Chairman's Report April 2025

2024 was business as usual year. Whilst there were a number of events taking place within the parish there was no major national event nor were there any elections.

The council consisting of myself, Mike Webb, Clare Kay, Peter Wood, Andrew Gill and John Baldock have been members all year nd we are still seeking to fulfil the one outstanding role by co-option as soon as possible.

The roles are not onerous from a time viewpoint as we seek to run this council in a simple yet effective way – the focus being on fulfilling our regulatory requirements, liaising with both the South Norfolk District and Norfolk County Councils, helping to maintain the environment and supporting local groups who want to run events. There is a major local government reorganisation taking place at the moment and we wait to see what if any changes that brings.

The parish benefits from having a number of active community groups which make use of the facilities in the Parish - Welborne Village Hall, the Runhall Allotments, the Runhall Play Area and the Exchange (in the Old Phone Box in Runhall) – and the local churches. Details of their activities will be covered in their own separate reports. The council has supported these groups throughout 2024 including facilitating obtaining grants from the district council.

Planning
We continue to review all planning applications in our parish that are relevant and we dealt with 10 in 2024 (for context there were 6 in 2023 and 13 on 2022).

The Parish Council was supportive or neutral on all of the applications and they were all approved by South Norfolk. It is helpful for any planning discussions at the council if the residents who are making the planning applications decisions attend the planning meetings.

Highways
We continue to work with the County Council Highways department to resolve problems within the parish and to ensure we get our fair share of general maintenance. This year we have seen:
- issues dealt with in terms of signage and ditches
- ongoing work on potholes of which there are many across the Parish

Everyone in the parish can help by ensuring all Highways issues are reported promptly via the Norfolk County Council online system, which ensures they are in Highways prioritisation system.

PROW's
All the PROW's are reviewed on a regular basis by our four PROW wardens and any issues raised with Norfolk County Council who have responsibility for them. The council would like to thank these people for their work during the year. The PROW's have remained generally in good condition throughout the year, with only occasional issues caused by heavy rainfall.

Litter
All of our four villages currently have volunteer Litter Wardens in place. They work throughout the year removing litter from the local area and thus improving the environment. The roadside verges remain the main problem areas. The council is very grateful for the job they do and would like to thank them for their efforts. It is also important that everyone in the parish takes care of the parish to ensure it remains a pleasant living area.

Budgets
The council has run a balanced budget over the past year and aims to do so again in 2025. Due to inflationary increases the Council had to raise the Parish Council precept by approximately 5%.

Police Updates
We get a regular update from the police as to what is happening within the Wymondham neighbourhood of which our parish is part. Our neighbourhood has a low level of crime and disorder. The main priorities for the local police in our neighbourhood are Speeding and Theft.

We also get regular reports on rural crime across Norfolk under Operation Randall, again which is still relatively low. Up to date details of police activity can be found on the Norfolk Constabulary website.

Communication
The newsletter has been distributed following most council meetings – thank you to the team of volunteers who do the distribution. The parish website is kept up-to-date and has been refreshed this year.

Future Activity
The council will continue keeping on top of business as usual whilst supporting parishioners in any extra activity.

Finally I would like to give thanks to some people. In particular I would like to thank our parish clerk, Bev Long, who has continued to provide excellent support to the council.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for the time they give up and the support they provide across all the issues we deal with. In addition I would like to thank our local councillors Margaret Dewsbury (Norfolk County Council) and Richard Elliot (South Norfolk District) who have continued to provide guidance and support throughout the year.

Finally I would also like to thank all the different groups who operate within the parish and all parishioners for enabling our parish to thrive.

Simon Guest
Chair Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall and Welborne Parish Council 15 April 2025

Footpaths covered - FP 12, RB 13, FP 14, FP 15

- No problems with FP12. There is clear signage on the road leading to the footpath and the grass is maintained at a sensible height.

- No problems with FP15. The path is gravel and apart from a few potholes there is nothing that makes traversal difficult. There is a signpost on the road clearly indicating where the footpath begins.

- As RB13 is a tarmacked road the surface is good. No signage to indicate that the public are allowed to walk there so prior knowledge to footpath locations is needed.

- FP14 goes through farm land. The specific route of the footpath deviates from the official Norfolk County Council footpath map. The specific route has also changed a couple of times throughout the last few months. During periods of heavy rain some sections can be very muddy and difficult to traverse. This is not helped by the farm machines/animals that also use the path.

