



**The Town Council offices are situated at:**

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**Office opening hours:  
Monday to Friday  
9.30am to 4pm**

## Message from the Mayor

### How Covid-19 affected the Town Council

**In March 2020 life as we knew it changed forever. 11 months on and we are still experiencing a far from normal lifestyle as we find ourselves deep into another lockdown and uncertainty as to when lockdown measures will be lifted.**

If I had said to any of you this time last year that we would all be wearing masks / face coverings throughout most of 2020 and into 2021, staying two metres apart from each other and washing our hands 20 or 30 times per day, you would have thought that I may have just woken from a very weird dream.

Some of us may have lost loved ones to this terrible disease and some of us may have lost our livelihoods. I do not believe there can be one of us that has not been affected in some way by coronavirus.

The Town Council was very concerned by the fast-evolving situation as of March 2020, where we had to prepare a strategy to enable the council to continue to function during such unprecedented times. This meant that we had to have contingency plans in place for all eventualities. A leaflet drop was done to all residents providing details of the South Norfolk Help Hub, who were co-ordinating volunteer groups and food parcels for vulnerable people that were shielding. The Town Council offices were closed and all office staff were working from home, with the ground staff furloughed. As chairman of the council, I maintained regular contact with the town clerk via telephone so that we could do any essential business remotely.

Although all of this was completely alien to us, we managed to get through the first lockdown and staff were then able to return to work over a period of weeks. One thing that did not stop was the grass growing! This gave the ground staff plenty to do when they returned from furlough leave.

With regard to being Mayor of Wymondham I have had very few official engagements to attend and most of those that I have attended have been virtual, via a live video link (Zoom).

Although the number of official engagements has reduced significantly, I did remain Mayor for a second term of office, which will continue until May 2021 - but my diary is still void of official engagements. No civic functions to attend, no fetes to open and no care homes to visit, and this is likely to be the case for the foreseeable future. The Town Council did relocate to new offices at Ketts Park and these are a vast improvement upon our previous offices in Middleton Street. The unfortunate side to this is that we have been unable to hold a single meeting in the new building yet! Covid-19 has made it impossible to use the council chamber.

Ironically the other side of my post as Mayor, and indeed being a District Councillor, has seen an extremely busy year, attending numerous Zoom meetings and chairing several meetings on many different topics. Many of these have been related to Covid-19, involving responses to issues raised by South Norfolk Council. The Town Council has issued over £2,000 in grants to help Wymondham charities and organisations to assist people during the pandemic. In times of crisis, it is truly amazing how we all pull together and help each other.

July 4th 2020 was the day Wymondham high street reopened following the first lockdown. The Town Council had decided to hold the Friday market with the public toilets being opened. Reopening the town in general provided a different challenge; to open the high street, encourage people to return to the shops, but give them confidence to make them feel safe. In collaboration between the Town Council, South Norfolk Council, and local stakeholders a plan was discussed, although the proposals were not unanimously agreed. The first day was fraught with drama and confusion as the town was effectively pedestrianised between 10am and 4pm with restricted routes to car parks and the reversal of the Back Lane one way system! Confusion reigned and shop keepers were not happy. Walking through the town I heard several cries from business owners asking what I was going to do about this?

They were on their knees, having little or no trade since March 23rd and then being subjected to a significant drop in footfall because people were not visiting the town in sufficient numbers. A meeting was convened outside so that we could socially distance and reach a compromise. This we did and the result was a one way system along the Market Place with planters and seating to allow people to sit outside and enjoy the pubs and cafes al fresco during the summer. Back Lane was returned to its original direction of flow and signage was installed around the town. Hand sanitisers were installed to allow people to feel safe, and these have been topped up regularly. The revised system appeared to work, people returned, shops were busier and there was vibrancy in the town as people set about their business. Unfortunately, some businesses have found it difficult since the town reopened especially as many more people have turned to the internet during lockdown, purchasing items from online retailers. We know some have had no option but to close, but on the positive side the perseverance of the proprietors of The White Hart has now given us a much-needed town centre Post Office again, so well done to them.

I believe that many of the safety measures initiated by the response to Covid-19 will be here to stay for a long time, and could even become part of everyday life. Will Perspex screens at shop counters stay in place? Will face masks become a fashion accessory? Will hand sanitiser stations remain?

To update on a few other items; the Wymondham Neighbourhood Plan is progressing with the third meeting scheduled for spring 2021. This will however have to be held via Zoom due to the lockdown measures. We believe that we have a good cross-section of people involved in the plan, including myself and three other town councillors. We will publish updates on the Town Council website as the process evolves and hope that we can develop an excellent plan that will outline the strategy for Wymondham for the next 15 to 20 years.

