

the norton messenger

April 2025



EDITORIAL

Thank you to Polly Hill for the beautiful photo opposite – although it's now (sometimes) a bit warmer than this photo indicates and spring is on the way.

Please send any photographs contributions for the Messenger to the address below by the 15th of the previous month.

Best wishes, Diana

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VILLAGE EVENTS AND NOTICES

NORTON VILLAGE HALL CLASSES

IP31 3LE

MONDAY	6.00pm - 6.45pm 7.00pm - 7.45pm	Paracise Jo's Fit4All
TUESDAY	9.30am - 10.30am	Serenity Yoga
	10.45am - 11.45am	Silver Swans Over-55s Ballet Class
	7.15pm - 9.15pm	Song Circle Ladies' Choir
WEDNESDAY	5.15pm - 6.00pm	Dancing Sparkes Children's Dancing Class
	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Zumba
THURSDAY	7.00pm - 8.00pm	Rockfit with Bliss
FRIDAY	9.15am - 10.15am	Zumba



For further details please contact: nortonvhbookings@gmail.com

CHURCH LIGHTS

If you would like to see the church lit up in 2025 please consider sponsoring the lights (£20 a week) to celebrate an event or remember a loved one.

Contact Philippa Wilding

pfwilding@btinternet.com Tel: 0777 6443004



Norton Parish Council ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday 28th April 2025
7.30pm

NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

It is hoped that the District Councillors and County Councillor will be in attendance. It will be your chance to question them and the Parish Council or comment on matters.

Clerk: Mrs. J. Rowland,
Willowbrook Cottage, Ashfield Road,
Norton, IP31 3NN
(Tel 07947859741) e-mail :
nortonparishclerk@outlook.com

NORTON VILLAGE HALL A.G.M.



To be held on

Tuesday, 22nd April 2025 at 8.00pm

Everyone is welcome and your support would be appreciated

We are actively seeking new members for the Management Committee. If you would like more information, then please come along to the meeting or contact us at: nvhbookings@gmail.com

36TH NATIONAL VINTAGE TRACTOR RUN

Sunday 20th April 2025

starts @9:30 Blackthorpe Barn, Rougham, nr Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9JG

Route is 10:00@Thurston - 10:15@ Pakenham -
10:40@Norton - 11:00@ Elmswell - 11:15@Wetherden -
11:30 @Haughley - 12:00 @Food Museum Stowmarket
until 13:30 - 14:00 via Lockington Road @ Harleston -
14:30@Woolpit - 15:00@Tostock - 15:15@Beyton -
15:30 Blackthorpe Barn Rougham

**Collection taking place
along the route for SARS
999 & St Nicholas Hospice -
All donations welcome**

For Enquiries telephone
Vanda 07990947510 or
Robert 07789995851





Norton CEVC Primary School
School Close Norton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3LZ
Headteacher Mrs Lisa Sparkes
office@norton.suffolk.sch.uk 01359 230520.



The Spring Term has certainly been a busy one, with the children experiencing many enrichment activities such as theatre productions, trips, and school events. As I walk around the school, speak to the children, and teach in some classes—one of my favourite jobs—it is lovely to see the children settled in their classes with routines fully embedded.

One of the highlights of this term was World Book Day on Thursday, 6 March. Staff and children had great fun dressing up as characters from books, and there was certainly a wealth of colour and a wide range of books represented. The children enjoyed a variety of literary activities throughout the day, including an engaging assembly. My most memorable moment was when the older children met with the younger ones and shared books together. It was so lovely to see our Christian values of community and compassion being shown in such a wonderful way.

Reading is very much a priority at Norton and is a strength recognised in our Ofsted report. Hearing children read individually is essential, and we are always keen to find willing volunteers who can come for an afternoon or morning once a week to listen to the children read. If you have the time and would be interested, please contact the school office, and we will provide further details.

Year 4 and Year 6 have both performed their class assemblies this half-term. Each class gave a snapshot of their learning journey so far this year. It always amazes me how much the children cover during the school day, and the confidence and courage they demonstrate as they speak, dance, and sing in front of an audience of children and parents.

