

BUNWELL PARISH COUNCIL
THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, THE OLD TURNPIKE, BUNWELL, NORWICH, NR16 1SN

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REPORT OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3rd MAY 2021.

Due to the Coronavirus restrictions, a public meeting was not possible in the Village Hall, therefore a virtual meeting for councillors and residents took place on the above date. The public were also invited to contact the Clerk to voice their opinions or raise any questions and request an invitation to take part in the meeting via a video link.

Cllrs Present at Virtual Meeting: Cllr R Smith (Chair), Cllr D Crawford, Cllr D Dickson and Cllr A Penman. Cllrs Cobbold, Gledhill and Pennell were not at the meeting. The Parish Clerk and one member of the public attended.

1. **Apologies** – were received from Cllrs Cobbold and Gledhill.
2. **To record declarations of interest from Council members in any item to be discussed** – There were no declarations of interest to record.
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 20th May 2019** - The minutes of the previous meeting, having previously been circulated, were agreed and will be signed by the Chair at the next face-to-face meeting. Due to Covid restrictions an Annual Parish Meeting did not take place in 2020.
4. **To receive the Chairman's Reports** – Cllr Smith gave a report which he had prepared for the previous year and highlighted the most important point concerning encouraging residents to join the Parish Council. This report in full is attached at the end of these Minutes.

Cllr Smith's report of the Council's work during 2020-21 highlighted the challenges faced due to the COVID restrictions and how the Parish Council had supported the Bunwell and Carleton Rode Covid Support Group throughout these difficult times. He spoke of the work of the Bunwell Housing and Development Group, made up of 4 Councillors and 4 residents, whose aim is to ensure that any new housing developments in Bunwell put forward by South Norfolk Council are beneficial to the residents in general and appropriate for the village in style and design. The Playground equipment has been repaired or replaced as necessary and to comply with RoSPA inspection recommendations. Cleaning and painting are ongoing when the weather permits. All the defibrillators have had replacement batteries fitted and are inspected and tested monthly by councillors. The condition of footpaths and bridges is ongoing and the fact that some footpath signposts are missing is making it difficult for walkers who wish to use these public rights of way. Cllr Smith's full report for 2020-21 is attached at the end of these Minutes.

5. Reports from representatives of village organisations were received as follows and are attached at the end of these Minutes:
 - The Chairman of the Village Hall reported that on the 23rd March 2020 the Village Hall was officially closed to comply with lockdown restrictions and although it reopened with some permitted activities on the 17th August, full closure came into force again last Christmas. A Government Grant of £10,000 was received via SNC to help while there was no income.

On the 12th April 2021 the Village Hall opened again for limited activities and full opening should be possible soon.

- The Revd John Madinda sent a report of the activities of St Michael's and All Angels Church during the last year. He reported that sadly churches had been closed to both public and private worship during the Covid pandemic and other committees, such as the PCC, had not been able to meet as normal. The restrictions also meant that the usual fundraising activities had not been possible. He mentioned the sad loss of some members of the church and community and that his prayers are with the families. Also, the Revd Fellowes Memorial Fund had been unable to meet due to Covid restrictions. However, pre-recorded and audio services had been provided from Long Stratton and through the generosity and hard work of some residents the church had been redecorated from the porch through the nave to the chancel. This work followed the repairs to the roof and the church is now ready for use.
- The Bunwell Poor Allotments (Fuel Charity) report was sent in by the Chairman, William Easton. He reported that Mrs M Jessup had retired from the Committee. She had been an active member since 1961 and became a Trustee in 1994, as well as being Treasurer. The whole committee thanked her for all her hard work and wished her well in the future. Jackie Smith has now joined the Committee. Mr Easton reported that they had been able to give a gift of £90 to 19 Bunwell households in December 2020 and the balance sheet details are in the report attached to these Minutes.
- A report was received from South Norfolk Constabulary and they said that the pandemic and associated restrictions had impacted on how the towns and villages had been policed. The local Beat Manager was looking forward to being able to resume face to face engagement soon. The Long Stratton Safer Neighbourhood Team held a public meeting via the Teams platform when local issues were discussed and local policing priorities were set. These are Speeding, Burglary/Theft and Rural Crime. The Police Report is attached to these Minutes and gives the crime statistics for the last 12 months.

6. Questions to Councillors – no questions had been received.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to this virtual meeting and said that the Parish Council will continue to do their best to ensure Bunwell residents are looked after to the best of their ability in the future.

