

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 WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2021.

Cllrs Present: Cllr R Smith (Chair), Cllr J Chapman, Cllr D Dickson, Cllr T Harvey and Cllr D Ward. The Parish Clerk and 11 members of the public attended. Apologies were received from Cllr Watson and County Cllr B Duffin.

Chairman, Cllr Bob Smith, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and introduced the new Parish Councillors: John Chapman, Tom Harvey and David Ward and passed on Rupert Watson's apologies for his absence.

Reports from the Chairman and Village Organisations were received and read out and are attached in full at the end of this report.

Chairman's Report – Cllr Smith gave a report which spoke of the presentation of a commemorative plaque to the Bunwell and Carleton Rode Covid Support Group during the pandemic and this was presented by a representative of the Queen's Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk at a meeting in the Village Hall. He again passed on his thanks to all those who helped support residents during this difficult time. He explained that the Bunwell Housing & Development Group, consisting of 3 councillors and 5 residents, was formed to inspect proposed housing sites in the village and consider their suitability for future house building. These views were then passed to the Parish Council for approval before being forwarded to South Norfolk Council for their consideration. Four sites were approved, one preferred site with 3 reserve sites. The maintenance of the playground equipment is on-going with the repair of the roundabout being a major issue. This repair is almost completed and will be inspected, together with all play equipment, by RoSPA in June before it is reinstated. Unfortunately, due to vandalism, some of the damage to play equipment and missing footpath finger posts mean that these repairs and costs have to be paid for from residents' Council Tax and detracts from amenities which are for the enjoyment of everybody. We are delighted that four residents have recently joined the PC but there are still vacancies if anyone is interested in contributing to the task of ensuring Bunwell is a good place to live.

Reports from representatives of village organisations were received as follows and are attached at the end of these Minutes:

Report from the Chairman of the Bunwell Housing & Development Group. Mr Phil Gledhill explained why this group was formed and the work it does to ensure that future house building in Bunwell is generally acceptable to the community. They keep a close eye on South Norfolk Council's Regulation and Planning Committee meetings to ensure that residents' interests are taken into consideration. The findings and recommendations of the Group are passed to the Parish Council for approval and their views passed on to South Norfolk Council.

The Chairman of the Village Hall reported that the last year had been reasonably smooth but finances had been hit with the lack of use caused by Covid although they were grateful for the financial support received from the Government. The rising energy prices are a concern and the hire costs will have to be considered and possibly increased to cover this extra expenditure. Mr

Hoolahan also said that as a member of the Jubilee Committee, work is almost complete to ensure that a great day is had on the 5th June to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The Bunwell Poor Allotments (Fuel Charity) report was given by the Chairman, William Easton. He explained that the Trust was set up in the early 19th century originally to distribute fuel to the poor of the parish and a bag of coal was given to those in need at Christmas time. Over the years this has changed and money is available at the end of each year to be divided amongst residents of Bunwell who have lived there for 3 years, who are over 70 years of age and those that have become widowed. The Trust report in the Parish Magazine each year asking for new applicants who would benefit from such a gift and consideration is also given to making other payments to anyone suffering extreme hardship as a one-off or regular payment. The Balance Sheet for 2020 showed that 19 charity gifts had been given and there is a bank balance of £812.38.

A report from the Fellowes Memorial Fund stated that no request for help had been received during the last year and the balance at the year end was £344.00.

Finedale Foods reported that they have recently completed its fifth year of trading and the past two years have been extremely challenging with Covid and Brexit. Because they predominantly manufacture foods for gatherings, 90% of their trade had been lost over a year. However, they are producing more food for retail and airlines and are now busy again, and always looking for new staff. They are happy to support local events if carparking is needed, and to give donations to organisations like the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

David Neale, of the Bunwell Heritage Group, said that the third volume of Bunwell's Village History is complete and now at the printers. Particular topics covered are village farms, farming practices and vernacular housing within the village. It also includes more of Margaret Thorburn's amusing pieces on village life in the past. This third volume is the sole work of one of the group's members, John Herne, and should be an essential addition to the libraries of those holding volumes 1 and 2. With the sale of this third volume the Heritage Group will have fulfilled its original task and be wound up, unless anyone is interested in taking over the archive and recording current events which will become tomorrow's history.