Overall, the paths are generally in fair condition and usage is not a problem.

Jack Long
Coston footpath warden.

Norfolk County Council Report for Annual Parish Meeting

Norfolk County council has approved a balanced budget for 2025-26. Council Tax will increase by 4.99% which includes a 2.99% rise in General Council Tax and a 2% increase for Adult Social Care. This should raise £572 million to fund all the County Council Services.

Devolution
As agreed at Cabinet and Full Council, NCC submitted their Interim Plan for devolution by March 21st. The Plan stated that the Council would collect all the relevant data and information before suggesting how many Unitaries would be most suitable for Norfolk.

Two working groups have been set up, one to collate information needed to plan for Devolution and a second to collate information required on which to base a decision on the number of unitaries that would be most suitable for Local Government Reform, for Norfolk. The final Plan must be submitted by September 21st.

Ukraine
Last May Kay Mason Billig, NCC Leader, signed a Co-Operation agreement with Lviv. This was to explore educational exchange and trade opportunities. Norwich also has links with Lviv as they are both on the UNESCO World Heritage list.
The Fire Service is gradually upgrading our fire engines. At the beginning of April 15 Norfolk fire fighters volunteered to take five ex service vehicles to Ukraine. They joined a convoy of 30 appliances and equipment donated from services across the country as part of a UK wide campaign co-ordinated by the National Fire Chiefs Council.

National Grid Pylon scheme
NCC objected to the National Grid consultation on the 114 mile overhead power line from Norwich to Tilbury. The Council felt that further consideration should be given to putting more of the power line underground, or by using an off-shore alternative around the coast.

The Council is also concerned about the size and number of solar farms that are being proposed for Norfolk and how they will affect farming and the essential role that farming plays in the local economy.

Highways
In a National Highways and Transport survey people gave Norfolk the highest satisfaction score, re the condition of the highways, for the second year running. More than 5,300 potholes have been fixed since last April. The Council has also received additional funding for re surfacing roads. Norfolk will receive more than £56 million for highways maintenance this year.

To cut CO2 emissions from street lighting the council began replacing the bulbs with low energy LED bulbs in August 2023 and in November last year the project was completed.

Parish Partnership Scheme
This year the Parish Partnership Scheme has enabled 97 parishes to deliver schemes that they want for their area. This is a 50/50 scheme by which NCC matches the contributions made by parishes. This year NCC contributed £426,476 which enabled work totalling £848,702 to be delivered.

Household Support Fund
The Council committed over one million pounds to help keep people warm during the winter via the Household Support Fund. They worked in partnership with organisations such as Age Uk and Citizens Advice to reach those most affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel Payment. They also helped provide ‘warm spaces’ in libraries and other community areas for people to meet and socialise. Libraries also provided ‘warm packs’ of hot water bottle, gloves, hat etc, to take away. Adult Learning provided free courses on cooking on a budget, budgeting and digital skills and the Council also continued providing cost of living vouchers for families eligible for means tested free school meals.

The cost of providing Adult Social Care and Children’s Services increases every year. This year we have budgeted £700 million for Adult Social Care and £367 million for Children’s Services.

Margaret

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships
Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division
South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward

Mattishall Primary School report – April 2025

Mattishall Primary School had a Good Ofsted grading in May 2024, which was well deserved, following a lot of hard work from staff, driving the new curriculum requirements forward.

However, during the last couple of years we have had a few small cohorts of children, which in turn has impacted on school finances. We are pleased to say that for this next year's Reception intake we have a full cohort of 30 children.

As reported in the press, all school's are facing financial challenges, balancing the needs of children with the resources available and we are working through difficult times, whilst working hard to raise standards.

We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated team of staff and volunteers from the local community, who work in collaboration with parents and children to offer an ambitious curriculum and enrichment opportunities.

Regards, Mr Chapman
Head teacher

Mattishall & Lenwade Surgeries – March 2025.

ONLINE SERVICES

You can access SystmOnline, the NHS app and SystmConnect via the Surgery website https://www.mattishallsurgery.co.uk/
The above enables you to book some appointments, order repeat prescriptions and view your GP medical records e.g. to check your test results. You can also request a FIT note, one off Medication request and other admin requests e.g. cancel an appointment and make a subject access request.

