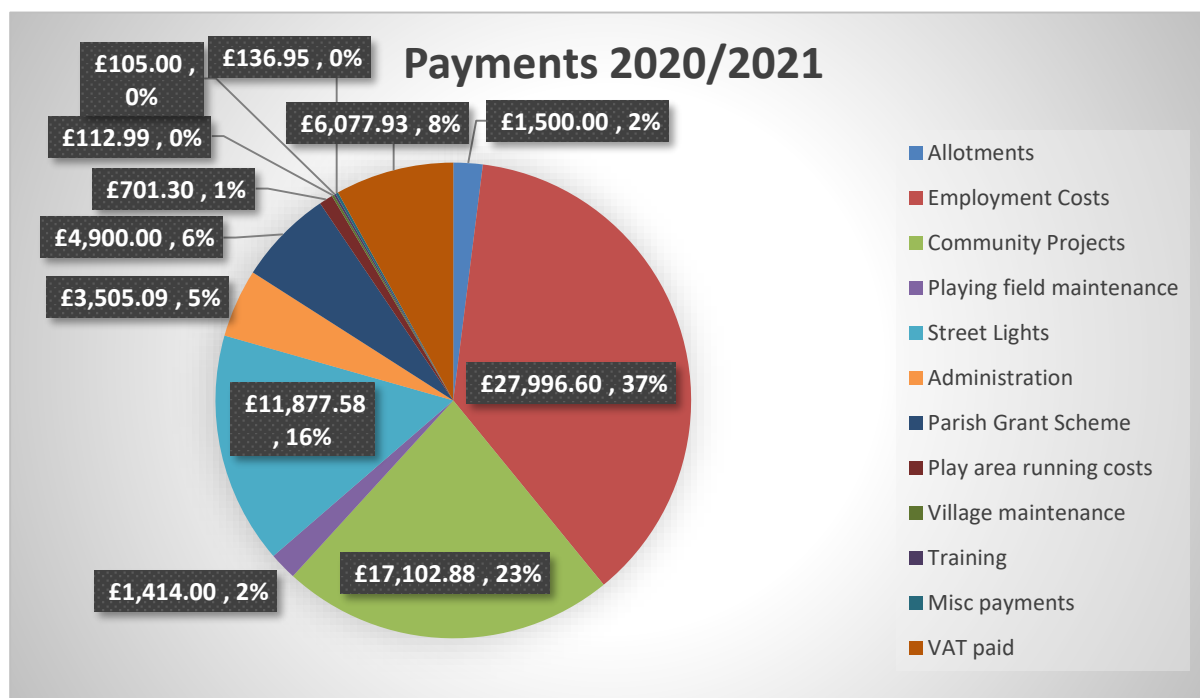
Finances

Receipts during 2020/2021



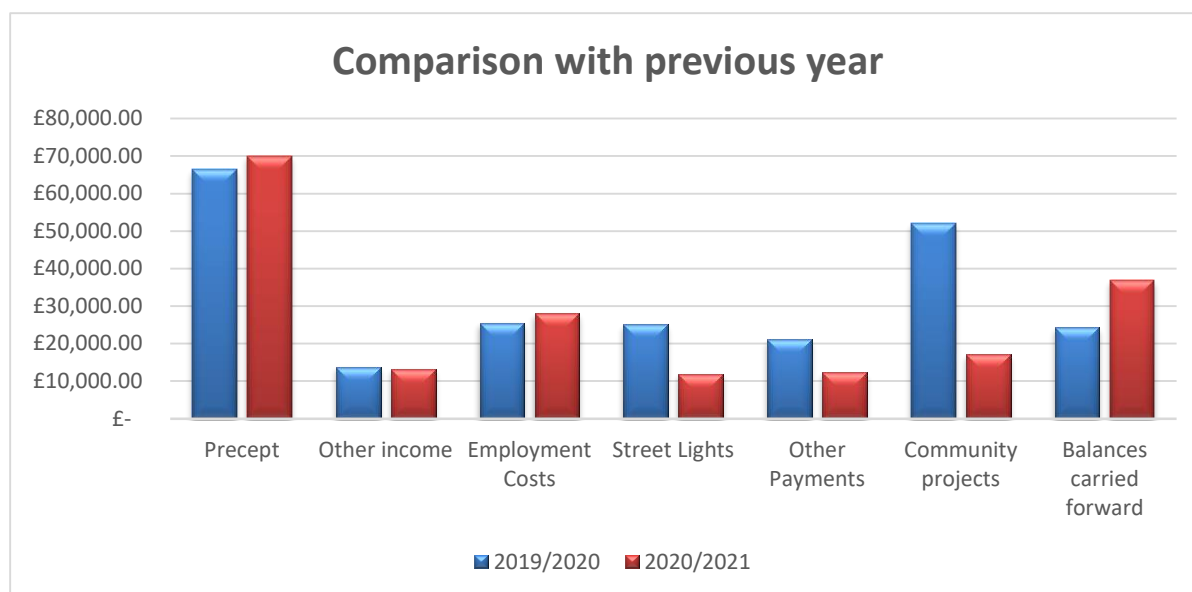
Grants included monies from the S106 fund which supported the installation of the MUGA and also a Grant for Covid 19 assistance from Norfolk Community Funding.

