



## Norwich Road P.O. Closure



*New Costessey Post Office - under threat?*

### Costessey Parish Council

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Sometimes you have to wonder what our national institutions are coming to. This time it's the Post Office.

The campaign to save Vauxhall Street Post Office in Norwich has been successful and well done to those who did it. *But is it at the expense of one of our local post offices?* We have to ask: what has changed in 6 weeks? If Norwich Rd Post Office was viable 6 weeks ago - is it not so now?

The whole business smacks of bureaucratic expediency - closure for closure's sake.

**Remember: the more letters /emails the better**

### Summer Breaks for Mums & Dads

Looking forward to the summer holidays? Pleased to have your children at home for 6 weeks? Want to keep them happily occupied in a safe, exciting and imaginative world?

GREAT! Bring them along to the Owen Barnes Room, Breckland Rd.

For children 5-11: Fantastic new ideas, new skills. Try some of these: Circus Skills, Pressed Flower Craft, Ceramic Tile Painting, Box Fit (fun, high energy boxing for boys and girls), Multi-Sports and Games, Eco-Bags (creating colour-

As a parish we must support our local services. **The Parish Council urges all residents to help our post office.**

#### Write to:

**Post Office Ltd, Freepost Consultation Team**

(no stamp required) or e-mail:

**consultation@postoffice.co.uk.**

The consultation period ends on the 9th August. Vauxhall St shows that minds can be changed.

As a community let's at least force them to think again.

ful environmentally friendly bags), Yummy Treats (making summer sweet treats), Weaving with Rubbish and Origami and Balloon Making.

For 8 to 12 year olds only: Archery, Fencing and Self Defence.

Morning and afternoon sessions cost £4.20. (plus a 50% discount for those with a Passport to Leisure)

To learn more and book sessions: ring Amy Starkings at the Costessey Parish Council Office on 01603 742958.

Some activities have limited numbers so to avoid disappointment please book early.

## Threat



## Annual Report from the Chairman



In May 2007 the Parish Council came up for full **election**. Four Councillors - June Betts, Iris Cunnell, Richard Rymarz and Barbara Somerville - chose not to stand for re-election. They had all been valued members of the Parish Council and our thanks go to them for their service and our best wishes for their future. The seats were filled by Diana Bates, Paul Cockaday, Libby Glover and Simon Watt. Over the year these new members have soon found their feet and are already taking an active part in the work of the Council. Previous members were returned to the remaining 12 seats.

*The replacement of the Sport Pavilion on Longwater Lane Recreation Ground remains the Parish Council's prime objective. The initial plan for the scheme, now called **The Costessey Centre**, has been drawn up, has been through public exhibition and has received outline planning permission. The only matter standing between us and the build now is just £1.5million! The work on applying for grant aid to find this money has begun.*

Over the last 12 months there has been a frenzy of building on both the **Lodge Farm** and the **Queens Hills Development**. However, those building works have slowed considerably in the last two months as the credit crunch impacts. Despite this developers continue to submit applications for substantial housing developments on the Queens Hills site outside the allocated phase one. The Local Development Framework is still being written and therefore housing has not yet been allocated beyond that initial phase. However, one developer is appealing his

planning refusal and the outcome of that appeal is awaited.

**The junctions improvements attached to the Lodge Farm site were made, and, despite some early teething problems, now seem to be working reasonably well.**

During the year a plan for 22 ground-breaking **Eco-houses** was approved on land off **Norwich Road**. These are now in the course of construction and are of course of a very modern design which is making them something of a talking point.

*The big issue for Costessey in my report last year was the waste incinerator proposed for the Longwater Employment Area. That proposal fell by the wayside but Council were horrified to notice that there was still a **proposal for a 'thermal treatment plant'** on the same site in the Waste and Mineral Consultation which came out for public consultation earlier this year. Thermal treatment can of course take a number of forms but incineration is one of them. Naturally the Parish Council has expressed its strong opposition to this proposal.*

We believe the Contractors who have been chosen to build the **MBT and Anaerobic Digestion Plant** will be announced shortly and NEWS, the company building it, still hope this plant will be commissioned in 2010.

*During the year we have had another **Police Community Support Officer** allocated to Costessey to join our existing dedicated PCSO and Community Police Constable. This has led to the Police having a much*

*higher profile in the Parish which I think is welcomed by all.*

**Traffic** continues to be a hot topic in the Parish with both speeds and volume a real concern. The prospect of the incomplete Northern Distributor Route being built will not help that situation in anyway. The Parish Council continues to press for measures to at least slow or deter traffic and has recently learnt that a budget of £50,000 has been allocated by Norfolk County Council to enhance the current traffic management schemes here and possibly introduce one or two new measures. All the main through routes are being looked at (including The Street where the scheme introduced there has caused some controversy) to assess what measures might be introduced within the funding available. The Parish Council, although grateful for the allocation, feels that this amount of money is grossly inadequate to even begin to deal with the very real traffic issues in the Parish.