We also hope to develop a Facebook page for the Town Council over the coming months, and to continue with a quarterly magazine publication.

This time last year although we did not know it, we were fast approaching the first lockdown. As we see light at the end of the tunnel let us all be strong, help each other and eventually we will re-emerge into some form of normality!

*Cllr Kevin Hurn*

# By-elections - could you be a councillor?

Following recent resignations, the Town Council now has three vacancies as follows:

- North Wymondham Ward - 2 vacancies
- Central Wymondham Ward - 1 vacancy

Could you be a councillor? Parish and town councils are the most local level of government in England. They are independent bodies with responsibility for representing all residents in the parish, running many local services, commenting on planning applications and long-term development issues, and collecting money for their budget through the 'precept' as part of council tax. They also have wide-ranging powers to become involved in

further activities that contribute towards the improvement of the environment and quality of life in the parish.

All town councillors are residents who have volunteered and been elected by residents who are on the electoral role for the specified wards. They are unpaid and normally serve a four-year term. In this instance the term is until May 2023. The by-elections are currently scheduled for Thursday 6th May 2021 at the same time as the County Council and Police & Crime Commissioner elections.

Any interested resident can decide to stand as a town councillor. You do not need to have experience of local government or state a political allegiance but do need to be nominated by two other ward residents and submit a nomination form to South Norfolk Council by 4.00pm on Thursday 8th April. To find out more, have a look at the National Association of Local Councils website ([www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk)); contact the Norfolk County Association of Parish and Town Councils on 01603 664869 or [enquiries@ncaptc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ncaptc.gov.uk); or contact the Town Clerk on 603302.

## Who are your councillors?

As a result of the elections in May 2019, the following have been elected to serve until the next Local Government elections in May 2023 (May 2021 for County Councillors), representing Wymondham on the county (NCC), district (SNC) and/or town councils.

### Central

Mr R Savage	Kingston, 6 Park Lane, NR18 9BG	01953 603722	<a href="mailto:rsavage@s-norfolk.gov.uk">rsavage@s-norfolk.gov.uk</a>	WTC, SNC
Mr K Hurn	10 Sheffield Road, NR18 0LX	01953 798492	<a href="mailto:kevin.hurn.kh@gmail.com">kevin.hurn.kh@gmail.com</a>	WTC, SNC
Mr I Flatt	48 Orchard Way, NR18 0NY	01953 603398	<a href="mailto:ianorchardflatt@hotmail.com">ianorchardflatt@hotmail.com</a>	WTC
Mr P Travis	33 Damgate Street, NR18 0BG	01953 601777	<a href="mailto:pete@petegreen.co.uk">pete@petegreen.co.uk</a>	WTC
WTC VACANCY				

### East

Mr P Broome	14 Bramble Way, NR18 0UN	01953 600829	<a href="mailto:pbroome.309@gmail.com">pbroome.309@gmail.com</a>	WTC
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### North

Mrs Y Astley	142 Norwich Road, NR18 0UX	01953 600852	<a href="mailto:yvette.astley72@gmail.com">yvette.astley72@gmail.com</a>	WTC
Mr A Holden	31 Ashleigh Gardens, NR18 0EX	01953 857316	<a href="mailto:tholden88@yahoo.com">tholden88@yahoo.com</a>	WTC, SNC
Mr J Hornby	9 Papillon Road, NR18 0WD	01953 600300	<a href="mailto:cllrhornby@gmail.com">cllrhornby@gmail.com</a>	SNC
Miss P Hubble	11 Petunia Court, NR18 0FR	01953 604113	<a href="mailto:pennylibdem@gmail.com">pennylibdem@gmail.com</a>	WTC

WTC VACANCY x 2

### South

Mr J Halls	2 Chapel Loke, Spooner Row, NR18 9LS	01953 600720	<a href="mailto:julian.halls@talktalk.net">julian.halls@talktalk.net</a>	WTC, SNC
Mrs A James	62 Wood Avens Way, NR18 0XP	01953 605554	<a href="mailto:annettelibdem@gmail.com">annettelibdem@gmail.com</a>	WTC
Mrs S Nuri	15 Silfield Avenue, NR18 9BD	01953 601108	<a href="mailto:suzannelibdem@gmail.com">suzannelibdem@gmail.com</a>	WTC, SNC

## County councillors

### Wymondham

Mr J F Mooney	2 Orchard Way, NR18 9NX	01953 604482	<a href="mailto:joe.mooney.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk">joe.mooney.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk</a>
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### Forehoe

Mr C Foulger	4 High Banks, Wymondham, NR18 0UZ	07745 163169	<a href="mailto:colin.foulger.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk">colin.foulger.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk</a>
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