Signed Date

AGM Chairman's Report 2019-2020

As we were unable to have our AGM for 2019-2020.

I consider this was the most important event that the parish council had in that year that would have gone into the chairman's report.

I have tried over the years of being on the parish council to promote the interest in getting more residents interested in joining the Parish Council. To my surprise there was no interest and people just saying no chance. At that time nobody was telling me why they didn't want to become a councillor, and I couldn't really understand what the problem was. Over time as a councillor I have started to see why there is a problem. I know that there is always going to be disagreements about something or other, but unfortunately I have witnessed on several occasions hostilities between a councillor and members of the public, councillor against councillor and councillor against clerk with a derogatory and condescending attitude. It's no wonder that some people didn't even want to come to any meetings. I found out that this attitude also dates back many years, 2007 and beyond. This is not what I joined the Council for, I felt ashamed and I no longer wanted to be any part of it. So in November 2019 myself, the clerk and other councillors at that time put forward their notices of resignation. I was then asked a few days later when walking through the Village on more than one occasion by some of the villagers, not to stand down and to reconsider or the council would go back to how it used to be run in previous years before my time. It's the Villagers who have the history of the Parish Council. I was then also told about a previous clerk and councillors who also handed in their resignations for the very same reasons.

My intention to hand in my resignation with others was read out and are on previous minutes, and were also made public at that time. I will not be answering any questions.

Robert Smith Chairman Bunwell Parish Council.

AGM Chairman's Report 2020-2021

I would like to thank all those that have joined our zoom AGM.

2020-2021 has been a challenging time, especially with COVID restrictions. The Parish Council has continued to support the Bunwell and Carleton Rode Covid Support Group throughout this pandemic.

The Bunwell Housing and Development Group.

This is made up of 4 councillors and 4 Bunwell Villagers. It has been very successful in keeping the Village informed on what's going on with the proposed SNC sites in the Village by visiting every location (Covid safe) and discussing with very open and objective opinions of the for and against of each site. With all the agreed comments and recommendations collated, then the final document was handed into SNC planning department. Myself and one other councillor have been sitting in on virtual SNC development meetings, which have been very good and very informative.

The Play Park.

We have started repairing all issues raised by the playground inspector. We have also replaced some of the worn-out swings, and have put a new play-safe surface around the swings. Some of the tables have been repaired and all dirt and mole hills taken out, although the moles don't seem to be taking any notice. All upgrades and repairs are still ongoing.

The Defibrillators.

All the Defibrillators have had their out-of-date batteries replaced and are now fully compliant and tested every month.

Footpaths.

The footpaths and bridges are always ongoing. We also rely on our land owners to adhere to their responsibilities. One of the problems we have, is some of the footpath posts that NCC have put in seem to have gone missing and never seen again. This is a real shame as many people want to walk these public rights of way.

Robert Smith, Chairman, Bunwell Parish Council.

Bunwell Village Hall report to the Annual Parish Council Meeting May 2021

On March 23rd 2020 Bunwell Village Hall was officially closed to comply with the Government's decision to lock down.

April 2020 - £10k grant from Government via SNC . This has helped the VH to continue throughout the period with very minimal income.

The Hall remained shut until restrictions were lifted on August 17th.

Some activities were resumed and continued into December, although many groups understandably decided not to meet.

Tree tidy undertaken in November, in conjunction with PC.

Lock down came into force again at Christmas and the Hall then remained partially closed until the Government's 'road map' out of lock down was published in February of this year.

April 12th was the date for community centres and village halls to reopen and we have seen the return of some regular activities. More have booked in for the summer.

Guidelines however did allow childminding to take place early in the year and the Hall has been used in this respect for several hours a week.

A limited number of closed VHMC meetings following the 'rule of six' have taken place during the last year, and necessary maintenance at the Hall has been carried out as required.

Thanks to everyone for their patience, and I hope we'll be able to welcome back all the groups to their original slots as Covid restrictions are eased.

Thanks finally to the Parish Council for moving their regular monthly meeting day, to allow continuity for a regular hall using group.

Richard Hoolahan - Chairman

Cynthia Hewett - Secretary

May 3rd 2021

An annual report from St Michael's and All Angel's Church Bunwell

To our honourable chairperson and Clerk and councillors of Bunwell Parish Council

May I begin by thanking God who has looked after us and guided us through all our activities. I also thank you all for your support and encouragement to the church and its activities during these very hard times. May I also thank our Church Wardens, PCC members and members of our congregations for the unity and support showed in the past year through all its difficulties and challenges.

