

Brandon Parva, Coston, Runhall and Welborne Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be at 7.30 pm Wednesday 19 April 2017 in Welborne Village Hall.

We are pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be Dean Sully, who is leading the 'Fawly Tower' project at All Saints Church in Welborne.

Dean will be talking about his hopes for the Fawly Tower project and the potential for extending the approach elsewhere. Dean is lecturer in conservation at UCL where his main areas of research have been about the process of conservation from the excavation of artefacts, through to their display and storage in museums.

Anglian Water sewage scheme in Welborne

The Council has heard that the work on the Anglian Water sewage scheme will begin in late March 2017. Anglian Water have written to all directly affected residents with the latest news on the project. They are holding an open day in Welborne Village Hall between 2.30pm and 7.00pm on Thurs 16th February 2017.

Parish Plan

We are gradually working through the recommendations in the Parish Plan.

We have recently been considering how to implement the recommendation *'to attempt to solve the problem of parking in Welborne by the Village Hall and Church'*. After much discussion, we have had to agree that the Council is not currently able to do anything about this.

The surrounding land is all owned or rented by local farmers and the Council does not have the resources to consider buying, or even renting, suitable land, even if it was available. So, the current arrangements will continue with parking on the 'village green' in front of Welborne Village Hall and the area in front of the graveyard.

Requests for parking on Rectory Meadow for any event where large numbers are expected, may be made to Trevor Curson.

Another recommendation concerned asking the County Council *'to review schools' catchment areas for Welborne residents'*. Bev will write to the County Council about this, but we feel it is very unlikely that they will agree to such a thing in the absence of other reasons for doing so. We will include the result of this in a future newsletter.

Finally, *'to look further into the establishment of community-based groups'* is addressed by an article later in this newsletter.

Thank you's

Thank you to Anne Bone from Coston who, very kindly, inscribed the name of the Parish Council on the salt bin on the hill down to Brandon Parva. Anne asks that, if we want anything similar in future, she would like to be able to do it before it is fixed in place!

Also, thank you to Helen Lloyd for volunteering to deliver our newsletters in Brandon Parva. The Council is particularly grateful to Helen because she lives in Welborne.

Increase in Parish Council Community Charge

The Parish Council has agreed our budget for 2017-2018 and that we need to increase the parish element of the Community Charge. This will add approximately £2 a year onto a Band D charge in 2017-2018.

The main reason for the increase is that our Parish Clerk had, for several years, been working for more hours than we paid her. By law, the Parish Council has to employ a clerk as our 'Proper Officer' and it is unfair and wrong that we had not paid the clerk for what we get. The nature of the clerk's job and the time required has changed considerably over the last few years (e.g. changes in the law concerning the 'transparency' of Parish Councils; setting up and managing the Parish Council's website).

To minimise the impact of the increase we decided last year to increase in two steps - half in 2016-2017 and half in 2017-2018.

Grants

As part of agreeing our budget, the Council had to defer, yet again, any decisions about grants to parish organisations. The Council is waiting to hear whether we have been successful in applying for a government grant. If, and when, we receive this money, we will look again at whether we can afford to make any grants in 2016-2017 or 2017-2018.

Noticeboards

£1000 funding has been confirmed by South Norfolk Council to pay for replacement noticeboards in Runhall and, hopefully, also Coston and Brandon Parva. Bev Long is getting quotations to see what we can afford.

We still plan to move the Runhall noticeboard from its current position to just outside the play area. In Welborne, we will remove the existing noticeboard and use the new village hall noticeboard for council notices, at least until we can justify buying our own.

Community-based groups

The Parish Council is keen to help anyone in the parish who would like to start a new group or has an interest or skill they would like to share with others. Creating a sense of community through local groups, clubs and gatherings can really help us to feel connected and involved in our parish. If you have an idea, then please contact Bev who will either put you in touch with others or can advertise for interest in a future newsletter.

The Parish Council may be able to help with any funding. Also, South Norfolk Council have a 'Go for it' grant of up to £300 to help. The South Norfolk Council website explains the grant.

Suggested possible groups might include: birdwatching, gardening, dog-walking, toddler groups, local history meetings, farmers and fishing, exercise and running, bridge and card games, a book club, knitting, painting.

Footpaths

Jane Brown, the new footpath warden for Runhall, is already planning to make sure all footpaths have sign posts, probably using fencing posts with right of way direction roundels attached. She is also planning to clear Copper Lane in Runhall. In the longer term, Jane is hoping to produce parish footpath leaflets. Thank you Jane for your efforts to make Runhall a safe and pleasant place to walk.

We are still looking for volunteers to take on the role of footpath wardens in our other villages, either as individuals or with a friend, partner or another dog walker. If you would be interested in taking on the role in your village, please contact Bev Long.

Cheaper domestic fuel oil

With fuel prices rising again, we continue to urge householders to join our domestic oil bulk-buying scheme. This continues to save our members up to 6 pence per litre, or around £120 a year. By registering, you are under no obligation to buy through the scheme.

To register, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jill Craig on 01362 850113 or jill.oldwillowcottage@gmail.com. Please let Jill know the price you paid.

Parish Council Website

A reminder that we have a new website bpcrwparishcouncil.info and that Bev's email address is now clerk@bpcrwparishcouncil.info. You will see that the new website allows us to include photos. Several people have already sent images of our villages and Bev has added them to the website. If you also have suitable images, please email them to Bev.

Reporting highway problems

In the cold and wet weather, problems develop very quickly.

The best way to report urgent highway problems, such as potholes, is to contact the Highways Department direct as soon as possible. You can do this by phoning **0344 800 8009** or by emailing highways@norfolk.gov.uk, giving accurate information on the size of the pothole and location. Alternatively reports of all sorts can be made online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/road-maintenance

If you see any non-urgent things that need fixing (such as damaged signs, blocked drains, subsidence) please let Bev or your local councillor know before our next meeting.

Parish Council 2017 meeting dates

Remaining Parish Council meetings in 2017 will be on 8 March, 17 May, 19 July, 20 September and 29 November. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 19 April.

All meetings are in Welborne Village Hall and start at 7.30 pm. The council may have to hold additional meetings, particularly when we have to consider planning applications at short notice, and these will be advertised on village noticeboards and on our website. All residents are encouraged and welcome to come to meetings of the Council.

Parish responsibilities and contacts

Parish Clerk	Bev Long NEW email	01362 850162 but best contact is <u>clerk@bpcrwparishcouncil.info</u>
Chairman	Mike Webb	01362 850327
Vice Chairman	Trevor Curson	01362 858184
Councillor	Carolyn Bailey	01603 757644
Councillor	Andrew Egerton Smith	01362 850979
Councillor	Simon Guest	07543 645351
Councillor	Clare Kay	01603 757860
Councillor	Peter Wood	01362 850405
Fuel scheme co-ordinator	Jill Craig	01362 850113
Brandon Parva Litter Warden	Coralie Meadows	<u>coralie.m@hotmail.co.uk</u>
Coston + Runhall Litter Warden	Mark Gill and family	01603 759555
Welborne Litter Wardens	Brian and Margot Hancock	01362 858104
Runhall Footpath Warden	Jane Brown	01362 858598
County Councillor	Margaret Dewsbury	01603 759693
District Councillor	Michael Edney	01953 851342

NEW website **bpcrwparishcouncil.info**