

# Necton Parish Council

## Annual Report

*April 2022 to March 2023*

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### *Our Councillors*



*Jean Bass*  
*Chair*  
*01760 441391*



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



*Joe Sisto*  
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*Alice Spain*  
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*Sue Catlin*  
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*Mark Jennings*  
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*Thirza Hicks*  
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*Genine Curtis*  
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*Annie Turner*  
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Necton Community Centre  
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*Justine Luckhurst  
Parish Clerk & RFO*



*Sue James  
NRCC Cleaner*

### ***Welcome to Our New Caretaker***

***In April 2022 our new caretaker Richard Brown known as Bunt started and what a difference he has made throughout the year! He has tackled many jobs during the last 12 months for the parish and the Community Centre and playing field area. and no doubt you will have seen him around the village. Please say hello if you see him and don't forget he can pass on any of your comments to the Parish Council***

## **Chairman's report**

*This has been a busy year. I would like to commence by thanking the Council for their hard work and for their continuing support for me as Chair.*

*I must also thank Justine, the Clerk, for her continued hard work and for taking over the running of the Village Hall to ensure continuity.*

*We are fortunate to have Sue, an outstanding and conscientious cleaner. We have also been fortunate in the appointment of Bunt as our caretaker who has taken on many varied jobs and carried them out both quickly and professionally.*

*With Justine as Team Leader and with Sue and Bunt, we have an excellent team caring for both the Parish Council and the Village Hall.*

*Many of you will have noticed the redecoration and updating of the hall. This work has been organised by Councillors Thirza Hicks, Sue Catlin and Genine Curtis.*

*The Marlpit - now renamed the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood - is in preparation for the opening by George Freeman on Saturday 3rd June. Councillors Fraser Bateman and Alice Spain are part of the Necton Area Trust who have been working very hard over the past few years to transform the area into a woodland walkway. This work continues.*

*Councillor Thirza Hicks, Sue Catlin and Genine Curtis have been providing the Meet and Feast and Picnic in the Park. It is hoped that both events, which were very popular, will continue and thanks to all involved.*

*Councillors Sue Catlin, Alice Spain and Genine Curtis have been working on Necton in Bloom. This project has provided more flowers and spring bulbs around the village and our thanks to them.*

*Arrangements for the Necton Festival are underway and my thanks to Fraser Bateman and Alice Spain for their hard work on this project.*

*Councillor Jo Sisto is our liaison with the Sports and Social Club, including football.*

*Genine Curtis has organised the Speedwatch team and this is now up and running. Genine will continue to arrange dates for work and my thanks to her for organising this project.*

*Sue Catlin has championed the turning off of lights scheme and this will benefit both costings, climate and wildlife. This decision was taken by the Council following a majority vote by the village and my thanks to Sue for her work on this.*

*The Parish Council decided to become a Mindful Village, which means that some of the Councillors have undertaken training to become aware of issues that may arise when speaking to people. Councillors Mark Jennings, Alice Spain, Genine Curtis and Sue Catlin have all been trained and their photograph will shortly appear in the Breckland Voice.*

*Councillors Annie Turner and Genine Curtis continue to keep a watch on the flooding of the village and have met with Anglian Water and Norfolk County Council to agree a programme of investigations, part of which started this March.*

*The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well and my thanks to Councillors Alice Spain, and Fraser Bateman for their hard work over the last two years to bring the plan to fruition.*

*Vattenfall continues to be an issue for the Parish Council. After 6 years of a hard fought campaign spearheaded by Councillors Fraser Bateman and Alice Spain regrettably this project will now go ahead. However, Fraser and Alice will continue in their efforts to obtain the best outcome for Necton.*

*Councillor Mark Jennings continues to monitor the Dog situation at the allotment and the rest of the village.*

*My thanks to the whole Council for continuing with the coverage of their areas, and delivering leaflets to their areas if necessary.*

*You will see we have all the Parish Council - who are all voluntary - involved in many different projects for the village and they are to be complimented on their continued enthusiasm and commitment.*

**Jean Bass**

Parish Council Chair

## What we did during the year

- The Coffee Morning continues to go from strength to strength and it was agreed this should continue this year. 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. Numbers during the year have continued to grow and this is proving to be a great success.
- Meet and Feast- as the financial crisis started to take hold and people began to worry about heating and food costs it was agreed a regular meet and feast event was set up. This was run by Councillors Hicks, Catlin and Curtis. The lunch time event provided a homemade hot meal and a chance to meet other residents in a warm environment.
- A Picnic in the Park event was held on the playing field in the summer for all of the children could come along, makes friends, play games and enjoy a free packed lunch. Councillors Hicks, Catlin and Curtis organised and run the event. A good number of local children attended, along with their parents and great time was had by all. As the weather changed indoor events were held. A Hallowe'en party along with a Christmas party was organised for inside the hall- Father Christmas even made an appearance!
- The Platinum Jubilee of her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated. The official declaration was delivered by Chair Jean Bass and the lighting of the official beacon was undertaken by Councillor Fraser Bateman. Necton's participation was officially recorded with the Queen's pageant master Bruno Peek





- 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. Boardwalks are now in place, a natural pond created and all of the trees have been inspected and logged. A site survey was undertaken in readiness to open to the public and the hope is to open for everyone to use early this summer.