In the classrooms, Star Class (EYFS) has been busy writing and delivering letters as part of their Jolly Postman topic. In Galaxy Class (Year 1), the children have become budding geographers! As part of their Arctic topic, they have enjoyed seeing amazing photos and videos of icebergs, glaciers, and the Arctic Ocean, and have loved exploring their own icebergs in the classroom. The heat in the classroom certainly made their icebergs melt!

In Year 2, the children have produced some amazing artwork inspired by Kandinsky's 'Squares with Concentric Circles' painting. The children thought about the colours he used and how he was feeling while painting. They then responded by creating their own concentric circle pictures.

Comet Class (Year 3) welcomed back Mrs Winter-Valentine this half-term following her maternity leave. During World Book Day, the children had a VERY exciting video call with Alex Milway, the author of *Hotel Flamingo*, a class text that the children had thoroughly enjoyed reading. Alex answered all of the questions the children had about *Hotel Flamingo* and taught them how to draw T Bear. There is no doubt that the children were inspired, and the pictures they created are proudly on display.

In Rocket Class (Year 4), the children have started a new topic called Fabulous France. The children have studied where France is positioned in Europe and its physical features. They also plan to compare the UK to France, considering land use and learning about tourism in France.

Meteor Class (Year 5) has been enjoying their new art topic on 'Graffiti'. The children started by exploring different types of street art, including graffiti and art installations. They have recorded some facts and expressed their own thoughts and feelings about graffiti as an art form. They have also created a tag—a unique stylised signature or symbol used by street artists.

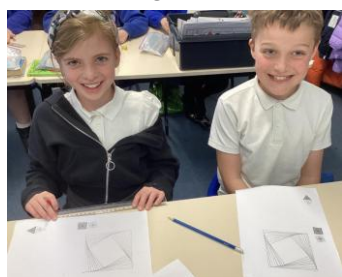
In Supernova Class (Year 6), the class has travelled back in time to the early medieval period to discover how absolute power in England was fiercely contested by the Anglo-Saxons and the Danish Vikings. They have been learning about how Viking raiders and traders became settlers and conquerors, and how the nation of England was born out of the seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

Each term, we have a Homework Exhibition, and as the children prepare to display their work, I have already observed some wonderful creations and seen some very thoughtful research projects.

The school is also preparing for its very first Art's Week, which will take place in the last week of the term. The children will be coming off timetable, classes will be mixed, and art activities will be explored. Hopefully, I will be able to share some pictures in the next edition.

As we approach Easter, the children are getting ready to celebrate with an Easter Service at St Andrew's Church, as well as FAPONS organising an Easter Bingo event.

Mrs L Sparkes





Norton Salvation Army

What's on at the Army in April?

Sunday 6 th	Breakfast Church (Enjoy coffee/tea/pastries in a relaxed Worship setting) (Led by: Judy & James)	10.45am
Sunday 13 th	Palm Sunday (Led by: Stuart Hendry Youth Engagement Worker)	11.00am
Good Friday 18 th	Morning Reflections (Led by: Maj. Graham Daniels)	10.30am
Sunday 20 th	Easter Praise (Led by: Judy & James)	6.00pm
Sunday 27 th	Morning Worship (Led by Maj. David Squirrell)	11.00am
Mondays (School Term Time)	Toddlesong (Children 0-4yrs £1 per family/session)	9.00am – 11.30am
Wednesday 2 nd	Friends Cafe (We are a dementia friendly group offering time out to include carers)	2.00pm – 4.00pm
Thursday's	Cameo Lunches (3 Course Meal £6.00)	11.45am – 1.30pm
Thursday 3 rd /17 th	Choir Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.30pm.
Thursday 10 th /24 th	Band Rehearsal	8.00pm – 9.30pm
Friday 25 th	Craft Club	7.00pm – 9.00pm
Saturday 12 th	Spring Sale	10.00am – 12.00pm
Easter Saturday 19 th	Easter Card Craft + Coffee & Cake Easter Film Night	10.00am – 12.00pm 6.00pm

Norton Salvation Army
Woolpit Road, Norton, IP31 3LU

Saturday 12th April 2025
10.00am - 12.00pm

Spring Sale

Cakes
Books
Bric-a-Brac
Jigsaws

Tears/Coffee, Refreshments will be available

A Christian Church and a Registered Charity No: 214779, and in Scotland SC09359

Easter Card Crafts and Coffee & Cake

At the Norton Salvation Army
Saturday 19th April
10am to 12noon

Families of all ages welcome
Other refreshments available
FREE
Donations welcomed!

