

# Necton Parish Council

## Annual Report

*April 2021 to March 2022*

---

### *Our Councillors*



*Jean Bass*  
*Chair*  
*01760 441391*



*Fraser Bateman*  
*Vice- Chairman*  
*07967 398010*



*Joe Sisto*  
*01760 722168*



*Alice Spain*  
*07519 511611*



*Sue Catlin*  
*07967 805852*



*Mark Jennings*  
*07879 041130*



*Thirza Hicks*  
*07826 719681*



*Genine Curtis*  
*07813 169810*



*Annie Turner*  
*07942 242242*

***In December 2021 Ken Barrett made the difficult decision to resign as a Councillor. The Parish Council would like to thank Ken for all of his support and time he committed to the Parish Council, NRCC and other committees. The vacancy was filled by Sue Catlin who was co-opted on the Council at the March meeting - welcome Sue !***

***Our Staff – mobile 07483 412755  
Necton Community Centre  
Email : nectonparishcouncil@gmail.com***



*Justine Luckhurst  
Parish Clerk & RFO*



*Sue James  
NRCC Cleaner*

### ***Farewell to Wayne Griffiths –Parish Assistant***

***Wayne made the difficult decision to move onto to other opportunities that were close to his heart and, sadly left us in March 2022. Huge thanks to Wayne from everyone for his hard work and dedication in maintaining and supporting the Parish Council and all of the hall users. The Parish Council wishes Wayne good luck in his new ventures.***



## Chairman's report

*Parish council meetings are now back to normal, after a difficult time during the lockdown. Having meetings via zoom enabled us to carry out our legal requirements. However, it is pleasing to see more members of the public attending to observe council meetings.*

*I want to thank Ken Barrett, who left the Parish Council this year, for all his hard work during his time as councillor. I also wish to give our best wishes to Wayne Griffiths who left this year.*

*A warm welcome to Sue Catlin, who joined the Parish Council this year.*

*We have been extremely fortunate to have such a conscientious cleaner, Sue, who has kept the hall clean for all users.*

*Our Parish Clerk, Justine continues to provide the Parish Council with help, support and financial guidance. She has just passed her CiLCA certification within 6 months and well within the anticipated hours. This is a testament to her commitment and thorough attention to detail.*

*Justine has agreed to also take over the role previously carried out by Wayne Griffiths. The Parish Council are grateful for her undertaking this role and will give her any support necessary to ensure a smooth transition*

*During the last year the council have continued to work together to progress projects and plans that have been agreed.*

*The council are all volunteers and give up a lot of their time to work for the benefit of the village.*

*Genine Curtis was voted in as Vice Chair after Ken Barrett left. She has proven to be an invaluable support to both myself and the clerk. She has worked very hard on the flood initiative. She is also chair of the local police committee. She is a regular help with the coffee mornings. She is the minute secretary of the Neighbourhood Plan committee*

*Annie Turner has also spent a lot of time working with the flood team - comprising of myself and Genine Curtis. She also partners with Alice Spain to look at planning*

*Thirza Hicks is now Chair of the Necton Rural Community Centre and is also raising money for a tennis court.*

*Mark Jennings has taken on the mantle of being the champion for social responsibility for dogs and has erected signage asking people to clear up after their dogs. He is monitoring this very closely and will report back to the Council on a regular basis.*

*Joe Sisto continues to be the liaison between the sports and Social club and the youth football club.*

*Alice Spain continues with a watching brief on the Vattenfall project. She is also Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan committee and a member of the team transforming the Marlpit. She partners Annie on planning.*

*Fraser Bateman is Chair of the Festival Committee and also part of the team working at the Marlpit. A recent open day was very successful with over 130 people visiting and discovering more about this part of the village.*

*We also have a group planning for the celebration of the Queens Jubilee. All the councillors will be supporting this by attending.*

*The coffee morning is slowly increasing in numbers and we hope this will prove to be an enjoyable meeting for everyone.*

*The village is divided into areas, and each councillor has their own patch. This enables them to provide the council with reports from their areas so that we have a fuller picture of the village as a whole.*

*I would like to finish by thanking the council for their continued commitment and enthusiasm. You will see we have councillors working on varied and interesting ideas. My thanks to the clerk for facilitating these projects and giving everyone help.*

**Jean Bass**  
Parish Council Chair

# What we did during the year

## New & improved facilities

- A coffee morning was set up at the Community Centre- this provides a regular meeting for residents to come and have a cuppa and a chat and actively looks to encourage residents to meet, chat and socialise.
- The MUGA was completed and a new multi-use surface was laid.



