

Little Bealings Parish Council: Chairman's Report 2021-2022

The Parish Council has responded to the need for face-to-face meetings, but has abandoned meeting in the Village Hall Committee Room so as to ensure all attendees can socially distance to achieve maximum protection. Apologies for the ever-changing venue and days but we are trying to protect all.

Colin Hopkins resigned as a Parish Councillor in September 2021 and I would like to thank him for all his support during his many years as a councillor. ESC advised that no election had been requested and we could co-opt a councillor. After advertising the position, I can report that we appointed Mr. Chris Cheeseman to fill the vacancy.

In addition to the six planned parish council meetings, there have been an additional three meetings primarily to discuss planning applications.

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. Delegated powers have been used, as and when necessary, to ensure ESC deadlines for submitting the Council's views are met.

Interpretation of the 'new' ESC Local Plan has led to considerable discussion within the Parish Council and confirmation sought from ESC as on such matters as the 'cluster policy'.

One planning enforcement issue was resolved with the refusal of the applicant's appeal and we await further action by ESC.

We have continued our objection to the Sizewell C Rail Strategy, which proposes running trains to deliver construction materials along the line through the village at night. We also invited the Inspector to visit to see the close proximity of some homes. Recently we have again alerted residents to the potential impact and invited them to join to a private initiative to oppose the rail movements on the grounds of noise and vibration impact if they are concerned. Two residents have responded to this. Mitigation and compensation are also been raised.

As you would have read in the Fynn Lark News the Planning Inspectorate allowed the appeal from the owners of The Admirals Head to convert this to a dwelling. The period for the appeal of that decision has now expired and the property is now on the market. The car park is not included in the sale and it remains (as does the pub) an Asset of Community Value until February 2023. Because of this, the sale has triggered a further 'Right to Bid' period for the community, which runs until 28 March. This will be considered by the Council at its meeting later this evening and you will appreciate that the matter is commercially sensitive. In consequence the Parish Council has taken the decision to exclude the public from its discussion of the matter in its meetings. This is not a decision the Council takes lightly, but it is the only option if the Council wishes to discuss a purchase and financial information without this information being available to the current owners.

The Parish Council continues to support the Safer Village Driving Initiative and upon the allocation of additional funds from ESC, Little Bealings will have use of a Speed Indicating Device (SID) for 6 months of the year. Additional locations for use of the SID are being discussed with SCC.

Sinks Pit. Following a zoom meeting in March 2021 with our MP, Dr Dan Poulter, a Joint Agency Liaison meeting has been established with representatives from ESC, SCC,

Environment Agency and Little Bealings Parish Council as well as our District Councillor Colin Hedgley. Our county councillor Elaine Bryce chairs the meeting and the next session is scheduled for 13 April.

The Environment Agency have forced Anglian Water to include The Street drainage problems into the current 5 year programme of work and a solution should be implemented by the end of 2024. Affected residents will soon have contact from Anglian Water, if not already. Anglian Water has said they will be presenting their proposals to the Parish Council in due course and we have asked for an update on this.

The refurbishment of the War Memorial is planned and the Parish Council awaits confirmation that the Church Faculty approving the works has been granted. Funds are already in place to cover this work, with the costs met by a grant from the War Memorials Trust and Parish Council funds.

Our sincere thanks to the Plymouth Brethren for donating and arranging the replacement of the grit bin outside All Saints Church, and continuing to support the Council with minor repairs, such as to the noticeboards.

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.

Our thanks to Colin Hedgley, our District Councillor for his attendance, advice and guidance and to Elaine Bryce our newly elected County Councillor. Her support has already been invaluable. Our thanks also to Jenny Shaw, our webmaster and Francis Mutimer and John Wittgreffe, our Footpath Wardens.

The Council continues to work on behalf of all villagers in order to promote a community in which we would all like to reside. My thanks to fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their support during the year.