There has been only one change in **staff** over the last 12 months and that is at Breckland Hall where Donna Tate has replaced Brian Lemon as cleaner. We wish Brian well in the future and welcome Donna to the Council.

*Lastly, I always like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all **my colleagues on the Parish Council**. They voluntarily give up their valuable spare time to serve the Parish without any recompense. My grateful thanks to them all.*

**William Dinneen**



### Sir Alfred Munnings Plaque for Falcon House

The Parish Council recently commissioned a plaque to commemorate Sir Alfred Munnings, the artist, who lived and worked for part of his life at Falcon House (previously The Falcon Public House) in West End. Councillor Brian Mackie introduced the Artist Martin Cowley to the Council who made the plaque. *(Pictured left being presented by Brian Mackie.)*

Martin has very generously gifted the plaque to the parish. It will be erected on Falcon House thanks to the kind permission of the current owners, Jane and Neil Alexander.

*Cllr Mackie displaying the plaque*

### Are we all considerate, thoughtful, mindful, courteous, neighbourly?

Of course we are, especially when we welcome family, friends and guests to our homes. But what about those who just pass our houses: pedestrians, mothers with push chairs, the elderly and ill in mobility vehicles. Complaints about overgrown hedges hampering access and increasing dan-

ger from passing vehicles always increase this time of year.

**Please have a look. Cut back any vegetation that can cause problems.**

There's a second problem: gravel. Gravel from driveways finds its way onto footpaths making walking diffi-

cult; and onto the roads increasing the danger from flying stones as cars pass by. Please brush any gravel back onto your drive.

**Many thanks for being considerate, neighbourly.....,etc.**

## Accounts for 2007-2008

The accounts for the year are now complete. The Parish Council had a total income of £389,140, £330,000 of which was from the precept. Income from the Parish Council Halls totalled £35,621 as well as almost £10,000 in Cemetery fees.

The Parish Council spent £333,945 the largest part of which was on staff, etc. The fields, woodlands and other areas cost £22,800 to maintain. The buildings cost £32,877 - just under £3000 less that was taken in fees. The other large expenditure was on the repayment of loans totalling £28,923.

HM Customs & Excise remains a significant debtor currently withholding the repayment of around £80,000 vat .

The full end of year report can be viewed at the Parish Office and copies are available at £5 each.

## Budgets requirements for 2008/9

The Parish Council has requested a precept of £346,785 for this financial year. The means that, although this is a 7.58% increase over the last financial year, it only equates to 2.95% per band D equivalent. There are two main reasons:

1. The growth in size of the Parish; and as a result:
2. the consequent increase in workload of the Parish Office.

This has lead the Parish Council to budget for a new member of staff to be appointed in June. Included in the job description will be carrying forward the Costessey Centre project and establishing and maintaining the Costessey Community website.

A full budget breakdown can be viewed at the Parish Council Office.

*Rachel Jackson (Mrs)*  
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

## Chestnut Close Telephone Box may be removed



BT have announced a consultation exercise on proposals to remove public payphones from locations in South Norfolk. Up to 63 phone boxes could be removed - **one of which is in Chestnut Close in Costessey**. South Norfolk Council is responsible for co-ordinating the consultation exercise, through Ofcom regulations, and hopes to send a consolidated response. The Parish Council has been asked to make residents aware of this issue and seek their views on it. Anyone wishing to comment should write to: The Parish Clerk at Costessey Parish Council, Parish Rooms, Townhouse Road, Costessey, NR8 5BS (email: [rachel.jackson@costesseyipc.org](mailto:rachel.jackson@costesseyipc.org)) or to Ian McArthur, South Norfolk Council, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2XE (email: [imcarthur@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:imcarthur@s-norfolk.gov.uk)) **by 30th August 2008**.

## Dog Owners Beware! (for some owners anyway)

You know what its like! It gets on your shoes, it gets on your clothes and even on your hands. Children playing in our parks and grounds can be guaranteed to fall foul of the unspeakable.

Such things concern us all and despite the abundant bins for dog faeces scattered around the parish, the problem remains. Some dog owners - a significant few- are just not clearing up after their dogs.

The result: a District wide by-law introduced by South Norfolk making it an offence to allow a dog to foul in open areas. Failure to clear up will result in an on the spot fine and the Parish Council are keen to see this by-law enforced on all the grounds it owns.

The bottom line is: if fouling continues the the Parish Council will consider banning dogs from its grounds altogether.



*Man's best friend!*

*Look after his/her best interests!*

## Speed Watch

Following the article in the last issue of the Contact, over 20 residents volunteered to be part of this project

The Speed Gun and other equipment have now arrived and the volunteers have been vetted and had training on the use of the machine. They have already started and reports are extremely positive.

The Parish Council wishes to thank all those who have volunteered to make make Costessey's road safer.

