

Freckenham Annual Parish Meeting

3rd May 2017

Freckenham Parish Council

Chairman's Report

Year 2016/17

Thank you all once again for attending this evening, our guest speakers, fellow Councillors for their support and our Clerk. I would still like to put on record our thanks, to Rodney Gillington for maintaining our website who still likes to keep in touch, with all that happens in our village.

As in previous years I would still like to further remind you all, that meetings of the Parish Council are held every other month, unless an extra ordinary meeting is called, which normally covers a planning application that has to be discussed and determined within a statutory period. We would certainly be pleased if more of you would attend these meetings and also listen to the reports, given by our County and District Councillors.

Following on, I would extend our thanks to County Councillor James Waters and District Councillor Brian Harvey, for contributing from their locality budgets towards the costs of worthwhile additions, covering projects in our village instigated by our own Councillors. **Of note**, there will be a replacement grass cutter as mentioned by Sue Cornell. The hand rail mentioned last year as a necessity leading from the bridge to the field was installed.

The defibrillator has been in place within the bus shelter for over a year, thankfully has not been used to my knowledge and is routinely checked to ensure all is well with it.

The circular path from Elms Road to Badlingham is well used and currently very walkable. Good of course for exercise, as well as the equipment in the recreation field which have monthly health and safety checks.

The recreation field is looked after as you have heard by Sue Cornell and her family, who are very conscientious and put in a lot of their time. They could do with some volunteers to help them at times for weeding and clearance issues.

However there is still a problem with dog deposits despite the new signage. There are enough dog bins but it just appears, we have some dog owners who cannot be bothered to carry out a neighbourly duty.

Issues that we still have with the County Council Highways department, covers the excess water due to drainage problems on Mildenhall Road. Recent pot holes and deterioration of the road surfaces have appeared again on Chippenham Road and been reported. All the roads are monitored on a regular basis and reports are made to The County Council

We still hold on to a limited bus service for the village. There is a good daily service to Bury St Edmunds as well as to Mildenhall.

The Coffee Caravan still visits the village on the first Tuesday of a month providing refreshments, as well as good advice for any concerns villagers might have. A good chance also, to meet with your neighbours.

We celebrated our Queen's 90th birthday celebration last year with them and there was a village function on the official weekend at the Church and Village Hall. Thanks to Mr Nicholas Wooley for opening his garden on the Sunday.

The Parish Pump was produced again with three issues this year and delivered to every house. It was also runner up in the newsletter of the year competition for Suffolk.

Contact our reporter Marilyn Badger, Hilary Gurner or myself if you wish an item to be placed in forthcoming issues. The next deadline for editorial copy is 12th June. I could do with another reporter so if anyone wishes to help then contact me.

Hilary's previous requests for villagers "E" mail addresses would be helpful, as from time to time worthwhile correspondence including planning applications can be circulated quickly. Despite these requests, only five residents have come forward. These are held confidentially by Hilary and not passed on. If you would like to be kept in touch quickly, then pass your "E" mail address to her.

Broadband

I attended a meeting in Worlington hosted by our Member of Parliament where there were concerns from the audience about the slowness of the systems. These were taken into consideration and will be addressed.

Speeding

Speeding through the village is still very much a concern. You heard from Sue earlier, about her worthwhile team doing regular community speed watches which are helping to address the problem.

Volunteers

I would also thank all those volunteers who assist the parish council, keeping the village nice and attractive.

I give thanks also to all others who give their time towards St Andrew's Church and the Village Hall.

St. Andrews Church

The Church held events during the year including the shoebox appeal, which were very well received and attended, as also The Remembrance Day service. The upkeep of our church is very important but events that are held, contribute towards the costs of maintenance.

The flower festival will this year be held on the weekend of 29th and 30th July.

Village Hall

The Village Hall will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th May at 7.45pm and there will be refreshments.

Do attend, you will hear all that has gone on this last year and also their future plans.

Their committee still works very hard arranging weekly hire and events covering dancing lessons, yoga classes, to theatrical events for the benefit of adults and children from Freckenham and many from surrounding villages. Their Farmers Market is very successful, as also their film nights.

Telephone box I have left towards the end of my report. As many know we have purchased the box and will use it as a loan/ return probably of books, videos and cd's etc.

Lawrence Barton had scheduled for volunteers to help restore and paint the box on Saturday 13th May. Due to his recent illness, he apologises that this has to be postponed to late June, with the exact date to be advised in due course.

Do get in touch with our Clerk or Councillors, if you have any thoughts that you feel concern our village.

I believe that has covered most items covering our village, this last financial year. Thank you and we now pass on to Parish Council accounts.

D E Wheeler