- Car park at the Community Centre had pot holes filled and lights replaced to continue to light the area during the darker hours.
- The Clerk was provided with a mobile phone to ensure communication with the community can be improved. This means residents can call and speak to Clerk if they need to discuss anything. It provides the facility to leave a message if calling out of hours or to text or use WhatsApp. The new number is 07483 412755 and is published on the website.
- A new bike shelter was installed at the Community Centre, this will provide spaces for people to safely store their bikes and keep them dry. Hopefully this will encourage more pedal power instead of using the car when visiting the Hall and playing field or indeed en route to catch the bus on the A47.





- The Neighbourhood Plan committee has continued working on the Necton Neighbourhood Plan and held monthly meetings via Zoom and worked a vast numbers of hours to continue with this project. They hand delivered a questionnaire to every household in Necton to seek resident's opinions and received back over 500 completed questionnaires. This will provide invaluable information and insights into what's important to the residents of Necton and will help shape the Necton of the future.
- Work continued at the Marlpit with the help of Necton Area Trust, a registered Charity. They have continued to volunteer their time and raise funds to carry on with important work at this site. Tree surveys have been undertaken and the whole area is undergoing a huge transformation. Pathways, boardwalks and a pond are being created. An Open day was arranged and held in March and the responsive was extremely positive with nearly 150 residents coming along to see how the work is progressing. Many residents didn't even realise this space was here and were extremely impressed with the hard work that has taken place to bring it back to life and are looking forward to being able to use as a valuable, natural green space. Further open days and volunteer days will be arranged during the next few months and once all the works are completed and the area is safe it will become a natural area for residents to enjoy.



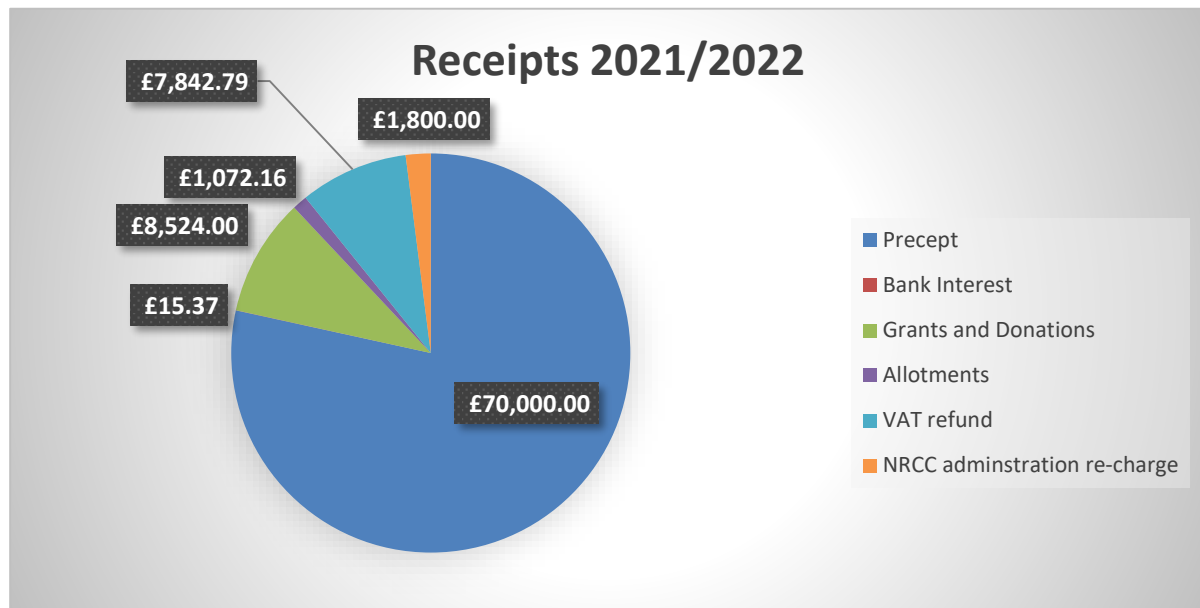
- A flooding update meeting was held for residents to attend at the Community Centre – this provided residents with valuable information on how best to protect from our ever changing climate and hear what the relevant authorities are doing to support. NCC Councillor Kiddle-Morris and Breckland Councillor Nigel Wilkin also attend to provide support and answer questions

