

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 19TH MAY 2021

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS REPORT

Welcome by the Chairman

I would like to welcome members of the public and representatives to the Annual Parish Meeting. We do have a long agenda therefore I would appreciate it if all questions could be covered under item 23. Please note the fire exits are.....

Chairs Report

Thank you for attending the Annual Parish Meeting this year. Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing Councillors – Michelle Golder who was the Chair for just over 2 years. Then I would like to welcome two new Councillors – Gary Wingrove, Craig Ambury.

Due to the pandemic meetings have been held remotely over the past year. The council has held 10 normal monthly meetings. These meetings include a report from the County Councillor and the District Councillor, also a Public Forum in which residents from time-to-time raise concerns or queries. Our agenda almost always includes planning applications and letters from residents with various concerns.

There are other routine items like financial reports and general Parish Council business. Some items have been discussed more than once, including Village Greens, parking, traffic management and the recreation ground.

Perhaps the Parish Council's biggest responsibility is to set a precept to meet its expenses which is then reflected in the Council Tax bill sent to residents in March. In 2020/21 there was a slight increase, due to the general increase in costs and to start saving for work we will have to carry out for the improvements to traffic flow and parking, but we have remained at that level for this year.

We have a group of three Councillors on a Traffic Management Committee who have spent a lot of time with Suffolk highways having discussions with regards to what and how we need to address the ever-increasing issues we have in the village with traffic flow, the huge number of cars coming into the village, especially at weekends and holiday times, and parking. East Suffolk Council is responsible for civil parking enforcement and a warden is present in the village on occasions. Further talks are continuing to increase the signage and yellow lines within the village. This is subject to sufficient funds being raised.

The Parish Council is also working towards some of the roads and lanes becoming registered on the Quiet Lanes Scheme, this is progressing, and all residents will be kept informed of the progress with this.

Community Speedwatch will hopefully be in place shortly, we have 8 volunteers who are awaiting training, but due to the pandemic this was placed on hold.

Planning applications are presented at nearly every Parish Council meeting. There have been several instances of the parish being frustrated by East Suffolk Council planning procedures, whilst we comment on all plans that are presented to us, we have very little power over final decisions. A Neighbourhood Plan was suggested, and a talk was given by a member of a company that could assist with it. The cost and the volunteer commitment to complete it is high.

Items that the Parish Council has achieved include the Pump Area tidying, new metal fencing around the play area, new dragon's teeth on the recreation ground, repairing of the seesaw, a new climbing dome.

Looking forward to the coming year we are working hard to provide the Village Feast as in 2019 when a good evening was enjoyed by many. We have live music, BBQ and a bar. Look out for further details in the Village Voice over the coming months.

That ends my report as Chairman, reports from the New Orford Town Trust, the treasurer to the Parish Council and Trust and various community groups will follow.