Registered Charity & Church no. 214779 and in Scotland SC09359

EASTER Film Night

Saturday the 19th April
At the Norton Salvation Army
The film starts rolling at 6pm!

COME AND WATCH AN EASTER FAMILY FAVOURITE - ALL AGES WELCOME

FREE popcorn available - until eaten!
Other refreshments available to purchase

Registered Charity & Church no. 214779 and in Scotland SC09359

Please feel free to come & join in with us at any time: You would be very welcome

Our Clothes Bank situated in the car park is available to you for all your unwanted clothes & shoes.
Available 24/7. Please help us to help others.

If you would like to make contact with Norton Salvation Army please e-mail:

Valerie.Ling@salvationarmy.org.uk OR Peter.Newson@salvationarmy.org.uk

We will be pleased to help you where possible with any questions/queries

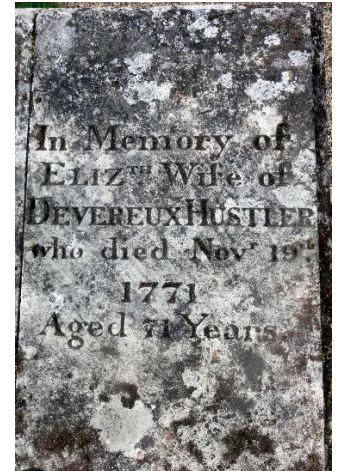
A Christian Church and Registered Charity No: 214779, and in Scotland SC09359

The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, 101, Newington Causeway, London, SE1 6BN

DOWN OUR STREET

This month's contribution is, I fear, a little bit like a convoluted Ronnie Corbett monologue, in that it starts in Norton and finishes in the Crimea.

Outside the chancel door of St Andrew's Church is a large box or chest tomb. The vast majority of churchyard chest tombs are believed to date from the 17th century onwards. Many are simply but elegantly detailed, like fine joinery, sometimes with fielded panels. This one is inscribed with the names of Devereux Hustler (2 May 1701 – 9 Feb 1768) and his wife Elizabeth, nee Ray (March 1701 – 19 Nov 1771) who were my 6 times great Grandparents. Photos show names on top



They had at least eleven children, one of whom was Mary, who married Robert Craske. They farmed and lived at Rougham Place. One of their sons (my 4x Gt grand uncle) Samuel Craske, was a tenant farmer of Sir George Wombwell of Stowlangtoft Hall and he farmed Hill Farm (photo) now Manor Farm on Ashfield Road. He married Mary Lord of Walsham le Willows.

The 1814 map on the following page, shows that the farm and attached land in the Parish of Norton (outlined in red), belonged to Sir George Wombwell. I am fairly sure that this farm's land extended into Stowlangtoft and Hunston as well.

George Wombwell married Susanna Rawlinson, the Lord Mayor of London's daughter. He became MP for Huntingdon. He was created a baronet in 1778. He was the Chairman of the Honourable East India Company. His son, also Sir George Wombwell succeeded to the baronetcy in 1780. He in turn was followed by his son, again Sir George Wombwell.

The original Stowlangtoft Hall (previous page) etched in about 1835 was home to Sir George Wombwell. In 1825 Joseph Wilson, a wealthy London merchant and a member of a family of rich silk manufacturers, purchased the country estate of Stowlangtoft from Baronet Sir George Wombwell. The extent of the area that the estate covered at this time was substantially larger than the present one as it then also comprised land within the adjacent districts of Langham and Wyken. Later, in 1883, the estate was said to be in excess of some 5000 acres with land in Pakenham, Hunston and Norton.

The 4th Baronet was Sir George Orby Wombwell. On October 25th 1854, at the height of the Crimean War against Imperial Russia, an action took place that has found its way into every schoolchild's history book.

He was at Lord Cardigan's side during the charge, and had almost reached the enemy guns when his horse was shot from under him. He found himself, dazed and on foot, in the middle of the carnage. He managed to mount a stray horse and joined the second line of the Light Brigade as it came crashing into the enemy guns. However, his horse became so exhausted it refused to move no matter how much he tried to 'encourage' it with his spurs.

