

Freckenham Annual Parish Meeting

2nd May 2018

Freckenham Parish Council

Chairman's Report

Year 2017/18

Thank you all for attending this evening and I would also thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk again, for their support to me this last year.

Following on, I would extend our thanks to Cllr Louis Busuttil of the 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 2 notice boards and an additional speed gun.

We continue to have issues with the County Council Highways department, in respect of many of our roads especially covering flooding due to drainage problems on Mildenhall Road and also Elms Road with its pot holes. Some limited work has been done.

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

The Coffee Caravan has commenced its annual visits to Freckenham.

They were here yesterday and will visit the first Tuesday of the forthcoming months, the last visit this year will be 2nd October. The staff members provide a lot of information and help, on most matters to do with the public's welfare.

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

Any news items that you feel should be included in forthcoming issues then do pass to Mrs Marilyn Badger, myself or our Clerk. I will pass relevant news items to our editor Peter Taylor- Whiffen the editor. Next deadline for copy covering the summer edition is Monday 11th June.

The circular paths at Elms Road, as well as in the recreation field, (where we now have the new grass cutter in use) are well used, but as you have heard from Sue Cornell's report, there are issues of dog matters that do

not go away, despite this problem being mentioned many times. A new bench seat has been installed by the children's area.

The telephone box held an opening ceremony for its use as a library and is well stocked with books, cd's and dvd's. Thank you to those that have placed items in the box.

Oil Purchasing Scheme

I have mentioned before the domestic oil-purchasing 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.

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. 42 bags were collected of rubbish. We are proposing the next one will be in October.

Rodney Gillington and our Clerk Hilary Gurner continue to update our village web site and this was a special again this year, as the Suffolk Association of Local Councils awarded us first prize for the best Suffolk web site in the smaller village's category.

St. Andrews Church

The Church held events during the year including the flower festival and the shoebox appeal. This year the Remembrance Day service will cover 100 years since the end of World War One. Special events are also put on from time to time.

Village Hall

The Village Hall holds it's Annual General Meeting this year on Friday 11th May at 7.00pm, and this year it is in its 20th year since opening!

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.

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.

DE Wheeler
2nd May 2018