

BUNWELL PARISH COUNCIL

www.bunwellpc.info

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REPORT from Bunwell Parish Council for 5th November 2025.

Unfortunately, due to absence, only two councillors were available for the Parish Council Meeting on the 5th November, and therefore it was not possible to hold a public meeting. Payments for the month had previously been forwarded to councillors for their consideration and approval was received by email for the following expenditure:

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	
BALANCE AS AT 01.10.25	£28,404.61

RECEIPTS AS AT 01.10.25			
DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
BALANCE C/FWD			£28,404.61

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL THIS MONTH: UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT					
BALANCE AS AT 01.10.25			£28,404.61		
PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT	PAYE
BACS	G's Gardening Services	Oct Grasscutting	350.00		
BACS	Bunwell Village Hall	Hall Hire, Oct	30.00		
BACS	Community Heartbeat	Replacement pads for defibs	469.14	78.19	
BACS	Norfolk PTS	Trainiing for MC	57.60	9.60	
BACS	Norfolk PTS	Training for MC	62.40	10.40	
BACS	Ashley's Electrical	Upgrade to Village Hall toilet	342.37	57.00	
BACS	M Ridgwell	Oct Salary & Exps	337.75		
BACS	HMRC	PAYE to month 07	73.40		73.40
	Unity Trust	Service Charge	6.00		
		Total	1,728.66	155.19	73.40
RECEIPTS					
BALANCE C/FWD			£26,675.95		

CASHBOOK BALANCE: 05.11.25

Details	CR	DR	
Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	£28,404.61		
Unity Trust Bank Current Account A			
Receipts this month (see listed above) B			
		Payments this month (listed above) C	1,728.66
		Cash Book Balance Carried Forward (=A+B-C)	26,675.95
		Unity Balance	£26,675.95

County & District Council Reports – County Councillor, Catherine Rowett, and District Councillor, Suzanne Wateridge, had sent in their reports which are attached.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 3rd December, 2025.

Councillor report 3rd November 2025, from Catherine Rowett

03/11/2025

Progress report

Pylons and panels

The deluge of energy projects all over South Norfolk continues, and once again we are in a round of so-called “consultations” in which the firms trying to cash in on Britain’s super-excessive energy prices will try to insist that they have our interests at heart.

Norwich to Tilbury have submitted their Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate. The deadline for registering as an interested party is 27th November. I’ll be putting in objections based on the fact that the previous consultation has taken no account whatsoever of the key points that have been made by all the communities in East Anglia, and that these consultations have in fact been bogus and misleading.

The Tasway Energy Park company have organised four local events. I attended the one in Ashwellthorpe and subject to some diary constraints I hope also to attend the one in Bunwell on 14th November. I’m also planning to drop in at the community event at the Steam museum in Fornsett on Friday 14th November.

This week I shall be submitting my input into the County Council’s response to the consultations on the changes to the East Pye proposals and on the Tasway proposals. A comment from me will be appended to the council’s response in both cases. I need to complete these by 5th November.

Mayors and unitary councils

In September the County Council narrowly passed the Council administration’s proposed business case for having just one large Unitary Council for the whole of Norfolk. Most opposition councillors and some Conservatives voted against, preferring the idea of two or three unitary councils. I was absent on this occasion due to the covid.

In October the County Council voted in favour of the Devolution Deal which is about the funds and powers to be transferred to a metro-mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. We are expecting the first elections for the Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor (to incorporate the job of police and crime commissioner as well as a range of strategic funds for the area) to take place next May. Some candidates for the mayoral position have been announced. County Council elections are also scheduled to happen in May. Rumours are circulating that they might be cancelled again which would be an insult to voters once again.

Highways and paths

I’ve complained about the missing traffic sensors on the Shimpling Byway Open to All Traffic. If vehicles use the byway, residents are asked to report any issues with safety, via the “report a highways issue” portal. Please also collect evidence and photos both of problematic use of the highway and also of local flora and fauna and any precious habitats or wildlife.

A disastrous mix up about the resurfacing of the road from Shelfanger to Winfarthing means that the contractors have done top dressing (without any preparatory work), instead of the full resurfacing had been approved. This is very irritating after all the effort put in by the Highways officer to secure the funding for resurfacing. How to put it right? Unclear.

I'm also supporting the campaign to get lifts at Diss station to make crossing the line better for everyone who struggles with the stairs.

Community Fund

I'm pleased to report that Burston is the first to complete a Community project with a grant from my fund. They will be installing an insect hotel in the orchard section of the recreation ground. I still have £4,000 to award, and leaflets about it, so please ask and spread the word.

Updates from County Council

Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation

The County Council has started its plans for how to balance its budget next year. There is likely to be an increase to the grant from central government, but not enough to keep pace with the rising costs of services and increases in demand for services that we are obliged to deliver- particularly in adult social care and children's services.

The Conservative administration is asking residents for their views about their 2026-27 budget proposals which include raising part of the missing money by way of council tax and suggesting a raft of ways of trying to reduce costs, to help close the budget gap. You can read a brief fact sheet here: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/budget-proposals-2026-27/>.

Find out more and have your say at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget. Closes 15 December 2025.

Consultation on fire and rescue priorities

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) has a [consultation](#) on priorities for safety in Norfolk.