CHANGES IN THE RECALL SYSTEM

SMS messaging is now being used to invite patients for certain annual reviews, the SMS will contain a directly bookable link to the clinics - this enables patients to book this online via the S1 or NHS app.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

As of 1st April we will no longer be taking repeat prescription orders via the Mattishall Pharmacy website. Your requests can be done via:

- SystmOnline (via Mattishall Surgery website)
- Place completed repeat prescription form in the red box located in Pharmacy shop and Surgery reception area
- Queries can be added to systmconnect (via Mattishall Surgery website)

EASTER & MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

Please note that Mattishall Surgery will be closed for bank holiday on both Good Friday 18th April and Easter Monday 21st April, plus both May bank holidays on the 5th & 26th.
The last ordering date for collection before the Easter closure will be Thursday 10th April and before May Day bank holiday will be Thursday 24th April.

SIGNPOSTING GUIDE TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES

GP/Nurse/Advanced Nurse Practitioner

If you need an urgent appointment, we will do our best to arrange this within available capacity that day. Alternatively, our reception team may sign post you to other health care services such as;

Pharmacy

For advice and treatment for minor illnesses via Pharmacy First and over the counter medicines.
Pharmacy First services include; (reception staff will clarify if you are eligible for the service)
Ear infection, impetigo, infected insect bites, shingles, sinusitis, sore throat, and UTI
Pharmacies can also offer;
24 hour BP monitoring, Pill checks, Health checks and Smoking Cessation.

Walk in Centre

To see a GP or nurse for minor illnesses or if your regular GP practice is closed.
Norwich Practices Health Centre, Walk in Centre, Rouen House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RB
- Telephone: 01603 677500, open daily from 08:00am – 08:00pm
GP Front door is located at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UY
-Open daily from 9:00am to 9:00pm

Mattishall & Lenwade Surgeries – March 2025.

Call 111
If you need medical attention and it's not life threatening or you need the right advice and treatment, be that for physical or mental health. Contactable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Accident and Emergency
For serious or life-threatening conditions, phone 999 or go to the emergency department at: Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Colney Lane, Norwich NR4 7UY, open 24 hours a day.

INFORMATION AND HELPLINES

Mental Health
Wellbeing service: www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/norfolk Tel 0300 123 1503 between 9am – 5pm.
Mental Health Matters : www.mhm.org.uk
Samaritans: www.samaritans.org Tel: 116 123
NHS 111: Select option 2

Norfolk Swifts
A free service for people living in Norfolk and can assist with the unplanned need at home when you do not require the emergency services. Tel: 0344 800 8020 option 1, 24 hours a day.

Social Services - Tel: 0344 800 8020

Alcohol & Drug Support
CGL Norfolk Alcohol & Drug Behavioural Change Service Tel: 01603 514096
Alcoholics Anonymous: www.changegrowlive.org.uk Tel: 0800 917 7650

Sexual Health
Emergency contraception: ICaSH also deals with Family planning and sexual health
www.icash.nhs.uk Tel: 0300 300 3030 opt 3
Norwich Practices Health Centre Walk in Service Tel: 01603 677500
HIV and AIDS: National AIDS trust: www.nat.org.uk / Terence Higgins Trust: www.tht.org.uk

Dentists
Dental emergencies outside of normal working hours: Call 111
To find a regular dentist near you visit www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist

NEW GP

We are pleased to announce that Dr Ben Smith has joined our clinical team at Mattishall & Lenwade Surgeries. Dr Ben Smith completed his medical training at the University of East Anglia in 2019 and has recently qualified as a GP.

Mattishall & Lenwade Surgeries – March 2025.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

Who are they? A group of volunteers who are patients at Mattishall and Lenwade Surgeries. They will act as a critical friend to Mattishall and Lenwade Surgeries.

What do we do? Meet on a regular basis together with health professionals to ensure that patients are given a '**voice**' within the GP practice. Meet every two months but keep in contact via a WhatsApp group and emails.

It is the PPG's responsibility to ensure that plans, services, and activities respond to the patient's priorities and needs.

How to contact the PPG - Via the Facebook page **"Mattishall and Lenwade Surgery PPG"** or by speaking to a member. All registered patients are welcome to join the PPG, so if you are interested and want to know more, please contact them, or complete the sign-up form on the Surgery website.

