

Minutes of Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Annual Parish Meeting

**Held on Wednesday 25th April 2018
In Welborne Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

Councillors present; Mike Webb (chair), Peter Wood, Clare Kay, Carolyn Bailey and Simon Guest.

District Cllr Michael Edney and the clerk, Bev Long were also present.

Organisations present; Runhall Recreation Ground – Bev Long, Jill Craig – Fuel scheme coordinator, Jane Brown – Countryside Ranger, Joyce Turner, Susan and Sally - All Saints Church Welborne and a representative from Mattishall Primary School.

Along with 7 members of the public and our guest speaker Tom McCabe – Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services at Norfolk County Council.

Apologies received; Cllrs Andrew Egerton Smith and Jaqui Russell. Also, from Jim Squires – Police, Tony Chapman – Mattishall Primary School, Heather Benson – Barnham Broom Primary School, Mattishall Drs Surgery, Rebecca Bradshaw – Mobile library, Bob West – Norfolk County Council, Andy Maule – Welborne Village Hall, Liz Holmes – Runhall Play area and Mark McCaghrey – Welborne Church.

1. Mike Webb as Chair of Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the reason for a parish meeting, the format of the evening and introduced the guest speaker Tom McCabe.
2. Tom introduced himself – Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services at Norfolk County Council. This job role covers – Highways, Waste disposal including waste centres, economic development, PROW, Fire Service along with libraries, museums and archive.
Some of the information Tom shared with us;
 - ❖ County council is big – £1.4 billion budget
 - ❖ 5.99% increase for Norfolk County Council on the community charge
 - ❖ All high schools apart from one or two are now academies but most primary schools are still local authority and governor led
 - ❖ Adult Services – over £1million a day spent on this. Children’s services have a big spend on looked after children of which there are 1200 in Norfolk. The cost per child can be up to £250,000.
 - ❖ Local action groups – 1 in the Brecks. Grants available for local business’ – min £2,500 up to 40% of project costs
 - ❖ Government grants to NCC being phased out by 2021 – replaced by business rates
 - ❖ £26m spent in providing buses for children to attend school
 - ❖ Need to look at formulae of new houses built with schools required plus highways impact.
 - ❖ It is Norfolk County Councils responsibility to make sure there are enough schools available.

Tom then answered specific questions and discussions followed from members of the public including;

- ❖ School provision - in relationship to new homes being built
- ❖ Library service – costs are £8m per year
- ❖ Buses - £2m subsidy given to bus companies where services are deemed to be necessary
- ❖ NDR – now open with an estimated cost of £205m. Not quite finished with some landscaping still to be completed. Government says it is good value for money with good economic growth
- ❖ Norfolk County Council now thinking about a possible western link
- ❖ High Speed Broadband – Better broadband scheme started 5 years ago – with 41% able to connect to high speed the figure is now 90%. Continuing to improve but the last 5% challenging although making good progress
- ❖ Other topics discussed included; amounts spent on Highways, 3rd river crossing in Gt Yarmouth, bypass for Long Stratton, 5,000 houses being built in Attleborough, so highways will require development there and tourism industry is twice the size in Norfolk compared to Cornwall.

Other questions also asked were;

- ❖ Highways – consideration of rural roads when planning applications submitted as roads not built for the increase in traffic
- ❖ Condition of roads – government has given money to help repair pot holes etc but lots of roads damaged by the winter weather. Gritters were called out 113 times over the winter.
- ❖ Pot Holes – encourage reporting especially if holes are 2” deep or more – these will be rectified as quickly as possible. Smaller holes will be filled within 4-6 weeks. Minor roads are inspected every 6 months with some being dressed which costs £10-12m a year but does extend the road life by 7-10years.
- ❖ Environment – plastic in particular/recycling. This is a challenge which is difficult and hugely expensive to collect, it is all about the value of the plastics. Hopefully more recycling in the future possible with new plants capable of recycling more.

Mike Webb thanked Tom for attending and speaking about some of his areas of work.

3. Parish Council Report; Mike Webb as Chair of Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council spoke about the loss of Trevor Curson as a councillor and friend in November. He told the audience that this would be his last report as chair as he intended to stand down in May. He then gave his thanks to the many volunteer's who deliver the newsletters, parish councillors, the countryside ranger, litter wardens, Jill for her fuel scheme coordinator role along with both the District and County Cllrs who always support the parish council. He also thanked Bev Long, Clerk to the council for her work throughout the year to the council in general but in particular in supporting his role as Chair. Mike then gave a short summary of his full report – including the parish plan, boundaries, grants given, highways, village notice boards, Anglian Water issues and the regular communication in the form of the newsletter from the parish council to all residents of the parish. The report is an appendix to these minutes.

4. Reports from others;

- Fuel Scheme Coordinator; Jill Craig reported that due to changes in data protection it is likely that her role will be changed which would make her redundant. She would keep the council informed of any changes. Mike thanked Jill for her commitment and time to the job. Her full report is an appendix to these minutes.
- Countryside Ranger; Jane Brown spoke a little about footpaths but making progress was slow work. Jane's full report in an appendix to these minutes
- District Councillor; Michael Edney introduced himself stating he is District Cllr to 10 villages and the deputy leader for South Norfolk District Council. He referred to; South Norfolk Council being in the top 6 councils of the country, out of 380 councils, South Norfolk do not source anything out it is all done in house, broadband - 28 masts up already continuing to roll out faster broadband to the whole of the South Norfolk and hope to achieve this by the end of June/July. A postcard inviting you to join will be put through your letter box when it is available in your area. Michael then thanked Mike for his excellent job as Chair to the parish council and to the clerk for her work on the council. Michael's full report is an appendix to these minutes
- All Saints Church, Welborne; Joyce Turner gave a small report including an update on the work of the 'Fawlty Tower' project. The rededication by the Bishop of Lynn will happen in September when everyone is invited to join them. The Churches full report is an appendix to these minutes.

5. Open Forum;

- One member of the public queried about pot holes in the parish. Tom McCabe advised to report the holes to Norfolk County Council either by phone or via the internet.

6. Mike Webb thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them all to attend any parish council meeting. He then closed the meeting at 9.01pm

Refreshments were then served.

Written reports from the following bodies form part of these minutes:

- Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council Chair
- County Councillor - Margaret Dewsbury
- District Councillor - Michael Edney
- Fuel Scheme Coordinator
- Welborne Village Hall
- Mattishall Drs Surgery
- Barnham Broom Primary School
- Runhall Recreation Ground
- Runhall Play Area
- Mattishall Primary School
- Norfolk Mobile Library Service
- Countryside Ranger
- All Saints Church, Welborne