

Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall and Welborne Parish Council

Chairman's Report April 2019

It is with pleasure that I present my first Chairman's report.

What the Parish Council did in 2018

- The Council reviewed progress with all the recommendations in the Parish Plan. All actions identified in the plan have either been done, deemed no longer relevant or are actively progressing and being managed as business as usual.
- We convened our Annual Parish Meeting at which Tom McCabe, Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services at Norfolk County Council, gave a very interesting talk about that covered a wide range of County Council related topics.
- Responded to the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan, the Norwich Western Link option paper, the greater Norwich Local plan and the Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation.
- Awarded a grant to Runhall Allotments.
- Had ongoing discussions with Bob West, our Highways Engineer, and got highways to progress a number of items of work throughout the year.
- Revamped the Parish website so that it is easier to use, contains more up-to-date information and has better links to other relevant websites. My thanks to Bev for completing this work.
- We continued to produce a newsletter after each meeting of the council. The newsletters, along with the parish website, are the Council's main ways of keeping residents informed, not only about what the council is doing, but also passing on public service information. Jaqui Russell has taken on the responsibility for producing the newsletter this year and has introduced a number of presentational improvements. My thanks to Jaqui for doing this.
- Chased Anglian Water and Highways department to carry out satisfactory reinstatement works after their work on building a new sewer for parts of Welborne.
- We had a very busy year considering and responding to many planning applications. We have also tracked the end results of planning applications and found that in 80% of cases the final decision by South Norfolk was aligned with our recommendations.
- Continued to liaise with the Norfolk County Council on Better Broadband provision and have now got the vast majority of houses within our parish covered by their plans. We are continuing to keep the pressure up to get the remaining houses covered. Provided information for residents on alternative ways to improve broadband in remote areas that are being supported by South Norfolk District Council.
- Implemented the appropriate changes to ensure the council complied with the new General Data Protection Legislation (GDPR) that came into effect in May 2018. My thanks to Bev for completing this work.

Thanks

I want to thank my 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 and I would like to thank all of the following:

- Jane Brown, our only Countryside Ranger. We would still welcome any other applications to become additional Countryside Rangers within the parish.
- Our litter wardens: Brian and Margot Hancock (Welborne), Coralie Meadows (Brandon Parva) and Mark Gill and family (Coston and Runhall).
- The volunteers who distribute our newsletter to all households in the parish: Carolyn Bailey (Coston), Helen Lloyd (Brandon Parva), Clare Kay and Jane Brown (Runhall).
- Jill Craig for her continuing work as coordinator of our parish fuel oil bulk buying scheme.
- Claire Miller for organising a Big Litter Pick.
- Jane Brown for organising the renovation of the phone box in Runhall.
- 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.
- Mike Webb, our previous chairman, who has provided me with advice and guidance during my first year in this role.

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 during my time as Chairman.

Simon Guest
Chairman

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10 April 2019