At a meeting of the Parish Council the decision to change the name was decided on after considering feedback from residents and the new name of Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood will be officially announced at the grand opening in June 2023



*Councillor Mark Kiddle- Morris planting the trees*



*Chair Jean Bass and Councillor Fraser Bateman  
welcoming Councillor Kiddle- Morris*

- Three silver birch trees were purchased and planted in the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. NCC Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris was invited to plant these. The trees have been registered with the Queen's Green Canopy, an initiative created to mark the Jubilee and to create a lasting legacy for future generations.
- After being informed of the flooding issues at the allotments/ dog walking area the Pc paid for this area to have some drainage installed. We were informed that a second phase of works may be required if this did not solve the issues. It became clear that this additional works was required when some flooding continued. The PC instructed the works to commence and further measures were put in place. Hopefully the new drainage systems will improve the ground here and the allotments and car park won't be under water each winter.
- Councillors Curtis and Turner, along with Chair Bass have continued to take forward the flood issues experienced in Necton. They have attended local meetings with other affected parishes and also held regular meetings with the relevant agencies. Hopefully their hard work will start to see improvements to the infrastructure and help alleviate some of the ongoing problems. This has resulted in Anglian Water now undertaking extensive investigations into the drain and sewers within the village.

- A Speedwatch group was formed at the end of 2022 and a group of volunteers made up of councillors and local residents have set up a programme to monitor traffic speeds through the village. This initiative is a Police backed one and the information and data collected, will provide valuable data that can be shared with the Police for them to consider if they want to use official speed surveillance vehicles in Necton.
- Breckland District Council invited towns and villages to participate in a Mindful Towns initiative. This involved attending some free training sessions with them which a number of councillors and residents did. These training sessions focused on enabling participants to be able to hold safe conversations with anyone who might be struggling with their mental health, and to signpost them towards appropriate support
- Necton in Bloom started in the spring of 2022 with the planting of flowerbeds and planters around the village. The Council has received numerous compliments from the public on how they brighten up the area- especially those positioned at the shops. Work has continued through the winter with the planting of fruit trees at the allotments. These have been planted on a piece of unused land and will not only benefit the environment but will, in a few years to come provide free fruit to residents of Necton



- Car park at the Community Centre had pot holes filled and new LED lights installed to continue to light the area during the darker hours.
- The Neighbourhood Plan committee has continued working on the Necton Neighbourhood Plan and held monthly meetings and worked a vast numbers of hours to continue with this project. They have now just agreed the final version of the draft Plan and a final public consultation was held at the Community Centre in March. In the forthcoming year the hope is that the plan is adopted by Breckland District Council as this will shape the Necton of the future.

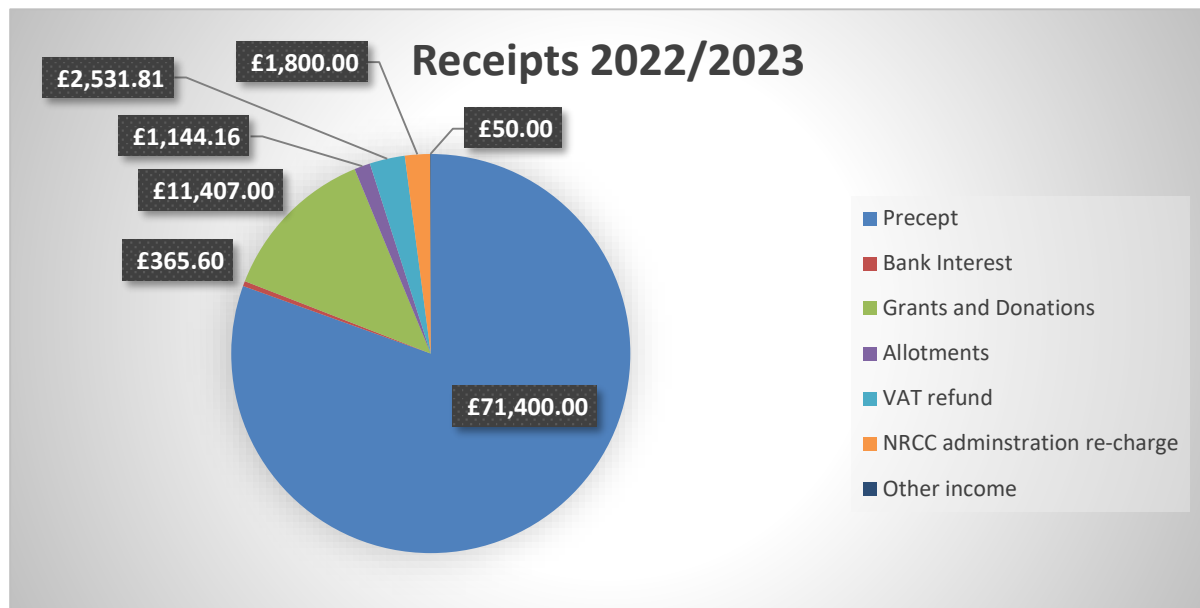
## **Continued development and community engagement**