A report from the County Councillor, Barry Duffin, was read out and highlighted some of NCC's achievements for 2021/22. These included 70% of Norfolk streetlights converted to LED; 96.7% of highways inspections completed within timescale; 99.6% of dangerous highway defects dealt with within timescales set out in the Transport Asset Management Plan, 94% of Looked After Children (LAC) now have an up-to-date Individual Education Plan and 51,000 Adult Social Care Assessments were completed for 20,700 people.

The matter of speeding through the village had been raised previously and information on joining the Community Speed Watch Campaign was read out.

The Chairman asked residents to let the Parish Council have their ideas for using the Community Infrastructure Levy income from building developments to enhance the facilities in the village and for their thoughts on any improvements the Parish Council could make to village life.

He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said that the Parish Council will continue to do their best to ensure Bunwell residents' interests are looked after to the best of the Council's ability in the future.

Signed Date

Bunwell Parish Council AGM 2022

Chairman's Report

Over the last 2 years Covid has presented us all with a few problems. When lockdown finished, we hosted the Covid Plaque Award presentation when the Queen's Lieutenant of Norfolk gave a plaque to the Bunwell and Carleton Rode Covid Support Group for all the hard work they had carried out during the pandemic to support everyone. Many thanks to John Laurie of Carleton Rode Parish Council and his colleagues in the Covid Support Group, Carleton Rode Baptist Chapel for keeping everyone safe in the chapel and the Café, Bunwell Stores for maintaining a safe shop and helping with deliveries to those who could not get out and to Roger Day for keeping his tanks full to enable people to travel. Bunwell Parish Council now works closer together than ever before with other local Parish Councils when needed.

We take Planning Applications in Bunwell very seriously. Every application that comes in goes to all councillors to consider whether it is going to conflict with other properties, or if it is out of character with the neighbouring street scene, but it can be a little bit more complicated than just that.

When SNDC came up with The Village Clusters Plan for every village in S Norfolk, Bunwell PC carefully considered every application for housing sites in Bunwell. We created the Bunwell Housing and Development Group with 3 councillors and 5 villagers to inspect the proposed sites and then pass their findings on to Bunwell PC for approval before sending their views to S Norfolk Council. 4 of the 7 proposed sites were approved by the group and forwarded to SNDC for their decision. SNDC approved the same 4 sites.

These are the 4 approved sites: 1 preferred site with 3 reserve sites and 1 site which was rejected.

The preferred site is:

SN0537 owned by Kevin Gedge for 20 properties, opposite Greenways next to the 7 self-builds

The reserved sites are:

SN2126 owned by Annette James for 8-12 properties, adjacent to The Laurels,

SN0538 owned by Kevin Gedge for 20 properties, opposite Lilac Farm

SN0539 owned by Kevin Gedge for 12 properties, on Lilac Farm.

One rejected site:

SN0009 owned by Eastons for 125 properties, on Church Lane.

With Covid causing delays it has been very difficult to do some of the regular jobs in the village, such as the maintenance of the play equipment, but we are working through them. Some jobs are still a work in progress like the roundabout on the playing field that has had to be removed for safety reasons and is now in a workshop at Eastons, with their kind permission, while it is repaired and welded. One of the biggest challenges was getting the Wetpour up, which is the safety flooring around the edge of the roundabout, and removing some of the concrete base before re-laying new Wetpour to conform to new safety standards. All work on the roundabout and its base, together with all the play equipment will be inspected by RoSPA in June 2022. There has also been some damage to play equipment caused by vandalism, and footpath finger posts are regularly removed and need to be replaced. This malicious damage is quite unnecessary and costly to all of Bunwell's residents whose Council Tax has to be used to pay for the replacements and repairs, as the playing field and footpaths are assets for everybody to enjoy.

We still have a couple of vacancies for the right people to join Bunwell Parish Council. If you want to make Bunwell a nicer and safer place to live for everybody, and you think you can contribute and make a difference, then make yourself known at the end of the evening and consider putting your application forward.

Robert Smith, Chairman, Bunwell Parish Council

Bunwell Housing Development Group AGM 2022 Statement

During early 2020, Bunwell Parish Council wished to establish a clear understanding of housing development plans being progressed by the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) and South Norfolk Council (SNC) for the period from 2026 to 2038, this in addition to the already agreed housing development plan 2016 – 2026.

