

Annual Parish Council Meeting 2022

Chairman's report

1. Thank you to our clerk, Melanie; to parish councillors; to our County Councillor, Ed & to our District Councillor, Sarah for their work and support to this parish council.
2. After several years as parish councillor, Nesha Wilkins resigned for personal reasons, we thank her for her service.
3. Over the year we have been in contact with the various developers engaged in major projects in the village. They have been helpful for the most part. Issues have arisen but solutions have been found and implemented. Villagers with concerns are encouraged to contact the chairman of this parish council, in the first place.
4. The Speedwatch Group continued to hold weekly sessions. The number of drivers recorded speeding has reduced but, generally, speeding remains a curse in the village, so we will persevere. We are a small group of 8 people. If anyone thinks the village has a speeding issue, don't complain – join us!
5. Through our representations to the SNAP Forum, speeding in the village has been maintained consistently as a priority of the local police.
6. The Parish Council has ordered a new Speed Indicator Device via the Parish Partnership scheme. These devices contribute to the village's reputation as somewhere not to speed. We await delivery.
7. The village gateways, bought via the Parish Partnership scheme, were installed at the entrances to the village. They are designed to re-enforce to drivers that they are entering a built-up area with a 30mph speed limit.
8. Our County Councillor kindly offered both of his nominations for the Road Safety Awards Competition 2023 to our village. The PC nominated the installation of a 40mph limit on the Hingham Road and pinch-points in Long Street as a traffic calming measure. Fingers crossed we win.
9. The reinstatement of the advance warning signs, on the A11, of the weight restriction in Wroo Road; Long Street & Chequers Lane has been completed, after a four-year battle with National Highways. It is big and will hopefully put off HGV drivers from taking this route through the village.

10. Whilst the Bowsfield S106 awards of land and funds won't be released for a couple of years, the PC, in concert with the Recreation Trustees, started to consider the options regarding the location; design and funding of a new village hall.
11. The PC has assessed several planning applications during the year. Any submission to Breckland Council includes a clause to ensure the village's Dark Sky status is maintained.
12. We are continuing to support the Exec. Head Teacher and school governors with a project to build two new classrooms, which will go some way toward enabling families, new to the village, to have their children educated in our excellent primary school.
13. The PC contributed funds to a number of village groups this year and we regularly encourage groups to apply for funds for special projects.
14. The PC bought a new general waste bin, which will be installed in Shruggs Lane. The scourge of litter continues to blight the village however, despite the residents who go out litter-picking regularly. We thank them for their efforts.
15. The PC has commissioned Simon Michlmayr to repair and make safe the memorial clock at St James's. I am pleased to report that Mr Bob Cobb has recovered from the injuries caused by the falling weights.
16. In April 2022 two new bus services were introduced. It is now possible to leave the village at 2pm arriving in Norwich at 2:30pm & catch a return bus at 5:25pm at Norwich Bus Station. As the village continues to grow, we will put pressure upon NCC & its bus contractors to put on additional services.
17. The area to the South of the village will join the Civil parish of Great Ellingham after the May election. The parish council looks forward to welcoming the residents of this area to our civil parish and will do its best to give voice to them.