

Freckenham Annual Parish Meeting

15th May 2019

Freckenham Parish Council

Chairman's Report

Year 2018/19

Thank you all for attending this evening and I would also thank for their support my fellow Councillors and our Clerk Mrs Jadi Coe who took over the position in January from Mrs Hilary Gurner.

The four of us were returned unopposed and we look forward to co-opting a fifth member on Monday.

Following on, I would extend our thanks to Cllr Louis Busuttil of Suffolk County Council and District Councillor, Brian Harvey for contributing from their locality budgets towards the costs of items required for the benefit of the village, of note recently a World War one commemorative bench which was installed by Mr Mick King and is located at the flower bed next to the bridge in The Street.

Following a meeting with a representative of the County Council Highways department and Councillors Busuttil and Harvey, in respect of driving many of our roads it has now been confirmed that re-surfacing will take place during this financial year of Elms, Mildenhall/Freckenham, Beck and Isleham Roads. Some limited work has been done over this past year to refill the pot holes on our village roads.

We still have a bus service to Mildenhall and Bury St Edmunds which thankfully will continue, although it is a limited service.

The Coffee Caravan has commenced its annual visits to Freckenham and will continue every first Tuesday of the month until the last one on the first of October.

As I have mentioned before the staff members provide information and help, on most matters to do with the public's welfare.

The Parish Pump was again produced three times this last year and delivered to every household.

Any news items that villagers feel should be included in forthcoming issues then do pass to Mrs Marilyn Badger, myself or our Clerk. I will then subsequently pass relevant news items to our editor Peter Taylor-

Whiffen. Next deadline for copy covering the summer edition is Monday 10th June.

The circular paths at Elms Road, as well as in the recreation field, are well used but as you have heard from Sue Cornell's report, there are still issues of dog matters that do not go away, despite this problem being stated many times.

Our telephone box is well stocked with books, cd and DVD's. Thank you to those that have placed items in the box but please anyone when placing do not put them on the floor.

If there is no space then most charity shops will take them.

Neighbourhood Plan

As you have heard this evening from Campbell and Lawrence this is well under way and we look forward to receiving the surveys shortly after the 17th of this month.

Oil Purchasing Scheme

How many of you here this evening are on the scheme???

I have mentioned in previous years about the scheme, which county wide has proved successful. As explained at previous meetings a minimum order of 500 litres is required and you will find the discount pricing very beneficial. An annual membership fee of £20.00 is required.

If you are not yet on the scheme, do consider. The direct contact is Community Action Suffolk based in Ipswich. Tel: 01473 345300. There are twice a month deliveries.

Police

Crime does occur at times in our village unfortunately, so keep vigilant and report no matter how small direct to the police.

Speeding through the village is still a concern, but our speed awareness team do a sterling job on a frequent basis. The police attend periodically.

However due to the closure of our roads at times due to UK Networks high voltage cable installations it has been relatively quiet certainly a benefit even though closure has created a problem at times. The Kier workers have been very polite and have done their best to keep local residents on the move.

Volunteers

I would further thank all those volunteers who assist the parish council, keeping the village nice and attractive. A litter pick in the village was completed this last month which was organised by Mr and Mrs Green. 24 bags this time of rubbish as against 42 last year were collected.

Rodney Gillington and Jadi Coe continue to keep our village web site updated.

St. Andrews Church

The Church held events during the year including the flower festival and the shoebox appeal. This year the Remembrance Day service covered 100 years since the end of World War One. There were special displays of which Mick King showed on the day his wonderful collection. Other events are also put on from time to time during the year.

Our Reverend Canon Sandie Barton was asked to speak and update on matters to do with our Church.

Village Hall

The Village Hall will hold their Annual General Meeting on Friday 31st May at 7.00pm. 21st year since it's opening with a complimentary drink on arrival.

Their committee works hard arranging weekly hire and events covering dancing lessons, yoga classes, to theatrical events for the benefit of adults and children from Freckenham. Two in particular, the Farmers market and film nights.

Mrs Jane Leitch was also asked to update on events and mentioned also they were looking for additional Committee members and volunteers as the existing had quite a workload at times.

Again, if you the villagers have any thoughts that concern the village, then let the Clerk or one of your Councillors know and it will be considered.

And finally it is pleasing to know our village pub has now re-opened and we wish them every success.

D E Wheeler
15th May 2019