

**BRETtenham PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON**  
**THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 COMMENCED 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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**MINUTES**

1. The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence accepted and approved: Carrie & Martin Dye, Gary Roberts, Police Sgt. 1455 Matthew Paisley.
3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 previously circulated to the Parish Council were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
4. /5. OPEN DISCUSSION AND CHAIRMANS REPORT:

Jenny Antill Suffolk C.C.

The budget for 2016/17 was voted through in Full Council in February. Although general council tax will not be increased, the county's share of the bill will be increased by 2% to reflect the Government's Social Care Levy which is ring fenced for spending on Adult Social Care. 90% of councils in England will be raising this Levy and many will also be increasing council tax to the maximum allowed without a referendum of 3.9%.

In September Suffolk Leaders submitted a formal 'expression of interest' to Government supporting Suffolk's aspirations to participate in a Devolution bid at an early stage. It rapidly became clear that Suffolk's ideas did not coincide with those of Whitehall. Initially it seemed that the Government wanted us to include Norfolk in our plans, and more recently has insisted that Cambridgeshire join in too. In his budget statement George Osborne confirmed that he was keen to conclude a deal with what has been called the Eastern Powerhouse headed by an elected Mayor. At present it is uncertain whether all of Cambridgeshire councils are willing to sign up. Large sums have been mentioned which are likely to be spent on infrastructure and other measures to stimulate economic growth in the region. It is uncertain as to whether this actually constitutes money that would otherwise not have been spent. In fact the whole process has been shrouded in mystery, has not been democratic and has been described by a cross party Parliamentary Group as 'piecemeal and incoherent'

Suffolk County Council's Services for looked after children have been rated 'good' by OFSTED following a recent inspection. 78 Councils have been inspected under this framework, and only 17 have received 'good' ratings, so this is an achievement. Educational standards in the county have continued to improve, albeit at a slow rate. A level, GCSE and SATs results for Suffolk schools have all shown improvements and we are slowly moving off the bottom of the league tables. Suffolk County Council is continuing to take an active part in the Fairer funding campaign which aims to get a better level of central government funding for Suffolk schools. George Osborne recently committed the Government to looking again at funding levels with a view to making them more equitable. This should be good news for Suffolk schools.

A consultation on reorganisation of the Fire Service concluded in February and a decision with regard to this will be made by the cabinet in May once the results of the consultation have been evaluated. The proposals which do involve closure of some fire stations and reduction in equipment should be seen against a background of reduced demand and a smaller number of emergency call outs over the past 10 years.

Broadband, regretfully looking at the latest version of the map on the Suffolk Better Broadband website Brettenham is not designated as a place which will receive a high speed service by September this year. Regulatory issues due to EU procurement complications that were holding up the roll out of the second contract have now been resolved. At the request of a member of the Parish Council, looked into the question of erecting satellite systems on listed buildings and have not had a very clear reply. One suggestion is to put the equipment in the garden. SCC officers are working with Babergh on an individual case basis to try to persuade the planners that the equipment is not permanent and should therefore be allowed. JA hopes to raise this matter at a meeting of the Remote Broadband Group later in the month and if there is further news on this or any other related matter JA will let the Chairman know.

- Views sought regarding merger of Norfolk and Suffolk Police and the effect this would have on rural crime, JA: this was a question for the Police Commissioner.
- Broadband, why do residents who do not have faster broadband have to pay the same rates as residents who do when the same service is not provided? When new properties are built, why cannot developers be forced to contribute to broadband upgrades? JA: Many of this is central government decision, Jane Storey has named responsibility in Suffolk C C for Broadband.

Michael Creffield Babergh District Councillor

New mobile phone mast in Hitcham has been installed and active since 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, signal strength should be seen to improve.

Devolution in East Anglia will see a further £30million spent over 30 years on housing and infrastructure.

SHLA (Strategic Housing Land Availability) aims to deliver 70,000 new homes by 2031.