Masked by the smoke and the confusion of the battle, he managed to sneak past two parties of Cossack lancers. Then he heard a fierce shout and five Cossacks came riding towards him with sabres drawn, ordering him to throw down his weapons. Seeing that resistance was useless he did as he was told. His pistol was seized and he was dragged roughly from his mount.

A Russian officer came up and asked him if he spoke French, which he had learned at Eton, upon which the officer told him not to be alarmed as his men were only rough in their manners. Considering Sir George to be a good prize as he was an officer, he was marched off towards the Russian lines between two of men, with three more behind. Suddenly, he saw a unit of cavalry ahead of him and heard a harsh voice shout out, "Catch a horse you young fool, and come with us!" It was Lord Cardigan. Sir George took his commander's advice. Another horse came by, which he mounted, bending forward beside the animal's neck to avoid bullets fired at him by Cossacks.

Somehow, he managed to get away. The Cossacks did not dare to pursue him for fear of the mad English horsemen who had made such a foolish, but courageous, charge. Sir George eventually got back to the British lines, and that night he wrote a letter home which began, "This has been a dreadful day for the Light Brigade." The 17th lancers had been the first to reach the Russian guns at the end of the Valley. From the 673 men who started the charge, 113 men were killed and many others wounded. The Light Brigade was made up of the 4th and 13th Light Dragoons, 8th and 11th Hussars and the 17th Lancers. The Light Brigade had 195 mounted survivors, leaving 113 dead and 134 wounded with 231 unhorsed men. The 17th lancers were the first to reach the Russian guns at the end of the Valley. From the 673 men who started the charge, 113 men were killed and many others wounded. The Light Brigade was made up of the 4th and 13th Light Dragoons, 8th and 11th Hussars and the 17th Lancers. The Light Brigade had 195 mounted survivors, leaving 113 dead and 134 wounded with 231 unhorsed men.

Photos below. Sir George Orby Wombwell and the Charge of the Light Brigade.



He went on to live a long and full life, although one marked by tragedy. Sir George's father died in 1855 and he succeeded him as 4th Baronet Wombwell. He was appointed High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1861, and on September 3 that year he married Lady Julia Child-Villiers, a daughter of the 6th Earl of Jersey.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (Part of the Benefice of Pakenham, Norton & Tostock, with Great Ashfield, Hunston & Stowlangtoft)

Rector: Revd Katherine Valentine Tel 01359 235095 Email: kavalentine677@gmail.com

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com Benefice Church magazine www.vcnews.org.uk

April 2025 Church Services

Open daily for visitors and private prayer. St Andrew's Norton services are highlighted below.

6 th	5 th Sunday of Lent	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Family@Church Servant King	Norton Pakenham
13 th	Palm Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship 11.00am Family Communion	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham
17 th	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Holy Communion followed by Stripping of the Altar and Vigil until 9pm	Pakenham
18 th	Good Friday	10am Good Friday meditations 10am Easter Garden Service – all ages 1.30pm Walk of witness meet at Village Hall 2pm Good Friday service in church – all ages 1.40pm Walk of Witness meet at Nether Hall gates 2pm An Hour at the Cross	Tostock Norton Great Ashfield Great Ashfield Pakenham Pakenham
20 th	Easter Day	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Family Festival Communion 9.30am Family Festival Communion 9.30am Family Festival Communion 11am Family Festival Communion 11am Family Festival Communion	Stowlangtoft Norton Hunston Pakenham Great Ashfield Tostock
27 th	2 nd Sunday of Easter	9.30am TOAST 11am Morning Worship 11am Family Communion	Great Ashfield Tostock Norton

EASTER CELEBRATIONS FOR ALL AGES!

GOOD FRIDAY 10am EASTER GARDEN SERVICE St Andrew's Norton - families and children all welcome to come and help make our Easter Garden. Bring small plants, stones and flowers. Hot Cross buns and refreshments provided!

1.30pm Walk of witness & service at Gt Ashfield - make a beautiful Easter cross to hang on your door.

EASTER DAY FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICES - all ages are welcome and services will include special treats!!

NATURE NEWS

Bats are nocturnal animals who are adapted to hunt in darkness. We have many bats living and hunting in and around the village, and they could be adversely affected by lights that are left on all night.