Challenges

As with everyone else this has not been an easy year and our church has gone through great pressure, the greatest of all being Covid.

1. Very sadly we had to close our churches from both public and private worship. This affected a significant part of our income, and the ability to meet with one another as we were used to.
2. Apart from our Sunday and mid week services, we could not meet for our regular PCC meetings, so we have had a back log for catching up to do.
3. Our church being a charity and voluntary organization we usually boost our income through various fundraising events. In the last year this was impossible.
4. We did sadly lose some of the members of the church and the community, and we continue to miss them especially as we could not have proper services and time for friends to be there due to COVID. To mentions some, include, Peter Francis, John Meen, Christine Wright, Ruby Gedge, Michael Scharfe. Our prayers are with the families.
5. Again due to pandemic the committee for Reverend Fellowes Memorial Fund could not meet in the last year.

Successes

With every challenge we also find success

1. Due to church closure we could start providing pre recorded services both audio and visual from Long Stratton. These services were sent to people through email and were also posted in the church website for people to access at any convenient time for them. As a Ministry Team we were also able to provide daily reflections throughout this period.
2. Though generosity and hard work from our church wardens and some people from the parish our church was redecorated from the porch through the nave to the chancel. That work which came following the repair of the roof is now complete and the church ready for use.

Conclusion

We want to give thanks for the generous support from the council especially for funding the up keep of the churchyard, making it look presentable and open for public use.

Presented by Revd John Y Madinda on behalf of St Michael's and All Angels Church Bunwell

Bunwell Poor Allotments Charity Annual Report 2021

Firstly I would like to report that Mrs M Jessup has retired from the committee. She has been an active member since 1961 when she started taking minutes for the meetings when her father was chairman. She became a trustee in 1994, and somewhere along the line she also took on the responsibility of being treasurer. Basically she has run the charity and kept everyone in order for a very long time. The whole committee would like to thank her for all of her hard work and wish her well in the future.

It has been a difficult year for everyone with the pandemic, and we weren't able to have our normal meeting in December due to lockdown. We conducted our meeting via emails and a few phone calls for those not too technically minded.

We welcomed Jackie Smith to our ranks who was voted in by the Parish Council. She knows a lot of people in the village through her walking groups and various other organisations.

Last Christmas we distributed 19 gifts of £90 each. This was down from 23 the previous year, mainly due to people moving house or into care.

We will put a note in the Parish Magazine later in the year asking for new applicants.

POORS ALLOTMENT BALANCE SHEET For 2019

INCOME

Bank balance 01/01/19

£559.83

COIF Dividends

£1,951.50

£2,511.33

EXPENDITURE

Charity Gifts 23 @ £90

£2,070.00

Bank balance 32/12/19

£441.33

£2,511.33

Thank you

William Easton

(Chairman)

Bunwell Police Report

It has been a very difficult year for individuals, businesses and community groups alike and the effect of the pandemic and the associated restrictions have impacted on how we have policed our towns and villages.

Throughout 2020/2021 your local Safer Neighbourhood Team have continued to respond to priority calls as well as conducting reassurance patrols, utilising the 4Es approach to policing, seeking to engage, explain, educate and only as a very last resort enforce the restrictions in place at the time.

Your local Beat Manager has always enjoyed a very close working relationship with the community and we are very aware that the restrictions have meant that we have been unable to conduct face to face engagement. With the publication of the Government's "road map out of lockdown" and an easing of the restrictions, as long as the situation continues to improve, we look forward to resuming face to face meetings if we can but only if it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Parish Council, local community and businesses for their understanding and support during what has been undoubtedly a very difficult year.

The Long Stratton Safer Neighbourhood Team have held a Public Meeting on the Teams platform in March 2021 where local issues were discussed and local policing priorities were set.

For the next three months the team will be concentrating on Speeding, Burglary/Theft and Rural Crime. If you have any concerns or information to pass then please contact the team using their email SNLongStratton@norfolk.police.uk.

The next public meeting will be held in June 2021 and full details will be made available nearer the time.

Please follow South Norfolk Police on twitter @SouthNorfPolice or our South Norfolk Police Facebook page.

Below are the crime statistics for the last 12 months.

Crime type	Total
ASB	5
Burglary - Business and Community	1
Burglary - Residential	1
Criminal Damage	8
Domestic	7
Possession of drugs	1

Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	6
Theft from a Vehicle	1
Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle	3
Total	33