James Cartlidge MP is holding a surgery at Cockfield Village Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 4.30pm to 6.30pm, appointments need to be booked.

### Rev Tiffer Robinson Brettenham Church

Highlight of 2015 for the benefice was the church weekend away. Across the weekend 45 people went to Letton Hall. Lent course held looking at different methods and approaches to prayer. Brettenham Church had 1 wedding and 2 funerals in 2015 and hosted the Easter Liturgy Service.

Brettenham fundraising and village events seen to be a real connection between the village and the church, always made to feel welcome.

Rev Tiffer intends to visit all residents during 2016.

Thanks extended to everyone in the church and the village for continued support and help.

### Chris Clarke Chairman Brettenham Parish Council Report

The Parish Council has responsibility for liaison with BDC, SCC and Suffolk police on matters such as planning, highways and safety. The PC also manages the playing field and related parking and other green open spaces in the village, publishing the village magazine, and not least, managing the Council's budget.

In 2015 the planning committee, under the chairmanship of Paul Brinkley, has received 14 planning applications of which 5 were for removal or pruning of trees, 2 for brand new houses (of which one is the replacement of the existing house) and the remainder for extensions to existing properties.

Charles Camp has liaised with the SCC highways to maintain the footpaths. During 2015 Dux Street, Lower Farm road and Buggs Lane were resurfaced and recently from Church Farm to Old School Corner has been repaired. The verge from the Thatched Cottage to the Shambles, which had become wild, has been cleaned up. I thank Strutt and Parker for arranging this and for Andrew Gooderham for overseeing the work. I would also like to note and thank the Brettenham Gardening Club for their excellent efforts in planting bulbs around the village and creating and maintaining the flowers on the green by the church.

During 2015 the playing field has been maintained with Brian Gooderham cutting the grass. An H&S audit was conducted on behalf of the Parish Council by David Bracy. The major critique is that the bark under the play equipment needs building up and the PC is in the process of arranging this. The play area is in need of improvement since 2 play items were removed due to their dangerous condition. Before any improvements are made the PC wishes to consult villagers and thus a village review is planned to be held later this year.

As we all know David and Margey Carter moved away from the village. David has been a great supporter of the Parish Council and the BVA and his departure left a big gap. We have been lucky with Emily Woods who volunteered to edit and publish the village magazine bringing a new style.

The precept was held at £4150 for the fiscal year 2015/16 and with the income from the village magazine we have managed to maintain the reserves at approximately £5000 whilst purchasing a new computer for the clerk to the parish council and a new bench to replace the damaged one a long side the play area. I should note that the reserves are identified for use in the upgrade of the play area.

I would like to thank David Golding for acting as liaison with SALC, Peter Truin for Suffolk Passenger Transport representative, Wendy Wakeman for tree Officer, Martin Dye for neighbourhood watch coordinator, Roger Bere for auditing the Parish Council accounts.

An especial thanks goes to Jane Moulding as Clerk to the Parish Council for all her hard work during the past year.

And as an observation, broadband speeds are as good as in the recent past i.e. not good and the mobile signal poor.

### Duncan Rollo Centre Academy

Another successful year, all students who applied for university gained places. School have been successful in a Shakespeare competition, from 20,000 entrants, Centre Academy along with 19 other schools have been chosen to perform their version of Midsummer Night's Dream at Stratford upon Avon.

### Martin Frey Rattlesden Airfield Liaison Group

The group continues to meet and has had little feedback from Brettenham residents of any issues, request to slightly extend flying times met with no opposition but feedback from residents on flight path will be sought. Liaison Group will continue for a further year.

### PS 1455 Matt Paisley Sudbury Safer Neighbourhood Team

The last 12 months have seen Suffolk Constabulary face some significant challenges. It has been well publicised in the press, and through communications direct to Parishes, that the financial climate had resulted in the need to refocus how we deliver our service across the County. Whilst the economy gave the push required to redefine the Constabulary, it also allowed every department to examine the work we do day to day and establish our core roles, taking into account the areas of work that cause us and our communities the most threat, risk and harm.

