

## Parish Council APM Report 9 May 2019

The Parish Council has responsibility for liaison with BDC, SCC, Suffolk police and SALC on matters such as planning, highways, footpaths, safety, and governance. The PC also manages the playing field and other green open spaces in the village, publishes the village magazine, and not least, manages the Council's budget (known as the precept).

An election was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 and the parish councillors were elected unopposed. These are Paul Bendall, Lindsey Collings, Beverley Cronk, Peter Truin, Alyson Wilson Emily Woods and myself.

A number of Parish Councillors also have specific roles as follows:

Paul Bendall is Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Peter Truin is Suffolk Passenger Transport representative.

Alyson Wilson is SALC representative.

Emily Woods is village magazine editor.

In addition there are a number of villagers who act on behalf of the Parish Council as follows:

Martin Annis is Footpath Liaison Officer. Martin has developed a foot path leaflet which will be available in the near future.

Marin Frey is representative on the Rattlesden Flying Club liaison committee.

Fraser Gipson is website coordinator.

Andrew Gooderham is Tree Officer. Andrew liaises with David Pizey on tree work within the conservation area, providing advice to David when he cannot get to view a site.

Val McGill is neighbourhood watch coordinator and speed watch coordinator.

And then there is Jane Moulding who has held the very important role Clerk/ RFO to the Parish Council and I thank her for her hard work and commitment and putting up with me on occasions. Jane decided to step down but luckily for us Jo Schofield volunteered to take up the role of Clerk / RFO. Welcome Jo and we look forward to working with you.

In addition to the Parish Council there are 2 other organisations that play an important role in our community and these are the Brettenham Village Association which is responsible for and manages the village hall and for organising many enjoyable events throughout the year. And the other is the Parochial Church Council which is responsible for the grade 1 listed church, St. Mary's. Many people are involved with these 2 organisations which help to make our village and create a sense of community. The daffodils which appear alongside some roads in the village are a result of considerable effort by the Gardening Club over the past 5 years.

The Parish Council met 6 times during 2018/19. Good governance is important so during the year the PC has 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 and organised a Health and Safety audit of the play area.

The precept for the fiscal year 2019/20 was approved at £4544.00. On the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the current account held £3288.35, savings account £2481 and the CIL account £2023. The village magazine is self-funding. The Parish also has a further sum 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 late 2016 a village review was held, facilitated by Community Action Suffolk. That evening the following were identified as needing attention, poor broadband, weak mobile signal, speeding through the village and improving the play area. The gestation period may be slow but I am pleased to say the play area has been completely refurbished, Openreach has provided superfast broad band to all areas of the village and we are in the process of purchasing a speed gun and training 4 people to operate the gun. These three events occurred because of involvement and commitment by certain people such as Emma McKenna who led the team identifying what play equipment to install, Jane Moulding for organising the quotes, the construction of the play area and obtaining a grant from the National Lottery Fund and Grahame Moulding for refurbishing the swings. The broadband developed because of pressure from various individuals but notably Peter Knight and Larry O'Hara. The speed watch team was led by Val McGill and with a lot of persistence and a donation from County Councillor Robert Lindsey the gun and individuals will soon be in place.

The weak mobile signal is still weak and variable between providers.

An important question for the future is on what should we expend the CIL and S106 monies.

Chris Clarke