

## CLlr Delme Thompson: Parish Update March 2025 – Pulham St Mary

### Town and Parish Forum

- The recording of the 4 March meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Biv20G586sM>
- The next in-person meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 9am - 12pm.

### Budget 2025/6 approved.

The council's budget was approved at full council, which includes

- a £5 rise in Council tax.
- an agreement to invest in a work programme for multiple children's playgrounds owned by the council across the district.
- £100,000 additional funding available to the Community Action Fund, which will open in April.

### GRANTS UPDATE

#### Nature Conservation Fund

**South Norfolk Council have launched a Nature Conservation Fund, designed to empower local communities to enhance their green spaces and boost biodiversity.**

Offering grants of up to £10,000, the fund will support Town and Parish Councils in developing projects that benefit both the environment and local residents.

The fund will provide five grants of up to £10,000 each for projects. Town and Parish Councils can express their interest **starting this April**, with project delivery expected by April 2026.

**Community groups are also encouraged to participate, provided they have the support of their local Town or Parish Council.**

The fund focuses on projects that deliver tangible results in one, or more of three key areas:

- Carbon Sequestration: Projects that actively contribute to tackling carbon emissions.
- Biodiversity Benefit: Initiatives that enhance local ecosystems and support a diverse range of plant and animal life.
- Public Accessibility to Greenspace: Creating and improving green spaces that are accessible and enjoyable for the entire community.

Eligible projects might include creating circular walks, establishing wildlife-attracting ponds, or planting mini-forests. Funding guidelines will ensure that projects meet these core criteria and maximize their positive impact.

### **VE Day Grant**

South Norfolk Council has established a new grant to support Town Councils, Parish Councils, and community organisations across the districts to organise a commemorative event for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. **Events organised between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> May will also be accepted.**

Up to £300 of funding per parish is available on receipt of a completed application form available here: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/community-funding/ve-day-grant>

Only one application per Parish can be accepted and **applications will close on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to email the Communities team: [communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:communities@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk) or call 01603 430611

### Process & Timeline

- Applicants must initially submit an Expression of Interest and attend an online meeting with the SNC team to discuss the project proposal. Following the online meeting, the most suitable proposals will be invited to submit a full application.
- Final applications must be submitted by 31st July 2025, with successful applicants notified no later than the 1st September 2025.
- All projects must be delivered by April 2026.