The impact of the GNLP and SNC conclusions would have a direct and significant bearing upon the village in many respects. This would include new housing numbers and locations, visual change to the village at and around the agreed sites, disruption during construction and issues concerning the general acceptability to the community of what is decided.

The key objective of the Group was to understand the SN planning strategy, proposals and intentions in relation to the South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP) and to advise the Parish Council.

4 Councillors and 4 Residents volunteered and were accepted.

(Advertisements appeared in parish council Minutes and on the PC and Village websites.)

As with everything globally, Covid has caused major problems and delays in processing and the GNLP and the South Norfolk Cluster Plan has been a victim also. However, Bunwell PC agreed the Housing Development Group recommendations, based upon all sites declared by SN Planning, and they were sent to South Norfolk Council.

The subsequent decision of SNC was broadly in line with those of our own but with a single 'Preferred' site, opposite Greenways, 3 'Shortlisted' sites and 3 'Rejected' sites.

A SNC Consultation of all Cluster sites followed between June and August last year to which there were 2000 responses. They are currently being processed.

61 new sites were added with one in Bunwell at Barhams Lane which was a single dwelling. This in itself was questioned given we understood sites under the plan were to be around 12 with some larger exceptions. This apparently is no longer the case.

The next meeting of the SNC Regulation and Planning Committee is being held on the 21st June 2022 when hopefully some positive news will be available.

Phil Gledhill (BHDG)

Bunwell Poor Allotments Charity Annual Report 2022

The trust was set up in the early 19th century, originally to distribute fuel to the poor of the parish. A bag of coal was given to those in need at Christmas time.

Over the years this has changed and money available at the end of each year has been divided amongst those people who have been residents of Bunwell for 3 years, who are 70 years of age, and also those that have become widowed. Being governed by the Charity Commission, our constitution rules also allow us to make other payments to anyone suffering extreme hardship as a one off or regular payment.

If you think that you may be eligible or know someone else who might be, please let one of the committee know. That's Myself, Andrew Love, Nigel Crouch, Jackie Smith, Jean Stimpson, Rev. J. Madinda.

After last year's meeting having to be done at arms' length due to the pandemic, we actually managed to get together and hold a proper meeting in December. Last Christmas we distributed 19 gifts of £90 each. This was the same number as in the previous year.

We will put a note in the Parish Magazine later in the year asking for new applicants. Existing recipients do not need to reapply.

POORS ALLOTMENT BALANCE SHEET For 2020

INCOME

Bank balance 01/01/20

£441.33

COIF Dividends

£1,991.05

Returned Gift

£90.00

£2,522.38

EXPENDITURE

Charity Gifts 19 @ £90

£1,710.00

Bank balance 31/12/20

£812.38

£2,522.38

Thank you

William Easton (Chairman)

Norfolk County Council highlights for 2021/22

- 70% of Norfolk streetlights converted, or work underway to convert to LED
- 96.7% of highways inspections completed within timescale
- 99.6% of dangerous highway defects dealt with within timescales set out in the Transport Asset Management Plan
- 94% of Looked after Children (LAC) with an up-to-date Personal Education Plan
- Completed 51,000 Adult Social Care Assessments for 20,700 people.

The 2022/23 Budget

A **£464 million** net revenue budget, a **£25m increase** from last year, with increased spending across key service areas and capital programmes, along with a 2.99% Council Tax rise has been agreed to enable Norfolk to build back better after the pandemic.

Adult Social Services will see an additional **£35.4m** of investment, against savings of £10.5m, and **Children's Services** will receive **£23.2m** of further investment, with a **further £10m** this year for the **SEND School Programme**, with £12m against planned savings.

Community and Environmental Services will see an additional **£11.2m**, against savings of £3.5m. Within Community and Environmental Services there will be the **£10m pothole fund** to draw upon, **new recycling centres** across the County, **£5m on library upkeep** and extension of services and **£12m on the Better Broadband project**.

There has been substantial **Beryl Bikes and E-Scooters** uptake during the past year, with the average journey being over 3.5km (taking multiple car journeys out of the City) and multiple Local Cycling, Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPS) plans being developed across the County (including Greater Norwich, King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Dereham).

These commitments are in keeping with my Conservative Groups 2021 Manifesto pledges to deliver a better future for Norfolk through:

- Protecting valued services
- Investing in care services
- Strengthening community resilience
- Leading on economic development
- Supporting families and young people
- Caring for our environment

Cllr Barry Duffin

West Depwade Division