The Suffolk Local Policing Review has now been completed and introduced some fundamental changes that will impact our local communities. The nature of work handled by us, the Safer Neighbourhood Team, is becoming more focussed upon reducing demand to us and other agencies. In order to do this, PCSOs will now have additional specific responsibilities in key areas that will allow them to liaise directly with agencies that are best equipped in the problem area. For example, there will be an officer who concentrates on licensing issues and retail; another will work closely with vulnerable communities and mental health. However, to get the most benefit from these roles, the PCSOs will now only work office based hours, albeit still spread across 7 days. This will of course mean that the monthly Parish meetings will no longer be attended by Police. PCSO Laura Mansell has been allocated as our Parish Council liaison officer, so in addition to her other tasks she will be building relationships with all Parishes within the Sudbury SNT boundary. Whilst we have seen a reduction in the number of PCSOs working on our SNT (10 down to 6), the remaining officers are all part of the former team, versed with great experience,

knowledge and expertise on the geography. The 4 Constables that were previously allocated have been reduced, and replaced by 3 new officers, although all three have extensive local knowledge having policed the area at some point in their careers.

The other headlines from the review are that all front desks in the County, bar Ipswich, Bury and Lowestoft, have closed. As a consequence of this, we will no longer deal with lost and found property as there is no legal obligation on the Police to take on this task.

The review has encompassed every area of front line Policing. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure full public awareness, we do appreciate that some of you may not have received the full message. Therefore, if you would like further information, please contact Sgt. Matt Paisley by email [matthew.paisley@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:matthew.paisley@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

Aside from the review, in the last quarter of 2015 we saw the introduction of a new crime recording computer system. This follows several years of planning and consultation with other Forces in order for a wider take up across the Country. There have been many positives coming out of this new system, not least cross border investigations and arrests. There is, however, one negative for Parishes, and that is the inability for the system to provide us with accurate crime figures for specific Parishes at specific times. It is due to this reason that we are unable to provide yearly crime statistics at this time. A new crime report for Parishes will soon be available (this has been sent to Parish clerks) and this will be populated with accurate, up to date data by our analytical department.

6.1 Village Celebrations for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Whilst the view was that it would be good to do something, the BVA have no plans but Carrie Dye is planning an exhibition in the Church in the Autumn which will be very well represented. It was agreed that no other celebration would be held.

6.2 Security of house holder's outbuildings. Following information received from Sudbury Safer Neighbourhood Team via Val McGuill of Hall Lodge Cottage regarding padlocks and sensor alarms being available for purchase at cost price of £8 and £4 respectively, it was agreed that an item would be placed in the Village Magazine. The clerk would collect orders and place an order with the Police Parish Liaison Officer.

6.3 Village Review. The review is designed to seek input from villagers regarding what changes they would like to see. Residents suggested that it was important to get young people/children input. Councillor Lindsey Collings agreed that she would be happy to visit families to seek views. An item would be placed in May Village Magazine to seek input and ideas from villagers. The dates of village review meetings would be decided following receipt of ideas from villagers.

6.4 Additional Item: Brettenham Park Swimming Club. Numbers this year are very low; Councillor David Goulding encouraged residents to support.

The Chairman thanked everybody for coming to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.40 which was then followed by a brief Parish Council Meeting.

#### **Parish Councillors**

Mr Chris Clarke (Chairman) – Mr David Golding (Vice-Chairman)

Mr Paul Brinkley (Chairman of Planning Committee)

Mrs Lindsey Collings – Miss Beverley Cronk – Ms Emily Woods - Mr Peter Truin

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**Chairman:** Mr Chris Clarke Tel: 01449 736607

**Clerk/RFO:** Mrs Jane Moulding Tel: 01449 736178 Email: [brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com)