

# **Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council**

## Chairman's Report May 2016

First of all I would like to thank a number of people.

- All my fellow councillors, for their commitment throughout the year.
- Terry Clements our County Councillor.
- Sara Mildmay-White our Borough Councillor.
- Helen Lindfield, from St Edmundsbury.
- The Havebury Housing Partnership.
- Stanningfield Community Association

I will mention some individuals again as we progress through this Report but would like it noted that those already mentioned have played a part in helping us make strong progress this year.

We said goodbye to Councillor McKenna this year. Thank you Ray for your support over the last few years, we now need someone to look after foot paths.

We also said goodbye to our Clerk Victoria Waples during the year and I would like to place on record my and the Councils thanks for the sterling work she carried out for us.

Paul Maclachlan of course joined us following Victoria's departure and has very quickly established himself in the role and has made a strong contribution over the last few months. Welcome and thank you Paul.

Last, but by no means least, I'd like to thank those members of the public who come along to our PC meeting. They are not always exciting although I suspect they are sometimes unintentionally entertaining. Thank you for your support.

## **Primary Function of the PC**

To oversee and manage the affairs of Bradfield Combust and Stanningfield, we do this with four clearly defined objectives;

## **Council Objectives**

1. To represent the whole community.
2. To communicate and engage the community in supporting and developing village initiatives.
3. To promote a caring spirit amongst the villages of Bradfield Combust and Stanningfield.
4. To ensure National and Local Government changes affecting the Parish are understood and acted upon.

## **Achievements**

We have continued our policy over the last year of raising money outside our precept for additional projects and have now raised over a three year period £34,500 from various organisations.

## **Projects completed in the last twelve months**

Stanningfield Village Hall was officially re-opened by Councillor Terry Clements in June 2015 after a £16,500 refurbishment which included new UPVC windows, the old wooden exterior being clad in Celotex insulation and covered with a state of the art “Deplas” plastic boarding along with new gutters and down pipes.

The erection of a BBQ Gazebo and a decking veranda at the back of the Village Hall at a cost of £5,000

I would like to thank Clive for working with me to raise the money and in helping to carrying out the work to put these projects in place.

There are also four people I would like to mention who have given their time and skills FOC

1. Tony Oriss – who helped us build the Gazebo
2. Paul Elsdon – who put the felt on the Gazebo roof
3. Stuart Bradnam – who trimmed the trees on the Green
4. Mark Hinde – Gazebo electrics

## **Communication**

We have produced four issues of Village Matters during the year, keeping everyone in the Parish up-dated on events, projects and potential changes.

Once again thanks to Clive for this contribution.

Our Website continues to be up-dated with Paul now taking responsibility for this resource.

Neighbourhood Watch has taken on a much higher profile over the last year with Sam Jordan taking over as co-ordinate for Stanningfield. However, I would like to thank Andy for his work in building the profile of NHW and for delivery of the information to the community.

Our Emergency Plan has also under gone a re-vamp this year, to ensure it remains fit for purpose. Once again thanks to Andy for carrying out this work.

## **Around The Villages**

I am pleased to report the Waystone (or at least a replica) has been returned to Bradfield Combust.

Signage for Hoggard's Green has nearly been sorted out (still a bit of work in progress)

Dog Poo (an ever topical subject) seems to be largely under control with new signs being put up and Poo bins relocated.

The Play equipment on the green has been under review this year with the decision being taken not to make any significant investment or changes. Thanks to Colin for his input.

Speeding through the Villages continues to be a problem and requires more work. We have however had the Vehicle activated sign in place along Chapel road three times during the year.

## **Orbit Housing Project**

One of the challenges which faced us during the last twelve months was the proposal from Orbit Housing and St Edmundsbury to build twelve new affordable houses on the acre of land to your right as you leave Stanningfield towards Great Whelnetham. We have sought assurances that these houses would not be sold at a later stage under the right to buy scheme but have received no such assurances. There is another meeting due to take place but it is unlikely any progress can be made in the current environment.

## **Events**

Fun on the Green was held last July and attended by over one hundred people, with much fun being had by all

We have a series of new events organised for the coming year, details are available in the Village Matters or on line.

## **The coming year**

We enter the year with a:-

- Full complement of Councillors, with three new members joining us.
- A healthy financial surplus
- Plans to further develop the Village Hall Car Park
- Five planned social events for the Parish to enjoy (including the unveiling of the newly painted Stanningfield village sign)
- A communication platform in place to keep everyone informed and engaged

We are very aware that we are spending public money and will continue to do this responsibly and prudently. Any money for extra projects will be raised from outside sources