## **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 continue to support residents with the ongoing issues regarding flooding and have held meetings with the relevant authorities in Necton and walked them around the hot spot areas to highlight the issues. The Parish Council also run a Flooding Workshop in March at the Community Centre to provide information to residents on how to help reduce flooding issues, signposting when incidences occur and to talk to the representatives from NCC, Anglia Water and other relevant bodies.
- The PC liaised on a regular basis with Norfolk County Council to report and arrange repair of various pot holes and similar issues.
- Hosted a meeting held by Vattenfall to hear about their Community Benefit Fund. George Freeman MP was in attendance along with residents from Necton and the surrounding parishes.

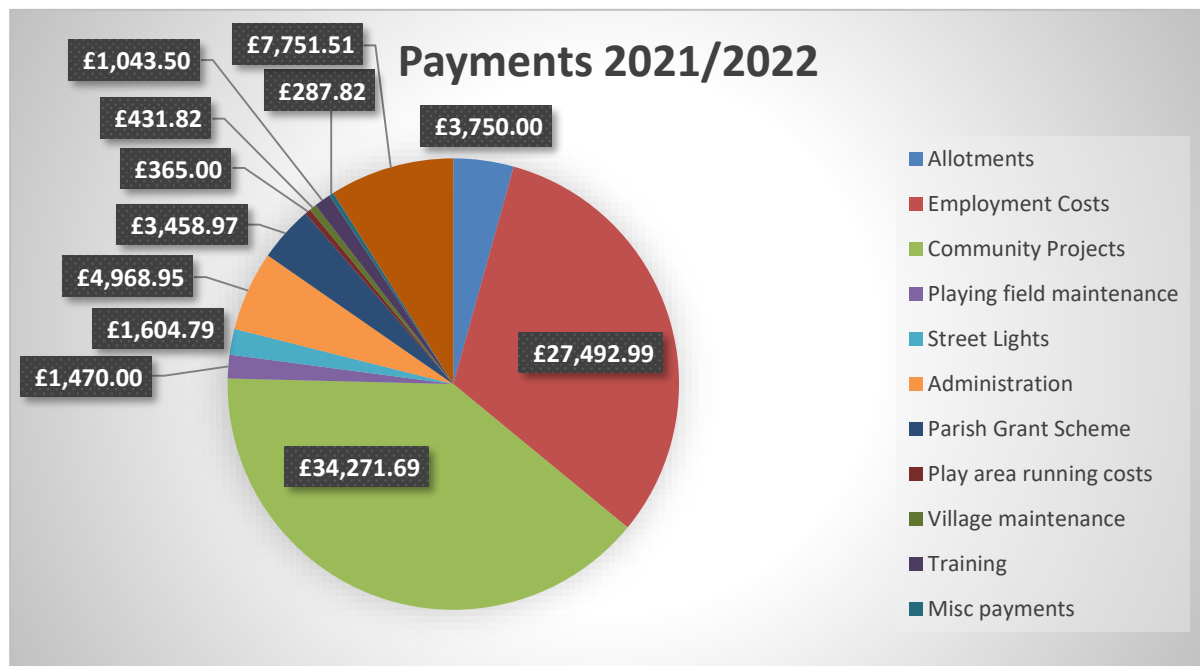
# Finances

## Receipts during 2021/2022



Grants and Donations- £8424 was a grant from Locality to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan and £100 was raised via fun raising to contribute the cost for a possible tennis court in the future.

