

Annual Parish Council Meeting 2024

Chairman's report

1. First, thank you to our new clerk, Taila, who has steadied the PC ship so ably. Thank you to parish councillors; to our County Councillor, Ed & to our District Councillor, Sarah for their work and support to this parish council.
2. After several years as parish councillor, Mark Hadley resigned for personal reasons, we thank him for his service.
3. Three new Councillors have joined us recently. Welcome to Ashley Broughton; Robin Croft & Steve Southcott.
4. Over the year we have been in contact with the various developers engaged in major projects in the village. They have been helpful for the most part. Issues have arisen but solutions have been found and implemented. Villagers with concerns are encouraged to contact the chairman of this parish council, in the first instance.
5. The Speedwatch Group continued to hold weekly sessions. The number of drivers recorded speeding has reduced but, generally, speeding remains a curse in the village, so we will persevere. We are a small group of 9 people. If anyone thinks the village has a speeding issue, don't complain – join us!
6. Through our representations to the Safer Neighbourhood And Policing Forum, speeding in the village has been maintained consistently as a priority for the local police, leading to regular visits by the speed control team.
7. The Parish Council has agreed, in principle, to purchase a new speed camera for the use of the Speedwatch Group. We await its availability.
8. Our County Councillor kindly offered both of his nominations for the Road Safety Awards Competition in 2023 to our village. The Parish Council nominated the installation of a 40mph limit on the Hingham Road and the introduction of pinch-points in Long Street, as a traffic calming measure. We finally heard in March that the Long Street proposal had been successful. We await details.
9. Whilst the Bowsfield S106 awards of land and funds won't be released for a couple of years, the PC, in concert with the Recreation Trustees, has started to consider the options regarding the location; design and funding of a new village hall. Our current working hypothesis is that the PC will sell back the donated New Village Hall Land and build the new

village hall on the recreation ground. The sale funds will be added to the £368,000 to be received from the S106 agreement. We are currently waiting for the developer to make the PC an offer for the land, upon which he plans to build 7 extra houses.

10. The PC has assessed several planning applications during the year. Any submission to Breckland Council includes a clause to ensure the village's Dark Sky status is maintained. The PC asks that all external lights on properties be controlled by a PIR system. i.e. only triggered by movement / intruder
11. We are continuing to support the Exec. Head Teacher and school governors with a project to build additional classrooms, which will go some way toward enabling families, new to the village, to have their children educated in our excellent primary school. Similarly, we have been working with the Pre-school to secure it long-term accommodation, after the new village hall has been completed.
12. The PC contributed funds to a number of village groups this year and we regularly encourage groups to apply for funds for special projects.
13. The PC commissioned Simon Michlmayr to repair and make safe the memorial clock at St James's. A team of clock-winders has been trained and we thank them for their efforts.
14. The planting of the roundabout seems to have taken but is now overcome with weeds. The PC is in the process of buying bark and clover seeds to resolve this issue. Volunteers will be needed to clear the weeds; spread the bark and sow the clover seed.
15. The new bus services continue to build custom. It really is a case of 'use it or lose it', so 'please think bus first' when considering a journey.
16. The area to the South of the village has joined the Civil parish of Great Ellingham. I'm pleased to report that two of our new parish councillors are from the new area and we are beginning to explore ways to improve things for the local residents.
17. One of these is the creation of a Trod Path from 8 Acres to West Carr Road. This would enable carers to push / walk with their charges safely around the bends near Corner Farm.
18. Thanks to our MP, George Freeman & the Chair of the Strategic Flood Alliance, Henry Cator, the horrendous effects of the rainstorms earlier in the year, which resulted in raw sewage entering residents' houses in Long Street, were resolved by Anglian Water replacing a burned out

pump in the pumping station at Shruggs Lane. The kerosene spill into the ditch in Long Street is still being dealt with by the Environment Agency but, I'm delighted to say, it would appear the blocked storm drain at No 35 Long Street may have been resolved.

19. Thanks to our District Councillor, Sarah, who is helping us to resolve the two Enforcement issues in the village; namely: the pond at Mill Farm / Lake View and the Triangle at Town Green.

Thank you.

TPB