Mrs Gill – Runhall – Footpath warden report for Annual Parish Meeting on 16 April 2025

1.) All the paths I'm responsible for and oversee are viable.
2.) Only one - FP11, behind Runhall church, through the churchyard and across a field joining onto Banham Hill - is potentially problematic. Whilst it is properly signed with the relevant signposts at either end, it nonetheless takes the walker *through the middle* of a sown crop field which is in regular production. As such it poses difficulty underfoot for walkers at certain times of the year (mud/having to tread over - and damage - farmer's plants). Could a strip be left unseeded?
3.) One or two of the paths (i.e. BR5 and at the intersection of FP10 and FP15) have overhanging brambles causing obstruction which I clip away with secateurs.
4.) My objective for next year is to continue as last year.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Fund Raising and Events

We have had a brilliant year again this year with successful fundraising events and community involvement. Our Luxury Christmas Hamper Raffle and Community Carol Singing raised over £400! Wonderful singing and a great community festive spirit. A special thanks to Andrew and Jane Jewson for hosting and sharing refreshments with us all. Our Mothers Day Hamper raised £205!! Thank you to Deborah for donating her winnings for re-raffle and raising a further £200!!

In May, some of our community gathered together to be part of the 'Big Litter Pick'. We managed to collect some bags of litter and received a donation for our involvement, thank you to Liz who organised this event. We held a community event to open up the newly renovated play area, it was well attended and continues to be well used and has welcomed in old and new visitors.

A massive THANK YOU to RCG and the wider community for helping with the success of these events, we couldn't do it without you!

Play Area

We have installed a lovely new play fort, inclusive roundabout and two new picnic benches. This was made possible through the hard work and dedication of RCG through fundraising and successful grant applications. Thanks to all the committee members for their time and effort and special thanks to the non-members (Andrew Jewson, Charlie Stringer, Iain and Anita Hair) for their help with maintenance activities.

Defibrillator

After much time and effort from members of the community we finally raised enough money for a village Defibrillator to be fitted into the phone box at The Green, Runhall. After initially seeking one from AEDdonate we were offered a newer model at a lower cost from Heart 2 Heart Norfolk at £1510. Fitting was arranged by Aspect Group Wymondham at no charge and on 26th April this year the work was completed. We now have a G3 Cardiac Science Powerheart defibrillator in a polycarbonate locked cabinet. It also came with a carry case and extra pads. The pads should be replaced after 2 years and the battery is guaranteed for 4 years. The Defibrillator is guaranteed for 8 years and the cabinet for 10 years. It has been registered with "The Circuit" the national defibrillator network and is ready for use. It will be checked and cleaned every two months and any issues should be referred to Maurice Hutchinson (Defibrillator Guardian) at Sycamore House, The Green, Runhall.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Grants

We successfully raised c.£61k for phases 2 and 3 of our renovation plan which included installing a new playfort, an inclusive roundabout and picnic tables. Thanks go to the National Lottery, Aviva, Alan Boswell, Geoffrey Watling, the South District Council CAF and Pride in Place and Loveday & Partners Ltd. We would also like to thank our group and community for raising funds through our local events.

We have commenced raising funds for stage 4 of our renovation plan which includes for replacing and enlarging the basketball surface, adding basketball court shooting lines and embellishing the remainder of the area with playground games e.g. hopscotch and the possibility of a chess board.

Feedback from stages 1-3 of our renovations has been suggested that we should add a fifth stage to our plan which would include replacing the swings, adding an inclusive swing and adding a gymnastic bar (which was not replaced when the old fort was removed and has been sorely missed.

We have also successfully been awarded a grant from the South Norfolk Council for the 'Clean up & Bloom' initiative. We decided that instead of using the £100 for container flowers we would use it to brighten up the whole village and playground and involve the community.

A small group of volunteers planted 100 pots of sunflowers which, when they were about 10cms tall, would be given to the community to grow on. There were c. 60 that germinated and about 20 of these were large enough to plant in the playground. The sunflowers looked lovely in the play area over the summer. Janet has also tried to improve the pollenating plants by planting wild flower seeds along near the hedges, planting primroses around the notice board and planting Buddlia under the trees.

This Autumn, the RCG will be planting clumps of naturalising daffodil bulbs along the roads and three village name signs. These should last for years and keep on welcoming in spring. The remaining £16 has been spent on crocuses that will be spread around the village.

We hope there will be a tremendous amount of colour making our hearts sing as we see them appear throughout the village.

Our thanks go to those who have led and volunteered to support this initiative

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Exchange (Phone Box)

This service continues to be well used throughout the seasons by people within the village and those who pass through, with plants, fruit and veg exchange particularly popular during the Summer and Autumn. There is a good supply of books. Many thanks Janet, Maurice and Clare Miller who continue maintaining this facility. A big thank you and farewell goes to Jane Brown for her involvement in the Exchange.