Lights may cause the following problems:

- 1. Delaying or preventing emergence from roosts**, resulting in reduced foraging time and missing the peak time of insect abundance (just after dusk). As all bats in the UK feed on insects, this missed opportunity can have a serious impact on their survival and the growth rates of their young.
- 2. Bats abandoning or becoming entombed in the roost** when the entrance is lit up as bats will be less inclined to leave their roosts in these conditions. This is likely to be considered a breach of legislation as both bats and their roosts are protected by law.
- 3. Affecting the feeding behaviour of bats away from the roost.** Slower flying species such as lesser horseshoes, greater horseshoes and the 6 *Myotis* species, avoid illuminated areas and therefore lose foraging grounds if they are lit.
- 4. Affecting commuting and foraging routes**, which have been shown to be avoided if there is artificial light spill onto these areas.

For more information go to: <https://www.bats.org.uk/>



Could you save some electricity and turn off your external lights to help bats feed?

IN MEMORIAM – MICHAEL GOOCH

Michael, who was Suffolk born and bred, lived with his wife, Ena, in Norton for the last 20 years of his life. His sister, Bridget, remembers their childhood on the Cavenham estate, which she describes as still mired in a serf like culture in the 1940/1950s. Their grandmother lived in a cottage at Lark Hall with many of her 16 children, and on Christmas Eve Michael would lead the village children up the avenue of trees to entertain her with carols on her doorstep, backlit by oil lamps. His uncle, Reuben Gooch, wrote or adapted plays for adults and children to perform pantomime style, and Michael built and painted the scenery, ensuring each Friday night's production went smoothly. He wrote out the scripts for each player and the performances toured the local villages week after week. Later, as a school teacher, he produced many school productions, building on his early experiences. Then their father, who had worked the farm for some 40 years, inexplicably got the sack and the family was forced to move into a wartime Nissen Hut on RAF Tuddenham, where they lived for 3 years. The family, having previously enjoyed electricity, was back to oil lamps and cooking on the coal range. Michael had won a scholarship to Culford School and had a 6 mile journey on his bike every day, sometimes with his rescued jackdaw on the handlebars.

Michael finished school and did National Service, and went to the West Suffolk Hospital where he completed nurse training and married. Unable to raise a family on the salary, he left Suffolk and did teacher training in Portsmouth where I was born. That marriage foundered after 18 years and Michael met Ena, also a teacher, whom he adored and was married to for 44 years. Together they renovated a derelict house and turned it into an exclusive retirement home. After many years they were able to retire back to the Suffolk he loved 25 years ago, with Michael creating beautiful gardens wherever they lived and always with a dog sharing their barn homes.

Michael's last gardening tasks were to sow his tomato and broad bean seeds, just before he was admitted to the West Suffolk in his final illness. He died aged 88 years on 25 February 2025 and is sadly missed by his whole family. His health had been poor for several years but he was stoical. His request was that donations in lieu of flowers at his funeral be made to the Royal Papworth Hospital Charity (<https://www.justgiving.com/page/michael-gooch>), which gave him another 3 years of life with Ena. Ena is especially appreciative of the unstinting kindness over the years of her neighbours and friends from the village, and which has continued. **Sally Gooch**

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd February 2025

PRESENT in the Chair: Mrs. S. Hill

Mr. B. Aket, Mr. J Bolus, Prof. K. Jaggard, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. G. Walton, Mrs. J. Rowland (Clerk)

LGA 1972 s12 para 40

County Councillor A. Mellen

District Councillor H. Richardson

6 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Mr. R. Lenko, Mr. N. Winstanley

The Council consented to accept the apology and reasons, which will be recorded in the attendance register.