Payments during 2020/2021



The street lighting included final upgrading of all adopted streetlights to energy efficient LED lighting as well as day to day running costs.

Comparison with the previous year



Balances carried forward are higher than expected due to planned projects unable to be completed due to Covid restrictions, these will be completed in the next financial year.

Grants

Each autumn the Parish Council consider applications for funds from local organisations and groups. Full details on how to apply can be found on the Council's website:

<https://nectonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/files/2020/03/Grants-Policy-Review-March-2020.pdf>

Parish Council grants to local organisations during 2020/2021

- Necton Area Trust- £2,000 for initial site clearance and tree population survey and management plan.
- Vanguard Judicial Review brought forward by Ray Pearce - £2,500 – noting the Judicial Review was successful in overturning the Secretary of State's decision to consent to the Norfolk Vanguard wind farm in its present onshore configuration.
- All Saints PCC Necton - £400 to support churchyard grass-cutting

Necton Community Centre

Necton Parish Council took over as sole trustee of Necton Rural Community Centre in October 2015. This allowed the long-standing management committee to finally retire.

The Council carry out their trustee responsibilities through the NRCC committee, which meets bi-monthly. Meetings are open to the public and minutes are published on the Parish Council's website.

The Parish Assistant is responsible for the operational activities and is supported by a long-standing Cleaner, a Caretaker and a small team of volunteers.

Finances of the community centre are completely independently of the Parish Council finances. They are managed by the Parish Assistant and overseen by the Parish Clerk.

The headline figures for year end 31 March 2021 are as follows:

Receipts	£26,069.82
Payments	£14,689.20
Balance in bank	£27,709.80

Looking ahead – our priorities for 2021/2022

- To continue with the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a very lengthy and extensive piece of work and will take some time to complete. A sub- committee has been formed, made up of Councillors and residents and a consultant to assist has been appointed. The PC will be looking to a grant to support with the costs related to this.
- Breckland Local Plan – continuing to engage with Breckland Council to ensure future development meets the village needs.
- MUGA- to complete the second and final phase of the works to create a fully functioning MUGA.
- To set up a Drop-in session at the Community Centre- this will provide a hub for residents to come and have a cuppa and a chat and will actively look to encourage residents to meet, chat and socialise. If successful the sessions may be expanded.
- To restore the BT telephone box near to church to improve its appearance.
- To install a bike shelter at the Community Centre to encourage more cyclists in Necton.
- To continue to support residents with the ongoing flooding issues by attending George Freeman MP Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership and raising awareness of ongoing issues in Necton with them and other relevant authorities.


Our website

Our website is the best place to find information about your local council, its functions, governing documents, business plan & actions, minutes and finances

www.nectonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk


Necton Parish Council

A Norfolk Parishes site




Meetings News About us Documents village Events Village History Community Centre

Welcome to the official website for Necton Parish Council.



Necton is a village immediately south of the A47 main road 4 miles east of Swaffham and 7 miles west of Dereham in the Breckland district of mid-Norfolk. It has a population of 1,923 residents (2011 census) and covers an area of just under 16 sq. km.

A thriving and active community, Necton has many facilities such as a primary school, two doctors' surgeries, an active church of significant [historical interest](#) and a [peel of bells](#), many clubs and societies, a well-equipped modern community centre, sports facilities, a local shop, butchers, full-time post office and a [friendly](#)



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

What's on at the Community Centre

Jun 20

2:00 PM - Carpet Bowls

7:00 PM - Breaking Records Boot-camp

Contacts

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