

Hello, Docking Residents!

Spring is in the air, and as our village bursts into bloom, we have plenty of exciting updates to share with you. Thank you for taking the time to stay informed about all the happenings in Docking!

 **Parish Council Meeting Updates** Our most recent meeting was held on the first Monday of March, and our next meeting will take place on the first Monday of April. Everyone is welcome to attend—tea and biscuits are served from 6:30 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. We always have a public session for comments or questions on agenda items, so please do come along.

If you'd like to raise a query in advance, it's helpful to email our Clerk so we can seek out any necessary information ahead of time. You can find meeting minutes on our website (please note these are assumed draft until formally approved at the next meeting).

 **Meeting Minutes:** <https://dockingparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

 **Village Improvements in Progress** We're delighted to share some updates on the work happening around our village:

1. **Old Recreation Ground (ORG) Renovations:** Progress is well underway, with fencing due to be installed soon, followed by hedge planting. We'll need volunteers to help with tree planting—please get in touch if you'd like to lend a hand!
 2. **War Memorial:** Plans are also in place to spruce up the War Memorial in time for Remembrance Sunday.
 3. **Village Sign:** Our iconic village sign will soon receive a refresh to keep it looking its best.
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 **Neighbourhood Plan – Have Your Say!** Our draft Neighbourhood Plan is ready, and now we need **YOUR input** to ensure it truly reflects our community's vision. You can read the plan and submit your comments via our website.

 **Neighbourhood Plan:** <https://dockingparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

 **Devolution and Local Government Changes – Share Your Views** The Government is considering reorganising local government in Norfolk, which could see Borough Councils replaced by larger Unitary Authorities. This could impact how local voices are heard and how local services are managed. We encourage all residents to fill out the survey and share their views.

 **Devolution Survey:** <https://dockingparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

 **Speed Watch Update** Our Speed Watch team has been doing fantastic work helping to keep our roads safe. Huge thanks to all the volunteers for their time and dedication.

Going forward, the Parish Council will manage the SAM2 speed signs (the flashing speed signs), while the Speed Watch team continues to monitor traffic. If you'd like to volunteer and join the team, we'd love to have you on board—please get in touch via the Clerk.

As the spring season brings more visitors to our village, let's all do our part to drive safely and encourage others to do the same.

 **Farewell & Vacancy – Councillor Ashley Miles** We are sad to announce that Cllr Ashley Miles has stepped down from the Parish Council. We are incredibly grateful for all his hard work and dedication to our village.

This also means we now have a **council vacancy**. If you're passionate about Docking and would like to get involved, please contact the Clerk for more information. Formal notices will be posted soon, followed by a two-week application period. If no election is called, the council will co-opt a new member.

 **Electrical Blanket Testing – Free Service** Local libraries are currently offering free electrical blanket testing to ensure your home is safe. This is a great opportunity to check your winter warmers before storing them away!

 **Reporting Issues – Who To Contact** If you spot any issues around the village, here's where to direct your queries:

- **Highways (potholes, verges, pavements):** <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/highwaysproblem>
 - **Borough Council (bins, road cleaning, council tax):** <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/>
 - **Police (suspicious activity):** Please report directly to the police.
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 **Community Star Award – Nominate Someone Special!** We've launched a **Community Star Award** to recognise the unsung heroes of our village—the people who go above and beyond to make Docking a wonderful place to live. If you'd like to nominate someone, please get in touch with the Clerk. We'd love to hear your stories!

Thank you all for being part of this vibrant community. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting or around the village. Together, we'll keep Docking thriving!

Best wishes, Docking Parish Council Chair: Melanie Lewis
Clerk: Annalisa Dovey
Contact the Clerk: Clerk@dockingparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: <https://dockingparishcouncil.gov.uk/>