

Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall and Welborne Parish Council

Chairman's Report April 2017

What the Parish Council did in 2016

- The Council continued to work through the recommendations in the Parish Plan.
- We convened our Annual Parish Meeting at which Joe Webb, Waste and Environmental Strategy Officer from South Norfolk Council.
- We continued to produce a newsletter after each meeting of the council. The newsletters are the Council's main way of keeping residents informed, not only about what the council is doing, but also passing on public service information from other councils.
- Revised Welcome Pack published on PC website
- A successful Parish Picnic, to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, organised jointly by Councillor Stephanie Austin with Welborne Church.
- Reviewed the Parish Clerk's employment. This showed that the Council needed to pay her considerably more than we had been doing and to revise her job description and contract of employment. The increased cost of the Parish Clerk's pay resulted in a 10% increase in our precepts for 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- Met and communicated with Anglian Water about the proposed sewage scheme in Welborne. Influenced decisions on the route and extended the limit of the scheme to include Welborne Village Hall. We were very disappointed that Anglian Water were not persuaded to extend the scheme to the care home in Welborne.
- Obtained grants from South Norfolk Council for new noticeboards for Brandon Parva, Coston and Runhall and the National Association of Local Councils towards our costs resulting from implementing the Government's 'Transparency Code'
- Resigned from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils after very unsatisfactory performance. Following this, we were obliged to ask Bev Long to set up our own website.
- We responded to a number of planning applications.

Thanks

I want to thank my six fellow Parish Councillors for volunteering their services. I hope that the other residents in the Parish appreciate the commitment of the time, effort and thought that the councillors put into the work of the Parish Council.

We are very fortunate in our small parish that many other people get involved in helping us in some way:

- Thank you to our litter wardens: Brian and Margot Hancock (Welborne), Coralie Meadows (Brandon Parva) and Mark Gill and family (Coston and Runhall). It is very disappointing that there is so much litter in our villages but our litter wardens keep on top of it and keep our villages looking nice.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who distribute our newsletter to all households in the parish, especially Carolyn Bailey (Coston), Stephanie Austin and Helen Lloyd (Brandon Parva), Clare Kay and Liz Holmes (Runhall).
- Thank you to Jill Craig for her continuing work as coordinator of our parish fuel oil bulk buying scheme.
- Our County and District Councillors, both of whom are now in very influential positions on their respective councils and who continue to be very helpful to us.

As always, I want to thank Bev Long, our Parish Clerk, without whom the council would not achieve anything! In particular, I want to thank Bev for her help and support to me as Chairman.

The last seven-and-a-bit years

This is my last Chairman's report because I will not be standing again as Chairman. I would like to highlight the main achievements I feel we have made over the last seven years:

- The change of the Parish name to include all the villages in the parish. Previously, the residents of the other villages did not relate to 'Runhall Parish Council'.
- The Annual Parish Meeting is now established as a well-attended annual event at which we also hear from organisations in and around the parish.
- Our quarterly Parish Council newsletter has probably done more than anything else to raise the profile of the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council website which has been through several iterations, all of which have been implemented by Bev Long, our invaluable Parish Clerk.
- Our Parish Plan, published in spring 2015, will continue to provide a basis for the council's work over the next few years.
- The volunteers in the Parish who have taken responsibility for litter picking, managing our heating oil buying scheme, delivering newsletters, producing the Parish Plan, footpath and tree wardens.
- We have been able to fill every vacancy by co-option and have always had a full complement of councillors.

Mike Webb

Chairman

Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall and Welborne Parish Council

16 April 2017