

## **Clerk's Report – Warham Parish Council – 27 March 2025**

On Tuesday the 25 of February I attended a meeting at Thursford Museum with about 40 others. NNDC were explaining the current “state of play” on the reorganisation of Local Government. Parish and Town Councils are not affected (unless they are passed one or two extra powers). Instead of County Councils in Norfolk & Suffolk there will be a Mayoralty – similar to those in London, Manchester, and other cities. The District Councils will be scrapped, and new Unitary Councils will take their place and undertake the functions of the Districts plus the County. In Norfolk there will be a maximum of three Unitaries – possibly only one for the whole County, but it was thought likely that there would be two, with the County split East, based in Norwich, and West, based in King's Lynn. The existing Districts and the County have to decide how they would like it to operate by 21 March and then have all the plans in place to do so by 26 September. There will be a lot of information and ideas coming out over the next few months!

Since the last meeting, I have received an email from a Parishioner complaining about dog walker(s) using the churchyard to exercise their dogs and not clearing up after them. He asked if the Parish Council could put up a notice telling people not to. I replied that if people were irresponsible enough to allow their dogs to foul the churchyard and then just leave it, a notice is unlikely to change that. However, I did say that I would raise it at the next PC meeting, which I am doing hereby.

With regard to agenda item 7, I have not received any appeals this year. We have a budget of £200 for donations.

The results of our appeals for grants for a new playground are disappointing. However, I think that perhaps we were too ambitious. Of a total of £80k over 40% was for the wet-pour safety surfacing. It would have been very nice to have this, but dropping it reduces the cost considerably, even if we will have a future cost of the grass cutting. We need to have a discussion!

KL March 2025