

Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall and Welborne Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be at 7.30 Wednesday 25 April in Welborne Village Hall. We are delighted that our guest speaker will be Tom McCabe, who is the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services at the County Council.

Tom will be talking about the wide range of services for which he is responsible and which support residents, communities, businesses and visitors in Norfolk - services such as libraries, museums, adult education, waste management, highway maintenance, trading standards, park and ride and public transport.

All residents are invited to this now well-established annual community event.

Parish Plan update

Our Parish Plan is a 5 year plan which was prepared and published in 2015 and contained a number of recommended actions for the short, medium and long term. The Council has recently been reviewing the recommendations and the action that we have taken.

All the recommended actions have been considered and significant progress has been made. However there does remain some outstanding work which is either of an ongoing or specific nature.

The full Parish Plan update has been published on the Parish Council website. The council will review the outstanding items at future council meetings.

Grips

For those of you who do not know, 'grips' are the shallow ditches which connect the road edge to the roadside ditch. Their purpose is to drain rain water from the highway into the roadside ditch. It is part of the County Council's programme of routine maintenance that the grips are cleared.

The Parish Council has been told that a number of grips have recently been cleared by residents. The Parish Council says thank you to them!

Vacancy

The Council has not yet filled the vacancy caused by the death of Trevor Curson. We are obliged to try to fill the vacancy by co-option (which means we have to ask whether there is anyone who would like to come onto the council and, if so, to invite them to be a councillor).

We have decided to extend the deadline for applications. If any resident is interested, please contact Bev Long who will then send you an application form along with more information. Applications need to be returned to Bev Long by 1 March 2018.

South Norfolk Council's Big Litter Pick 2018

We are fortunate that we have litter wardens in each of our villages. However, there is always scope for a clean-up.

From 1 February to the end of May, any parish, community group or not-for-profit organisation that registers with South Norfolk Council and completes a litter pick will receive £20 for their local community and will be placed in a draw to win one of 20 prizes of £200 for use in their community!

South Norfolk Council will provide the necessary equipment and instructions. All groups need to do is register their interest, advertise for volunteers and complete the litter pick. If you are interested in taking part, please contact South Norfolk Council using the email litterpick@s-norfolk.gov.uk or call on 01603 533641. You will then be sent an information pack to enable you to organise and advertise your litter pick.

Please can you let Bev Long know if you are planning to carry out a litter pick in this way.

2018-2019 Precept

The Parish Council has agreed its budget for 2018-2019. The budget has been set to cover the basic running costs of the parish council and this has necessitated an increase next year due to additional regulatory requirements.

The Council tells South Norfolk Council the 'precept' that we need to be recovered from residents as part of their Council Tax. A precept is a demand for a sum to be collected through the council tax system. It is the only source of tax revenue available to parish councils.

The precept for next year will require the band D charge in this parish to increase from £26 in 2017/2018 to £27.80 in 2018/2019. Other bands will change proportionately. It should be noted that the parish council precept is a small part of the overall council tax. In the 2017/2018 financial year the parish precept in this parish accounted for approximately 1.6% of the overall council tax bill.

Grant applications

The Council has received three applications for grants. These will be considered at a future meeting.

Anglian Water sewer along Church Road and Mattishall Road, Welborne

The Council understands that the new system will become operational sometime in the New Year.

The Council remained concerned about the reinstatement work by Anglian Water to the 'grassy triangle' in front of Welborne Village Hall. Anglian Water appear to have finally agreed to the Parish Council's badgering for them to reinstate this to its original levels, particularly on the North West side.

Local residents will have seen the damage caused by people driving on to the reinstated verges along the route of the sewer. If this has been caused by local residents, please avoid doing this until the verges have stabilised and the grass regrown. If you see others causing damage, please ask them to stop.

Meet and Make

The group meets every first Thursday of the month from 7.00pm - 9.00pm at Welborne Village Hall. If crafting isn't your thing, come for a chat and coffee or glass of wine. For further information, please contact Jane on 01362 858598

Meet and Chat

You are invited to Welborne Village Hall on the third Thursday of every month (but not December) between 2.00pm and 3.30pm for a cup of tea/coffee and the chance to meet up with friends for a chat by the fire in the village hall. Optional book/puzzle exchange and, players permitting, a game of chess or two.

Countryside Ranger

The Parish Council has been trying for some time to recruit volunteers from the parish to act as 'footpath wardens'. Jane Brown has taken on the role in Runhall but, so far, we have been unsuccessful in finding volunteers to take on the role in our other villages.

We have decided to clarify and expand the role and to refer to it as a 'Countryside Ranger'. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone who has an interest in their local environment.

The aims would be to:

- Create a local network of people who can gather and share local knowledge.
- Bring issues to the notice of the Parish Council
- Encourage others to visit, walk, and volunteer, thus protecting and improving the lovely countryside in which we live.

The role is a new one for the parish and can be fairly flexible, but it is expected it would include the following.

- Walking the footpaths of your village
- Be a point of contact for villagers
- Have some knowledge of the legislation regarding Public Rights of Way
- Know who the local landowners are
- Where there is a problem with access etc, report this to the Parish Council
- Encourage use of the countryside

Countryside Rangers will have the full support of the Parish Council and be covered by the Parish Council's public liability insurance.

The full 'job description' has been posted on the Parish Council website.

If you are encouraged to consider taking on this important role in your village, please contact Bev Long.

Parish Council 2018 meeting dates

Parish Council meetings in 2018 will be on 17 March, 23 May (which is also the AGM), 18 July, 19 September and 21 November. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 25 April.

All meetings are in Welborne Village Hall and start at 7.30 pm. The council may have to hold additional meetings, particularly when we have to consider planning applications at short notice, and these will be advertised on village noticeboards and on our website. All residents are encouraged and welcome to come to meetings of the Council.

Parish responsibilities and contacts

Parish Clerk	Bev Long	01362 850162 but best contact is clerk@bpcrwparishcouncil.info
Chairman	Mike Webb	01362 850327
Vice Chairman	Simon Guest	07543 645351
Councillor	Carolyn Bailey	01603 757644
Councillor	Andrew Egerton Smith	01362 850979
Councillor	Clare Kay	01603 757860
Councillor	Peter Wood	01362 850405
Councillor	Vacancy	
Fuel scheme co-ordinator	Jill Craig	01362 850113
Brandon Parva Litter Warden	Coralie Meadows	coralie.m@hotmail.co.uk
Coston + Runhall Litter Warden	Mark Gill and family	01603 759555
Welborne Litter Wardens	Brian and Margot Hancock	01362 858104
Runhall Footpath Warden	Jane Brown	01362 858598
County Councillor	Margaret Dewsbury	01603 759693
District Councillor	Michael Edney	01953 851342

Parish Council website bpcrwparishcouncil.info