

# **Freckenham Annual Parish Meeting**

**30<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

## **Chairman's Report ~ 2011/2012**

It seems that every time I welcome you to these Annual meetings I receive a resignation from one of our Councillors and this meeting is no exception. Christina Engelbrecht who has served us so well for the last few years feels that now is the time to leave. Thank you Christina for all the time and work you have put in for us.

The required notices have been placed on the Parish Council notice boards, so if anyone of you is interested in serving on the Council then please complete the necessary forms which are obtainable from Rodney Gillington and forward on to Forest Heath District Council. If more than one person puts their name forward then we will have a local election. If no one puts their name forward, we will have to find and co-opt a willing person. Meetings are normally held every two months unless a planning application is received, so it is not too time consuming and you will be serving your fellow constituents.

I would also mention and thank our County Councillor Stephen Frost not only for his report this evening, but also for the grants he has been kind enough to allocate from his locality budget, which cover amongst other items additional seating and a picnic table which will be located in the recreation field, as well as assistance in the publishing costs of our Parish Pump.

The Coffee Caravan has commenced its annual visits to Freckenham and the next one is due this coming Wednesday afternoon and as a reminder to you parks in East View. It has been quite well attended since it moved last year to East View and the staff members do provide a lot of information and help, on most matters to do with our well being covering the local area. Bring your views to them, have a chat also a cup of coffee or tea and a piece of cake.

Your local PCSO Dawn Rowan has attended and I am sure her replacement for our village PCSO Joanne Hook will also attend from time to time. One of your parish councillors plus our clerk Rodney Gillington normally puts in an appearance.

The Parish Pump continues to be distributed on a quarterly basis and as I am sure you will have noticed and agree, is now published to a higher standard with newsworthy items from and outside of the village. If anyone here his evening has any news items at any time, then do contact our reporters Dawn Dixon and Cecilia Gillington or our editor Peter Taylor- Whiffen.

### **Broadband**

A meeting arranged by Suffolk County Council was attended covering the very important requirement for super fast broadband in Suffolk. Briefly some 80% of Suffolk will eventually receive 24mbs which is termed basic by March 2015, but others will only get at the most 2mbs and unfortunately at this time I feel it will apply to us.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will do our best to have the broadband speeds improved.

### **Oil Purchasing Scheme**

A domestic oil-purchasing scheme promoted by Suffolk Acre has been launched in the village and details were published in the last issue of The Pump. Your local co-ordinator for ordering is Mark Russell. A minimum order of 500 litres is required and you will find the discount pricing is very beneficial. Orders are taken at the end of a month with deliveries early in the following month. A membership fee is required of £20.00

Do consider the scheme, because you will find it of benefit as others and myself in the village have done so.

## **Police**

I would thank our police colleagues for their attendance and report this evening. Crime does occur in our village unfortunately, but we must try to ensure this stays at a low level by us being even more vigilant. A neighbourhood watch scheme would be of benefit, but we need a local volunteer to co-ordinate, any offers?

Speeding through the village is still a concern but our community speed watch scheme in partnership with Worlington Parish Council is still ongoing and our local police carry out speed checks from time to time. The most recent one was last week and no doubt some drivers have been caught.

## **Suffolk County Council**

### **Roads**

Your Councillors continue to monitor the road situations in the village and report to the County Council all aspects of road and pavement conditions that are noticed. Once a year they meet with our County Councillor also the Highways Department Manager and walk the village, pointing out where we consider remedial work should be carried out.

On another issue that affects us, essential preparation work for the duelling of the A11 from 5 ways roundabout Barton Mills to Thetford is now ongoing after so many years of delay.

### **Paths walks and footways**

A circular route is nearing approval and as I mentioned in the *Parish Pump* we could well see this completed by September.

As to another footpath previously discussed, we are still trying to obtain a route between North Street/ Isleham Road and Mortimers Lane.

## **Fordham Road Build Out/ Mildenhall Road**

The latest information I have is that the build out will be removed with the possibility that a speed indicator device will be installed at a later date. An allocation of £45,000.00 has been allocated this year for the B1102. It will cover the removal, surface dress that section, relining with buff anti skid and 30 mph roundels. In addition they will dress the Mildenhall Road section and also reduce the drainage problems.

We continued this year to remind the County Council about the dangers of this build out at night and during inclement weather.

## **Volunteers**

I would also like to thank all those volunteers who assist the parish council from Ron Cornell who continues to maintain The Recreation Field keeping it nice and attractive. Christina Engelbrecht and her husband Frank continue to paint the bus shelter when needed, as well as others who sweep it out from time to time also the gardener Ann Wheeler who keeps the bed in good order between the bridge and the Golden Boar also the village hall garden. Terry Anderson keeps an eye on the village sign and maintains it when necessary. Rodney Gillington continues to update our village web site and we still receive compliments about the wealth of knowledge it gives. Note the amended website [www.freckenham.onesuffolk.net](http://www.freckenham.onesuffolk.net)

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

### **St. Andrews Church**

The Church had a very pleasant medieval event this year plus their normal annual events, the flower festival, shoebox appeal and The Remembrance Day service. The upkeep of churches is very important but they need money for the day-to-day running, which needs to come in the main from congregation collections, as well as weddings and funerals. But, many churches have small attendances so keep this in your thoughts and try to attend more frequently.

### **Village Hall**

The Village Hall has had a reasonable year financially. I am also pleased to advise that Sue Cornell has decided to carry on as the booking clerk

They would welcome more volunteers that could help at some of the events.

The committee works very hard on arranging weekly events covering yoga also dance and bowls clubs to theatrical events for the benefit of adults and children from Freckenham, also members of the public who attend from outside the village to support the hall.

However we do need more villagers to attend, hence the questionnaire that has been distributed recently. We have asked for your comments, which will be evaluated, and then hopefully we can make the hall extra appealing so that even more villagers will attend events or join the clubs.

### **Freckenham & Worlington shared housing needs.**

Unfortunately at a recent meeting of Worlington Parish Council, they refused planning approval for the affordable housing scheme at the junction of Freckenham and West Row Roads because of the proposed access arrangements. Whether the District Council will uphold this or not, we can but wait for their decision.

Finally, I would thank our Clerk Rodney Gillington, my fellow Councillors on the Parish Council for their attendance at Council meetings.

To remind you again, Parish Council meetings are normally held every two months.

If you, the villagers have any thoughts that concern the village, then do let the Clerk or one of your Councillors know and it will be considered at forthcoming Parish Council meetings.

I believe I have covered most items covering our village this last financial year. Thank you all for attending and we will now pass on to Parish Council accounts.

*D E Wheeler*

*Chairman Freckenham Parish Council 2011-2012*

-----