

BRANDON PARVA, COSTON, RUNHALL & WELBORNE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday 14 April 2021, 7:30pm via Zoom Video Conference.

This meeting took place via video conference due to the current Coronavirus pandemic and government guidelines to stay at home.

Present.

Parish Councillors – Simon Guest (chair), Andrew Egerton-Smith, Peter Wood, Clare Kay, Mike Webb along with the clerk Bev Long. Also present was County Cllr Margaret Dewsbury and District Cllr Richard Elliott.

1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies for absence

Simon Guest as Chair of Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting. Simon briefly explained the reason for a parish meeting along with the format of the evening – which was conducted on zoom.

Apologies were received from Clare Miller – Cllr, Jill Craig – fuel scheme Co Ordinator, Rev'd Tim Weatherstone – Barnham Broom and Upper Yare Group, Andrew Jewson – Runhall PCC, Andy Maule – Welborne Village Hall and Mattishall Surgery.

Simon explained that George Freeman MP had sent a video presentation which would now be shared on screen.

2. Video presentation by George Freeman MP

George Freeman introduced himself and presented information about issues in our area – Flooding, A47, Covid – finances, Redundancies, Business', Growth, Infrastructure. The video presentation can be viewed on this link - https://youtu.be/EZLDCXTE_PY

Following the presentation, the issues raised were discussed; reference was made to the Parish Council village plan, encouragement should be given to small businesses but it would require a better infrastructure and involve a lot of different agencies/communities joining together, suggestion that perhaps old/redundant farm buildings and areas immediately around them could be used for 'start up' businesses. Richard felt that what Mr Freeman had spoken about was very doable and should be embraced and encouraged. Richard advised that The Economic Development Team at South Norfolk could come out to speak to the Parish Council about Rural Start-ups. Margaret advised that County Council offer grants for business' who have suffered during Covid, so it was very much worth investigating further.

Simon would feed this back to Mr Freeman who had also offered his help if we required any further information or assistance.

3. Report by the Parish Council

Simon Guest as Chair of the Parish Council outlined some aspects of his report; Covid – slightly more positive now heading towards the summer, impact felt by Covid in the parish – good and some not so good but overall, we should be proud.

Parish Council continued with business as usual albeit via zoom and issues dealt with were; Highways – close working relationship has been made, work completed has included new surface dressings, white lines renewed, signage replaced, ditches cleaned, bollards erected and pot holes filled – which is always ongoing, Planning – 10 formal application received during the year with our views being very similar to South Norfolk Councils decisions, Flooding – winter flooding impacted badly for many, NCC are now dealing with this with lots of work happening to help for the future, PROW's – we have taken more ownership over these – mentoring and reporting regularly with the biggest current issue is dog faeces. The old phone box in Runhall is now a swap shop – called The Exchange – the hope is to fit a defibrillator in there next year. No rise in the precept for the second year running, Police updates regularly received which shows a low level of crime in the area. Simon thanked Bev Long the clerk for her support and work for the council, which is very much appreciated, fellow councillors who have made sure business as usual during the pandemic, Margaret Dewsbury and Richard Elliott for their great support and attendance at our parish council meetings and all the Parish Groups for their hard work.

The full report is an appendix to these minutes.

4. Reports from parish organisations, county and district councillors, other bodies

Margaret Dewsbury, County Cllr – full report is an appendix to these minutes – points that Margaret brought to the meetings attention were; reports are sent to the parish council monthly, gradually moving out of restrictions with some people now beginning to return to working from the Council offices. Libraries, museums are working hard to reopen as soon as is possible. Margaret was thanked by Simon for her report and all the help she gives the parish council.

Richard Elliott, District Cllr whose full report is an appendix to these minutes spoke about; everything has been dominated by Covid – reflecting on the effort that has happened with 85% of South Norfolk workers working remotely from home, Help Hub has taken more than 20,000 phone calls from residents seeking help and have been working 7 days a week opening until 10pm, they have done shopping etc and collected thousands of prescriptions for many people. All the staff have done an amazing job. Richard was thanked by Simon for his report and continued help to the Parish Council.

5. Open Forum

Discussion followed regarding possible future activities the Parish Council could develop, these included Footpaths – new path from Welborne to Barnham Broom, contact Ken Hawkins who is

the footpath warden in Dereham. Mike Webb volunteered to draft out a possible route and information regarding relevant landowners. Other ideas included supporting local business' – Margaret advised about Go Digital Grants which she refers to in her report.

6. Closing remarks

Simon Guest thanked everyone for attending and to those who had given reports both at the meeting and those submitted electronically. An open invitation was offered to everyone to attend any future Parish Council meetings.

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

- Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall & Welborne Parish Council Chair
- Runhall Parochial Church Council
- Welborne Village Hall
- Barnham Broom and Upper Yare Group
- Margaret Dewsbury – Norfolk County Councillor
- Runhall Recreation Ground – Allotments
- Runhall Play Area
- Runhall Village Community Group
- Richard Elliott – South Norfolk District Councillor
- Mattishall Surgery