ROSPA

Following the installation of the new multiplay equipment and roundabout, a full inspection of the whole recreation area was carried out by ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) in June. The newly installed equipment was inspected and several snagging items have been passed to the installation company to be rectified.

Continued maintenance is required on many items, which includes a few loose posts on the fencing line, loose goal posts, goal netting (that has subsequently been replaced), concerns over the wear and tear of both swing sets and a number of bolts to be tightened. The side access gate also may need further work.

General grass cutting and weed supressing is also mentioned along with several other minor issues. The report is thorough and gives guidance on issues to rectify shortcomings. However, there is no item that requires any urgent or immediate action. The RGC will seek to respond to the issues and discuss improvements, setting out a work schedule in due course.

Conclusion

Overall it has been a busy and successful year! A great BIG thank you to everyone who has helped us along the way. Thank you to all the group members for their continued enthusiasm and support throughout a busy year. The fruits of our labours are evident in the increased footfall to the play area and events.

Special thanks to the non-members (Iain and Anita Hair, Andrew Jewson, Mark Gill, Richard Elliot, Debbie Chester, Emily & Jack and Charlie Stringer) for their help with our maintenance activities. A particular thank you to Deborah for hosting all our meetings.

Let's make 2025 about continuing to have fun whilst raising money for our play area projects, involving the wider community and hosting Runfest amongst other fundraising events.

Runhall Recreation Ground Renovation Project

Before

The recreation ground was in dire need of infrastructure spend to maintain and improve the space for todays and future generations of families inclusive to all members of the community.

Our Phase 1 improvements were predominantly funded by our own community fundraising events such as our festival “Runfest”. Many of the ongoing upkeep and renovation works have also been carried out by the community through their time, skills and donations.

£61,719

Raised

Our main aim was to improve the places and spaces that matter to our community and to keep our rural community thriving into the future.

After

We started fundraising in March 2023 and by 17th May 2024 the installation of the new equipment was completed. The park was unofficially opened to locals on 31st May. The park was officially opened on 22nd June with a ‘Picnic in the Park’ event. The new equipment has been very popular with our local community and has also drawn families from further afield.

June: 64 people July: 124 people. August: 155 people

NB the park has not been monitored at all times, these figures were taken from when our community group members were available and reported figures so the numbers could actually be greater.

Future

We hope that our project will see our community increasing their enjoyment of the outdoors and getting active in safe place. The project will move into stage 4 of its journey which also supports this aim and includes renovating the basketball surface to make it more inclusive and multipurpose. The great success of phases 2 and 3 will aid our journey by helping us raise awareness of our journey, increase our reach for volunteers and ensuring we are getting feedback from the community to focus on the things that matter most to them to enhance their outdoor/getting active experience.

Project Scope: Phases 1-4

Our main aim is to improve the places and spaces that matter to our community. This project will rejuvenate our main parish facilities; by providing new, fun and exciting facilities which are safe; suitable for a range of ages and accessible for those who are less able. By rejuvenating the recreation ground we will also be creating a better space for our community to meet and hold events which will strengthen relationships in and across our parish.

PHASE 1 – REFINE – 2022/23

Includes:

- Story Telling chairs & Mushrooms
- Jubilee Bench
- Football goal renovation & new net
- Defibrillator

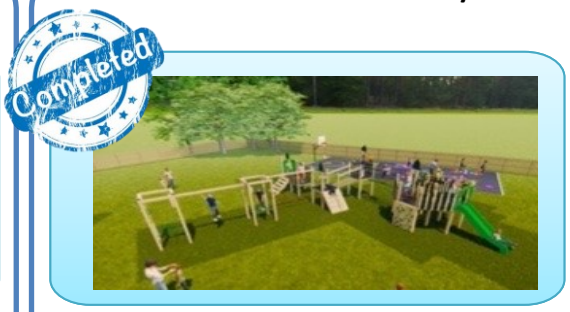
Rational

During this 2022 we conducted a community wide survey. The community expressed their wishes to use the recreation ground for relaxation and meeting up with family and friends. Seating ranked as our highest priority amongst survey respondents. A rejuvenated football goal and defibrillator were also priorities.

We have renovated the football goal and installed additional seating; a bench (in commemoration of the platinum jubilee) and a story telling throne with eight mushroom seats for children.