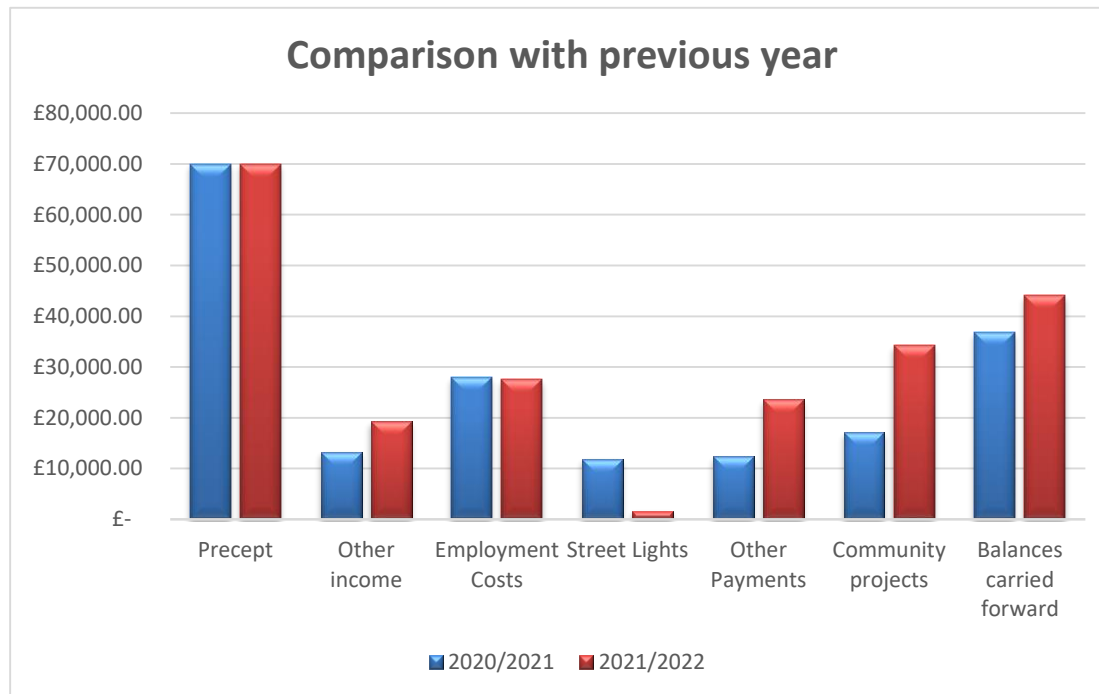
## Payments during 2021/2022



Community spend included the final phase of the MUGA, new bike shelters and refurbishment of the BT phone kiosk.



## Comparison with the previous year



Balances carried forward are higher than expected due to planned projects unable to be completed due to Covid restrictions and the salary allocated to the Caretaker role that was unused due to the position being vacant.

## 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 2021/2022

- Necton Silver Threads- a donation of £28.97 was made so they could purchase a new bingo machine.
- All Saints PCC Necton- the historic clock on the church is in desperate need of restoration. The Parish Council provided a grant of £500 towards the costs for this repair.
- 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 2022 are as follows:

Receipts	£18,972.62
Payments	£11,381.80
Balance in bank	£20,737.41

## Looking ahead – our priorities for 2022/2023

- 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 committee has been formed, made up of Councillors and residents. A consultant has been appointed to provide professional input and guidance. The PC will be looking to a further 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.
- Vattenfall- to continue voicing concerns of residents when this is subject to planning permission with Breckland District Council.
- To improve the appearance of Necton by introducing planters full of flowers around the village, and to tidy up the entrance to the village at Tuns Road. Hopefully this will encourage residents to do the same.
- To complete the restoration of the BT telephone box near to church to improve its appearance.
- To continue to support residents with the ongoing flooding issues by attending George Freeman MP Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership meetings 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](http://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

**Justine Luckhurst, Parish Clerk**

Telephone: 07483 412755

Email: [nectonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:nectonparishcouncil@gmail.com)