District Councillor D. Bradbury

1.	The Chair welcomed all to the monthly meeting.	
2.	Declarations of pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests a) To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) and personal interests in items on the agenda inc. gifts of hospitality exceeding £25- none b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters - none c)To receive requests for dispensations - none	
3.	PUBLIC FORUM –to receive reports for information • Members of the public–to receive questions and matters of concern from those in attendance a)Ruth Keeper from Langham told the Council of the problems she was having with the bridge closure and the temporary dam causing flooding on her land and problems for her animals. As she knew County and District Councillors would be attending she came to discuss her problems. There was no action request for the Parish Council. The Clerk will forward the latest update on the bridge. b)Keri Marshall expressing her concern at the proposed 800 new houses in Elmswell which in all likelihood will use the Ashfield Road as a through road. Councillor Richardson stated the land in question is not in Mid Suffolk Local Plan site allocations for development. The Parish Council would not be on the list of consultees if and when this application is submitted, so the Council requested Councillor Richardson to ask for Norton to be informed. c) Angela Walton commented that information in The Messenger from village organisations, and the Council, were small compared to other information. • Members of the public – to receive comments submitted via email -none	
4.	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION –to receive written reports for information •Report from County Councillor Andy Mellen UPDATE 4 - A1088 Bridge Farm Bridge, Stowlangtoft stated the scheme would be completed in the first week of March. Mr. Aket felt the delay in this scheme was unacceptable and had had a detrimental effect on businesses in Norton. Councillor Mellen commented the problems with the concrete and weather had not helped with the delay. He stated a recent visit to the site showed work was progressing well. Mr. Bolus commented on the narrowing of the busy A41 road between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes successfully slowed traffic. Councillor Mellen felt different Highway authorities had differing views but he would enquire of Suffolk Highways. Mr. Aket commented on the Low Road to Tostock being in an appalling state and needing urgent attention. Councillor Mellen agreed to follow up with Highways. Mr. Aket commented on the Highways problems at the new Elmswell Filling Station which had not been addressed before the opening. Councillor Mellen stated legal advice has been taken and the problems taken seriously. •Report from District Councillors Harry Richardson - noted Mr. Walton commented on the Electricity poles that were due to be put up in Ashfield Road. He stated some poles will be on private land or obstructing visibility, and felt all services should go underground. He was concerned there was no requirement to consult residents or the Council. Councillor Richardson said he would enquire of the process and asked for the replies from Planning to be forwarded to him. The Clerk agreed to forward.	

5.	MINUTES	
	5.1 To RESOLVE the minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2025 are a true and correct record. Mr.Aket proposed, Prof Jaggard seconded, all in agreement.	
6.	COOPTION - To consider cooption to the vacant post - ongoing	
7.	MATTERS ARISING	
	7.1 Parish Tree and Wildflower planting scheme. Mr. Winstanley stated the scheme is still supported and seeds will be ordered when the time is right.	Mr. Winstanley
	7.2 UKPN update. Mr. Walton has been unable to speak with his contact at FIT but agreed to keep trying.	Mr. Walton
	7.3 Installation details for memorial bench. The contractor plans to start this week, but concerns were relayed about machinery crossing the field in the wet weather and causing damage.	Mr. Winstanley
8.	PLANNING	
	8.1 PLANNING – DC/25/00190, DC/25/00026, DC/25/00030 and DC/25/00031. - Poles for automatic permission – see comments above.	
	8.2 PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) HAS BEEN GRANTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS Land At Stanton Street, Ixworth Road, Norton DC/24/05254 Application Reference S73 for the Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Reserved Matters application DC/23/00739 dated 20/04/2023 (following Outline Planning Permission DC/19/05860 - Erection of 2no. detached dwellings with garages.) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) -To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to enable carrying out development in phases as per revised plan.	
	8.3 GRANTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS Barn at Haydons Farm (The Woodshed), Ashfield Road, Norton - DC/24/04965. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of self-build replacement dwelling	
9.	FINANCIAL	
	9.1 To approve the accounts awaiting payment: Clerk's salary £416.00 Street Cleaner £36.00 Tenhats, February Messenger, £363.00 G.Walton, CCTV sign, £7.59 Vertas, grounds maintenance, £365.23 Compass Pest Management, £375 HMRC £113.00 Santander cheque no 522586 LGA1972 s112 LGA1972 s112 LGA1972 s112 Local Government & Rating Act 1997 s13 Public Health Act 1875 s164 Public Health Act 1875 s164 LGA1972 s112	
	9.2 The Clerk confirmed a loan repayment on 09/01/25 for £11230.78	
	9.3 The Clerk presented a budget statement with reconciliation statements for Lloyds and Santander. Following a request last month the Clerk provided a basic budget for the Council to cover a year's outgoing commitment. Mr.Aket commented on the amount of support for the Messenger as adverts do not cover costs.	
	9.4 The Clerk confirmed receipt of VAT return (Aug to Nov) for £26435.85	
	9.5 The Council confirmed the Clerk as RFO. The Council reviewed the Clerk's salary for the coming year and agreed an increase to 12 hours pw as from April 25.	
	9.6 The Council formally appointed SALC as internal auditors for the year 24-25.	
10	REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS:	
	10.1 The Council reviewed standing orders: Apologies and Non-attendance, Financial Standing Orders, Risk Assessment, Local Government Code of Conduct. Councillors RESOLVED to approve and accept all	