Funding Completed & Equipment installed

PHASE 2 – REPLACE – 2023/24



Includes:

- A new play fort. The new equipment will be supplied and installed by a reputable company. It will cover an age range of 2-16 years old and include:
  - central climbing tower, with slide, climbing wall, rope net, etc.
  - smaller climbing tower, with toddler slide
  - 3 bridges, monkey bars and a fireman's pole.

Rational

The current equipment is minimal; and the central piece of equipment is more than 20 years old. Inspection reports are highlighting the wear and tear on this piece of equipment and that the wood is becoming rotten which is a potential danger to the children

Funding Completed & Equipment installed

PHASE 3 – REVITALISE – 2024/25

Includes:

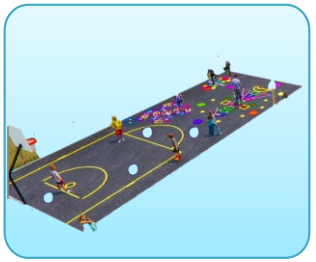
- all-access roundabout
- More seating and tables for adults

Reason

The current picnic tables are minimal; and are suffering from wear and tear. This would fulfil the survey request for a roundabout and more seating.

Funding Completed & Equipment installed

PHASE 4 – RENEW – 2025/26



Includes:

Replacing and enlarging the basketball surface. Adding basketball court shooting lines and embellishing the remainder of the area with playground games e.g. hopscotch and the possibility of a chess board.

Reason

The basketball surface is not fit for purpose, previously a platonk area it has loose stones which are a skid hazard and side boards which are a trip hazard. It needs to be replaced with a more suitable surface.

Runhall Renovation Project – Phased plan

Our main aim is to improve the places and spaces that matter to our community. This project will rejuvenate our main parish facilities; by providing new, fun and exciting facilities which are safe; suitable for a range of ages and accessible for those who are less able. By rejuvenating the recreation ground we will also be creating a better space for our community to meet and hold events which will strengthen relationships in and across our parish.

PHASE 1 – REFINE – 2022/23

Funding Completed & Equipment installed:

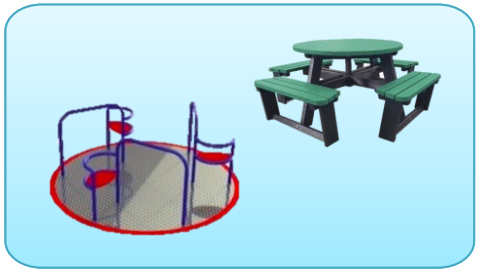
- Story Telling chairs & Mushrooms
- Jubilee Bench
- Football goal renovation & new net
- Defib (Q2 2024)

PHASE 2 – REPLACE – 2023/24

Funding completed & Equipment installed:

National Lottery Awards for All:	£10,000
Geoffrey Wattling Charity	£5,000
Donation CB:	£20
Runfest 2023:	£2,000
Alan Boswell:	£2,000
South Norfolk District CAF:	£15,000
Aviva Community Fund:	£700
South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant	£13300

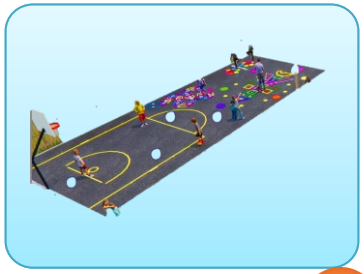
PHASE 3 – REVITALISE – 2024



unding completed & Equipment Installed:

Mother day hamper raffle	£205
South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant	£11700
Loveday & Partners	£2000

PHASE 4 – RENEW – 2025/26



Planned fundraising

- Runfest 2025
- Halloween Event (25)
- Carol Singing Event (25)
- Christmas Hamper Raffle (25)
- Alan Boswell Reaching community fund
- South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant
- National Lottery Awards for All
- 30 additional grants found requiring research to ascertain eligibility

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Finance update

We need to start building our funds to show we are running our charity responsibly and be able cover the costs for 2 years for insurance (c.£350), ROSPA (c.£110), ongoing maintenance should we not be able to do it as a committee (c.£500). Therefore we suggest we need to raise our reserve balance to £2000 and keep it at £2000 as a minimum. Therefore the proceeds from the Halloween event, the Carol singing and the Christmas hamper should be used to build our reserves before continuing to raise funds for renovation.

