

APPENDIX 1

Little Bealings Parish Council: Chairman's Report 2024-2025

One major activity following last year's Annual Parish Meeting was to find a replacement Clerk. After 20 years of loyal service Carol Ramsden decided to hang up her pen. After a comprehensive recruitment exercise, I am pleased to say that Wendy Cook accepted our offer and she joined the Parish Council on 1st May 2024. Wendy has fitted into the role exceptionally well. I just hope that she enjoys our community and all the fun being part of the Parish Council brings and will continue to serve us for the foreseeable future.

In addition to the six scheduled parish council meetings, there have been one additional meeting in April to appoint the new Clerk.

The Parish Council tries to ensure that neighbouring properties associated with any planning application are advised and aware of the date of the parish council meeting that will consider that application, as well as ESC's deadline for any response they may wish to make. We also advertise applications that may impact more widely on the parish via our noticeboards and website. Delegated powers have been used, as and when necessary, to ensure ESC deadlines for submitting the Council's views are met. The revised ESC process for ensuring Parish Council's objections are heard has yet to be tested for a Little Bealings planning application.

Many Parish Councils within ESC have become concerned with the Planning process within ESC and we continue to work with the East Suffolk Planning Alliance in order for our voice to be heard and to ensure any dialogue with ESC captures our concerns.

Community Infrastructure Funds (CIL) totalling £21,720.09 has been received from ESC. This is our share of the levy paid to ESC following development in the parish. A previous survey of every household within the village in the autumn of 23 identified a number of residents' priorities for CIL spending, with our footpaths being especially highly valued. In July the Parish Council gave £5000 to the Village Hall Roof fund. The Parish Council arranged for Footpath 1A which runs through the Churchyard to be upgraded at a cost of £14,916 (excluding vat). This new footpath is used by many in the village and also serves the school back gate. The Parish Council have also allocated £1362 of CIL money for flooring improvements at the Angela Cobbold Hall.

The Parish Council continues to support the Safer Village Driving Initiative and Little Bealings now has use of a Speed Indicating Device (SID) for all 12 months of the year. This device is employed within the 20mph area of The Street and used in Playford Road and Martlesham Road.

Sinks Pit Community Liaison Group meetings are ongoing, and the Environment Agency has now 'approved' the TRU noise management plan, but the ESC noise abatement notice continues. It remains an ongoing matter for the Parish Council, with an undetermined planning application at ESC.

The Parish Council continues to press SCC for receipt of the fine imposed upon Network Rail contractors in December 2022 for unauthorised closure of the level crossing, given that the closure largely affected our residents. We have asked our County Councillor, Elaine Bryce, for assistance with this.

The Anglian Water sewerage scheme has been completed.

A major initiative for the Parish Council is the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Little Bealings. A Working Group has been established, a consultant appointed, government grant received, and considerable work has already been undertaken. It is very important that residents as well as Councillors are members of the Working Group and there are four joining the three Councillors. My thanks to all involved.

The Parish Council remains a member of ESC Community Partnership, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Community Action Suffolk and the Suffolk Preservation Society.

Our thanks to Colin Hedgley, one of our two District Councillors for his attendance, advice and guidance and to Elaine Bryce our elected county councillor. Their support is invaluable.

Our thanks also to Jenny Shaw our webmaster and Francis Mutimer and John Wittgreffe, our footpath wardens and their band of willing volunteers.

Again, my personal thanks to my fellow Councillors for their continued support in trying to ensure this Parish Council reflects the wishes of its residents. And, it would be wrong of me not to mention again our 'new' Clerk, Wendy Cook. Thank you all.

The Council continues to work on behalf of all villagers, representing the parish at District and County level, and seeking the best outcomes for residents on highways, planning and other matters - whether these are more local matters like potholes and the new sewer in The Street, or part of projects with wider significance, like the impact of the Sizewell C travel's plan. We look to promote a community in which we would all like to reside and with facilities to enjoy and infrastructure that supports daily life in our parish.

Ian Ransome