11	DEVOLUTION	
	10.1 Devolution – Updates from SALC and County Council forwarded and noted.	
12	SPEEDWATCH	
	11.1 Update on Speedwatch. Review of detailed report from Andy Stone. Comments from Mr. Winstanley felt a full village strategy approach was required. Mr. Aket queried the cost to the village of an independent assessment. Mr. Walton stated it would be worth consideration to apply for CIL money which is available for various projects. The Speedwatch team has collected a lot of data and Mr. Stone was concerned about this data being wasted and not used. Mr. Bolus felt the targeted approach rather than a wider view may be useful due to the likely cost involved. Prof. Jaggard wondered if this approach could be part of the NP. Mr. Walton felt an investigation of cost in the first instance was required.	Mr. Winstanley
	11.2 Parish Council strategy to combat speeding – gating. Mr. Lenko stated he is meeting with a contractor to get another estimate for construction and putting up gates. One estimate already received was around £3500 for two pairs of gates.	Mr. Lenko
13	VILLAGE HALL	
	12.1 Update on items required. Nothing identified at the moment. The final invoice is expected from Oakes once this has been agreed and signed off by the Architect. The coffee shop lease will be signed shortly. Bookings are good. Grants from Cllr Mellen and Cllr Richardson are expected.	
14	PLAY AREAS	
	13.1 Play area adjacent to Village Hall – all OK	
	13..2 Play area in Prospect Road – all OK. Mr. Walton is investigating a small sign.	
15	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	
	14.1 To receive update from Housing Needs Assessment meeting, volunteers for a working group, date for presentation and village consultation. The Clerk reported that Mr. Lenko and Mr. Winstanley and herself had logged into the first stage to obtain an HNA. The next step will be to arrange an Open Meeting for villagers to see what a NP is all about and a chance to become involved. The Clerk presented various dates and it was decided on 13 th March, 7-9pm at the Village Hall, to be advertised in the Messenger. Mr. Poole will provide flyers, posters and boards for this meeting. Grant money has been approved.	
16	CORRESPONDENCE	
	15.1 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) January 2025 - noted	
17	Questions and Comments from Members and suggestions for next meeting.	
	16.1 Defib -The Clerk confirmed this was still logged as off line. A check to ascertain system set up did not show an update required, which means the box needed a new battery. The Clerk is waiting for this to be delivered.	Clerk
18	To confirm the date of next meeting : 3rd March 2025	
19	There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.42	

ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Our “full house” March meeting welcomed Don Mobley for his talk on “*The History of U.S. Military Aviation in East Anglia*”. With some fabulous pictures and huge amounts of technical detail, this talk took us from 1917 (when five US pilots trained with the RFC’s 75 Home Defence Squadron at Elmswell Aerodrome) to both World Wars, then to the Cold War and the modern era, before touching down with a video of a new F-35 demonstration flight for Memorial Day, with a running commentary by the pilot himself.

Thursday **10th April**, 7.30pm at Elmswell’s Wesley Hall (School Rd, IP30 9EE) will be our **25th anniversary** meeting when we look forward to hearing Lydia Franklin of “**SAVE Britain’s Heritage**” which celebrates its own 50th anniversary this year. Established in 1975 to give new life for remarkable buildings, this is a national heritage charity which campaigns for the protection and re-use of historic buildings of all types and ages. We will be given an overview of their past successful campaigns throughout Great Britain, as well as up-dates on numerous East Anglian ones, e.g. Brandon Railway Station and Norwich’s Anglia Square, to name but two. Do join us then to help us celebrate this milestone occasion – there will be cake!



For further information about our History Group, please visit our website – www.elmswell-history.org.uk – or contact our Secretary, on 01359-242601



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