Bawburgh Lane to New Road Footpath

## WITNESSES WANTED

In conjunction with Bawburgh Parish Council we have been trying to get this footpath added to the Definitive Rights of Way Map so it will ensure it is always available for the public to use in the future. However, we recently heard that the application failed on a technicality. We are therefore going to have to try again!

Whilst the witness forms from the first application can still be added to the application it will greatly assist the application if we are able to submit some new 'witnesses'. To be a witness you must be able to state that you have walked the footpath regularly over a period of time—not necessarily recently—and give some detail to that.

If you are able to help with this please give the Parish Office a ring on 01603 742958 or write to the Parish Clerk at the address on the back page of this newsletter .

Costessey Parish Council  
Parish Rooms  
Townhouse Road  
Costessey  
Norwich NR8 5BS

Tel/Fax: 01603 742958

E-mail: [info@costesseypc.org](mailto:info@costesseypc.org)

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are scheduled for:

15th & 29th July  
No meetings in August  
2nd & 29th\* September

All meetings begin at 7pm. All are held in the Parish Rooms except those marked \* which are held in the Owen Barnes Room at Breckland Hall.

The agendas for these and any other meetings arranged will be advertised on the Parish noticeboards a few days before the meeting takes place.

### Parish Office Opening Hours

**Except for times of unavoidable absence (eg outside meetings, annual leave, sickness) the Parish Office is open:**

**Monday 1.30pm to 4.00pm**

**Tuesday 9.30am to 4.00pm**

**Wednesday Closed all day**

**Thursday 9.30am to 1.30pm**

**Friday 9.30pm to 1.30pm**

**The Parish Clerk is available at other times. Please ring the Parish Office on Norwich 742958 to make an appointment.**

## Costessey Parish Council is here to serve YOU

The Parish Council owns and manages the Parish Rooms, Breckland Hall, the Owen Barnes Room, the Youth Centre, the Pavilion on Longwater Lane, Breckland Recreation Ground, Longwater Recreation Ground, Gunton Lane Recreation Ground, Bunkers Hill Woodland, Greenhills Wood, the Parish Cemetery and the Roundwell Monument. It shares the High School flood-lit hard-surface play area which offers facilities for 5-x-side football, tennis, & netball; maintains St Edmunds Churchyard and various other smaller areas such as the green on which the Village signs stands and it manages the allotments. It is also the Trustee of the Old Cricket Ground.

In addition it considers every planning application submitted in Costessey; is consulted on a huge range of local and national issues; lobbies and liaises; and much, much more.

### **Why not come to a meeting—you might find it interesting!**

#### COUNCILLORS FOR COSTESSEY

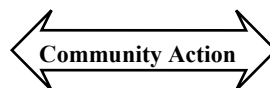
John Amis	96 Olive Road Costessey NR5 0AW	746665
	(Parish Council Vice-Chairman)	
Diana Bates	55 Longwater Lane, Costessey, NR5 0TE	746757
Allan Bedford	2 Valley View Crescent, Costessey, NR5 0HU	743380
Vivienne Bell	8 Parklands, Costessey, NR8 5AL	744952
	(Also District Councillor)	
Paul Cockaday	33 Wheeler Crescent, Easton, NR9 5FF	741287
John Denby	11 Hillvue Close, Costessey, NR5 0NQ	744276
	(Also District Councillor)	
Bill Dinneen	108 West End, Costessey, NR8 5AJ	742324
	(Parish Council Chairman)	
Michelle Doggett	High Oaks, Folgate Lane, Costessey, NR8 5DP	594932
Tim East	7 St Walstans Close, Costessey, NR5 0TW	743241
	(Also District & County Councillor)	
Libby Glover	78 Middleton Crescent, Costessey, NR5 0PX	748374
Brian Mackie	290 Dereham Road, Costessey, NR5 0SL	745179
Reg Piesse	1 Longwater Lane, Costessey, NR8 5AH	744233
Dick Smith	64 The Street, Costessey, NR8 5DD	740006
Alex Todd	Sarum Hall, Hinshalwood Way, Costessey, NR8 5BN	748400
Gerard Watt	Busy Bee Cottage, Folgate Lane, Costessey, NR8 5DH	749590
	(Also District Councillor)	
Simon Watt	79 Haverscroft Close, Taverham, NR8 6LT	865555

Parish Clerk—Mrs Rachel Jackson

Clerk's Assistants—Amy Starkings & Phil Leach



## New Community Hall - Have Your Say



New Community Hall - Artists impression

Costessey Parish Community Web Site will soon be on line. The Council needs your views on the Parish and particularly the Council's plan for a new Community Hall on Longwater Lane Recreation Ground. **To help this project succeed, it is vital that your views are known.** Are you supportive? Do you have reservations? Does it matter to you? Have you any ideas what the hall should look like, what it should include? Please send your comments to Richard Rymarz at the Parish Rooms or by email. (see box above for details) More details to follow soon.

