

Annual Parish Meeting 7th May 2024
Parish Council Report

I would like to start by welcoming this year's new Councillors, James and Ollie. Both gentlemen have been active in supporting the Council in their short tenure and I hope, together with Barry, Mary, Peter and myself, will continue to bring the 3 Ps.... Positivity, Pro-activeness and Progression to this Council.

Barry, Mary and Peter, thanks to you for your continued support in what can lightly be described as "unpleasant" times. Sticks and stones and all that, I have a strong sense of duty to this village as I know you all have, so lets continue as a group of volunteers to do all we can to support the village in any way we can, building on our relationship with residents, local farmers, Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council.

We will keep an eye and report accordingly on the levels of water that appear when we have torrential downpours, we will continually report the state of our roads to the Highways team via the online portal and feedback via our meetings. Our emergency plan is robust and we have a bi-monthly report written on the condition of our public pathways, many thanks go to Wendy Searle.

We've had several success stories this year regarding match funding for a new beacon for the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings, and a brand new fully automatic de-fib, which can be used on children as well as adults, fitted to the village hall exterior. Our thanks and gratitude go to Aaron Robinson of AR Electrical for fitting the de-fib free of charge and to the VHMC for agreeing to the installation on their property.

We have, after a long debate secured a 3rd salt bin for the village, to be placed at the junction of Church Street and The High St. We are awaiting news regarding match funding for a Sam2 sign to be fitted in the village as a speeding deterrent and we are now, thanks to our Community Engagement Police team also on the rota to receive visits from the Norfolk Police speed camera team.

Financially we are looking in good shape, going into the next financial year with just under £4,000 in the bank. Our auditor claimed "the cashbook is accurate and well maintained. The minutes reflect the bank is reconciled on a bi-monthly basis".

Finally, I would like to thank Donna our Clerk who has been a great support to the Council with advice and guidance throughout the year. As a group, we will continue to learn and develop our knowledge and skills using the various training programmes, Conferences and drop-in sessions available via Norfolk Parish Training and Support and the supportive mechanisms via Norfolk County Council.

Kay Gingell
Chairperson
7th May 2024