

Parish Council APM Report 13 April 2017

The Parish Council has responsibility for liaison with BDC, SCC and Suffolk police on matters such as planning, highways, footpaths 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.

The Parish Council met 6 times during 2016. During the year the PC has refurbished the village sign, reviewed and updated the PC's internal procedures and controls, reviewed the PC insurance to see that it meets our needs, approved the PC's Financial Regulations, approved the Standing Orders.

The precept was held at £4150 for the fiscal year 2016/17 and with the income from the village magazine we have managed to increase the reserves to approximately £6000. I should note that £5000 of the reserves is identified for the renewal of the play area. The Parish also has a further £10000 held by Babergh DC under clause S106 agreements between BDC Planning Office and the developer of new houses for the benefit of Brettenham village.

In 2016 the planning committee, under the chairmanship of Paul Brinkley, has received 16 planning applications of which 3 were for removal or pruning of trees, 2 for brand new houses and the remainder for extensions to existing properties.

A village review was conducted in October 2016 facilitated by SALC. 35 members of the village attended. The main concerns identified were broadband speed, poor mobile signal, traffic speeding and development of the play area. Village action groups were formed for broadband speed, traffic speeding and development of the play area and each group will report later during this meeting. I must note that another concern which has focused our minds recently are the robberies that have occurred in recent months.

During 2016 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 PC has removed 2 pieces of the play equipment and intends to completely renew the play area after the action group has given its findings.

Several members of our community help with Parish Council responsibilities and I would like to thank the following people, Emily Woods for editing and publish the village magazine, David Golding for acting as liaison with SALC, Peter Truin for Suffolk Passenger Transport representative, Wendy Wakeman for tree Officer, Val McGill for neighbourhood watch coordinator, Charles Camp for Footpath liaison officer, Martin Frey for representative on the Rattlesden Flying Club Liaison Committee, Roger Bere for auditing the Parish Council accounts.

I would like also 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.

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

Chris Clarke