- 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 PC liaised on a regular basis with Norfolk County Council to report and arrange repair of various pot holes and similar issues.
- Any reports of faulty street lighting that were reported were actioned promptly.
- Liaised closely with National Highways to help facilitate the junction improvement of Tuns Road with the A47 and provided a strip of land to be used to make this junction safer and easier to use.
- Liaised with residents to seek their views and opinions in regards to the street lighting and the proposed tennis court- this ensured the Parish council was actively listening and acting on the views of the community.
- Councillor Curtis attended local SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel) meetings throughout the year to hear updates on current police priorities, raise any local concerns or issues and to take part in voting in the next policing priorities in the area.
- Hosted local Police surgeries during the year at the Coffee Mornings.



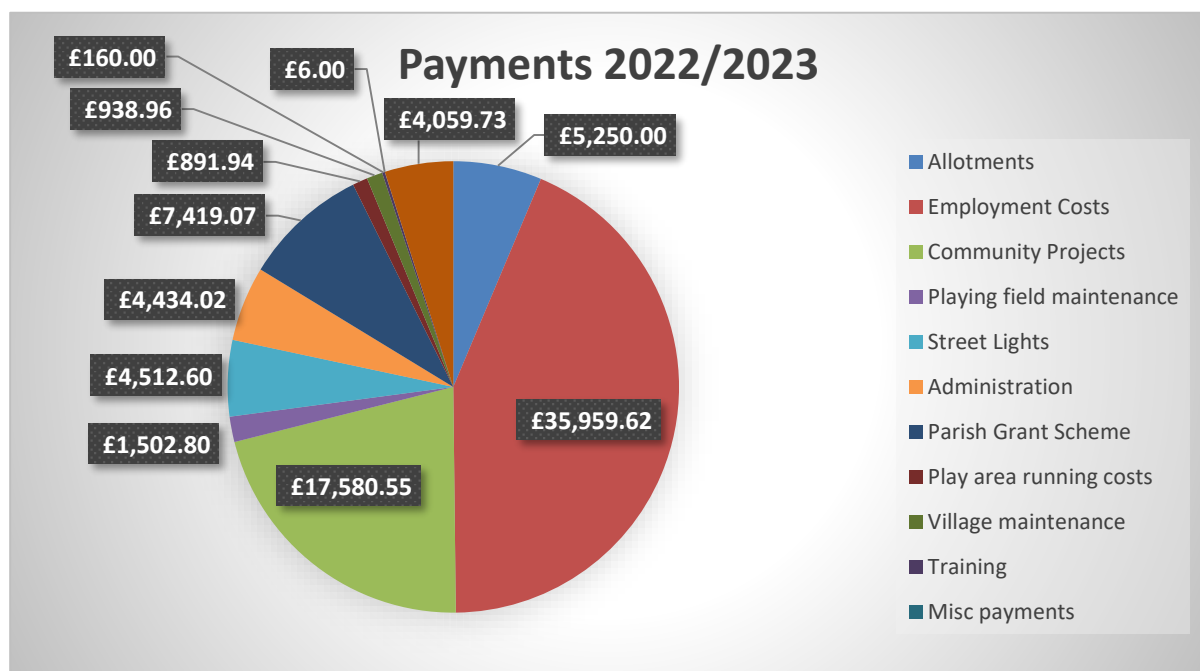
# Finances

## Receipts during 2022/2023

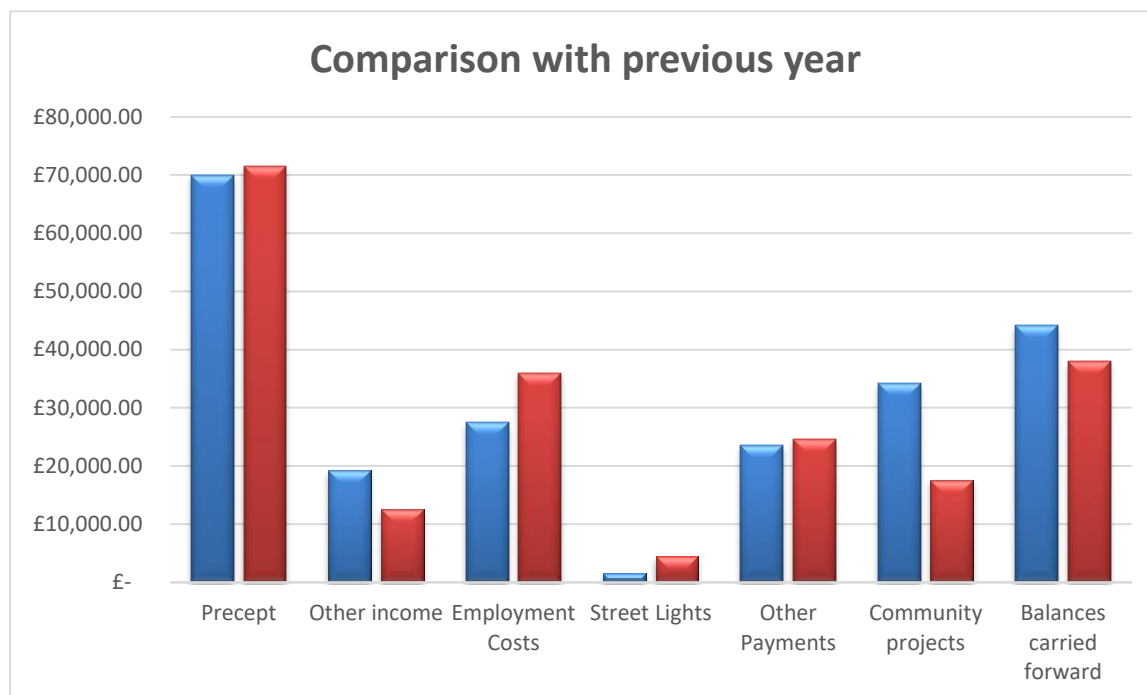


Grants and Donations- £9552 was a grant from Locality to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan and £50 was donated by the landlords of the shops towards the Necton in Bloom initiative. A further £1805 was raised this year by Councillor Hicks to contribute towards the proposed tennis court.

## Payments during 2022/2023



## Comparison with the previous year



Balances carried forward are higher this year as the proposed tennis court will be a long term project. The plan is to save some money each year towards the cost of this (noting we will be looking for grants and donations to assist with the cost). Therefore, some of the carried forward funds may be set aside to continue to build up funds for this project.

## 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://nortonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/files/2020/03/Grants-Policy-Review-March-2020.pdf>

### Parish Council grants to local organisations during 2022/2023

- Necton Sports and Social Club - £205 to hire a bouncy castle as part of their Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- All Saints PCC Necton - £400 to support churchyard grass-cutting
- NRCC Festival - £3000 to hold the Necton Festival in July 2022
- Silver Threads - £50.00 to contribute towards coach hire for a day trip to Great Yarmouth