Avian flu in Norfolk

From 30 October 2025 Norfolk became one of the high risk areas for bird flu. Additional housing measures now apply in Norfolk. You must now house your birds if you keep either:

- more than 50 birds of any species
- any number of poultry (meaning birds that are kept to give away or sell eggs, poultry products or live birds)

You don't have to house them if you keep fewer than 50 birds and you don't sell the products. See links [here](#). To report breaches of bird flu rules, email trading.standards@norfolk.gov.uk.

National Information

Financial penalties for water companies -consultation open till 3 December 2025.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water-sector-civil-penalties/strengthening-penalty-powers/>

Defra is consulting on expanding and strengthening the financial penalties available to the Environment Agency in a bid to clamp down on more offences. (My thoughts: financial penalties are worse than pointless since they just increase water bills to pay for it: we need nationalisation, confiscation of assets, and prison for management and profiteers).

Bus Services Act

The Bus Services Bill became law on 27th October. It should protect services and empower local authorities to take greater control of bus services, improve reliability and protect socially necessary routes. Excellent news! See here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-era-of-better-buses-landmark-bus-bill-becomes-law>

Contact me

Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk. See also my Facebook page [here](#).

Catherine Rowett

3rd November 2025

Bunwell District Councillor Report November 2025

Warm Homes Scheme

<https://norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk/homeowners>

Not everyone is aware of this excellent scheme run by Broadland and South Norfolk Council. It's basically a retro-fit home insulation and renewable energy installation programme, which is completely free for eligible households (and I have been told there are at least 21 eligible households in the Bunwell area). It's funded by grants from the government's Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

Eligibility details are on the website but essentially you have to own your property *and* either be receiving certain benefits *or* meet an annual household gross/net income threshold, full details of which are on the website (however, if you are a private tenant you can ask your landlord to contact the Warm Homes team and see if they can help).

You will have a dedicated person at the council who will support you through the process, using reputable suppliers with a proven track record in this sort of work. You will also receive a free EPC certificate at the end of the project to reflect the improvement in energy efficiency in your home.

If the grants aren't taken up, they aren't likely to be reissued in the next round of funding so I'm helping the Warm Homes team contact as many people as possible to make use of this really impressive offer, so please spread the word in your communities! If anyone has any further questions please do contact me or the Warm Homes team on 01603 430103.

And finally while we're on the subject of warm homes, the Winter Pressure Grants are now fully subscribed so closed to new applications this year.

Update on Energy Projects

1. Norwich to Tilbury. I touched on this in my October report but at that point you were not able to register as an 'interested party' – now you can, so it's a last chance to have your say about the scheme during its pre-examination phase. You can register here and your thoughts need to be submitted before 27th November <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/register/register-have-your-say>

The next stage will be the examination phase, when you will be contacted again if you submitted objections and will be asked specific questions in writing, or sometimes there may be hearings if a case is particularly complicated. This process will likely start next spring.

2. East Pye. They have released a targeted consultation to householders, landowners and businesses in the areas affected by the scheme. In our area this mainly concerns Great Moulton and Aslacton. The key changes are that they have confirmed the National Grid Substation will be to the

south of Great Moulton; the second 'project' substation will be larger than previously stated and will move closer to Great Moulton; and there will be two additional parcels of land leased in Great Moulton and on Station Road in Tivetshall to accommodate overhead equipment, which may include an additional pylon. All those consulted have until November 22nd to respond

<https://www.eastpyesolar.co.uk/documents>

3. Tasway Energy Park. I have had a briefing as a councillor and so far there have been non-statutory consultation presentations for residents in Tacolneston and Ashwellthorpe. Bunwell will follow on Friday 14th November in the Village Hall from midday to 8pm. Please do go along to view their plans. At this stage the exact sites are still not confirmed so we don't know much more than what we've been told previously but I have discovered that they won't have their grid connection point allocated until September 2026, so frustratingly nobody knows which substation they will connect into. It will either be Norwich Main in Swardeston or in the substation connected with the East Pye project in Great Moulton. Obviously we are all hoping it will be the former. They have also told me that rather than one huge BESS, there will be 2 or 3 smaller BESS's split across the site.

I have to say this company, Aureka, have been more impressive than either FIELD or East Pye and have been carrying out their ecological reports at the right time of year, since the beginning of this year. They seem very empathetic towards residents and keen to do as much as they can to put people's minds at rest. We will see what unfolds.

Nature Conservation Fund Winners

I'm not aware if anyone in the area submitted a scheme for the South Norfolk Council Nature Conservation Fund which we talked about earlier this year, but I thought you might be interested to know the winners. A total of £70,000 was awarded to 11 groups across South Norfolk – visit this link for full details <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/green-spaces-grow-with-70000-boost>.

Near neighbours who were successful include Wymondham, where work will focus on restoring a pond, and in Spooner Row, a restored pond and seating area will provide a peaceful spot for residents to enjoy.

And finally...

I think you are all aware but nominations have just opened for the annual Broadland and South Norfolk Business Awards 2026: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/business/broadland-and-south-norfolk-business-awards>

Cllr Suzanne Wateridge

Member for Bunwell Ward, South Norfolk Council

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