NB It should be noted that from 1st August this year the Insurance premium was adjusted to take account of the new play equipment installed and an amount of £346.81 was paid to renew the cover through CAS Ltd.

Fundraising

Congratulations to the group on funds raised this year through Carol Singing, the Christmas & Mothers Day Raffles and the Litter Pick.

Donations

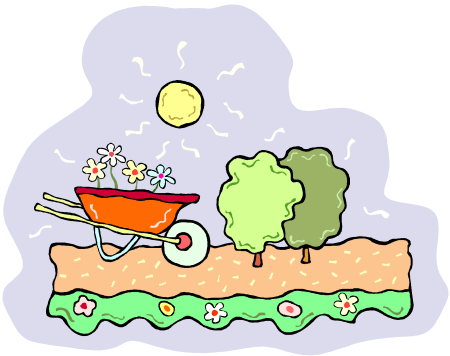
No funds received this year.

Grants

We have successfully received grants for new equipment as mentioned in the chair report. The continuation of this work will be vital to achieve our goals to Refine, Replace, Revitalise & Renew our community space.

We only received £50 parish grant towards our running costs.

Grants for rennovation	Funding total
Lottery	£ 10,000
Runfest	£ 2,000
Geoffrey Wattling Charity	£ 5,000
Donation CB	£ 19
Alan Boswell	£ 2,000
South Norfolk District CAF	£ 15,000
Aviva Community Fund	£ 700
South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant	£ 25,000
Loveday & Partners Ltd	£ 2,000
Total	**£ 61,719**



RUNHALL RECREATION GROUND – Charity number 244796

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting – April 2025

- The trustees have met several times since last year with various email communications between meetings.
- The trustees have inspected the plots on 2 occasions and following these agreed a small rise in rents along with introducing a damage/clearance deposit for new tenants.
- A small change in tenants occurred - vacant plots were then let to people on the waiting list
- Rents for the coming year have been collected and banked. We have no vacant plots and have 1 person on the waiting list.
- We continue to monitor the use and condition of the allotments with twice annual inspections – the condition of the majority is now very good.
- We will submit our annual return to the Charities commission ASAP.
- Our insurance was renewed in the summer.

If you would like to know more about the Recreation Ground – which was left to Runhall in an Inclosure of 1853 – please search on the Charity Commissions website.

Trustees – Bev Long, Liz Holmes, Caroline Blacklock, Debbie Chester.

Point of contact – Bev Long. Tel; 01362 850162 Email; brownowlbev@gmail.com

Welborne Church (All Saints) Report - April 2025

We have a service every Sunday but as we are in vacancy, waiting for a new Rector, we meet once a month for communion in another church in the benefice. A notice of the change will be on the Church notice board a week before this happens.

Once a month on a Monday we have a service at Nightingale's Care home.

We have special services for occasions such as Mothering Sunday when all the ladies receive flowers.
Other special services include Easter, Harvest and Christmas - the Carol service when the Salvation Army lead our service is a very popular service.

The Church is open from 10am - 4pm each day during British summer time when lots of visitors enjoy our walk of reflection looking across the fields at the side of the Church.

After our service we have coffee and a chin wag and all are welcome to join us.

Welborne
VILLAGE HALL

Chair's Report

for the year ended 31 December 2024

www.welborne.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1086084

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name	Welborne Village Hall
Charity Registration Number 1086084	
Address	Welborne Village Hall c/o Mrs. Lesley Webb Hill Farm Welborne Norfolk NR20 3LG
Trustees	Kevin Rumsey (Chairman) Lesley Webb (Secretary) Sue Lishman Tracey Palmer Tina Redshaw Nick Grant VACANCY
Treasurer	Mike Webb
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank and Shawbrook Bank

Structure, Governance and Management

The Old School Room, Welborne was established as a charity on 9 August 1999. The governing document has subsequently been amended several times, with the agreement of the Charity Commission.

The objectives of the charity are 'the provision and maintenance of a village hall for use by the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of political, religious or other opinions for the advancement of education, the provision of recreation and leisure-time activities and for the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants'.

There are now seven trustee positions which are elected at the AGM of Welborne Village Hall by residents of Welborne:

- At least five will be residents of Welborne;
- Two may come from outside the geographical boundaries of Welborne;
- Trustees stand for an initial term of 4 years and may only be re-elected once;
- Trustees will retire by rotation.
- The Trustees meet quarterly.

