

Parish Council Meetings 2021

The dates of the remaining 2021 Parish Council meetings are as follows:

March 10th, April 14th or April 21st (Annual Parish Meeting), May 19th (Annual General Meeting), July 14th, September 15th, November 17th.

Venue of meetings to be decided dependant on government guidelines and all meetings start at 7.30 pm.

bpcrwparishcouncil.info

Council Vacancy

The Council welcomes Annette Shaw from Runhall who has been co-opted on to the Council. It is great to have people volunteering for roles in the parish when they become vacant and we thank everyone who does volunteer to get involved.

Annual Meeting

There is an annual meeting of the Parish (not a council meeting) in April. Whilst we usually have external speakers at the event we expect this year's event will need to be held over Zoom. The council are considering options and any suggestions are welcome.

Defibrillator

The council is looking into purchasing a defibrillator which would be situated in the phone box in Runhall.

A number of local parish councils have already done this and Welborne Village Hall are also looking at installing one there. These are seen as giving additional support in rural areas where ambulances can take longer to arrive in emergencies.

Clare Miller is leading the work on this and will be seeking additional funding, outside the council budget.

If you would like to help with this please contact Bev Long, the parish clerk.

Parish Council Precept 2021

The annual Parish Council precept was discussed at the January Parish Council meeting. Currently the council is in a solid financial position with income broadly matching required expenditure, a small amount of reserves held and no major additional expenditure foreseen or planned. As such it was agreed that the Parish Council precept that each household pays should be held at the same level as last year. Should a significant amount money be required for a specific purchase separate fund raising would be undertaken.

Flooding

There has been a lot of rain over recent weeks which has led to flooding in many parts of Norfolk, including within our Parish with a number of residents suffering from their houses getting flooded.

Both Norfolk County and South Norfolk are undertaking work across their respective areas looking at longer term solutions to these flooding issues as these were widespread and there is a concern that events like this may happen more frequently due to climate change.

Both Norfolk County ([Floods - Norfolk County Council](#)) and South Norfolk ([Flooding advice | South Norfolk Council \(south-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)) have flood advice information on their respective websites.

It would appear that a significant factor accentuating flooding problems in our parish is the state of some of the grips and ditches which are not being properly kept clear. The grips are primarily the responsibility of Norfolk County Council whilst the ditches are primarily the responsibility of the landowners on whose property they reside.

The council has raised its concerns over the state of the grips with Norfolk County Council and are seeking to get them improved.

Landowners who have ditches or other watercourses on their property are usually classed as Riparian Owners of the watercourse, which comes with rights and responsibilities. These rights and responsibilities are detailed on a separate document on the website and do include ensuring the waterways are kept clear of obstruction.

The council are seeking to work with both the landowners and Norfolk County Council (who are the Lead Local Flood Authority for Norfolk and have authority to request Riparian owners take appropriate remedial action) to improve the situation so that houses in the parish are less at risk of flooding.

However property owners must also remember that it is their responsibility to buy and install flood protection products and sandbags to protect their properties.

Given the continuing wet weather it is important we all work together to avoid any more immediate problems.

Parish Council Grants

Two grant applications were received this year – both were to cover insurance costs at two community owned sites – the allotments and the play area. The council approved both applications.

Public Right of Ways (PROW)

We have completed our PROW survey and thank you to all those who replied – we had replies from people in all 4 villages and also some feedback from Barnham Broom residents who walk the PROW's in our parish. The key takeaways from the survey were

1. Most people were positive about the general state of the PROWs with significantly more rating them good or OK rather than poor.
2. However there are a couple that are in a poor state and need improving.
3. The main issue reported across the parish was with dog excrement left on the paths. It is very disappointing that some of the people who use the paths to exercise their dogs do not clean up properly, thus impacting the pleasure of others.
4. There were some concerns re the signage around the PROW's but no issues with littering.

The council agreed the following action

1. The paths where there are specific issues will be reported back to Norfolk County Council for them to address the situation with the relevant landowner
2. Additional signs will be put up reminding people that it is a fineable offence not to clean up after your dog.
3. A number of volunteers have offered to check the paths on a regular basis so that we can review the state of the PROW's at every council meeting.

We also sought feedback from the landowners on any issues they have and they also flagged dog fouling as the major concern.

There is currently an issue with footpath Runhall FP16 (from Woodfarm Road to The Green) which has been reported to Norfolk County Council. Whilst they are pursuing a resolution, they have reminded us that "If a landowner is responsible for the obstruction of a PROW you can deviate onto other land in the immediate vicinity in their ownership in order to circumnavigate the obstruction and not commit trespass".



Parish Council Information

Items for the agenda - If you would like to propose an item for the agenda of an upcoming meeting, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Parish Noticeboards - The parish noticeboards are always a good place to look for up to date or important information.

Parish Clerk

Bev Long

01362 850162 or best contact is
clerk@bpcrwparishcouncil.info

Chairman

Simon Guest

07543 645351

County Councillor

Margaret Dewsbury

01603 759693

District Councillor

Richard Elliott

0773 3002897