

## **Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 8th May 2019**

Good Evening everyone and welcome to the 2019 Annual Parish meeting and thank you for coming.

As always I would like to thank the councillors for all their support during the year and Marian for all her dedication and hard work as clerk.

### **Precept**

Firstly, I am pleased to say that we have been able to keep the parish precept at last year's level, which is good news, however, we might have to increase it next year if the costs of grass and hedge cutting go up. At the moment we are in a good financial position.

### **Projects**

During the year, we have undertaken various projects

The defibrillator was fitted in late May and a successful training session attended by around 15 villagers. I would like to thank Glen Thimblethorpe for his continued monitoring of the cabinet.

We have also used some of the excess money from the defibrillator project to purchase cycle stands which have been installed on the grass by the end of the ramp into the hall. On behalf of the PC, I would like to sincerely thank Dean Fulcher for installing these for us which he did at no cost to the Parish Council. I would also like to thank the village hall management committee for letting us use part of the land associated with the village hall.

In March we planted an Oak tree between the petanque and the hedge to commemorate 100 years since the end of the first world war. We have yet to acquire a plaque but this will happen in the near future. This was funded from Robin Vickery's community fund.

At the end of last year we received funds District Councillor Robert Whiting's Enabling Communities Budget to research and publish a book on the history of Playford. It is hoped parishioners will come forward to help with this project. We would like to co-opt volunteers to act as researchers.

All of these projects would not have happened if it were not for the grants made available to us by Robert Whiting our ex district councillor and Robin Vickery, our County Councillor. So thanks very much to them for all their help and support.

Robert Whiting is no longer our councillor as the ward changes due to merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils made the formation of the new ward necessary. This time last year it was thought that Playford might be joined with Rushmere Tower ward, but thanks to much lobbying by the Parish Council and others, the boundaries commission decided that Playford as a rural village should join the new ward of Carlford and Fynn Valley. As I am sure you all know our new councillor is Colin Hedgley and we would like to welcome him to his first Playford APM. He shares the ward with Tony Fryatt who will be representing the northern part of the ward.

At the March Parish Council meeting, we co-opted Mr Mike Brewer as a councillor. As of the 3rd May he is no longer co-opted and I would like to welcome him to his first AGM.

### **Grass Cutting**

Norse are continuing to cut the grass and hedges and doing it well. The daffodils we planted last year seem to have survived OK, seem to have increased in numbers and gave us a great display in the spring.

### **Highways**

As always we have had further deterioration of the verges around the village. The highways department are still finding it difficult financially to manage the repairs but we will continue to lobby for improvement.

### **Footpaths**

The problems with FP20, FP1 and FP3 continue but I understand that stock fencing will be going up in the next few weeks. Please can we ask walkers to report to Marian any difficulties with any of these three footpaths as we want to monitor the work closely.

### **Fibre Broadband**

Fibre Broadband is now available to everyone in the village, I think. I am not sure about the Millers House and Cottage but as far as I am aware everywhere else can sign up for fibre. I would certainly recommend it as at home we are getting speed of over 28mB/sec

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The plan is scheduled to be completed as a draft document later this year. A comprehensive report from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust was instigated and completed just before Christmas and this has been added to the Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Hill Farm and the Mere**

Although not strictly involving the Parish Council, we would like to wish Adrian every success with the Hill Farm and Mere project and as a Parish Council we will support him in his endeavours.

A copy of my report will be published on the Playford website along with draft minutes of this meeting.

Joan Metcalfe  
May 2019