The main activities of the charity are:

- The maintenance and development of the village hall itself;
- Planning and delivering a programme of events;
- Maximising use of the hall through lettings.

Achievement and Performance

Well, another year has passed, and it has been an incredibly busy and rewarding year. The hall goes from strength to strength in terms of the bookings and frequency of use. It is not uncommon for the hall to be used at least 3 or more times per week now. Sometimes it is booked out all day for courses, other times in the evening for bands to practice or at weekends for parties and once for a wedding reception. It is a pleasure to see it being used more than ever. Having raised our fees very modestly last year to cover the cost of living increases it is unlikely we need to adjust fees at this moment in time.

One of the main things that happened in 2024 was the installation of the playground. As a listed building we had to apply for planning consent which at times was both frustrating and tiresome. Eventually common sense prevailed within South Norfolk planning and within six weeks of planning being granted work began on the installation and was completed within a week. No mention of this project would be complete without a huge vote of thanks to Tina Redshaw for her determination and diligence. The project did highlight an unexpected problem when a rusty manhole cover to a septic tank was unearthed. The area has been made permanently safe subsequently.

The other main activity in 2024 was the biennial beer festival which involved all trustees and many other volunteers in the community. Although the day was not the bright sunny summer's day we all hoped for, it remained dry and a large number of attendees enjoyed an excellent day. The age range present showed that the festival appeals to all elements of the community and set out just what we wanted to achieve by bringing everyone together for a fun filled afternoon and evening. The event raised £3,700 towards the village hall. Our thanks go to so many people but in particular to Tommy Harvey who chaired the committee.

Our events weren't just centred around the beer festival. We had a very successful quiz in Spring and, although the Autumn quiz date was postponed at the time of writing, we have sold out of tickets for the February 25 quiz night proving the appeal of such an event. At Christmas we held our ever-popular Christmas Fayre. The 2024 event proved to be an absolute highlight with many new faces, now a time-honoured tradition of not just fund raising but moreover a meeting place to socialise and meet new faces whilst conversing with familiar ones too. As an event it made an unprecedented £950 towards the village hall.

All of this sounds very impressive, and it truly is but it is all delivered by a band of unbelievably hard-working volunteers. I am truly humbled to chair the trustees. I have already made mention of Tina and her tireless actions. Tracey and Sue deserve special mention for their work with the website and managing bookings. Sue's flair and creativity is so obvious in all we do. Tracey too brings so much to the charity. Nick helped greatly with the children's marquee at the beer festival. Lesley continues to be a stalwart of the trustees with her knowledge and wisdom. Her work as secretary does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. We have, during the year also filled our last vacancy on the trustee board. Kevin Cooper, having moved back to the village has decided to join us and will be formally appointed at the AGM. We are delighted to have Kevin on board – especially me as it helps to balance up the number of each gender!

The trustees have also worked extremely hard on the maintenance of the hall and garden area. The lighting has been improved, modernised and updated. The hall got a thorough clean 'top to bottom' with windows, light shades and other areas getting a makeover. In the garden too the metal railings, once repaired were wire brushed and treated with Hammerite. The work on picket fence has begun with the first section thoroughly cleaned and then stained

ahead of the safety notices being attached. There are plans to finish this work in Spring 25 once the weather allows. All of this requires much time and effort and as the work is done by trustees and friends of trustees it costs a fraction of what it would if we were to hire in labour.

At this point I would like to thank the Friends of the Trustees notably, but not exclusively, David, Jim, Jackie, Karen, Ian, Sharon, Kerri. My final thanks in this section belong to Mike our treasurer. I work closely with Mike on the fiscal side of our charity and his help and guidance are invaluable. I would also like to thank Mike for the years of grass cutting he has undertaken at the village hall, single handedly and he now takes a very deserved retirement from this role and others have already signalled their intention to carry on the good work.

Finally, I would like to turn my attention to the fiscal side. We continue to enjoy a very strong balance sheet. The hall in 24 made a modest 'profit' but this was to be expected given it was beer festival year. As the hall continues to enjoy more bookings the need for fund raising to cover day to day cost becomes slightly less critical. That said it then allows the trustees to look at other projects that will further improve the hirer experience and appeal. At the present time a number of potential projects are being looked at.

In summary I believe as a committee of trustees we are delivering against the stated aim of the charity to improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants of Welborne and surrounding villages. I believe this is core to our activities and how we act.

Kevin Rumsey
Chairman