

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 4th May 2016

Before I begin my report I would just like to offer on behalf of the parish council our condolences to Peter Bellfield's family. Peter died on April 23rd after a brave fight against cancer. He was a great supporter of Parish Councils and was always ready to give Playford a helping hand if it was in his power to do so.

We are pleased to report that the precept will remain unchanged for 2016/17 at £4500. After paying the clerk's salary most of the remaining budget is spent on cutting the grass and hedges under the parish council's care. During 2015 we changed the contractors to Suffolk Norse and they seem to be giving us a much better and regular service.

Highways

As far as highways are concerned I can almost repeat what I said in last year's report. Again we have had a great deal of rain during the autumn and winter and the verges are disintegrating even more. However, there is little we can do about it other than complain to SCC Highways department and wait for them to bring Butts Road to the top of their list. In an attempt to open the unregistered footpath between Butts road and the church again, I have been collecting names and forms from those people who had used the footpath. I am now at a stage that I can submit these to the footpaths committee..

The Council is also looking to downgrade Byway 19 from a byway/BOAT to a restricted byway, which allows for horse drawn vehicles but not vehicles with a motor. Adrian has volunteered to look into the mechanics of doing this. This might be quite a long term project.

Future projects

The basket ball area is finally being installed just in time for the summer.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Council has held two informal meetings with the Playford residents and also with Hilary Hanslip at SCDC and will be discussing this further at the PC meeting later this evening. Kesgrave are proposing to include parts of Playford Parish in their neighbourhood plan and the council have to discuss the ramifications of this before deciding the way forward.

Speedwatch

Playford and Rushmere Parish Councils have joined forces in a project to identify drivers speeding through the villages. A radar gun is being purchased with funds from Councillor Robert Whiting's community. James Wright from Rushmere Parish Council is co-ordinating the project. The police have given their approval of the two sites in Playford where it is safe for the operators of the gun to stand.

Concluding Remarks

I would like to re-iterate my thanks for the help, commitment and support of my fellow Councillors and also to Marian who keeps us on our toes.

Thank you