## 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 Clerk 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 Clerk.

The headline figures for year end 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Receipts	£19,745.13
Payments	£18,539.60
Balance in bank	£22,009.94

## Looking ahead – our priorities for 2023/2024

- To finalise the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been a project taking over 2 years to get to this point. Hundreds of hours of work have been completed by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. This was a huge project and thanks are to be given to all those involved.
- Vattenfall- to continue liaising with Breckland District Council and request and attend meetings with all relevant parties whilst Breckland are considering the planning permission element of this construction. Ensuring Necton residents interests are heard and considered as part of this development.
- 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.
- To arrange for the street lighting to be switched off on all of the lights adopted by the PC. This provides a better environment for local wildlife and of course, reduces our carbon footprint by reducing the use of electricity. In a time when everyone is mindful of their energy consumption it also reduces our expenditure on energy bills.
- The Community Centre will have a light refurbishment, including repainting, new curtains and a new sound system. Plans are to then look at modernising the kitchen area. As trustees of the NRCC the Parish Council is keen to ensure the facilities meet the expectations of all hall users.
- Coronation celebrations are being planned to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III at the playing field and in the community centre. This will take place on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and is open to everyone. There are many events being planned and this should provide a fantastic community event to be enjoyed by all.

- The official opening of the newly named Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. The area will be opened by George Freeman MP. This area will thereafter provide a n open green space for the residents of Necton to enjoy.
- Repairs to equipment and surfacing at the play area will take place during the year.
- To continue to save small amounts of funds each year to facilitate the installation of a tennis court. Hopefully this will be a project that commences soon.

## 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](#)

**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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