

## **Little Bealings Parish Council: Chairman's Report 2020 – 2021**

Since our last Annual Parish Meeting we have been plagued by the Covid 19 pandemic and in consequence have had a very unusual year. Who knew that we would all become Zoom users.

Firstly, I would like to place on record my thanks to all the Councillors and our Clerk for adapting our normal working practices, as soon as changes to the legislation allowed, to meet the needs of the Parish and embracing technology to enable us to continue to hold meetings.

In addition to the six planned parish council meetings, there have been an additional 5 meetings.

The Parish Council tries to ensure that the neighbouring properties associated with any planning application are advised and aware of the date of the parish council meeting that will consider that application. Delegated powers have been used, as and when necessary, to ensure ESC deadlines for submitting the Council's views are met.

One application the Parish Council objected to was also rejected by ESC Planning committee but subsequently 'approved' following the adoption of the new ESC Local Plan. This change to ESC policy does mean we face an increasing likelihood of large garden development.

One planning enforcement issue is on-going with ESC – we await an update on ESC actions.

The Parish Council has supported the Friends of The Admirals Head group and have provided representatives to the Admirals Head Working Group who are working to move this issue forward. More from them later.

The Parish Council has appointed two footpath wardens who will monitor and report on the footpaths within the village and carry out any work necessary, subject to landowner's agreement. We would like to thank Francis Mutimer and John Wittgreffe for volunteering to undertake this role.

A parishioner brought to our attention the condition of the war memorial within All Saints church grounds. Upon investigation of this matter, the Parish Council had agreed in 1989 to undertake the maintenance of the war memorial and we have therefore sought an estimate for refurbishment. This expenditure has been included in the forthcoming budget so that it can proceed as and when necessary.

Our website has undergone a total review to ensure it complies with latest Government requirement for accessibility and we have recently carried out a 'sense' check to ensure all relevant information is current. Our sincere thanks to our volunteer webmaster, Jenny Shaw. Thank you, Jenny.

The Parish Council continues to support the Safer Village Driving Initiative and SCC have agreed two positions within The Street to enable the SID (speed indicating device) to be employed in order to remind drivers of the 20mph limit. SCC continue to rotate their SID's with other parishes for the Playford Road and Martlesham Road 30 mph sites. Mike Garnham represents our Parish on this forum.

Sinks Pit. Local residents wrote to ESC Environmental Protection about the noise, dust and light pollution. As a result of that letter, the Environment Agency is now involved as they issued the licence under which Tippers R Us operate the concrete crushing/washing activity. Complaints are ongoing and a permanent solution is awaited. Residents are appreciative of the support being given by Councillors Hedgley and Mallinder.

The Parish Council continues to press Anglian Water and the Environment Agency for a speedy solution to the drainage problems in the centre of the village. The Environment Agency is actively investigating the Anglian Water position as they are not adhering to Ofwat's decision.

The Parish Council remains a member of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk Preservation Society and the Police/ESC tier1 community. Colin Hopkins has attended the Police Tier 1 meetings.

Covid 19 has changed the way many initiatives are managed with physical meetings impossible but we continue to support as many events as possible, albeit by Zoom. Latest one was the A12 road improvement plan for the Seven Hills to Woods Lane section of the A12. Can I suggest that you all review SCC's plans and make your views known.

Our thanks to Colin Hedgley, our District Councillor, for his attendance, advice and support throughout the year and to Andrew Reid who has been our interim SCC county councillor until elections are held this year.

Finally, my thanks to my fellow Councillors for their support during this hectic year and a special thanks to our clerk, Carol, for her professional approach and commitment to this Parish Council.

Ian Ransome

Chairman

Little Bealings Parish Council