

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council

Chairman's Report May 2018

First of all, I would like to thank: -

All my fellow councillors, for their commitment and work throughout the year. Special mention must go to our two local Councillors, who are always present and willing to help and support the efforts of the Parish Council not only with money for projects, which of course is always welcome, but with their presence and contribution. So many thanks to

Sara Mildmay-White our Borough Councillor and to Karen Soons our County Councillor.

I would like to offer a special thanks to Amanda Hinde our clerk for her help and support over the last year.

We said goodbye to Councillors Mark Hinde, Julia Smith and Andy Tucker during the year and I would like to place on record my and the Council's thanks for the sterling work they carried out for us. Fortunately, Andy Tucker will continue to support us with information around the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and information from the police. We of course also welcomed Councillors Jordan and Cladd to the Council

Last, but by no means least, I'd like to thank those members of the public who come along to our PC meetings. Thank you for your support.

Achievements During the Year

We have continued our policy over the last year of raising money outside our precept for additional projects and have raised this year another £3,000 for our Village Hall extension. A good proportion of this again came from the locality budgets of our Councillors, so thanks yet again.

I must also say thank you to the members of the Stanningfield Community Association (SCA) who have not only supported us financially but continue with their work to keep the Village Hall in great condition.

Projects started and completed in the last twelve months

Car Park

The Village Hall Car Park and wooded area project was completed in June last year, with many more parking spaces created and lighting added for convenience and safety. We also took the opportunity to add a **height restriction barrier** to the entrance of the Village Hall car park.

Basket Ball Hoop

After requests from parents and children it was decided to add a hoop to the green

Serving hatch

The new serving hatch was completed at the Village Hall and has proved to be a great addition

Purchased Phone box

The purchase of the Phone Box on Stanningfield Green from BT was completed, ***this now needs a champion to oversee its restoration***

Play area

Some remedial work was carried out to the Play area to ensure safety requirements are adhered to, there is still some work to be completed on the soft surface around the equipment.

Mapping of the Parish drainage facilities

A project has been started this year following flooding in the Parish to understand how we can better prepare and control any future issues, this is being done in cooperation with Suffolk County Council and is still very much work in progress.

Village Hall Extension

The storage extension to the Village Hall is now underway and should be completed by the Summer.

Other Projects

There were two other projects which although they never came to fruition are worthy of note for the efforts put into them by individual councillors and our clerk. They are: -

- (1) The attempt to change speed limits to more realistic levels. Although we met every requirement set and produced a fantastic and detailed report, we were met by unelected bureaucrats who decided this could not happen
- (2) The Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which after several months of procrastination, it was decided would not affect Parish Councils

Thank you to all involved in these rather frustrating ventures.

Communication

We have continued to produce Village Matters during the year, keeping everyone in the Parish up-dated on events, projects, and potential changes.

Our Website has gone through a number of changes without any real consultation with us from the providers and now needs a new understanding. ***We require someone to take on this project.***

Neighbourhood Watch and Police up-date continue to feature as a major part of our newsletter.

The coming year

After six years as Chairman I have decided not to seek re-election and will stand down from the council following this year's fete and the completion of the Village Hall extension. I leave knowing the Parish has: -

- Healthy financial reserves
- A number of planned social events across the rest of this year
- A communication platform in place to keep everyone informed and engaged
- We have completed over £40,000 worth of improvements around the Parish,
- none of which has come from Parish funds and most completed by volunteer labour

Before signing off there is one more thing I would like to put on record, which is my gratitude and thanks to Clive for all his support, enthusiasm and expertise over this past 6 years.

When I persuaded Clive to join the P.C. we both had similar ideas as to how we could improve both the community spirit and amenities for our villages. I think it is fair to say that we achieved both those goals and we now have a wonderful community spirit with the various clubs and societies and especially the S.C.A.

None of this would have been achieved without the considerable time and effort given by Clive and I would like to add that it has been a pleasure to have worked alongside him.

Finally, I would once again thank you all for your support and efforts in making our villages a great place to live.